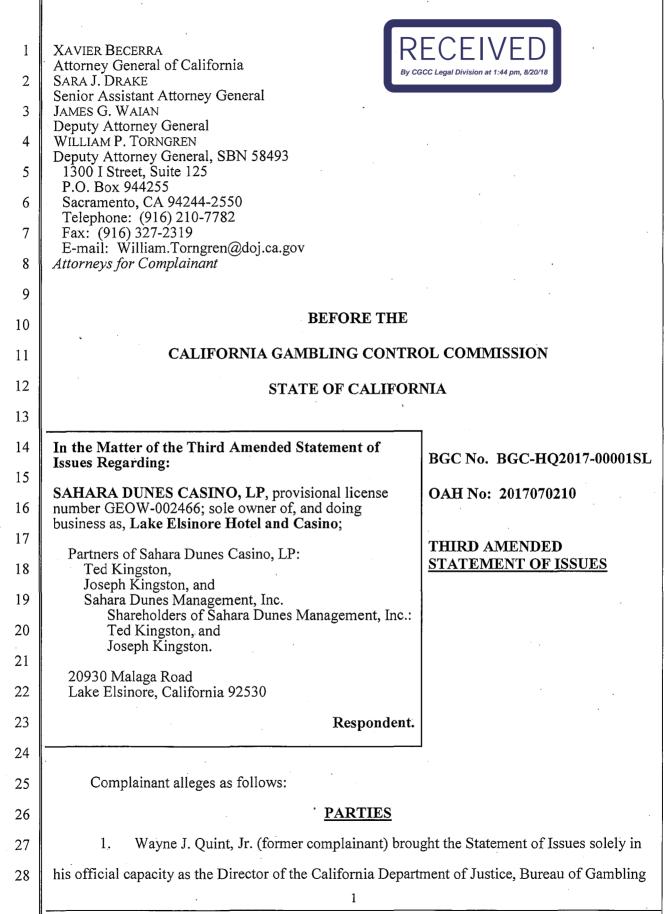
The Commission is providing a copy of this disciplinary pleading (Accusation, or Statement of Reasons, Statement of Particulars, or Statement of Issues) so the public is as informed as possible of pending administrative proceedings regarding the allegations contained in the pleading. An Accusation or Statement of Issues is simply an allegation of facts that, if true, may rise to the level of disciplinary action against or denial of a license, registration, work permit or finding of suitability. The facts contained in the pleadings should not be taken as established or proven. The licensee/applicant will have an opportunity to dispute the allegations in a formal administrative proceeding.

ROLCO



Control (Bureau). Nathan DaValle brought a First Amended Statement of Issues solely in his official capacity as the Bureau's Acting Director. Stephanie Shimazu (Complainant) brought the Second Amended Statement of Issues and brings this Third Amended Statement of Issues solely in her official capacity as the Bureau's Director.

- 2. Lake Elsinore Hotel and Casino (Casino), cardroom license number GEGE-001149, is a 22-table gambling establishment, which is located at 20930 Malaga Road in Lake Elsinore, California.
- 3. Sahara Dunes Casino, LP (Respondent), provisional license number GEOW-002466, is the sole owner of, and doing business as, the Casino.
- 4. Ted Kingston, as a limited partner, License Information System (LIS)¹ record number GEOW-002465, purports to own a 47.5-percent partnership interest in Respondent.
- 5. Joseph Kingston, as a limited partner, LIS record number GEOW-002464, purports to own a 47.5-percent partnership interest in Respondent.
- 6. Sahara Dunes Management, Inc., as general partner, LIS record number GEOW-002470, has represented that it owns a five-percent partnership interest in Respondent.
- 7. Ted Kingston, LIS record number GEOW-003733, owns 50-percent of the shares of Sahara Dunes Management, Inc.
- 8. Joseph Kingston owns the remaining 50-percent of the shares of Sahara Dunes Management, Inc. Joseph Kingston has not been issued a LIS record number as a shareholder of Sahara Dunes Management, Inc. ²

² Joseph Kingston has failed to ever submit an application for a state gambling license as a shareholder of Sahara Dunes Management, Inc. Therefore, he was never assigned a LIS record number for that affiliation.

the LIS record number is a tracking number that is unique to each of the applicants.

¹ LIS is an automated record-tracking system in which all of an applicant for licensure's information, and files related thereto, are kept. In this case, which involves a provisional license,

9. Respondent has represented that its current ownership structure is as follows:³

Partners of Respondent:

Limited Partner – Ted Kingston – 47.5-percent owner

Limited Partner – Joseph Kingston – 47.5-percent owner

General Partner - Sahara Dunes Management, Inc. - five-percent owner

Shareholders of Sahara Dunes Management, Inc.:

Ted Kingston – 50-percent shareholder

Joseph Kingston – 50-percent shareholder

LICENSE HISTORY

- 10. Respondent was originally formed on or about May 4, 1978. The original partners did not include Ted Kingston, Joseph Kingston or Sahara Dunes Management, Inc. The Casino was formerly known as the Sahara Dunes Casino. The original partners were all registered with the Department of Justice, Office of Gaming Registration (the Bureau's predecessor)⁴, pursuant to the Gaming Registration Act (former Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19800 et seq.). The Gaming Registration Act was the predecessor of the current Gambling Control Act (Act) (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19800 et seq.), which went into effect in 1997.⁵
- 11. As required by the Gaming Registration Act, in or about December 1991, Ted Kingston and Joseph Kingston, as well as Clyde Kingston and Michelle Kingston-Knighton, submitted applications for registration in furtherance of their proposed purchase of Respondent and the Sahara Dunes Casino. On or about March 10, 1993, the Office of Gaming Registration

³ After the Statement of Issues was filed, the Bureau learned of the existence of JTI, Inc., which Respondent represented to be "the same as Sahara Dunes Management Inc." On February 20, 2018, a certificate of amendment was filed with the California Secretary of State, changing the name of Sahara Dunes Management, Inc. to JTI Management Inc.

⁴ The Department of Justice, Division of Gambling Control (Division) was the direct successor to the Office of Gaming Registration. The Bureau then succeeded the Division.

⁵ The statutes and regulations from the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder, specifically applicable to this Second Amended Statement of Issues, are quoted in pertinent part in Appendix A.

approved the purchase agreement and issued registrations to those four individuals. Thereafter, these registrations were renewed on an annual basis.

- 12. In 1998, the Division was notified that Michelle Kingston-Knighton had at some unknown prior point in time transferred her ownership interest in Respondent to her father, Joseph Kingston.
- 13. In or about September 1999, Respondent, Clyde Kingston, Ted Kingston and Joseph Kingston applied to the Division for licensure as required under the Act. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19851.) A provisional license was issued to Respondent to operate the Casino while these applications for state gambling licenses were pending. From 1999 to the present, Respondent has requested, and been granted, continuous extensions of the provisional license. The current provisional license will expire on December 31, 2018.⁶
- 14. On or about October 8, 2005, Clyde Kingston passed away. All of his interest in Respondent was inherited, or otherwise acquired, by his son, Ted Kingston. That ultimately led to the current ownership structure of the Casino by Respondent, as described in paragraphs 2 thru 9 above.

THIS PROCEEDING

15. On or about September 11, 2008, the Bureau recommended to the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) that it deny all of the applications for licensure for the alleged failure to disclose required information, the failure to maintain adequate records, the use of inappropriate accounting methods, the failure to notify the Commission of transfers of ownership interest, and the continued employment of a key employee with a felony conviction.

///

⁶ On January 1, 2018, the Bureau issued Respondent a Certificate to Operate with Conditions, which expires on December 31, 2018. A provisional license is held subject to all terms and conditions under which a license is held pursuant to the Act. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 2141, subd. (b).)

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- 16. At its June 11, 2009, meeting the Commission referred the matter of Respondent's and, accordingly, Ted Kingston's and Joseph Kingston's, suitability for licensure to an evidentiary hearing to be held pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 19825.⁷
- 17. On or about November 3, 2015, an evidentiary hearing having not yet taken place, the Bureau requested that the Commission reconsider its 2009 decision to refer the matter to a hearing. The Bureau stated that a current, up-dated investigation was necessary to determine if the Respondent and its partners were presently suitable for licensure. On or about January 15, 2016, the Bureau sent the Commission an addendum to that request.
- 18. At its February 25, 2016 meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to withdraw its 2009 referral of this matter to an evidentiary hearing. The Commission also directed the Bureau to conduct an investigation and update its 2008 background investigation report on the required applications for licensure.
- 19. On or about September 23, 2016, the Bureau recommended to the Commission that the Respondent's application for licensure be denied in that Ted Kingston, Joseph Kingston and/or Sahara Dunes Management, Inc., had, in whole or in part, failed to submit the required, completed applications, had failed to timely comply, in whole or in part, with the Bureau's requests for information, and had committed numerous violations of the Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder in the operation and management of the Casino.
- 20. At its November 17, 2016 meeting, the Commission voted to refer the matter of Respondents' suitability for licensure to an evidentiary hearing before an administrative law judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Gov. Code, § 11500 et seq.). (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 19824 & 19825, Cal. Code. Regs., tit. 4, § 12058.)

SUMMARY

21. The Act is an exercise of the police power of the State of California intended to protect the public's health, safety and welfare, and shall be liberally interpreted to effectuate that

⁷ Only the Bureau can bring an Accusation. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19930, subd. (b).) This Commission referral necessitated the filing of a Statement of Issues. (Gov. Code, § 11504.)

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purpose. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19971.) To protect the public, the Act requires that the owner of a gambling enterprise must apply for and obtain a state gambling license. (Bus. & Prof. Code, 19851.) If the applicant seeking a state gambling license is a limited partnership, for it to be eligible for licensure, each of its general and limited partners must individually apply for and obtain a state gambling license. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19852, subd. (d).) If the applicant is a corporation, for it to be eligible for licensure, each officer, director, and shareholder must individually apply for and obtain a state gambling license. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19852, subd. (a).) The failure of a person who is required to submit an application for a state gambling license to submit such an application, and thereafter clearly establish that person's eligibility for licensure, renders that person disqualified for licensure. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19859, subd. (a).) An applicant's failure to submit information, documentation and/or assurances required by the Act or requested by the Bureau, or to reveal information material to qualification for licensure, or an applicant's supplying of untrue or misleading information pertaining to the qualification for licensure, likewise renders an applicant disqualified for licensure. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19859, subd. (b).) These failures also make an applicant unqualified for licensure. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19857.) Further, failure of an applicant to comply with the requirements of the Act, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, in the management of a gambling operation and/or establishment makes the applicant unqualified to receive a state gambling license. (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 19857, subd. (b), 19920, & 19922.)

22. Respondent, as the Casino's sole owner, must apply for and obtain a state gambling license. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19851, subd. (a).) Because Respondent is a limited partnership, every partner, general or limited, must individually apply for and obtain a state gambling license. 8 If all the partners are not licensed or licensable, then the partnership is not eligible to, and cannot, be issued or hold a state gambling license. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19852, subd. (d).) Accordingly, as Respondent's partners, Joseph Kingston, Ted Kingston and Sahara Dunes Management, Inc.,

⁸ Joseph Kingston, Ted Kingston and Sahara Dunes Management, Inc., while licensed, would not be issued separate license certificates. Rather, they would be endorsed upon Respondent's license. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19851, subd. (b).)

must all be licensed for Respondent to be licensable. Further, because Sahara Dunes Management, Inc., is a corporation, Joseph Kingston and Ted Kingston must also be licensed as shareholders of that corporation. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19852, subd. (a).) Accordingly, because of the interconnected nature of the ownership structure of Respondent created by Joseph Kingston and Ted Kingston, Respondent is not eligible to obtain and hold a state gambling license to operate the Casino unless Joseph Kingston and Ted Kingston both apply for and each obtain two licenses: one as Respondent's partners; and one as shareholders in Sahara Dunes Management, Inc. Further, Respondent is not eligible to obtain and hold a state gambling license to operate the Casino unless Sahara Dunes Management, Inc., applies for and obtains a state gambling license as one of Respondent's partners. Additionally, Respondent's management and operation of the Casino under the auspices of its provisional license must comply with the requirements of the Act, and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Failure to do so renders Respondent unqualified for licensure and makes Respondent's provisional license subject to cancellation. (Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 19857, subd. (b), 19920 & 19922.)

BURDEN OF PROOF

23. Respondent has the burden to prove it is qualified to be issued a state gambling license. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19856, subd. (a), see also Gov. Code, § 11504.)

FIRST INDEPENDENT CAUSE FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

(Joseph Kingston and Sahara Dunes Management, Inc. – Failure/Refusal to Submit Required Applications for Licensure)

24. Respondent cannot be issued a license because, despite repeated requests by the Bureau since late 2015, Joseph Kingston has failed or refused to submit an application either as a partner in Respondent or as a shareholder of Sahara Dunes Management, Inc. Joseph Kingston's failures or refusals make him unsuitable and/or disqualified for licensure as a partner of

⁹ If licensed, they would be endorsed upon Sahara Dunes Management, Inc.'s endorsement.

¹⁰ The interconnected and confused nature of Respondent's ownership structure created by Joseph Kingston and Ted Kingston appears to extend to other entities about which Respondent has provided limited, if any, information to the Bureau. (See fn. 3, *supra*.)

1	Respondent and as a shareholder of Sahara Dunes Management, Inc. Additionally, despite the	
2	Bureau' requests, Sahara Dunes Management, Inc. has failed or refused to submit an application a	
3	Respondent's general partner. Sahara Dunes Management, Inc.'s failures and refusals make it	
4	unsuitable and/or disqualified for licensure as a partner of Respondent. Consequently, Responder	
5	is not eligible for licensure.	
6	(Bus. & Prof. Code, §§ 19856, subd. (c), 19857, subds. (a) & (b), & 19859, subds. (a) & (b).)	
7	COST RECOVERY	
8	25. In the event the administrative law judge recommends that Respondent's application	
9	for licensure be denied, Respondent may, upon the presentation of suitable proof by the Bureau, b	
10	ordered to pay the Bureau the reasonable costs of prosecution and enforcement of the case. Costs	
11	include both the investigation by the Bureau, and the preparation and prosecution of the case by	
12	the Office of the Attorney General. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 19930, subds. (d) & (f).)	
13	PRAYER	
14	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that following the hearing to be held on the matters	
15	herein alleged a decision be issued:	
16	1. Denying Sahara Dunes Casino, LP's, application for a state gambling license and	
17	cancelling its provisional license, number GEOW-002466;	
18	2. Requiring Respondent to reimburse the Bureau the reasonable costs of investigating	
19	and prosecuting this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code, section 19930, subdivision	
20	(d); and	
21	3. Taking such other and further action as the Commission may deem appropriate.	
22	δ	
23	Dated: August 20, 2018 Dated: August 20, 2018	
24	Stephanie Shimazu, Director Bureau of Gambling Control	
25	California Department of Justice Complainant	
26		
27	·	

APPENDIX A

- 1. Business and Professions Code, section 19801, subdivisions (g) and (h), provide:
 - (g) Public trust that permissible gambling will not endanger public health, safety, or welfare requires comprehensive measures be enacted to ensure that gambling is free rom criminal and corruptive elements, that it is conducted honestly and competitively, and that it is conducted in suitable locations.
 - (h) Public trust and confidence can only be maintained by strict and comprehensive regulation of all persons, locations, practices, associations, and activities related to the operation of lawful gambling establishments and the manufacture and distribution of permissible gambling equipment.
- 2. Business and Professions Code, section 19811, subdivision (b), provides:

Jurisdiction, including jurisdiction over operation and concentration, and supervision over gambling establishments in this state and over all persons or things having to do with the operation of gambling establishments is vested in the commission.

- 3. Business and Professions Code, section 19823, provides:
 - (a) The responsibilities of the commission include, without limitation, all of the following:
 - (1) Assuring that licenses, approvals, and permits are not issued to, or held by, unqualified or disqualified persons, or by persons whose operations are conducted in a manner that is inimical to the public health, safety, or welfare.
 - (2) Assuring that there is no material involvement, directly or indirectly, with a licensed gambling operation, or the ownership or management thereof, by unqualified or disqualified persons, or by persons whose operations are conducted in a manner that is inimical to the public health, safety, or welfare.
 - (b) For the purposes of this section, "unqualified person" means a person who is found to be unqualified pursuant to the criteria set forth in Section 19857, and "disqualified person" means a person who is found to be disqualified pursuant to the criteria set forth in Section 19859.

4. Business and Professions Code, section 19824, provides in part:

The commission shall have all powers necessary and proper to enable it fully and effectually to carry out the policies and purposes of this chapter, including, without limitation, the power to do all of the following:

* * *

(b) For any cause deemed reasonable by the commission, deny any application for a license, permit, or approval provided for in this chapter or regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter, limit, condition, or restrict any license, permit, or approval, or impose any fine upon any person licensed or approved. The commission may condition, restrict, discipline, or take action against the license of an individual owner endorsed on the license certificate of the gambling enterprise whether or not the commission takes action against the license of the gambling enterprise.

* * *

- (d) Take actions deemed to be reasonable to ensure that no ineligible, unqualified, disqualified, or unsuitable persons are associated with controlled gambling activities.
- 5. Business and Professions Code, section 19825, provides:

The commission may require that any matter that the commission is authorized or required to consider in a hearing or meeting of an adjudicative nature regarding the denial, suspension, or revocation of a license, permit, or finding of suitability, be heard and determined in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 or Title 2 of the Government Code.

6. Business and Professions Code, section 19850, provides, in pertinent part:

Every person who, . . . as owner . . ., either solely or in conjunction with others, deals, operates, caries on, conducts, maintains, or exposes for play and controlled game in this state, or who receives directly or indirectly, any compensation or reward, or any percentage or share of the money or property played, for keeping, running, carrying on any controlled game in this state, shall apply for and obtain from the commission, and shall thereafter maintain, a valid state gambling license, . . . as specified in this chapter^[11]. . .

Chapter refers to Chapter 5 of the Business and Professions Code, commencing with section 19800. It is also known as the California Gambling Control Act.

safety, or welfare, and whether issuance of the license will undermine public trust that the gambling operations with respect to which the license would be issued are free from criminal and dishonest elements and would be conducted honestly.

10. Business and Professions Code section 19857, subdivisions (a) and (b), provide:

No gambling license shall be issued unless, based on all the information and documents submitted, the commission is satisfied that the applicant is all of the following:

- (a) A person of good character, honesty and integrity.
- (b) A person whose prior activities, criminal record, if any, reputation, habits, and associations do not pose a threat to the public interest of this state, or to the effective regulation and control of controlled gambling, or create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of controlled gambling or in the carrying on of the business and financial arrangements incidental thereto.
- 11. Business and Professions Code, section 19859, subdivisions (a) and (b), provide:

The commission shall deny a license to any applicant who is disqualified for any of the following reasons:

- (a) Failure of the applicant to clearly establish eligibility and qualification in accordance with this chapter.
- (b) Failure of the applicant to provide information, documentation, and assurances required by this chapter or requested by the chief, or failure of the applicant to reveal any fact material to qualification, or the supplying of information that is untrue or misleading as to a material fact pertaining to the qualification criteria.
- 12. Business and Professions Code section 19920, provides:

It is the policy of the State of California to require that all establishments wherein controlled gambling is conducted in this state be operate in a manner suitable to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of the state. The responsibility for the employment and maintenance of suitable methods of operation rests with the owner licensee, and willful or persistent use or toleration of methods of operation deemed unsuitable by the commission or by local government shall constitute grounds for license revocation or other disciplinary action.

A hearing to determine whether a right, authority, license, or privilege should be granted, issued, or renewed shall be initiated by filing a statement of issues. The statement of issues shall be a written statement specifying the statues and rules with which the respondent must show compliance by producing proof at the hearing, and in addition, any particular matters that have come to the initiating party and would authorize a denial of the agency sought action. . . .

18. California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12058, provides:

- (a) When the Commission elects to hold an APA hearing the Commission shall determine whether the APA hearing will be held before an Administrative Law Judge sitting on behalf of the Commission or before the Commission itself with an Administrative Law Judge presiding in accordance with Government Code section 11512. Notice of the APA hearing shall be provided to the applicant pursuant to Government Code section 11500 et seq.
- (b) The burden of proof is on the applicant to prove his, her, or its qualifications to receive any license or other approval under the Act.
- (c) A Statement of Issues shall be prepared and filed according to Government Code section 11504 by the complainant.
- (d) At the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing, when the Commission is hearing the matter, the members of the Commission shall take the matter under submission, may discuss the matter in a closed session meeting, may leave the administrative record open in order to receive additional evidence as specified by the Commission, and may schedule future closed session meetings for deliberation.
- (e) The evidentiary hearing shall proceed as indicated in the notice, unless and until the Executive Director or Commission approves cancellation or a continuance.

,	10	California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12200.7, subdivision (b)(22),
1	19.	Camornia Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12200.7, subdivision (0)(22),
2	provides:	
3 4		(b) Each proposition player contract shall specifically require all of the following to be separately set forth at the beginning of the contract in the following order:
5		***
-6		
7		(22) That the contract is a complete expression of all agreements and financial arrangements between the parties; that any addition to or modification of the contract, including
8		supplementary or oral agreements, must be approved in advance by the Bureau pursuant to Section 12200.10B (Review and
10		Approval of Amendments to Proposition Player Contracts) before the addition or modification takes place.
11	. 20.	California Code of Regulations, title 4, section 12200.9, subdivision (a)(1)(D),
12	provides, in	pertinent part:
13		(a)(1) The Bureau shall approve a proposition player
14		contract only if all the following requirements have been satisfied:
15		* * *
16	4	(D) The contract will not undermine the public trust
		(D) The contract will not undermine the public trust that the controlled gambling operations covered by the
16 17 18		
17		that the controlled gambling operations covered by the contract will be conducted honestly, by reason of the
17 18	21.	that the controlled gambling operations covered by the contract will be conducted honestly, by reason of the existence or perception of any collusive arrangement between any party to the contract and the holder of a state
17 18 19	21.	that the controlled gambling operations covered by the contract will be conducted honestly, by reason of the existence or perception of any collusive arrangement between any party to the contract and the holder of a state gambling license, or otherwise.
17 18 19 20	21.	that the controlled gambling operations covered by the contract will be conducted honestly, by reason of the existence or perception of any collusive arrangement between any party to the contract and the holder of a state gambling license, or otherwise. Title 31, United States Code, section 5318, subdivision (h)(1), provides: (h) Anti-Money Laundering Programs.— (1) In general.—In order to guard against money
17 18 19 20 21 22	21.	that the controlled gambling operations covered by the contract will be conducted honestly, by reason of the existence or perception of any collusive arrangement between any party to the contract and the holder of a state gambling license, or otherwise. Title 31, United States Code, section 5318, subdivision (h)(1), provides: (h) Anti-Money Laundering Programs.— (1) In general.—In order to guard against money laundering through financial institutions, each financial
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17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	21.	that the controlled gambling operations covered by the contract will be conducted honestly, by reason of the existence or perception of any collusive arrangement between any party to the contract and the holder of a state gambling license, or otherwise. Title 31, United States Code, section 5318, subdivision (h)(1), provides: (h) Anti-Money Laundering Programs.— (1) In general.—In order to guard against money laundering through financial institutions, each financial institution shall establish anti-money laundering programs, including, at a minimum— (A) the development of internal policies, procedures, and controls;
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	21.	that the controlled gambling operations covered by the contract will be conducted honestly, by reason of the existence or perception of any collusive arrangement between any party to the contract and the holder of a state gambling license, or otherwise. Title 31, United States Code, section 5318, subdivision (h)(1), provides: (h) Anti-Money Laundering Programs.— (1) In general.—In order to guard against money laundering through financial institutions, each financial institution shall establish anti-money laundering programs, including, at a minimum— (A) the development of internal policies, procedures,

DECLARATION OF SERVICE 1 Statement of Issues Against: Sahara Dunes Casino, LP dba Lake Elsinore 2 Case Name: Hotel and Casino 3 Case No.: OAH No.: 2017070210 4 5 I declare: I am employed in the Office of the Attorney General, which is the office of a member of the California State Bar, at which member's direction this service is made. I am 18 years of age or older and not a party to this matter; my business address is 1300 I Street, Suite 125, P.O. Box 7 944255, Sacramento, CA 94244-2550. 8 On August 20, 2018, I caused the attached THIRD AMENDED STATEMENT OF ISSUES to 9 be served by transmitting a true copy via electronic mail (per agreement of counsel in this action), addressed as follows: 10 11 Stephen L. Schreiner Solomon Ward, et al. 12 401 B Street, Suite 1200 San Diego, CA 92101 sschreiner@swsslaw.com 13 14 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California the foregoing is true 15 and correct and that this declaration was executed on August 20, 2018, at Sacramento, California. 16 17 Linda Thorpe Declarant Signature 18 19 20 21 22 .23 24 25 26 27

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