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and Debtor in Possession*

The following constitutes the order of the Court.
Signed: August 4, 2025

William J. Lafferty, III
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

In re:

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP OF
OAKLAND, a California corporation sole,

Debtor.

Case No. 23-40523 WJL

Chapter 11

**ORDER AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT
OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC RESEARCH
ASSOCIATES, INC. AS AN EXPERT
WITNESS PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 327**

Upon the application [Docket No. 2035] (the “Application”)¹ filed by The Roman Catholic Bishop of Oakland, a California corporation sole, and the debtor and debtor in possession (the “Debtor” or “RCBO”) in the above-captioned chapter 11 bankruptcy case (the “Chapter 11 Case” or the “Bankruptcy Case”), pursuant to section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rule 2014, for entry of an order authorizing the employment and retention of National Economic Research Associates, Inc. (“NERA”) and its Affiliated Consultant, Dr. Denise Neumann Martin, as an expert witness to the Debtor, on the terms

¹ Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the meanings

described in the Application and as more fully set forth therein; and upon the Declaration of; the Court having found that it has jurisdiction over this matter under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334, that this is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157(a)-(b) and 1334(b), and that venue is proper before this Court under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and the Court being satisfied based on the representations made in the Application and the Declaration of Denise Neumann Martin in support thereof that NERA does not hold or represent any interest adverse to the Debtor's estate in the above-captioned case and is disinterested under section 101(14) and meets the requirements for employment under section 327 of the Bankruptcy Code; and the Court finding that cause exists for the entry of this Order, and for authorizing the employment of NERA is in the best interests of the Debtor's estate;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. The Application is APPROVED as set forth in this Order.
2. The Debtor is authorized to retain and employ NERA as an expert witness in this case, effective as of May 15, 2025, under the terms set forth in the Application.
3. NERA's compensation and reimbursement in respect to its fees and expenses incurred representing the Debtor shall be subject to further order of the Court in accordance with the procedures and standards set forth in sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, such Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and local rules as may be applicable from time to time, and such procedures as may be fixed by order of this Court, as well as the *United States Bankruptcy Court Northern District of California Guidelines for Compensation and Expense Reimbursement of Professionals and Trustees*, effective February 19, 2014, and the *U.S. Trustee Guidelines for Reviewing Applications for Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses Filed Under 11 U.S.C. § 330 by Attorneys in Larger Chapter 11 Cases*, effective November 1, 2013.
4. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Order, or the Application, the Court is not approving terms and conditions of NERA's employment under 11 U.S.C. § 328(a).
5. In the event of any inconsistency between the Application and this Order, this Order shall govern.
6. Notwithstanding any provision in the Bankruptcy Rules to the contrary, this Order shall be

1 immediately effective and enforceable immediately upon its entry.

2 7. The Debtor is authorized and empowered to take all action necessary to effectuate the relief
3 granted in this Order.

4 8. This Court shall retain jurisdiction with respect to all matters arising from or related to the
5 implementation, interpretation, or enforcement of this Order.

6 *** END OF ORDER ***
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COURT SERVICE LIST

All ECF Recipients.