1 JAMES P. LINGL (State Bar No. 074708) WILLIAM S. DUNLEVY (State Bar No. 076289) 2 **KNOPFLER & ROBERTSON** A Professional Law Corporation 21650 Oxnard Street, Suite 500 Woodland Hills, California 91367-4901 4 Telephone: (818) 227-0770 Facsimile: (818) 227-0777 5 6 Attorneys for Plaintiff/Respondent SIMI VALLEY LE PARC HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION 7 8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 FOR THE COUNTY OF VENTURA 10 11 SIMI VALLEY LE PARC HOMEOWNERS) CASE NO. CIV 159037 ASSOCIATION, 12) Assigned for all purposes to Plaintiff/Respondent,) the Honorable JOHN J. HUNTER 13) OPPOSITION TO EX PARTE vs. 14) APPLICATION FOR ORDER ZM CORPORATION, dba QWIKRESPONSE) APPOINTING RECEIVER AND ORDER 15 DISASTER CONTROL AND) TO SHOW CAUSE WHY APPOINTMENT CONSTRUCTION,) SHOULD NOT BE CONFIRMED;) DECLARATION OF JAMES P. LINGL 16 Defendant/Petitioner. 17) Date: January 29, 1999) Time: 8:30 A.M. 18) Dept.: 32 19 20 21 Respondent/Plaintiff, Simi Valley Le Parc Homeowners 22 Association [hereinafter "Association"], opposes the Application 23 for Appointment of a Receiver by Petitioner/Defendant, ZM 24 Corporation [hereinafter "ZM"], on the basis that there is no 25 adequate showing of any danger of loss, removal or material 26 injury to any property of the Association to which ZM may have 27 any entitlement that would warrant the appointment, on the basis 28 that the effect of such appointment would be contrary to the

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mandatory requirements of Civil Code \$1364(a) and therefore be against public policy, on the basis that the harm to innocent third parties far exceeds any benefit to Petitioner, and on the further basis that the appointment of a receiver will merely dissipate Association assets which might otherwise be available to apply to payment toward the claim of ZM.

PROPERTY NOT IN DANGER OF LOSS

This is a fight between a construction contractor and a community association. The Association is not some fly-by-night boiler room operation that might just pick up its desks and disappear into the night. There is no suggestion that the Association will flee to Nevada, or that the land and residential structures which make up the common interest development will be hidden, or that there is any danger of material injury to any assets of the Association if a receiver is not appointed. statute under which the appointment of a receiver is sought, CCP \$564(b), is discretionary. Absent a showing of some justifiable necessity, some harm, some immanent loss, something more than the raw 'right' to have a receiver appointed, the Application should be denied. At the very least, there should be a sufficient showing to allow the Petitioner's application to be balanced against the harm which will be done to the 'customers' of the Association, i.e., the homeowners within the Le Parc development, before this awesome discretion of the Court is exercised in favor of ZM.

PUBLIC POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

As shown in the Court's files in this matter, and as discussed in the Declaration attached hereto, the Association is

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a 'community association' within the meaning of CC \$1363(a). Pursuant to CC \$1364(a) the Association has the affirmative statutory responsibility "for repairing, replacing and maintaining the common areas" of the Le Parc condominium development.

As shown in the Petitioner's application, the purpose of the appointment of a receiver in this case, at this time, is for that receiver to be in a position to divert to ZM the assessments which are being paid by homeowners within the Le Parc condominium complex for the repair, replacement and maintenance of the commor areas of the common interest development.

On page 3 of the Ex Parte Application, beginning with line 7, Petitioner explains the plan to divert the homeowners' assessment payments to ZM where it states that "...a receiver should be immediately appointed to take control of the debtor's receipt of assessments to apply against the outstanding judgment [of ZM] as appropriate."

This unprecedented diversion of homeowner assessments in disregard of the Legislative mandates set forth in CC §1364(a) would completely frustrate the ability of the Association to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to statute and the CC&Rs of the common interest development, and would thus be contrary to public policy.

BALANCING OF INTERESTS

One need not be insensitive to the desire of ZM to have its judgment satisfied while still maintaining that the receivership sought by this application should not be granted. An arbitration award has been entered in ZM's favor and confirmed by this Court.

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1 This is a serious matter. But, at the same time, one cannot wholly ignore the consequences of appointment of a receiver on the innocent third parties who will be directly and immediately injured by diversion of their assessment payments, the owners of the condominium units within the Le Parc condominium development.

The Association is not a 'for profit' corporation whose greedy shareholders and overpaid executives will be made to suffer if the receivership is granted. The Association is not an entity whose directors will lose out on stock options or whose officers will miss bonuses. The Association is a "community association" whose sole reason for existence is the management of the common areas of a common interest development.

There are 264 homes in the Le Parc common interest development. Those 264 homes, along with the owners and residents of those 264 homes, are the persons who will be directly and immediately injured by the appointment of a receiver and diversion of their ongoing assessment payments. homeowners are not even parties to this action. And those homeowners have no personal liability for the judgment against the Association.

There is no balance, there is no proportion, in the order sought by Petitioner. The Association has duties to its members, has responsibilities to homeowners within the development, and The Association cannot ignore and must has obligations to ZM. not be deprived of its ability to carry out all of its other duties and responsibilities so that it can satisfy its obligations to a single creditor. There must be some balance

between all of these competing interests; that balance is not served by appointment of a receiver.

DISSIPATION OF ASSETS

It is presumed that the receiver sought to be appointed in this proceeding will be compensated for his services as a receiver. To the extent that the Association has any excess revenue over and above its normal operating expenses as required to comply with its statutory duties, those funds are potentially available to pay toward the ultimate satisfaction of ZM's claim. However if a receiver is appointed, unless that person is compensated at the same rate as the unpaid directors of the Association, the amount of 'excess' will be diminished and the whole purpose of appointment of the receiver will have been defeated. Common sense, good public policy and simple math all coincide to suggest that appointment of a receiver to take over the affairs of the Association, thereby further impairing the ability of the Association to function or to satisfy ZM's claim, is simply not warranted in this matter.

For all of the above reasons, Respondent Simi Valley Le Parc Homeowners Association respectfully requests that the Ex Parte Application of Petitioner be rejected.

Dated January 29, 1999.

JAMES P. LINGL, Attorney for Simi Valley Le Parc HOA

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