MAR 08 2019

TRENTON, NJ

State of New Jersey BOARD OF PUBLIC UT DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

140 East Front Street, 4th FL P.O. Box 003 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

RECEIVED MAIL ROOM

MAR 08 2019

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TRENTON, NJ

> STEFANIE A. BRAND Director

PHIL MURPHY Governor

SHEILA OLIVER Lt. Governor

Via Electronic and Regular Mail

Aida Camacho-Welsh, Board Secretary New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 3rd Fl., Ste. 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350

March 6, 2018

Re:

I/M/O the Verified Joint Petition of DSCI, LLC, U.S. TelePacific Holdings Corp. and Pensare Acquisition Corp. for Approval to Transfer Indirect Control of

DSCI, LLC to Pensare Acquisition Corp.

BPU Docket No.: TM19020217

Dear Secretary Camacho-Welsh:

The New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel ("Rate Counsel") has reviewed the above referenced Verified Joint Petition of DSCI, LLC, ("DSCI") U.S. TelePacific Holdings Corp., ("TPx Holdings") and Pensare Acquisition Corp. ("Pensare") (collectively, the "Petitioners") filed with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities ("Board") seeking Board approval, to the extent required, to effectuate a transfer of indirect control of DSCI to Pensare, without change or impact on DSCI customers. Petitioners have requested expedited treatment. Rate Counsel submits the within comments on this matter for the Board's consideration and encloses with this original please ten copies. Kindly return a date/stamped "Received" and/or "Filed" copy to Rate Counsel. For the reasons that follow, Rate Counsel does not object to Board approval of Petitioners' requests in this matter.

Petitioners and Transaction

DSCI is a Delaware limited liability company and a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of TPx Holdings and provides resold and facilities-based competitive local and long distance telecommunications services in New Jersey under Board docket TE14091038 as of December 17, 2014 and has no employees in New Jersey.² Pensare is a publicly traded Delaware corporation (NASDAQ, trading under "WRLSU"), and was organized as a Special Purpose Acquisition Company ("SPAC") and for purposes of effectuating this merger/transfer Pensare has created Tango Merger Sub Corp. ("Merger Sub"), a Delaware corporation and direct wholly-owned subsidiary of Pensare.³ Merger-Sub will merge with TPx Holdings, with TPx Holdings surviving as a wholly-own subsidiary of Pensare and DSCI as an indirect wholly-

³ Id., at p. 4.

Tel: (609) 984-1460 • Fax: (609) 292-2923 • Fax: (609) 292-2954 http://www.nj.gov/rpa E-Mail: njratepayer@rpa.state.nj.us

¹ Petition at pp. 6-7.

² Id., at p. 3. TPx is one of the largest telecommunications companies headquartered in Los Angeles, California and also provides facilities-based business communications services to thousands of small-to-medium sized business customers. Id. cms c. Artale, Legal

owned subsidiary of Pensare. Petitioners state that post transaction DSCI will continue to conduct all current operations as conducted prior to the acquisition by Pensare, under TPx's existing management team and personnel "ensuring DSCI's managerial, technical and operational standards will be maintain." The transfers will be transparent and have no impact on its customers or on the services provided which will continue to be provided to current customers under the same rates, terms and conditions of service as prior to the indirect transfer transaction. In addition, Petitioners note that the proposed merger/transfer will not have a detrimental effect on competition in New Jersey. Lastly, DSCI will continue to guarantee financial arrangements up to \$680 million previously approved by the Board in Docket No. TF17050556, on August 23, 2017.

Board approval of any sale or merger must be based on its satisfaction that the transaction will result in positive benefits and are in the public interest. Petitioners have provided information required by *N.J.S.A.* 48:2-51.1 *et seq.*, and *N.J.S.A.* 48:3-10 regarding a petition for approval of a merger/indirect transfer. Petitioners assert that the transfer will strengthen and increase the company's financial and technical ability to compete, will not directly affect DSCI's management, reduce competition, or services and will have no impact on employment as Petitioners have no employees in New Jersey.⁹

Rate Counsel supports the contemplated continued provision of innovative, high quality telecommunications services to the public and the promotion of increased competition in the New Jersey telecommunications market for the benefit of both residential and business customers in this state. Accordingly, Rate Counsel would not oppose Board approval of Petitioner's requests in this matter.

Thank you for your consideration of Rate Counsel's comments in this matter.

Very truly yours,

STEFANIE A. BRAND, ESQ.

DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF RATE COUNSEL

Maria T. Novas-Ruiz, Esq.

Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel

MNR/td

c: Service List

⁴ Petition, p. 6. In addition, Petitioners state that post transaction, Pensare intends to change its name to TPx Corp. and either continue trading on NASDAQ under "TPXC" or transfer its listing to the New York Stock Exchange. Petition, p. 4.

⁵ Petition, at p. 5.

⁶ Id, p. 6.

⁷ Id.

⁸ Id., p. 7.

⁹ Id., at pp. 7-8.

I/M/O Verified Joint Petition of DSCI, LLC, U.S. TelePacific Holdings Corp., and Pensare Acquisition Corp. for Approval to transfer Indirect Control of DSCI, LLC to Pensare Acquisition Corp.

BPU Docket No. <u>TM19020217</u> Service List

Aida Camacho, Board Secretary New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 S. Clinton Ave., 3rd Fl., Ste. 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625

Stefanie A. Brand, Director NJ Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Floor P.O. Box 003 Trenton, NJ 08625 Lawanda Gilbert, Esq.
Director, Office of Telco & Cable
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
44 S. Clinton Ave., 3rd Fl., Ste. 314
P.O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08625

Harold Bond,. Bureau Chief Office of Telco & Cable New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 S. Clinton Ave., 3rd Fl., Ste. 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625 Carol Artale, Esq. Legal Specialist New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 S. Clinton Ave., 3rd Fl., Ste. 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625 Rocco Della-Serra, Administrative Analyst, Accounting New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 S. Clinton Ave., 3rd Fl., Ste. 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625

Christine Lin Administrative Analyst, Accounting New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 S. Clinton Ave., 3rd Fl., Ste. 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625

Geoffrey R. Gersten
Deputy Attorney General
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark NJ 11714-3581

Timothy R. Oberleiton, DAG Attorney General's Office Division of Public Safety 124 Halsey Street, 2nd Floor POB.45029-5029 Newark, NJ 07101

Caroline Vachier, Chief, DAG NJ Attorney General's Office Division of Public Safety 124 Halsey Street, 2nd Floor POB 45029-5029 Newark, NJ 07101

Maria Novas-Ruiz Assistant Deputy Rate Counsel NJ Division of Rate Counsel 140 East Front Street, 4th Floor P.O. Box 003 Trenton, NJ 08625 Nancy Wolf, Coordinator of State & Local Planning, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Office of Cable Television and Telecommunications 44 S. Clinton Ave., 3rd Fl., Ste. 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625

Dennis C. Linken Scarinci Hollenbeck 1100 Valley Brook Avenue P.O. Box 790 Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071

Dr. Ben Witherell, Director New Jersey Board of Public Utilities 44 S. Clinton Ave., 3rd Fl., Ste. 314 P.O. Box 350 Trenton, NJ 08625 Laura M. Miller Scarinci Hollenbeck 1100 Valley Brook Avenue P.O. Box 790 Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071