Electronically Filed 6/23/2023 9:02 AM Steven D. Grierson **CLERK OF THE COURT** 1 James J. Pisanelli, Esq., Bar No. 4027 JJP@pisanellibice.com 2 Todd L. Bice, Esq., Bar No. 4534 TLB@pisanellibice.com 3 Debra L. Spinelli, Esq., Bar No. 9695 DLS@pisanellibice.com 4 Jordan T. Smith, Esq., Bar No. 12097 JTS@pisanellibice.com 5 Emily A. Buchwald, Esq., Bar No. 13442 EAB@pisanellibice.com 6 PISANELLI BICE PLLC 400 South 7th Street, Suite 300 7 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 702.214.2100 Telephone: 8 Facsimile: 702.214.2101 9 Counsel for Plaintiff Gypsum Resources, LLC 10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT** 11 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA** 12 13 GYPSUM RESOURCES, LLC, a Nevada CASE NO.: 2:19-cv-00850-GMN-EJY limited liability company; 14 NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER 15 Plaintiff/Counterdefendant. SHORTENING TIME ON **GYPSUM RESOURCES, LLC'S** 16 **MOTION TO PRESERVE EVIDENCE** v. 17 CLARK COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada; and CLARK COUNTY 18 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, Date of Hearing: July 5, 2023 19 8:30 a.m. Time of Hearing: Defendants/Counterclaimants. 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 1

PISANELLI BICE 400 South 7th Street, Suite 300 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

1	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an Order Shortening Time on Plaintiff/Counterdefendant
2	Gypsum Resources, LLC's Motion to Preserve Evidence was entered in the above-captioned matter
3	on June 23, 2023, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto.
4	DATED this 23rd day of June, 2023.
5	PISANELLI BICE PLLC
6	
7	By: <u>/s/ Emily A. Buchwald</u> James J. Pisanelli, Esq., #4027
8	Debra L. Spinelli, Esq., #4534 Jordan T. Smith, Esq., #12097
9	James J. Pisanelli, Esq., #4027 Todd L. Bice, Esq., #4534 Debra L. Spinelli, Esq., #9695 Jordan T. Smith, Esq., #12097 Emily A. Buchwald, Esq., #13342 400 South 7th Street, Suite 300
10	Las vegas, Nevada 89101
11	Counsel for Plaintiff Gypsum Resources, LLC
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1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
2	I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of Pisanelli Bice PLLC, and that on this 23rd	
3	day of June, 2023, I caused to be served via the Court's CM/ECF program true and correct copies	
4	of the above and foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER to all counsel registered for	
5	e-service in this matter.	
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7		
8	/s/Kimbarly Paats	
9	/s/ Kimberly Peets An employee of Pisanelli Bice PLLC	
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1	James J. Pisanelli, Esq., Bar No. 4027	CLERK OF THE COURT
2	JJP@pisanellibice.com Todd L. Bice, Esq., Bar No. 4534	
3	TLB@pisanellibice.com Debra L. Spinelli, Esq., Bar No. 9695	
4	DLS@pisanellibice.com Jordan T. Smith, Esq., Bar No. 12097	
5	<u>JTS@pisanellibice.com</u> Emily A. Buchwald, Esq., Bar No. 13442	
6	EAB@pisanellibice.com PISANELLI BICE PLLC	
7	400 South 7th Street, Suite 300 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101	
8	Telephone: 702.214.2100 Facsimile: 702.214.211	
9	Attorneys for Plaintiff Gypsum Resources, LLC	
10		T COURT
11		NTY, NEVADA
12		
13	GYPSUM RESOURCES, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company;	Case No.: A-23-871997-B Dept. No.: XXXI
14	Plaintiff,	
15	v.	MOTION FOR ORDER TO PRESERVE EVIDENCE ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME
16	CLARK COUNTY, a political subdivision of the State of Nevada; and CLARK COUNTY	HEARING DATE: JULY 5, 2023
17	BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,	HEARING TIME: 8:30 A.M.
18	Defendants.	
19		
20	Plaintiff Gypsum Resources, LLC ("Gy	psum") moves this Court for a prompt order to
21	compel Defendants to preserve public records	according to Nevada law and preserve evidence
22	concerning Gypsum, including electronic commu	unications. Such a motion should be unnecessary.

Plaintiff Gypsum Resources, LLC ("Gypsum") moves this Court for a prompt order to
compel Defendants to preserve public records according to Nevada law and preserve evidence
concerning Gypsum, including electronic communications. Such a motion should be unnecessary.
Not only are Defendants obligated to preserve evidence in the face of litigation but, for a local
government like Clark County and Clark County Board of Commissioners (collectively, the
"County"), Nevada law mandates the preservation of public records. But as the County's own
commissioners have recently admitted, the County has not and is not complying with Nevada law.
Thus, trying to avoid the need for this Court's intervention, Gypsum asked the County to stipulate
to an order to preserve evidence and public records. Tellingly, the County refused to respond. And,

1	as Gypsum has uncovered in related litigation, the County, its commissioners and employees have
2	regularly and routinely improperly destroyed public records notwithstanding their obligation to
3	preserve them. This conduct must be immediately halted. Accordingly, Gypsum is forced to seek
4	an order from this Court directing Defendants, their commissioners and employees to cease further
5	destruction of public records, including text communications, as well as preserve evidence relating
6	to Gypsum and the claims it has asserted.
7	DATED this 20th day of June, 2023.
8	PISANELLI BICE PLLC
9	
10	By: <u>/s/ Todd L. Bice</u> James J. Pisanelli, Esq., #4027
11	Todd L., Bice, Esq., #4534 Debra L. Spinelli, Esq., #9695
12	Jordan T. Smith, Esq., #12097 Emily A. Buchwald, Esq., #13442
13	400 South 7th Street, Suite 300 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
14	Attorneys for Plaintiff Gypsum Resources, LLC
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DECLARATION OF TOOD L. BICE, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR ORDER SHORTENING TIME

I, Todd L. Bice, declare as follows:

4 1. I am a partner at the law firm of Pisanelli Bice PLLC and counsel for Plaintiff
5 Gypsum Resources, LLC in this matter.

6 2. I submit this declaration in support of the foregoing Motion to Preserve Evidence
7 eon Order Shortening Time (the "Motion").

3. As detailed more fully in the Motion, Gypsum seeks an order for the preservation of
public records and evidence pertaining to the claims in this action. Not only is the County obligated
to preserve these materials in the face of ongoing litigation, but it is also obligated by state law to
preserve public records regardless of litigation. But, Gypsum has developed substantial evidence
that the County does not comply with those obligations even during litigation.

4. Although this action was only recently filed, Gypsum has been embroiled in
litigation with Defendants since 2019. *Gypsum Resources, LLC v. Clark Cnty.*,
Case No. 2:19-cv-00850-GMN-EJY (the "Federal Action). Gypsum was compelled to bring this
action after the federal court declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Gypsum's state law
claims. Gypsum has thus brought those claims, as well as an additional claim for violation of
NRS Chapter 239 concerning the County's failure to preserve and produce public records.

19 5. During the Federal Action, Gypsum uncovered that County officials, including 20 commissioners and County employees, regularly used text communications to conduct public 21 business. Yet, the County has done nothing to require the preservation of those communications 22 despite the requirements of Nevada law and despite the existence of the Federal Action. In fact, 23 the Federal Magistrate made specific findings about County Commissioner Justin Jones 24 intentionally deleting text communications to cover up his efforts to interfere with Gypsum's land 25 use rights, including text communications that constituted public records which Nevada law 26 requires to be preserved.

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6. Discovery in the Federal Action also revealed that County employees, including the
 County's planning director, used text communications to conduct County business but failed to
 preserve those communications even during the ongoing Federal Action. Nancy Amundsen, the
 County's planning director, communicated with County Commissioners – including about items on
 the Commission's Planning Agenda – from her personal cell phone that she then deleted. True and
 correct copies of examples of these communications, provided by Commissioners Jones and Naft
 in response to Gypsum's public records request, are attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

8 7. In an effort to avoid having to bring this motion to the Court, I contacted Defendants'
9 counsel and asked that the County stipulate to an order for preservation. A true and correct copy
10 of my email communication is attached hereto as Exhibit 2. Due to the urgency of this matter, I
11 asked the County to promptly respond no later than noon on June 19, 2023. The County has failed
12 to respond whatsoever; thus, Gypsum brings this Motion.

13 8. The County's refusal to comply with its obligations to preserve public records is not 14 just a matter of judicial findings, but also of public admissions by its commissioners. Indeed, after 15 the Federal Magistrate's order, the County Commissioners openly acknowledged that the County 16 was failing to comply with Nevada's public records laws. But instead of actually complying, the 17 Board directed the county manager to simply review the matter and report back some time later in 18 the year. (Ex. 3.) Respectfully, the law's requirements are clear and must be followed. The 19 County's efforts to continue with its current course of conduct - destroying public records and 20 evidence – is not permitted under the law.

9. If this matter is heard in the ordinary course, Gypsum faces the risk of continued
destruction of public records and the loss of evidence and information that is the subject of
Gypsum's claims.

24 10. Therefore, good cause exists to set this matter for hearing on shortened time pursuant
25 to EDCR 2.26. This request is made in good faith and not for any improper purpose.

PISANELLI BICE PLLC 400 South 7th Street, Suite 300 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

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1	11. If the Court grants the requested order shortening time, I will promptly cause a
2	courtesy copy of this Motion to be served on Defendants' last known counsel.
3	12. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the
4	foregoing is true and correct based upon my knowledge, information and belief.
5	DATED this 20th day of June, 2023.
6	
7	/s/ Todd L. Bice TODD L. BICE, ESQ.
8	TODD L. BICE, ESQ.
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1	ORDER SHOR	TENING TIME
2	It appearing to the satisfaction of the Cour	t, and good cause appearing therefor:
3	IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to	o EDCR 2.26 and based on the Declaration of
4	Todd L. Bice, Esq., that the MOTION FOR	ORDER TO PRESERVE EVIDENCE ON
5	ORDER SHORTENING TIME shall be heard o	n shortened time on the <u>5th</u> day of July,
6		ment XXXI of the Eighth Judicial District Court.
7	Opposition must be filed and served by 5:00 p.m. on June 27, 2023; Reply must be filed and served by 12:00 p.m. on June 29, 2023.	. on June 27, 2023; Reply must be filed and
8		
9		Dated this 23rd day of June, 2023
10		Joanna & Kishner
11		2D5 2B1 C00C 0F42
12		Joanna S. Kishner District Court Judge
13	Submitted by:	
14	PISANELLI BICE PLLC	
15	By: /s/ Todd L. Bice	
16	James J. Pisanelli, Esq., #4027 Todd 1. Bice, Esq., #4534	
17	Debra L. Spinelli, Esq., #9695 Jordan T. Smith, Esq., #12097	
18	Emily A. Buchwald, Esq., #12097 400 South 7th Street, Suite 300	
19	Las Vegas, Nevada 89101	
20	Attorneys for Plaintiff Gypsum Resources, LLC	
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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Gypsum Seeks to Enforce its Constitutional and Contractual Rights.

As set forth more fully in its Complaint, Gypsum is the owner of approximately 2,400 acres of land, much of which is located at what is commonly referred to as Blue Diamond Hill. (Comp. ¶ 11.) For over two decades now, the County, the State of Nevada and the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") have taken a number of steps to obstruct the property's development. (*Id.* ¶ 10.) The County has long sought to acquire Gypsum's property for itself, or to persuade the BLM to acquire it. To suppress the property's value, the County has thus repeatedly sought to preclude its redevelopment. (*Id.*)

11 Those efforts resulted in a series of lawsuits, including the action styled 12 Gypsum Resources, LLC v. State of Nevada, Case No. 05-00614A, where Gypsum prevailed 13 invalidating both a state statute and county ordinance restricting Gypsum's rights concerning 14 density for its development. (Comp. at \P 13.) To stave off Gypsum's further claims in 15 Gypsum Resources, LLC v. Masto, et al., Case No. CV-S-05-0583-RCJ-LRL, the County entered 16 into a Stipulation and Settlement Agreement dated April 21, 2010 (the "Settlement Agreement"). 17 (*Id.* at ¶ 14.) Pursuant to the Settlement Agreement, the County contractually bound itself to act in 18 good faith concerning Gypsum's major projects application for the development. (Id. at \P 15.)

But as Gypsum has set forth in detail, the County subsequently reverted back to its actions
to try and thwart any development. Those efforts resulted in another lawsuit in 2019, *Gypsum Resources, LLC v. Clark County*, Case No. 2:19-cv-00850-GMN-EJY, discovery in which
exposed that Gypsum's land use applications were the subject of corrupt political bargains and the
intentional destruction of evidence/public records to conceal those activities.¹

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As further noted in the Complaint, Gypsum has now been forced to bring its state law-based claims before this Court, as the federal court declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over Gypsum's state law claims. (Comp. at ¶ 121.)

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В. The County Fails to Preserve Evidence and Public Records.

The need for this motion – to compel preservation of evidence and public records – stems from what Gypsum found out during the Federal Action. After the close of discovery in that case, 4 it came to light that substantial evidence pertaining to Gypsum's claims had not been preserved and much of it intentionally destroyed. For instance, with her April 17, 2023 order, the 6 Federal Magistrate found that Clark County Commissioner Justin Jones intentionally destroyed evidence, including public records, in an effort to conceal his "dedicated involvement" in defeating 8 Gypsum's land use applications, as well as to conceal his communications about an illicit "deal he 9 struck" with former Commission Chairman Steve Sisolak. (Ex. 4 at p. 26.)²

10 But there is more. After the Federal Magistrate's order, Gypsum learned of other destruction 11 of evidence. The most striking example is what Gypsum uncovered from the communications of 12 Nancy Amundsen, the County's Director of Comprehensive Planning, who oversees all land use 13 applications. In the Federal Action, Gypsum deposed Amundsen on May 18, 2021. Amundsen 14 acknowledged that the County had a preservation policy, which meant that she could not delete her 15 work-related communications:

> Q. But that's -- but you used that cell phone, that Samsung cell phone, for County work?

A. That's correct.

Q. And does the County -- the County has a document preservation policy, correct?

A. Yes.

O. And so for that phone, that Samsung phone, because those are deemed to be County records, you're not supposed to delete them, correct?

A. That's correct.

So whatever your [text] communications are with Commissioner Sisolak, О. they should still be on that phone?

A. Yes.

The Federal Magistrate declined to sanction the County directly, despite the fact that the 26 County failed to take steps to preserve evidence, because Gypsum did not show (at that time) that it had been deprived of evidence by other commissioners failing to preserve their text 27 communications. That order is the subject of a pending motion in the Federal Action to modify it based on subsequently discovered facts confirming that other County Commissioners and 28 employees similarly deleted their text messages during the pendency of the Federal Action.

1	(Ex. 5, Dep. Tr. of N. Amundsen, at 99:8-18) (emphasis added). ³
2	During her deposition, Gypsum asked Amundsen about text messages, and she convincingly
3	claimed that there were none of import:
4	Q But on a day-to-day business, do you communicate with any of your staff via text messaging?
5	A. No.
6 7	Q. Or do you communicate with any county commissioners via text messaging?
8	A. No.
° 9	Q. Have you ever communicated with any county commissioners via text messaging?
10	A. Yes.
11	Q. Okay. Which ones?
12	A. Commissioner Sisolak. Generally he was the only one. Everyone else – he's generally the only one.
13	Q. Okay. He would communicate via text messages?
14	A. That's correct.
15 16	Q. Okay. Any other form of electronic communications that you would have with commissioners or your staff? E-mail?
17	A. <i>E-mail, and that's it.</i>
18	Q. And that would be it?
19	A. That would be it.
20	(<i>Id.</i> at 41:13-42:10) (emphasis added).
21	But Gypsum learned only later – long after the close of discovery – that it had been mislead.
22	Public records requests revealed that Amundsen regularly communicated with her staff via text
23	messages. And those records requests also revealed that Amundsen deleted all of her text
24	communications up through January 12, 2023, despite knowing of the ongoing Federal Action and
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27 28	³ Because no text messages were then produced by the County concerning the communications between Amundsen and Sisolak, Gypsum had no reason to think that those texts pertained to this case. But now, Gypsum has learned otherwise.

1 that she was precluded from deleting those messages.⁴ (Compare Ex. 1 at CC-819 (text 2 communications involving Amundsen dating back to May 2020) with Ex. 6 at CC-515 (the earliest 3 text communication provided by Amundsen in response to Gypsum's public records request dated 4 January 12, 2023).) Those subsequent public records disclosures also revealed that Amundsen sent 5 text messages with the other County commissioners about County business, including during public 6 meetings over County agenda items. (Ex. 1.) Again, this is all contrary to what Amundsen testified 7 during the Federal Action.

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The County Refuses to Halt the Destruction of Public Records. С.

9 After the Federal Magistrate's order, the County had to admit its noncompliance with its 10 obligations to preserve records, including under Nevada's public records act. As 11 County Commissioner Tick Segerblom acknowledged, the County's attitude concerning public 12 records "is just deny and litigate."⁵ (Ex. 3.) But while acknowledging the County's failures to 13 follow the law, the County commissioners effectively admit that they are going to continue to do 14 so, instead directing the County Manager to consider future policy changes concerning the handling 15 of public records. (Id.) Respectfully, the County's approach is a transparent effort to buy time and 16 placate media criticism while simultaneously continuing to ignore the law. The law's requirements 17 for preservation of public records are not optional. Gypsum sought to avoid the need for this 18 Motion, but the County refuses to acknowledge its legal obligations, thus necessitating this Court's 19 prompt intervention.

20 ARGUMENT II.

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The County is Obligated to Preserve Evidence and Public Records. A.

22 Defendants have a duty to preserve, maintain, and prevent loss, destruction, or spoliation of 23 documents and information relating to the allegations and claims in litigation. Fire Ins. Exch. v.

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The County's and Amundsen's deception and destruction of this evidence is also the subject of a pending motion in the federal action. (Gypsum Resources, LLC v. Clark County, Case No. 2:19-cv-00850-GMN-EJY at ECF No. 120.) 26

Although the Minutes of the Clark County Board of Commissioner's Meeting for May 16, 27 2023 are not yet available, the relevant portion of the video of the meeting is available at https://clark.granicus.com/player/clip/7517?view id=28&redirect=true&h=ee48dd3138c22fe0e82 28 d2cb7ecc68b26 at 50:30-1:02:23.

Zenith Radio Corp., 103 Nev. 648, 651, 747 P.2d 911, 914 (1987). "[E]ven where an action has
 not been commenced and there is only a potential for litigation, the litigant is under a duty to
 preserve evidence which it knows or reasonably should now is relevant to the action." *Id.*; *see also Banks ex rel. Banks v. Sunrise Hosp.*, 120 Nev. 822, 830, 102 P.3d 52, 58 (2004) (same).

5 For the County, the requirements to preserve documents in the face of existing or anticipated 6 litigation is actually superfluous. As a governmental body, the County has a preexisting legal 7 obligation to preserve public records, regardless of litigation. Under Nevada law, "[a] local 8 governmental entity shall not dispose of any record except in accordance with" either (1) "[a] 9 schedule for the retention of the records approved by the State Library Archives and Public Records 10 Administrator" or (2) "[t]he schedule for the retention of the record set forth in the Local 11 Government Records Management Program Manual published by the State Library Archives and 12 Public Records Administrator." NAC 239.155(1). Indeed, the law requires that the "local 13 governmental entity shall adopt a schedule by ordinance or regulation." NAC 239.155(6).

14 The County acknowledges its obligations under Nevada law and claims that it "is currently 15 destroying all documents following the Nevada Administrative Code 239 and the Nevada Revised 16 Statutes 239 guidelines for document destruction." (Records Retention, Clark County, Nevada, 17 https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/government/departments/building fire prevention/record/docu 18 ment destruction policy.php (last visited June 20, 2023).) The NAC notes that the schedule 19 provided in the Local Government Records Management Program Manual can be adopted by all 20 counties and satisfies the requirements for a Records Retention Schedule under Nevada law. 21 NAC 239.155(1)(b), (5).

The General Schedule attached to the Local Government Records Management Program Manual is approximately 443 pages and contains numerous categories of materials with varying retention dates depending on what the record is. (*See generally* Local Government Records Retention Schedules, Nevada State Library, Archives & Public Records (Dec. 21, 2020), <u>https://nsla.nv.gov/ld.php?content_id=60238524</u>.) The records at issue – text messages and emails pertaining to official County Commission business – appear to constitute "Correspondence: Executive," which includes "[r]ecords not duplicated elsewhere that contain executive level

1 correspondence (emails, social media, letters, memos, etc. . . .) documenting the entities' functions, 2 pattern of action, policies and achievements. Correspondence may pertain to but is not limited to 3 budgeting and financial decisions, official positions, planning, directing, policy and rulemaking, 4 prominent; celebrated and/or noteworthy achievements, formal announcements, awards and/or 5 events." (Id. at p. 9.) Under Nevada law, such executive correspondence must be retained 6 permanently. (See id.) Unremarkably, there is no retention/destruction policy which permits the 7 immediate and wholesale destruction of public records based upon the personal wants of County 8 personnel.

9 The County cannot seriously pretend that the use of private cell phones and other electronic 10 devices by County Commissioners and County employees to communicate concerning public 11 business has not been a topic of concern and scrutiny. Indeed, in 2017, the Las Vegas 12 Review Journal published articles, raised questions, and interviewed local government officials, 13 including County Commissioners, concerning their practices of using private cell phones to conduct 14 government business, and questioned the propriety of doing so. (See Ex. 7, Colton Lochhead, 15 Should Nevada government officials' private devices be public? Many leaders say yes, LAS VEGAS 16 REVIEW JOURNAL, Mar. 15, 2017.) Then, on March 29, 2018, the Nevada Supreme Court 17 unanimously resolved any issue with its decision in Comstock Residents Ass'n v. Lyon Ctny. Bd. of 18 Comm'rs, 134 Nev. 142, 414 P.3d 318 (2018). There, the court addressed the actions of County 19 Commissioners concerning a land use application and ruled that the County Commissioners could 20 not circumvent Nevada's public records laws through use of their private cell phones to send 21 messages.

As the Court explained, Nevada law provides that "all public books and public records of a governmental entity must be open to public inspection unless declared by law to be confidential." NRS 239.010(1). And this applied to the County as well as personally to its Commissioners. The Court explained that it did not matter that privately-owned devices were involved. In fact, doing so would permit the government officials to circumvent the public's right to access and see those communications. As such, the Court explained that any records on the Commissioners' private

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phones were still "public records" – which state law requires to be preserved, maintained and
accessible – if they pertain to conduct of public business. *Id.* at 146-47, 414 P.3d at 321-22.

3 So what did the County and its Board of Commissioners do to comply with this unanimous, 4 watershed ruling? By all appearances, nothing. The County's own document retention policy 5 indicates that they have simply flaunted the law ever since. The County's document retention policy 6 claims it is to "establish a policy for a comprehensive program of integrated policies and procedures 7 for the management of records and information from their creation or receipt to their ultimate 8 disposition, consistent with Clark Counties (County) business requirements, and in compliance 9 with applicable laws and regulations." (Emphasis added.) (Ex. 8 at CC-001.) That policy goes 10 on to explain that it "applies to all information, data and documents preserved in paper, 11 photographic, electronic, or any other permanent or quasi-permanent formats that have been 12 generated or received by the County and its employees in conducting the County's business." (Id. 13 (emphasis added).)

The County expressly defines its "Employees" as "individuals employed by Clark County, including appointed officials *and elected officials*. Employees are subject to complying with established Clark County policies and procedures." (*Id.* (emphasis added).) Thus, by the County's own directive – which the County is statutorily required to adopt and have approved by the State – the Commissioners are "employees" for purposes of document handling and preservation requirements.

But, the document retention policy the County has provided to Gypsum indicates that the County last updated it on February 25, 2015, three years before the State's highest court explained that public officials and employees could not evade the public records requirements through the use of privately-owned electronic devices, such as cell phones. (*Id.* at CC-001.) The County produced nothing to indicate that it updated its policies and procedures to comply with Nevada law or to take any steps to ensure the proper retention of these public records.

To the contrary, the County has effectively conceded that it is not complying with Nevada's
public records law. For instance, the County commissioners and employees routinely communicate
via text messaging in order to conduct County business. Yet, they do nothing to preserve those text

messages, and regularly delete them despite the requirements of Nevada law. That action is in flagrant violation of Nevada law and must be immediately halted. *See Treppel v. Biovail Corp.*, 233 F.R.D. 363, 368-70 (S.D.N.Y. 2006) (recognizing that court has power to enter preservation order of electronically stored information, particularly where there is evidence of past destruction);⁶ *see also Pueblo of Laguna v. U.S.*, 60 Fed. Cl. 133, 136 (2004) (court explaining that orders to preserve electronically stored information are commonplace in complex cases and particularly in instances where there is a showing of past destruction of evidence).

III. CONCLUSION

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Gypsum asks this Court to issue an immediate preservation order directing defendants,
including County commissioners and employees, to preserve all evidence and public records,
including their text messages. The County's refusal to stipulate to that preservation further confirms
its intent on continuing to ignore its legal obligations to preserve such materials.

DATED this 20th day of June, 2023.

PISANELLI BICE PLLC

By: /s/ Todd L. Bice James J. Pisanelli, Esq., #4027 Todd L., Bice, Esq., #4534 Debra L. Spinelli, Esq., #9695 Jordan T. Smith, Esq., #12097 Emily A. Buchwald, Esq., #13442 400 South 7th Street, Suite 300 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Attorneys for Plaintiff Gypsum Resources, LLC

28 The court in *Treppel* denied the motion for preservation because in that case there was no showing that prior evidence had been destroyed.

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
2	I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of Pisanelli Bice PLLC, and that on this 20th
3	day of June, 2023, I caused to be served via email and the Court's e-filing/e-service system true and
4	correct copies of the above and foregoing MOTION FOR ORDER TO PRESERVE
5	EVIDENCE ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME to the following:
6	
7	Thomas D. Dillard, Jr., Esq. OLSON CANNON GORMLEY & STOBERSKI
8	9950 West Cheyenne Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89129
9	tdillard@ocgas.com
10	Robert T. Warhola, Esq.
11	Deputy District Attorney 500 Grand Central Parkway
12	Las Vegas, NV 89155 Robert.warhola@clarkcountyda.com
13	<u>reoort.wamona(a/orarkoounty/ac.com</u>
14	/s/ Kimberly Peets
15	An employee of Pisanelli Bice PLLC
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