FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO	
IN RE:	) )
SKLAR EXPLORATION COMPANY, LLC EIN: 72-1417930	) Case No. 20-12377-EEB
Debtor-in-Possession.	Chapter 11 )
In Re:	)
SKLARCO, LLC EIN 72-1425432	) Case No. 20-12380-EEB
Debtor-in Possession.	) Chapter 11 ) )

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

FLETCHER PETROLEUM, COMPANY, LLC'S OBJECTION AND RESERVATION OF RIGHTS TO DEBTORS' MOTION TO; 1) HONOR AND PAY OVERRIDING ROYALTY, ROYALTY, AND WORKING INTEREST OBLIGATIONS; AND 2) OFFSET JOINT INTEREST BILLING OBLIGATIONS

COMES NOW, Fletcher Petroleum Company, LLC ("Fletcher"), by and through its undersigned counsel Berger Singerman LLP, files its *Objection and Reservation of Rights* ("Objection") to the *Debtors' Motion to 1) Honor and Pay Overriding Royalty, Royalty, and Working Interest Obligations; and 2) Offset Joint Interest Billing Obligations* (Doc. 37) (the "ORRI Motion). In support of this limited Objection, Fletcher states as follows:

- 1. On April 1, 2020, the Debtors filed their voluntary petitions for relief under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.
- 2. On April 6, 2020, the Debtors filed the ORRI Motion, requesting among other relief to "honor and pay, in their sole discretion, the Revenue Payable, owed on the Petition Date and to

offset JIB's from any cash call advance liabilities and/or revenue payments. (Doc. 37. \ \ 3).

- 3. Counsel has reviewed the ORRI Motion and the exhibit attached thereto along with the Debtors' schedules filed on April 17, 2020.
- 4. As detailed in the Debtors' schedules, the Debtors and Fletcher (or its related entities) are parties to one or more Joint Operating Agreements and Gas Gathering Agreements. (collectively, "Operating Agreements").
- 5. Under the Operating Agreements, the Debtor, Sklar Exploration Company, LLC collects revenues from the sale of oil and gas production from certain wells for the benefit of Fletcher and other working interest owners. Further, the Debtors were to escrow certain production revenues, in the approximate amount of \$800,000, until a dispute regarding who the appropriate royalty landowner was resolved in litigation filed in Alabama state court. Neither the Debtors' Schedules nor the ORRI reflect the escrowed funds.
- 6. Neither the Debtors' schedules nor the ORRI Motion accurately reflect Fletcher and its related entities' position and it is unclear how the Debtor intends to treat Fletcher's payables under the ORRI Motion.
- 7. In the ORRI Motion, the Debtors request authorization "to offset JIBs from any cash call advance liabilities and/or revenue payments. (Doc. 27 at P13.) To the extent Fletcher and its related entities are affected by the ORRI, Fletcher objects to this request for authorization to offset monthly expenses against production revenue under the Operating Agreements that have not been prepaid and/or future JIBS.

## **JOINDER**

Fletcher further joins in Lucas Petroleum Group, Inc., Anderson Exploration Energy Company, L.C., TCP Cottonwood, L.P.'s Franks Exploration Company, LLC, and Kudzu Oil

Properties, LLC's limited objections to the ORRI Motion, as previously submitted by the

aforementioned creditors (Docs. 67, 71, 145, and 152), and any other similar objections to the

extent that such objections are not inconsistent with Fletcher's Objection.

**RESERVATION OF RIGHTS** 

Fletcher makes no admission of fact or law and reserves all rights, claims, objections and

defenses that may be available to it before this Court and any other court with competent

jurisdiction over the parties and the matters at issue. Fletcher further reserves any and all rights to

supplement or amend this Objection.

WHEREFORE, Fletcher respectfully request that the Court enter an order denying the

Debtor's request to offset monthly JIB expenses against revenues owed to Fletcher and other

related entity or other Working Interest owners, and order the SEC to continue its pre-petition

practice and industry recognized standard of providing monthly joint interest billing statements to

Fletcher and other related entities.

Dated April 23, 2020

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2020, the foregoing *Fletcher* 

Petroleum Company LLC, Objection and Reservation of Rights to Debtors' Motion to 1) Honor

and Pay Overriding Royalty, Royalty, and Working Interest Obligations; and 2) Offset Joint

Interest Billing Obligations was served by electronic transmission through the Court's CM/ECF

System upon all parties on the attached CM/ECF Service List.

s/ Brian G Rich

Brian G Rich

## **CM/ECF SERVICE LIST**

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