1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	DAVID R. ZARO (BAR NO. 124334) E-Mail: dzaro@allenmatkins.com MATTHEW D. PHAM (BAR NO. 28770 E-Mail: mpham@allenmatkins.com ALLEN MATKINS LECK GAMBLE MALLORY & NATSIS LLP 865 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2800 Los Angeles, California 90017-2543 Phone: (213) 622-5555 Fax: (213) 620-8816 EDWARD G. FATES (BAR NO. 227809 E-Mail: tfates@allenmatkins.com ALLEN MATKINS LECK GAMBLE MALLORY & NATSIS LLP One America Plaza 600 West Broadway, 27th Floor		
	San Diego, California 92101-0903 Phone: (619) 233-1155 Fax: (619) 233-1158		
11 12	Attorneys for Court-Appointed Receiver KRISTA L. FREITAG		
13	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
14	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
15			
16	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION,	Case No. 8:	23-cv-00855-JWH-KES
17 18	Plaintiff,	AUTHORI RECEIVE	NDUM OF POINTS AND TIES IN SUPPORT OF R'S MOTION FOR
19	VS.	PROPERT	OVAL OF SALE OF REAL Y LOCATED AT 9641
20	INTEGRATED NATIONAL RESOURCES, INC. dba	CITY, IDA	NA DRIVE, GARDEN HO; (B) AUTHORITY TO
21	WEEDGENICS, ROLF MAX HIRSCHMANN aka "MAX BERGMANN," PATRICK EARL	PAY BROI	KER'S COMMISSION
22	WILLIAMS,	Date: Time:	August 30, 2024 9:00 a.m.
23	Defendants, and	Ctrm: Judge:	9D Hon. John W. Holcomb
242526	WEST COAST DEVELOPMENT LLC, INR CONSULTING LLC (WYOMING ENTITY), OCEANS 19 INC., AUTOBAHN PERFORMANCE LLC, ONE CLICK GENERAL MEDIA INC., OPUS COLLECTIVE, JOHN ERIC	Judge.	Tion. John W. Holcomb
2728	FRANCOM, INR-CA INVESTMENT HOLDINGS, LLC, MICHAEL DELGADO, TOTAL SOLUTION CONSTRUCTION LLC. BAGPIPE		

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HOLDINGS LLC, BAGPIPE MULTIMEDIA LLC, TYLER CAMPBELL, INR CONSULTING LLC (CALIFORNIA ENTITY), HIDDEN SPRINGS HOLDINGS GROUP LLC, and ALEXANDRIA PORTER BOVEE aka "AIA MONTGOMERY", Relief Defendants.

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-2-

1 Krista L. Freitag ("Receiver"), the Court-appointed permanent receiver for 2 Defendant Integrated National Resources, Inc., dba Weedgenics, and Relief Defendants West Coast Development LLC, INR Consulting LLC (Wyoming Entity), Oceans 19 Inc., Autobahn Performance LLC, One Click General Media 4 Inc., Opus Collective, INR-CA Investment Holdings, LLC, Total Solution 5 Construction LLC, Bagpipe Holdings LLC, Bagpipe Multimedia LLC, INR 6 Consulting LLC (California Entity), and Hidden Springs Holdings Group LLC, and 7 8 their subsidiaries and affiliates (collectively the "Receivership Entities"), submits this Memorandum of Points and Authorities in Support of her concurrently-filed Motion for (A) Approval of Sale of Real Property Located at 9641 W. Sultana 10 Drive, Garden City, Idaho; and (B) Authority to Pay Broker's Commission 11 ("Motion"). 12 I. 13 **BACKGROUND FACTS** 14 As reflected on Exhibit A to the Receiver's Fifth Interim Report and Recommendations (Dkt. 233), the receivership estate includes six real properties. 15 The properties include a townhome/condominium located at 9641 W. Sultana Drive, 16 Garden City, Idaho ("Sultana Property"). The Sultana Property has two bedrooms 17 18 and two bathrooms, and was purchased by Receivership Entity Autobahn 19 Performance LLC ("Autobahn"). The Sultana Property was purchased in July 2022 20 by Autobahn for \$725,000. Freitag Decl., ¶ 2. Upon her appointment, the Receiver and her staff performed an analysis of 21 22 the value of the Sultana Property, including a review of automated valuation scores for the property and commissioned an appraisal of the property. The appraised 23 24 value of the property as of May 17, 2024 was \$710,000. The Receiver and her staff 25 also consulted with multiple licensed brokers about the value of the property and terms of a potential listing agreement. Ultimately, the Receiver selected eXp 26 27 Realty, LLC ("Broker") and had the Sultana Property listed for sale at \$724,900 on

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June 4, 2024. Freitag Decl., ¶ 3.

The Sultana Property was listed on the local MLS, which syndicates information on all major real estate platforms including Zillow, Redfin, and Realtor.com. Following the listing, Broker advised there were a few showings, but no offers. A full price offer was then received on July 5, 2024. The Receiver, through Broker, sent a counteroffer to clarify receivership specific terms, including the as-is nature of the sale, and the overbid/auction process. The Receiver ultimately finalized an offer from Bonita K. McGonagill ("Buyer") in the amount of \$725,000. Through Broker, the prospective purchasers who showed interest in the property have been invited to participate in the overbid/auction process discussed below. The MLS listing has also been updated to seek overbidders. Freitag Decl., ¶ 4.

II. PROPOSED SALE

The key terms of the proposed RE-21 Real Estate Purchase and Sale Agreement, including Addendum thereto ("Agreement"), a copy of which is attached to the Freitag Declaration as Exhibit A, are summarized as follows:

Overbid and Court Approval. The sale is subject to qualified overbids pursuant to the public sale process laid out below.

Purchase Price. The purchase price is \$725,000, which is being paid in cash. **Deposit.** Buyer has deposited \$7,250 into escrow.

Closing Date. Closing shall occur within 10 days of entry of the Court order approving the sale.

Broker's Commission. Pursuant to the listing agreement, Broker is to be paid a commission of 4% of the gross sales price, which is to be split evenly with Buyer's broker. In the proposed sale, the total commission would be \$29,000.

III. <u>LEGAL STANDARD</u>

"The power of a district court to impose a receivership or grant other forms of ancillary relief does not in the first instance depend on a statutory grant of power from the securities laws. Rather, the authority derives from the inherent power of a

court of equity to fashion effective relief." SEC v. Wencke, 622 F.2d 1363, 1369 1 2 (9th Cir. 1980). The "primary purpose of equity receiverships is to promote orderly and efficient administration of the estate by the district court for the benefit of creditors." SEC v. Hardy, 803 F.2d 1034, 1038 (9th Cir 1986). As the appointment 4 of a receiver is authorized by the broad equitable powers of the court, any 5 distribution of assets must also be done equitably and fairly. See SEC v. Elliot, 6 7 953 F.2d 1560, 1569 (11th Cir. 1992). 8 District courts have the broad power of a court of equity to determine the appropriate action in the administration and supervision of an equity receivership. See SEC v. Capital Consultants, LLC, 397 F.3d 733, 738 (9th Cir. 2005). The Ninth 10 Circuit explained: 11 A district court's power to supervise an equity 12 receivership and to determine the appropriate action to be taken in the administration of the receivership is extremely 13 broad. The district court has broad powers and wide discretion to determine the appropriate relief in an equity receivership. The basis for this broad deference to the 14 district court's supervisory role in equity receiverships 15 arises out of the fact that most receiverships involve multiple parties and complex transactions. A district 16 court's decision concerning the supervision of an equitable receivership is reviewed for abuse of discretion. 17 Id. (citations omitted); see also CFTC. v. Topworth Int'l, Ltd., 205 F.3d 1107, 1115 18 19 (9th Cir. 1999) ("This court affords 'broad deference' to the court's supervisory 20 role, and 'we generally uphold reasonable procedures instituted by the district court 21 that serve th[e] purpose' of orderly and efficient administration of the receivership for the benefit of creditors."). Accordingly, the Court has broad discretion in the 22 23 administration of the receivership estate and the disposition of receivership assets. The Court's Authority to Approve Sale 24 25 It is widely accepted that a court of equity having custody and control of property has power to order a sale of the same in its discretion. See, e.g., SEC v. 26 27 Elliott, 953 F.2d 1560, 1566 (11th Cir. 1992) (the District Court has broad powers and wide discretion to determine relief in an equity receivership). "The power of 28

sale necessarily follows the power to take possession and control of and to preserve 1 property." See SEC v. American Capital Invest., Inc., 98 F.3d 1133, 1144 (9th Cir. 1996), cert. denied 520 U.S. 1185 (decision abrogated on other grounds) (citing 2 Ralph Ewing Clark, Treatise on Law & Practice of Receivers § 482 (3d ed. 1992) 4 (citing First Nat'l Bank v. Shedd, 121 U.S. 74, 87 (1887)). "When a court of equity 5 orders property in its custody to be sold, the court itself as vendor confirms the title 6 7 in the purchaser." 2 Ralph Ewing Clark, Treatise on Law & Practice of 8 Receivers § 487 (3d ed. 1992). 9 "A court of equity, under proper circumstances, has the power to order a receiver to sell property free and clear of all encumbrances." Miners' Bank of 10 Wilkes-Barre v. Acker, 66 F.2d 850, 853 (2d Cir. 1933). See also, 2 Ralph Ewing 11 Clark, Treatise on Law & Practice of Receivers § 500 (3d ed. 1992). To that end, a 12 federal court is not limited or deprived of any of its equity powers by state statute. 13 Beet Growers Sugar Co. v. Columbia Trust Co., 3 F.2d 755, 757 (9th Cir. 1925) 14 (state statute allowing time to redeem property after a foreclosure sale not applicable 15 in a receivership sale). 16 17 Generally, when a court-appointed receiver is involved, the receiver, as agent 18 for the court, should conduct the sale of the receivership property. Blakely Airport Joint Venture II v. Federal Sav. and Loan Ins. Corp., 678 F. Supp. 154, 156 19 20 (N.D. Tex. 1988). The receiver's sale conveys "good" equitable title enforced by an 21 injunction against the owner and against parties to the suit. See 2 Ralph Ewing 22 Clark, Treatise on Law & Practice of Receivers §§ 342, 344, 482(a), 487, 489, 491 (3d ed. 1992). "In authorizing the sale of property by receivers, courts of equity are 23 vested with broad discretion as to price and terms." Gockstetter v. Williams, 9 F.2d 24 25 354, 357 (9th Cir. 1925). 28 U.S.C. § 2001 В. 26 27 Specific requirements are imposed by 28 U.S.C. § 2001 for public sales of 28 real property under subsection (a) and specific requirements for private sales of real

property under subsection (b). Although both involve significant cost and delay, the cost and delay of a public sale are significantly less than those for a private sale. SEC v. Goldfarb, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 118942, at *5 (N.D. Cal. 2013) ("Section 2001 sets out two possible courses of action: (1) property may be sold in 4 public sale; or (2) property may be sold in a private sale, provided that three separate 5 appraisals have been conducted, the terms are published in a circulated newspaper 6 7 ten days prior to sale, and the sale price is no less than two-thirds of the valued price."). Therefore, by proceeding under Section 2001(a), the receivership estate can avoid the significant costs and delay of (a) the Court having to appoint three 10 disinterested appraisers, and (b) obtaining three appraisals from such appraisers. 11 The requirements of a public sale under Section 2001(a) are that notice of the 12 sale be published as proscribed by Section 2002 and a public auction be held at the courthouse "as the court directs." 28 U.S.C. § 2001(a); SEC v. Capital Cove 13 Bancorp LLC, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 174856, at *13 (C.D. Cal. 2015); SEC v. 14 15 Kirkland, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 45353, at *5 (M.D. Fla. 2007). In terms of publication of notice, Section 2002 provides: 16 A public sale of realty or interest therein under any order, 17 judgment or decree of any court of the United States shall not be made without notice published once a week for at 18 least four weeks prior to the sale in at least one newspaper regularly issued and of general circulation in the county, 19 state, or judicial district of the United States wherein the realty is situated. 20 If such realty is situated in more than one county, state, 21 district or circuit, such notice shall be published in one or more of the counties, states, or districts wherein it is 22 situated, as the court directs. The notice shall be substantially in such form and contain such description of 23 the property by reference or otherwise as the court approves. The court may direct that the publication be 24 made in other newspapers. 25 This section shall not apply to sales and proceedings under Title 11 or by receivers or conservators of banks appointed 26 by the Comptroller of the Currency. 27 28

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The notice of sale is sufficient if it describes the property and the time, place, and terms of sale. *Breeding Motor Freight Lines, Inc. v. Reconstruction Finance Corp.*, 172 F.2d 416, 422 (10th Cir. 1949). The Court may limit the auction to qualified bidders, who "(i) submit to the Receiver . . . in writing a bona fide and binding offer to purchase the [property]; and (ii) demonstrate . . ., to the satisfaction of the Receiver, that it has the current ability to consummate the purchase of the [property] per the agreed terms." *Regions Bank v. Egyptian Concrete Co.*, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 111381, at *8 (E.D. Mo. 2009).

IV. <u>DISCUSSION</u>

The Receiver believes the proposed sale to Buyer pursuant to the Agreement is in the best interests of the estate. The Sultana Property was listed on the MLS with a licensed broker and shown to all interested parties. The property was on the market for a little over a month, an offer was received, terms negotiated, and the Agreement signed. The Receiver has found no evidence that the proposed sale is anything other than an ordinary arm's length transaction. The purchase price is fair and reasonable, it exceeds the automated values, broker opinions of value and the appraisal commissioned, and matches what the property was purchased for in 2022. Freitag Decl., ¶ 5.

Moreover, the proposed sale is subject to overbid to further ensure the highest and best price is obtained. The Receiver proposes to conduct a public auction consistent with the requirements of Section 2001(a). Specifically, the Receiver will publish the following notice of the sale once a week for four weeks in the Idaho Statesman, a newspaper of general circulation in Ada County:

In the action pending in U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, Case No. 23-CV-00855-JWH (KES), Securities and Exchange Commission v. Integrated National Resources, Inc. dba Weedgenics, et al., notice is hereby given that the court-appointed receiver will conduct a public auction for the real property located at 9641 W. Sultana Drive in Ada County, Idaho. Sale is subject to Court confirmation after the auction is held. Minimum bid price is at least \$735,000. The auction will take place on August 16, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. To be

-8-

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allowed to participate in the auction, prospective purchasers must meet certain bid qualification requirements, including submitting a signed purchase and sale agreement, an earnest money deposit of \$7,500, and proof of funds. All bidders must be qualified by 5:00 p.m. pacific time on August 12, 2024, by submitting the required materials to the receiver at 501 West Broadway, Suite 290, San Diego, California, 92101. If interested in qualifying as a bidder, please contact Geno Rodriguez at (619) 567-7223 ext. 102 or grodriguez@ethreeadvisors.com.

In order to conduct an orderly auction and provide sufficient time for the publication of notices discussed above, the Receiver will require bidders to complete the above steps by August 12, 2024 ("Bid Qualification Deadline") and conduct the live public auction on August 16, 2024.

The Receiver, through Broker, will inform all interested persons of the opportunity to overbid at the public auction, provided they qualify themselves to bid by the Bid Qualification Deadline by (a) signing a purchase and sale agreement for the properties on the same terms and conditions as Buyer, but with a purchase price of at least \$735,000, (b) providing the Receiver with an earnest money deposit of \$7,500, and (c) providing proof of funds necessary to close the sale transaction in the form of a current bank statement, cashier's check delivered to the Receiver, or other evidence deemed sufficient by the Receiver.

In the event one or more prospective purchasers qualify themselves to bid, the auction will be conducted by the Receiver as noted above and bids will be allowed in increments of at least \$1,000. The Receiver will then file a notice advising the Court of the result of the auction (*i.e.*, the highest bid) and seek entry of an order confirming the sale. Earnest money deposits provided by bidders who are not the highest or second highest bidder will be promptly returned to them. In the event no prospective purchasers qualify themselves to bid by the Bid Qualification Deadline, the Receiver will notify the Court and seek entry of an order approving the sale to Buyer.

With respect to Broker's commission, Broker appears to have broadly marketed the Sultana Property for sale, to include its posting on the MLS and its own website. The listing agreement is standard for the local area and the commission offered is consistent with the lower range of industry standards for commissions paid to brokers for sales of residential properties. In negotiating the commission rate, the Receiver considered a recently announced settlement that the National Association of Realtors entered with the Department of Justice to resolve ongoing litigation. This agreement is not expected to go into effect until August 2024; however, the settlement helped the Receiver negotiate a commission on the lower range of industry standards. Accordingly, the Receiver requests authorization to pay Broker the commission amount in accordance with the listing agreement. Freitag Decl., ¶ 6. V. **CONCLUSION** 14 For the reasons discussed above, the Receiver requests (a) approval of the sale of the Sultana Property to Buyer pursuant to the Agreement attached to the Freitag Declaration as Exhibit A, and (b) authority to take all steps necessary to close the sale, and (c) authority to pay Broker's commission as described above. Dated: July 25, 2024 ALLEN MATKINS LECK GAMBLE MALLORY & NATSIS LLP /s/Edward G. Fates By: EDWARD G. FATES Attorneys for Court-Appointed Receiver, KRISTA L. FREITAG 24 26

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