1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Harvey Rosenfield, SBN 123082 Pamela Pressley, SBN 180362 Benjamin Powell, SBN 311624 CONSUMER WATCHDOG 6330 San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 250 Los Angeles, CA 90048 Tel. (310) 392-0522 Fax (310) 861-0862 harvey@consumerwatchdog.org pam@consumerwatchdog.org ben@consumerwatchdog.org		
8	Attorneys for Consumer Watchdog		
9	DEFORE THE DIGUID ANCE COMMISSIONED		
10	BEFORE THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER		
11	OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
12	In the Matter of the PRID Procedure of:	File No.:	
13 14		CONSUMER WATCHDOG'S PETITION TO PARTICIPATE AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO	
15	AIR Worldwide Corporation d/b/a Verisk	SEEK COMPENSATION	
16	Extreme Event Solutions.	[Ins. Code §1861.10; Cal. Code Regs, tit. 10, §§ 2648.5(h), 2661.4]	
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Consumer Watchdog submits this petition to participate in the pre-application required information determination ("PRID") procedure involving AIR Worldwide Corporation doing business as Verisk Extreme Event Solutions ("Verisk"). This PRID procedure, noticed by the Model Advisor on January 22, 2025, is currently before the California Department of Insurance ("CDI"). This petition is based on the facts as set forth below and the accompanying verification of Pamela Pressley.

Consumer Watchdog also gives notice of its intent to seek compensation for its participation in this PRID procedure, and, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 10 ("10 CCR"), sections 2661.4(a) and 2661.3, subdivision (c), Consumer Watchdog has submitted its proposed budget, attached as Exhibit A.

I. <u>VERISK PETITION TO INITIATE PRID PROCEDURE</u>

- 1. On January 2, 2025, Verisk submitted a Petition to Initiate a PRID Procedure for the Verisk Wildfire Model for the United States (the "Model") and to establish its right to participate in the PRID procedure. In its Petition, Verisk asserts that the Model "incorporates leading knowledge of the wildfire hazard and vulnerability as well as recent trends in variables that affect wildfire risk in the Western United States." Verisk further claims that under the Commissioner's new wildfire catastrophe modeling regulation, "the Model will allow insurers the ability to better assess risk, allowing them to more accurately price insurance for homeowners and businesses who live and operate in wildfire-prone areas." Verisk verified that "there is no valid PRID for the Model, and the Model has not been subject to public review in a California forum within the last four years."
- 2. The Model Advisor apparently granted Verisk's Petition in a letter dated January 16, 2025, and subsequently posted this letter granting the requested PRID procedure on the CDI's website on January 22, 2025.¹

II. CONSUMER WATCHDOG'S OBJECTION TO THE PRID PROCEDURE AND LACK OF PUBLIC NOTICE

3. There was no meaningful public notice or disclosure of Verisk's Petition or the Model Advisor's January 16 letter. Consumer Watchdog only became aware of the Verisk PRID Petition by conducting a search for "PRID" on the CDI's website after seeing an industry news article stating that

¹ See https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/180-climate-change/DetermineProcedure.cfm.

Verisk had requested review of its model,² and then continuing to monitor the CDI website daily for any determination to grant the PRID Petition and notice of a PRID procedure.³ Haphazard publication of petitions and letters, available only through website searches, with no public notice, is not only inconsistent with typical CDI public notice practices (including press releases), but appears designed to hide the PRID procedure from the public to limit the public's ability to exercise its right to participate in PRID procedures. Through its participation in this PRID procedure, Consumer Watchdog does not intend to waive its objection to this lack of meaningful public notice, and believes that the Model Advisor should repost and publicly notice the PRID Petition and its own response in accord with typical CDI public notice practices, to allow the public to have meaningful notice and reasonable time to evaluate the PRID Petition to determine whether to participate.

III. <u>PETITIONER CONSUMER WATCHDOG</u>

- 4. Petitioner Consumer Watchdog is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public interest corporation organized to represent the interests of consumers and taxpayers. A core focus of Consumer Watchdog's advocacy is the representation of the interests of insurance consumers and policyholders, particularly as they relate to the implementation and enforcement of Proposition 103, in matters before the Legislature, the courts, and the CDI.
- 5. Consumer Watchdog's founder authored Proposition 103 and led the successful campaign for its enactment by California voters in 1988. Consumer Watchdog's staff and consultants include some of the nation's foremost consumer advocates and experts on insurance ratemaking matters.
- 6. Consumer Watchdog has served as a public watchdog with regard to insurance rates and insurer rollback liabilities under Proposition 103 by: monitoring rollback settlements and the status of the rollback regulations; reviewing and challenging rate filings made by insurers seeking excessive rates; participating in rulemaking and adjudicatory hearings before the CDI; and educating the public

² See https://www.lifeinsuranceinternational.com/news/verisk-wildfire-catastrophe-model-california/?cf-view.

³ At a minimum, the Department should implement an email notification system allowing interested parties to sign up for notifications of PRID submissions. Such a system is already in place for rate filings and rulemaking proceedings and is just as critical to the public interest here. Once established, the new notification system should be publicized in a press release.

concerning industry underwriting and rating practices, their rights under Proposition 103, and other provisions of state law. Consumer Watchdog has also initiated and intervened in actions in state court and appeared as amicus curiae in matters involving the interpretation and application of Proposition 103 and the Insurance Code.⁴

7. Consumer Watchdog has initiated and intervened in numerous proceedings before the CDI related to the implementation and enforcement of Proposition 103's reforms, including over 150 rate and rulemaking proceedings in the last twenty years. In every proceeding that has resulted in a final decision and in which Consumer Watchdog sought and was awarded compensation, the Commissioner found that Consumer Watchdog made a substantial contribution, meaning that it presented relevant issues, evidence, and arguments that resulted in more credible, non-frivolous information being available to the Commissioner in making his final decision.

IV. <u>ELIGIBILITY TO SEEK COMPENSATION</u>

8. The Commissioner issued Consumer Watchdog's latest Finding of Eligibility on August 2, 2024, effective in proceedings commenced within two years of July 12, 2024. Consumer Watchdog was previously found eligible to seek compensation on July 26, 2022, effective as of July 12, 2022; August 25, 2020, effective as of July 12, 2020; July 12, 2018; July 14, 2016; July 24, 2014; July 24, 2012; July 2, 2010; August 25, 2008; July 14, 2006; July 2, 2004; June 20, 2002; October 1, 1997; September 26, 1995; September 27, 1994; and September 13, 1993. Consumer Watchdog is eligible to seek compensation in this PRID procedure.

V. INTEREST OF CONSUMER WATCHDOG IN PRID PROCEDURE

9. Consumer Watchdog's overarching interest in the above-captioned proceeding is to ensure that the models used by insurers in ratemaking are reliable and consistent with Prop 103's

⁴ For example, Calfarm Ins. Co. v. Deukmejian (1989) 48 Cal.3d 805; 20th Century Ins. Co. v. Garamendi (1994) 8 Cal.4th 216; Amwest Surety Ins. Co. v. Wilson (1995) 11 Cal.4th 1243; Proposition 103 Enforcement Project v. Quackenbush (1998) 64 Cal.App.4th 1473; Spanish Speaking Citizens' Found. v. Low (2000) 85 Cal.App.4th 1179; Donabedian v. Mercury Ins. Co. (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th 968; State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v. Garamendi (2004) 32 Cal.4th 1029; The Found. for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights v. Garamendi (2005) 132 Cal.App.4th 1354; Ass'n of Cal. Ins. Cos. v. Poizner (2009) 180 Cal.App.4th 1029; Mercury Cas. Co. v. Jones (2017) 8 Cal.App.5th 561; Mercury Ins. Co. v. Lara (2019) 35 Cal.App.5th 82; and State Farm General Ins. Co. v. Lara (2021) 71 Cal.App.5th 197.

PRID procedure is aimed at ensuring that the ultimate PRID includes the necessary information and data regarding the Verisk Model that must be submitted with any future rate application relying on the Model to ensure that homeowners policyholders are charged rates and premiums that comply with Insurance Code section 1861.05(a)'s requirement that "no rate shall be approved or remain in effect which is excessive, inadequate, [or] unfairly discriminatory or otherwise in violation of this chapter," and are also consistent with Prop 103's "ultimate goal[, which] is the guaranty that 'insurance is fair, available, and affordable for all Californians." (20th Century Ins. Co. v. Garamendi (1994) 8 Cal.4th 216, 300.) For many homeowners, their home is their most valuable asset, and they are required to purchase homeowners insurance by their mortgage lenders. Consumers who are overcharged by insurers for this insurance coverage and who have been denied homeowners coverage or nonrenewed are part of Consumer Watchdog's core constituency. Consumer Watchdog also has an interest in ensuring that all information provided to the Commissioner in support of rate applications, including catastrophe models used to project losses and determine rates, premiums, and eligibility, are made publicly available as required by Insurance Code section 1861.07.

statutory requirements and underlying goals. Specifically, Consumer Watchdog's participation in this

10. Consumer Watchdog's staff and consultants have substantial experience and expertise in representing the interests of consumers in insurance rate matters, as well as advocating for consumer interests in insurance rulemaking proceedings, and as such, Consumer Watchdog believes its participation in the PRID procedure will provide a distinct perspective to aid the Model Advisor in issuing the ultimate PRID.

VI. POSITION OF PETITIONER ON SPECIFIC ISSUES

11. Pursuant to Insurance Code section 1861.05, subdivision (b) and 10 CCR § 2648.4, "every insurer that desires to change any rate must file a complete rate application which must include the information required by Insurance Code section 1861.05, subdivision (b), and all information as the Commissioner may require in order to perform a complete analysis of a rate application, including but not limited to the exhibits, data, information, materials and documentation specified by Sections 2641.1 through 2643.8 and Sections 2644.1 through 2644.28" and "all of the materials described in subdivisions (b) through (e) of [] Section 2648.4." 10 CCR § 2648.4(c) delineates that a complete rate application

shall include "any and all criteria, guidelines, systems, manuals, models and algorithms, and any proposed changes thereto, an insurer, agent, broker, or underwriter uses or relies upon to determine the rate, rating rules and coverages for any particular applicant or insured, including optional coverage rates and rules." The purpose of this PRID procedure is to reach a determination "that specifies all information and data regarding a model that are required to be provided to the Commissioner as part of a complete rate application that relies upon the model for purposes of requesting a proposed rate change pursuant to Insurance Code section 1861.05." (10 CCR §§ 2648.5(a)(1), 2648.5(c).) "Required model information," according to the regulation, "means all required information and data regarding a model, that the Commissioner requires to be submitted as part of a complete rate application that relies upon the model, because such information and data will aid the Commissioner in determining whether the model is reliable to perform the functions for which an insurer proposes to use the model, for purposes of the Commissioner's evaluation of a complete rate application." (10 CCR 2648.5(a)(4).) Additionally, "[r]equired model information shall include information that demonstrates the model uses established concepts, data, equations, and principles, as well as best available scientific information and data, insurance claims expertise, and other assumptions appropriate for the risk or peril being modeled." (10 CCR 2648.5(b).) Consumer Watchdog intends to participate fully in this PRID procedure to seek and examine information and data regarding the financial and scientific components of the Verisk Model and to provide the input of its experts to opine on what information and data should be required to be submitted as part of a complete rate application that will ultimately aid the Commissioner and intervenors in determining its reliability during the rate review process.

12. During the PRID procedure, Consumer Watchdog intends to propound reasonable and focused discovery, proffer expert testimony, and cross-examine other parties' experts regarding the reliability of the Verisk Model, and understand Verisk's position on what constitutes "required model information." Consumer Watchdog's position, prior to any discovery, is that the information and data regarding the Verisk Model to be sought through discovery and elicited through testimony should include, but not be limited to:

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- the model's input variables, how those particular input variables were selected, and quantifiable metrics demonstrating the variables' relative predictive power;
- input variables that were considered but ultimately rejected, and the reasons for rejection;
- the training dataset used in the construction of the model, including the data sources, number of individual records, span of years, geospatial level of granularity, treatment of
- whether the training dataset is refreshed and the model re-trained periodically, and how
- any assumptions made with respect to the input variables, the training dataset, or any
- the relative weights assigned to each input variable and how those weights were
- any quantifiable margins of error or tolerance associated with the model output;
- any assumptions made with respect to the model's operation and/or data output;
- how elements that tend to fluctuate in value and have a significant impact on model
- whether and how the model reflects home-hardening or wildfire mitigation efforts; and
- how the model conforms to all applicable Actuarial Standards of Practice (ASOPs);
- provision of an unrestricted version of the model itself to enable independent testing of its sensitivity to changes in input parameters, accuracy in predicting losses, and any other elements deemed necessary to ensure the model's appropriateness for use in an insurance
- the results of a complete sensitivity analysis indicating the degree to which the model's output changes as a result of small changes to each input variable independently;

- any effects on the model's output of interactions between the input variables, and how any such interactions were corrected for;
- the model's performance against actual historical California wildfire events; and
- how the model has been tested for and controls against providing biased results.

This is not meant to be an exhaustive list, and given the relative paucity of information about the Verisk Model in the PRID Petition, Consumer Watchdog reserves all rights to conduct discovery and ask for further information and data regarding the Model based on what is produced during the course of the PRID procedure.

VII. AUTHORITY FOR PETITION TO PARTICIPATE

- 13. The authority for this petition is Insurance Code section 1861.10, subdivision (a), which grants "any person" the right to initiate or intervene in a proceeding permitted or established by Proposition 103 and the right to enforce Proposition 103. Specifically, as stated above, Consumer Watchdog seeks to participate in this PRID procedure to advocate for the necessary information and data regarding the Verisk Model that must be submitted with any future rate application relying on the Model to ensure that homeowners policyholders are charged rates and premiums that comply with Insurance Code sections 1861.05(a), and Cal. Code Regs., Title 10, Chapter 5, subchapter 4.8 (10 CCR §§ 2641.1–2648.5) and that all information submitted to the Commissioner is publicly available as required by and 1861.07.
 - 14. This petition is also authorized by 10 CCR §§ 2648.5(h), 2661.2, and 2661.4.
- 15. This petition is timely pursuant to 10CCR § 2648.5, subdivision (i), because it is filed within five (5) business days of the January 22, 2025 date the Model Advisor's letter granting Verisk's Petition was posted publicly on the CDI's website. The CDI's website states that "Petitions for participation in the PRID procedure must be submitted to the Model Advisor (CDImodeladvisor@insurance.ca.gov) by January 29th, 2025."

⁵ See fn. 1, ante.

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PARTICIPATION OF CONSUMER WATCHDOG

16. Consumer Watchdog verifies, in accordance with 10 CCR § 2661.3(b), that it will be able to participate in this PRID procedure without delaying this proceeding or any other proceedings before the Insurance Commissioner.

IX. INTENT TO SEEK COMPENSATION

17. Consumer Watchdog intends to seek compensation in this proceeding. Pursuant to 10 CCR § 2661.3(c), Consumer Watchdog's estimated budget is attached as Exhibit A. Consumer Watchdog based its estimated budget on several factors, including: (1) the technical and legal expertise needed to address the legal, actuarial, and policy issues raised by the PRID procedure; (2) its current best estimate of the time needed to participate effectively in this proceeding; and (3) past experience in proceedings before the CDI. The attorney, paralegal, staff actuary, and expert witness hourly rates contained in the attached budget do not exceed market rates as defined by 10 CCR § 2661.1(c).6 The estimated budget is reasonable, and the staffing level and division of labor is appropriate, given the

⁶ 10 CCR § 2661.1(c) defines "market rates" as "the prevailing rate for comparable services in the private sector in the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay Areas at the time of the Commissioner's decision awarding compensation for attorney advocates, non-attorney advocates, or experts with similar

experience, skill and ability." (Emphasis added.) The most recent seven Decisions Awarding Compensation by Commissioner Lara to Consumer Watchdog in 2024 in rate proceedings found that the

same 2025 rates used in the estimated budget set forth in Exhibit A for its attorneys, staff actuary, and paralegal, Mr. Rosenfield, Ms. Pressley, Mr. Powell, Mr. Armstrong, and Ms. Gentile, were reasonable and did not exceed market rates in the private market in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area.

(Decision Awarding Compensation, Dec. 6, 2024, In the Matter of the Rate Applications of Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company and USAA Casualty Insurance Company, File No. PA-2021-

00004, pp. 8–9; Decision Awarding Compensation, Dec. 6, 2024, In the Matter of the Rate Application of State Farm General Insurance Company, File No. PA-2023-00006, pp. 8–9; Decision Awarding

Compensation, Dec. 6, 2024, In the Matter of the Rate, Rule, and Form Application of Pacific Specialty Insurance Company, File No. PA-2020-00009, pp. 9–10; Decision Awarding Compensation, Dec. 6,

2024, In the Matter of the Rate Application of State Farm General Insurance Company, File No. PA-2023-00007, pp. 8-9; Decision Awarding Compensation, Dec. 6, 2024, In the Matter of the Rate

Application of Allstate Northbrook Indemnity Company, File No. PA-2023-00014, pp. 8–9; Decision Awarding Compensation, Dec. 6, 2024, In the Matter of the Rate Application of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, File No. PA-2023-00012, pp. 8–9; Decision Awarding Compensation,

Oct. 18, 2024, In the Matter of the Rate Applications of Farmers Insurance Exchange, Mid-Century *Insurance Company, and Truck Insurance Exchange*, File No. PA-2023-00022, pp. 14–15.)

<u>VERIFICATION OF PAMELA PRESSLEY IN SUPPORT OF CONSUMER WATCHDOG'S PETITION TO PARTICIPATE AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK COMPENSATION</u>

I, Pamela Pressley, verify:

- 1. I am a Senior Staff Attorney employed by Consumer Watchdog. If called as a witness, I could and would testify competently to the facts stated in this verification.
- 2. I personally oversaw the preparation of the pleading titled, "Consumer Watchdog's Petition to Participate and Notice of Intent to Seek Compensation" filed in this matter. All of the factual matters alleged therein are true of my own personal knowledge, or I believe them to be true after conducting some inquiry and investigation.
- 3. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 10, section 2661.3, subdivision (c), Consumer Watchdog attaches as Exhibit A its estimated budget in this proceeding. I affirm that the hourly rates in the estimated budget do not exceed market rates.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on January 28, 2025 at Los Angeles, California.

Pamela Pressley
Pamela Pressley

1	EXHIBIT A		
2	PRELIMINARY ESTIMATED BUDGET		
3	VERISK PRID PROCEDURE		
4	<u>ITEMS</u> <u>ESTIMATED COST</u>		
5	1. <u>Consumer Watchdog Attorneys/Actuary/Paralegal</u>		
6 7 8 9	Pamela Pressley (Senior Staff Attorney) @ \$595 per hour, 50 hours		
10	examination, and preparation of any post-procedure briefing; review and edit draft request for compensation, declaration in support.		
12 13 14	 Harvey Rosenfield (Of Counsel) @ \$695 per hour, 25 hours\$17,375 Participate in discussions on Consumer Watchdog's positions, particularly as they relate to compliance with Prop 103; review Consumer Watchdog's submissions and Verisk's productions as needed. 		
15 16 17 18 19	 Benjamin Powell (Staff Attorney) @ \$350 per hour, 100 hours		
20 21 22	Ben Armstrong (Staff Actuary) @ \$425 per hour, 100 hours		
232425	 Kaitlyn Gentile (Paralegal) @ \$200 per hour, 25 hours\$5,000 Draft and edit petition to participate, edit draft comments, proposed amendments to regulation text; draft request for compensation. 		
26	Consumer Watchdog Subtotal \$129,625		
27 28	2. Expert Witness: Wildfire Risk Model Expert TBD @ \$500 per hour, 100 hours		

1	 Consult with Consumer Watchdog advocates on the scient Verisk model; assist with preparation of discovery request 	requests; review discovery documents; prepare	
2	testimony and assist with cross-examination of Verisk pa components of the model.		
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4	Expert Witness Subtotal	\$50,000	
5	TOTAL ESTIMATED BUDGET:	<u>\$179,625</u>	
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PROOF OF SERVICE BY OVERNIGHT OR U.S. MAIL, FAX TRANSMISSION, EMAIL TRANSMISSION AND/OR PERSONAL SERVICE

State of California, City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles

I am employed in the City and County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action. My business address is 6330 South San Vicente Boulevard, Suite 250, Los Angeles, California 90048, and I am employed in the city and county where this service is occurring.

On January 28, 2025, I caused service of true and correct copies of the document entitled

CONSUMER WATCHDOG'S PETITION TO PARTICIPATE AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK COMPENSATION

upon the persons named in the attached service list, in the following manner:

- 1. If marked FAX SERVICE, by facsimile transmission this date to the FAX number stated to the person(s) named.
- 2. If marked EMAIL, by electronic mail transmission this date to the email address stated.
- 3. If marked U.S. MAIL or OVERNIGHT or HAND DELIVERED, by placing this date for collection for regular or overnight mailing true copies of the within document in sealed envelopes, addressed to each of the persons so listed. I am readily familiar with the regular practice of collection and processing of correspondence for mailing of U.S. Mail and for sending of Overnight mail. If mailed by U.S. Mail, these envelopes would be deposited this day in the ordinary course of business with the U.S. Postal Service. If mailed Overnight, these envelopes would be deposited this day in a box or other facility regularly maintained by the express service carrier, or delivered this day to an authorized courier or driver authorized by the express service carrier to receive documents, in the ordinary course of business, fully prepaid.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on January 28, 2025 at Los Angeles, California.

Kaitlyn Gentile

1	Service List	
2 3 4 5 6	Kara Voss, Ph.D. Model Advisor Climate & Sustainability Branch California Department of Insurance 300 Capital Mall, 16th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 CDImodeladvisor@insurance.ca.gov	☐ FAX ☐ U.S. MAIL ☐ OVERNIGHT MAIL ☐ HAND DELIVERED ☑ EMAIL
7 8 9 10 11 12	Margaret Hosel Public Advisor Tina Warren Office of the Public Advisor California Department of Insurance 300 Capitol Mall, 17th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 Tel. (916) 492-3705 Fax (510) 238-7830 Margaret Hosel@insurance ca gov	☐ FAX ☐ U.S. MAIL ☐ OVERNIGHT MAIL ☐ HAND DELIVERED ☑ EMAIL
13	Margaret.Hosel@insurance.ca.gov Tina.Warren@insurance.ca.gov	
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PROOF OF SERVICE



Via email

March 12, 2025

Kara Voss, PhD Model Advisor Climate & Sustainability Branch California Department of Insurance Email: CDImodeladvisor@insurance.ca.gov

Re: Wildfire Risk Model Expert in the Matter of the PRID Procedure of AIR

Worldwide Corporation d/b/a Verisk Extreme Event Solutions

File No. PRID-2025-00001

Dear Dr. Voss:

I write to inform you that Eyitayo Opabola, PhD will act as the Wildfire Risk Model Expert that was included in Consumer Watchdog's Petition to Participate in the PRID Procedure of AIR Worldwide Corporation d/b/a Verisk Extreme Event Solutions.

Dr. Opabola is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. His email address is tayo@berkeley.edu.

Sincerely,

Pamela Pressley Senior Staff Attorney

Pamela Presiley