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DEPUTY

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NANCY KNIGHT,

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## IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MOHAVE

Plaintiff, Case No. B8015CV2018 04003

Trustees of THE LUDWIG FAMILY TRUST; FAIRWAY CONSTRUCTORS, INC.; MEHDI AZARMI; JAMES B. ROBERTS and DONNA M. ROBERTS, husband and wife; JOHN DOES 1-10; JANE DOES 1-10; ABC CORPORATIONS 1-10; AND XYZ PARTNERSHIPS 1-10.

GLEN LUDWIG and PEARL LUDWIG,

Defendants.

PLAINTIFF'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF HER MOTION FOR LEAVE TO AMEND COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, by and through her attorney undersigned, hereby submits her Reply to this Court in support of her motion to amend her complaint in this matter. The proposed First Amended Complaint was attached to her Motion for Leave to Amend as Exhibit A and complied with ARCP Rule 15(a)(4) by showing the respects in which the Proposed

Amended Complaint differed from the existing Complaint by striking through the text to be deleted and underlining the text to be added.

Plaintiff's motion was simple. She retained counsel after having handled the matter herself for two and a half years. Undersigned counsel submitted a proposed amended complaint which eliminated defendants which this court had determined did not belong in the case. Undersigned counsel added as new defendants the owners of six parcels in Plaintiff's tract all for the reason that they violated the CC&Rs' setback restrictions. Undersigned counsel deleted a substantial portion of the allegations contained in Plaintiff's original complaint, added the necessary allegations in support of her claims against the additional defendants and simplified the allegations against existing defendants.

Defendants have objected to Plaintiff's motion, citing a violation or potential violation of ARCP Rule 9. These arguments are misplaced. First, Plaintiff has not alleged fraud against any defendants or proposed defendants. Second, it is premature for Defendants to object to what they perceive to be a future claim against existing or potential defendants. The only issue before this Court is the present Motion for Leave to Amend.

Defendants assert that if this Court grants the motion for leave to amend, hundreds of additional defendants will have to be brought in by Plaintiff under ARCP Rule 19.

Adding all owners as parties is a possibility but only if Defendants are going to argue that the CC&Rs have been abandoned. That is a defense to Plaintiff's claims which means it would be Defendants who would bear the burden of bringing in the hundreds of

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additional parties. Of course, if Defendants wish to avoid having to bear that burden, they can withdraw any claim that the CC&Rs have been abandoned. Furthermore, whether this Court grants or denies Plaintiff's motion to amend, the potential for adding all the owners as parties still exists if the issue of abandonment is litigated. Regardless, this also is a potential future issue which is not currently before this Court.

Defendants address the four counts contained in Plaintiff's proposed amended complaint. Defendants do not object to Count 1. Defendants do not object to Count 2. Defendants correctly state that in Count 3 Plaintiff has alleged that the CC&Rs are enforceable. Defendants then leap to the legal conclusion that because Defendants believe there have been multiple violations of the CC&Rs for thirty-two years, such activity renders the CC&Rs abandoned. Again, if abandonment is Defendants' defense, they will potentially bear the burden of bringing in all the necessary parties and establishing the requirements of abandonment. This potential future issue is not presently before this Court.

Defendants address Count 4 of Plaintiff's proposed amended complaint with the same speculation that Plaintiff's claims may in the future require all owners to be added to the case. This Court can certainly address Defendants' assertion if it arises in the future, but for now Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Amend the Complaint is what is before the Court. Plaintiff could prosecute her claims against the proposed additional defendants in a separate lawsuit and perhaps ask for that case to be consolidated with this case, but it does not seem judicially economical to have to do so when the identical issues are present in this case.

Finally, Defendants state the following in the "Summary" portion of their objection: "[T]he enforceability of these CC&R provisions have long since been waived and fully abandoned". Defendants overlook the non-waiver clause in the CC&Rs. Article II, paragraph 20 states, in pertinent part:

No failure of the Trustee or any other person or party to enforce any of the restrictions, covenants or conditions contained herein shall, in any event, be construed or held to be a waiver thereof or consent to any further or succeeding breach or violation thereof.

This Court has not declared that paragraph 20 is invalid. The CC&Rs clearly state that the restrictions cannot be waived. This Court has not declared that the CC&Rs have been abandoned. Such issues are not presently before this Court. If Defendants keep insisting that the CC&Rs have been abandoned, then they need to carry their burden of proof on the defense of abandonment. Their objection to a Plaintiff's motion to amend the complaint is not the vehicle for doing so.

For the above reasons and those stated in Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Amend the Complaint, Plaintiff respectfully requests the Court grant her leave to amend her Complaint as set forth in her proposed First Amended Complaint attached to her motion as Exhibit A.

DATED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021.

## J. JEFFREY COUGHLIN PLLC

By: /s/\_J. Jeffrey Coughlin

Attorney for Plaintiff

1 2	ORIGINAL of the foregoing efiled via eFileAZ this 6 <sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021 to:
3	Clerk MOHAVE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
4	
5	Copy emailed this 6th day of May, 2021 to:
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12	By: /s/ Judy Jurecki
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