

OFFICE OF DEFECTS &  
INVESTIGATIONS



February 28, 2013

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**SALES DIVISION**  
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CYPRESS, CALIFORNIA 90630-5208  
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**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
P.O. BOX 6400  
CYPRESS, CALIFORNIA 90630-0064

Mr. Frank S. Borris II, Director  
Office of Defects Investigation, Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: EA12-005

Dear Mr. Borris II:

In response to Engineering Analysis EA12-005, Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc. (MMNA) submits information and documentation in response to Request No. 1 through 6. As discussed with and agreed to by your office, MMNA is providing information and documentation relating only to the subject peer vehicles manufactured by Mitsubishi: Montero and Montero Sport. Since the Trooper vehicle is not manufactured by Mitsubishi, no information regarding the Trooper vehicle will be provided. For Request No. 4, we have clarified with your office that you are not seeking information from Toyota Motor Corporation, but instead, from MMNA.

The documents being provided in response to Request No. 1 and certain portions of Request No. 5 are attached in a separate file, and being provided by mail on the accompanying CD. Responses to other portions of Request No. 5 and the entirety of Requests No. 2, 3, 4, and 6 are confidential commercial or personal information. In accordance with 49 C.F.R. Part 512, MMNA is submitting this confidential information, together with a request for confidential treatment, to the Office of Chief Counsel.

In the event you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Kurt Kurata at 714-934-3514 at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

Don Swearingen  
Vice President, Fixed Operations  
Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc.  
Telephone: (714) 372-6110  
Email: DSwearingen@mmsa.com



Request 1

**State within the body of the response letter a summary table, by make, model and model year, the number of subject peer vehicles Mitsubishi has manufactured for sale or lease in the United States. Separately, for each model subject peer vehicle manufactured to date by Mitsubishi, state the following:**

- a. Vehicle identification number (VIN);
- b. Model;
- c. Model year;
- d. Date of manufacture (in "dd/mm/yyyy" date format);
- e. Date warranty coverage commenced (in "dd/mm/yyyy" date format);
- f. The State in the United States where the vehicle was originally sold or leased (or delivered for sale or lease);
- g. The stowed location (e.g., in the rear cargo area, below the cargo area floor, or mounted on the exterior of the rear door, or other location) of the OE supplied spare tire;
- h. Whether the vehicle was manufactured with a brush guard, skid guard/plate, or other covering for the underside of the fuel tank (i.e., a protective guard);
- i. Whether the vehicle was manufactured with a tow hitch or tow receiver, and if so the duty/class of the hitch or receiver, and
- j. Whether the vehicle was manufactured with an electrical harness/connector for trailer lighting purposes.

**Answer:**

**Summary Table**

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
<b>Mitsubishi Montero</b>	5,648	11,781	26,984	7,795	8,777	5,022	3,454
<b>Mitsubishi Montero Sport</b>	-	-	-	-	20,790	41,200	36,650

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Mitsubishi Montero</b>	2,154	36,581	25,625	13,152	3,460	2,680	1,778
<b>Mitsubishi Montero Sport</b>	78,188	64,116	57,645	35,860	5,415	-	-

**The Excel spreadsheet named "Document 1 - Subject Peer Vehicle Production Data.xlsx" provided in the accompanying CD, contains the remaining information.**

**Source: Mitsubishi Motors North America (MMNA) Internal Records  
Last Date Information Gathered: January 11, 2013**

Request 2



**State the number of each of the following**, received by Mitsubishi, or of which Mitsubishi is otherwise aware, which relate to, or may relate to, the subject condition in the subject peer vehicles:

- a. Consumer complaints;
- b. Field reports, including dealer field reports;
- c. Reports involving a crash, or fire, based on claims against the manufacturer involving a death or injury, and notices received by the manufacturer alleging that a death or injury was caused by a possible defect in a subject peer vehicle;
- d. Property damage claims;
- e. Third-party arbitration proceedings where Mitsubishi is or was a party to the arbitration; and
- f. Lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which Mitsubishi is or was a defendant or codefendant.

For subparts “a” through “f” **state the total number of each item** (e.g., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) separately. Multiple incidents involving the same vehicle are to be counted separately. Multiple reports of the same incident are also to be counted separately (i.e., a consumer complaint and a field report involving the same incident in which a crash occurred are to be counted as a crash report, a field report and a consumer complaint).

In addition, for items “c” through “f,” provide a summary description of the alleged problem and causal and contributing factors and Mitsubishi’s assessment of the problem, with a summary of the significant underlying facts and evidence including any and all photographic evidence, third-party post-crash/inspection reports, deposition materials, etc. For items “c” through “f” identify the parties to the action, as well as the caption, court, docket number, and date on which the complaint or other document initiating the action was filed, and details of the resolution of the matter.

Include reports in which the subject peer vehicle was struck in the rear by another vehicle, or the subject peer vehicle itself, through its own momentum or movement, struck another vehicle or object, such as a tree, pole, or bridge abutment. As used here, the term rear includes crashes in which the subject peer vehicle is struck by another vehicle, or strikes an object, at an angle that included the rear of the vehicle (i.e., clock points 5, 6, or 7), and is not limited to direct crashes to the rear of the subject peer vehicle. Fire reports where the ignition source was from other than the crash are responsive and are to be included in your response. Reports of fuel leaks or fires where no crash occurred, such as fuel leaks that occur in garages or from punctures from running over objects in the road (but unrelated to a crash), are not within the scope of this request. Also, reports in which the fuel leak or fire originated in the engine compartment area, or where the fire was caused by an electrical issue (e.g., dash wiring or seat heater) or from a non-vehicle related source (e.g., a lit cigarette, or a lit match), as opposed to a crash related fuel leak and fire, are also outside the scope of this request.

**Answer:**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Total Number</b>
<b>a. Consumer complaints</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>b. Field reports, including dealer field reports</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>c. Reports involving a crash, or fire</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>d. Property damage claims</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>e. Third-party arbitration proceedings</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>f. Lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which Mitsubishi is a defendant or codefendant</b>	<b>1</b>



**“Document 2 – Response to No\_2.pdf” provided in the confidential information CD and submitted to the Office of Chief Counsel, contains the remaining information.**

**Source: MMNA Internal Records**

**Last Date Information Gathered: February 12, 2013**

Request 3

Separately, for each item (complaint, report, claim, notice, or matter) within the scope of your response to Request No. 2, state the following information:

- a. Mitsubishi’s file number or other identifier used;
- b. The category of the item, as identified in Request No. 2 (i.e., consumer complaint, field report, etc.);
- c. Cause: 1) Whether the subject condition occurred due to the failure of or damage to a subject component or 2) Mitsubishi’s assessment of the cause of the fire or fuel leak, or 3) whether the subject condition occurred due to an unknown, undetermined, or ambiguous causation.
- d. Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person), address, and telephone number;
- e. Vehicle’s VIN;
- f. Vehicle’s model;
- g. Vehicle’s model year;
- h. Vehicle’s mileage at time of incident;
- i. Mitsubishi’s estimate of the impact speed of the striking vehicle or object that contacted the rear of the subject peer vehicle;
- j. The basis and/or analysis that substantiates the estimate provided in item i;
- k. Incident date;
- l. Report or claim date;
- m. Whether a fire is alleged;
- n. Whether property damage is alleged;
- o. Number of alleged injuries, if any; and
- p. Number of alleged fatalities, if any.

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2007, or a compatible format, entitled “REQUEST NUMBER TWO DATA.”

**Answer: The Excel spreadsheet named “Document 3 - REQUEST NUMBER TWO DATA.xlsx” provided in the confidential information CD and submitted to the Office of Chief Counsel, contains the requested information.**

**Source: MMNA Internal Records**

**Last Date Information Gathered: February 12, 2013**

Request 4

Produce copies of all documents related to each item within the scope of Request No. 2. The documents requested specifically include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Any police reports relating to, or that may relate to, the crash, fuel leak or fire;



- b. Any and all accident reconstruction reports and documents prepared by or for Toyota or by or for any other party;
- c. Any and all reports and exhibits related to the subject condition prepared by expert witnesses in support of a claim against Toyota or in anticipation of testimony in any state or federal proceeding in which Toyota was a party;
- d. Transcripts and/or video recordings and exhibits of any and all depositions of persons designated as experts in any state or Federal proceeding related the subject condition in which Toyota was a party;
- e. Transcripts and/or video recordings of any and all depositions of Toyota employees in any state or Federal proceeding relating to the subject condition in which Toyota was a party; and
- f. Any and all documents consulted, created, or relied upon by Toyota supporting its characterization or conclusions related to the causation of any fuel related leak and/or fire related to the subject condition.

**Answer: "Document 4.pdf" provided in the confidential information CD and submitted to the Office of Chief Counsel, contains the requested information**

**Source: MMNA Internal Records**

**Last Date Information Gathered: February 12, 2013**

Request 5

For each subject peer vehicle model and model year, provide the following:

- a. Model, model year, and platform designation;
- b. Type of material the fuel tank is composed of (e.g., HDPE plastic);
- c. Side, rear, and top view drawings showing the placement of the subject components and related components that secure them in the vehicle;
- d. A bottom view drawing or photograph showing the full vehicle undercarriage in the fully built configuration including the locations of the subject components.
- e. Overall length of vehicle (in/cm);
- f. Wheel base (in/cm);
- g. Track width (in/cm);
- h. Curb weight (lb/kg);
- i. Gross vehicle weight rating (lb/kg);
- j. Front gross axle weight rating (lb/kg);
- k. Rear gross axle weight rating (lb/kg);
- l. Interior volume (passenger and storage area);
- m. For any subject peer vehicles manufactured with a fuel tank located behind the rearmost axle, state the horizontal distance (in/cm) from aft most point of the rear axle to forward most point of the fuel tank;
- n. For any subject peer vehicles manufactured with a fuel tank located behind the rearmost axle, state the horizontal distance (in/cm) from aft most point of the fuel tank to the aft most point of the vehicle's rear bumper;
- o. For any subject peer vehicles manufactured with a fuel tank located behind the rearmost axle, state the vertical distance (in/cm) from bottom/lower most surface of the fuel tank to bottom/lower most surface of vehicle's rear bumper at center line position (positive value indicates the tank surface is above bumper, negative value below the bumper);



- p. For any subject peer vehicles manufactured with a fuel tank located behind the rearmost axle, state the vertical distance (in/cm) from the ground/road surface to the bottom/lower surface of i) the vehicle's rear bumper at center line position, and ii) the vehicle's tow hitch at center line position (when equipped with a tow hitch);
- q. If not originally equipped with, whether or not a protective guard for the fuel tank was optionally available, and if so, the part number of the optionally available protective guard; and
- r. Whether the vehicle was equipped with an ORVR/Onboard Refueling Vapor Recovery system.

**Answer: "Document 5 - Response to No\_5.pdf", provided in the accompanying CD, contains the non-confidential information. The entirety of Document No. 5 is contained on the confidential information CD and submitted to the Office of Chief Counsel.**

**Source: Mitsubishi Motors Company (MMC) Internal Records**  
**Last Date Information Gathered: February 6, 2013**

### Request 6

Describe all assessments, analyses, tests, test results, design studies, studies, surveys, simulations, investigations, inquiries and/or evaluations (collectively, "actions") that relate to, or may relate to, the subject condition in the subject peer vehicles, and including all testing to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 301 or any other contemplated or applicable corporate or internal fuel system integrity standards that have been conducted, are being conducted, are planned, or are being planned by, or for, Mitsubishi. For each such action, provide the following information:

- a. Action title or identifier;
- b. The actual or planned start date;
- c. The actual or expected end date;
- d. Brief summary of the subject and objective of the action;
- e. Results and related documents for FMVSS 301 testing including video and photos;
- f. Engineering group(s)/supplier(s) responsible for designing and for conducting the action; and
- g. A brief summary of the findings and/or conclusions resulting from the action.

For each action identified, provide copies of all documents related to the action, regardless of whether the documents are in interim, draft, or final form. Organize the documents chronologically by action.

Provide copies of any and all internal or corporate fuel system integrity standards used by Mitsubishi in the design and development of the subject vehicles that relate to the subject condition or to fuel system crash integrity in general, including those that exceed the requirements of federal standards or FMVSS 301.

**Answer: "Document 6.pdf" provided in the confidential information CD and submitted to the Office of Chief Counsel, contains the requested information**

**Source: MMC Internal Records**  
**Last Date Information Gathered: February 12, 2013**



mitsubishi

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DOCUMENT 5

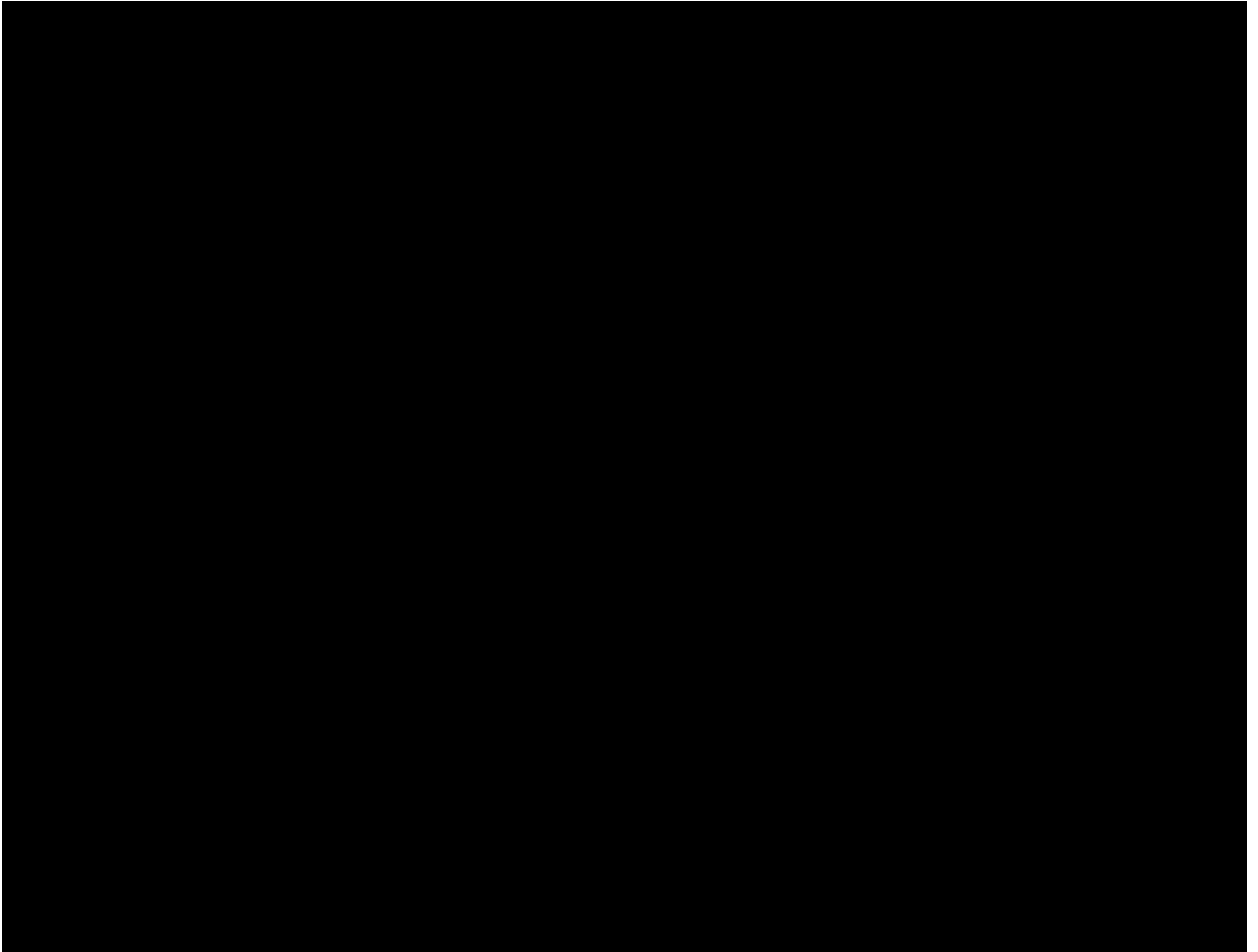
RESPONSE TO NO 5

5	a. Model, model year, and platform designation (e.g., ZJ, WJ, etc.);	Model	MONTERO														MONTERO SPORTS							
		Platform	[REDACTED]																					
		Model year	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	98	99	00	00.5	01	02	03	04
	b. Type of material the fuel tank is composed of (e.g., HDPE plastic);		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	c. Side, rear, and top view drawings showing the placement of the subject components and related components that secure them in the vehicle;		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	d. A bottom view drawing or photograph showing the full vehicle undercarriage in the fully built configuration including the locations of the subject components.		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	e. Overall length of vehicle (in/cm); (in / cm)		185.2 or 186.6 / 470.5 or 474.0	←	←	←	←	←	←	←	189.2/479.5	←	190.6/483	←	←	←	178.3 / 453	←	181.1 / 460	←	←	←	←	
	f. Wheel base (in/cm); (in / cm)		107.3 / 272.5	←	←	←	←	←	←	←	109.7/278	←	←	←	←	←	107.3 / 272.5	←	←	←	←	←	←	
	g. Track width (in/cm); (in / cm)		Fr: 55.9 or 57.7 / 142.0 or 146.5 Rr: 56.5 or 58.3 / 143.5 or 148.0	←	←	←	←	←	←	←	61.6/156	←	←	←	←	←	Fr: 55.9 or 57.7 / 142.0 or 146.5 Rr: 56.5 or 58.3 / 143.5 or 148.0	←	←	←	←	←	Fr: 57.7 / 146.5 Rr: 58.3 / 148.0	
	h. Curb weight (lb/kg); (lb / kg)		4123~4244 / 1870~1925	4134~4443 / 1875~2015	←	4134~4465 / 1875~2025	4134~4443 / 1875~2015	4235~4432 / 1920~2010	4235~4520 / 1920~2050	←	4540~4675 / 2060~2120	4600~4735 / 2085~2150	4586~4784 / 2080~2170	←	4559~4817 / 2070~2187	4707~4817 / 2135~2187	<2WD> 3500~3865 / 1590~1755 <4WD> 3980~4110 / 1805~1865	<2WD> 3510~3955 / 1595~1795 <4WD> 3985~4195 / 1810~1905	<2WD> 3810~4020 / 1730~1825 <4WD> 4075~4260 / 1850~1935	←	<2WD> 3835~4065 / 1740~1845 <4WD> 4095~4330 / 1860~1965	<2WD> 3835~4065 / 1740~1845 <4WD> 4110~4340 / 1865~1970	<2WD> 3855~4075 / 1750~1850 <4WD> 4135~4350 / 1875~1975	<2WD> 3865~3980 / 1755~1805 <4WD> 4145~4255 / 1880~1930
	i. Gross vehicle weight rating (lb/kg); (lb / kg)		5733 or 5843 / 2600 or 2650	←	←	←	←	←	←	←	5997/2720	←	←	←	←	←	<2WD> 5000 / 2270 <4WD> 5355 / 2430	<2WD> 4730 or 5000 / 2145 or 2270 <4WD> 5355 / 2430	<2WD> 5000 / 2270 <4WD> 5355 / 2430	←	←	←	←	←

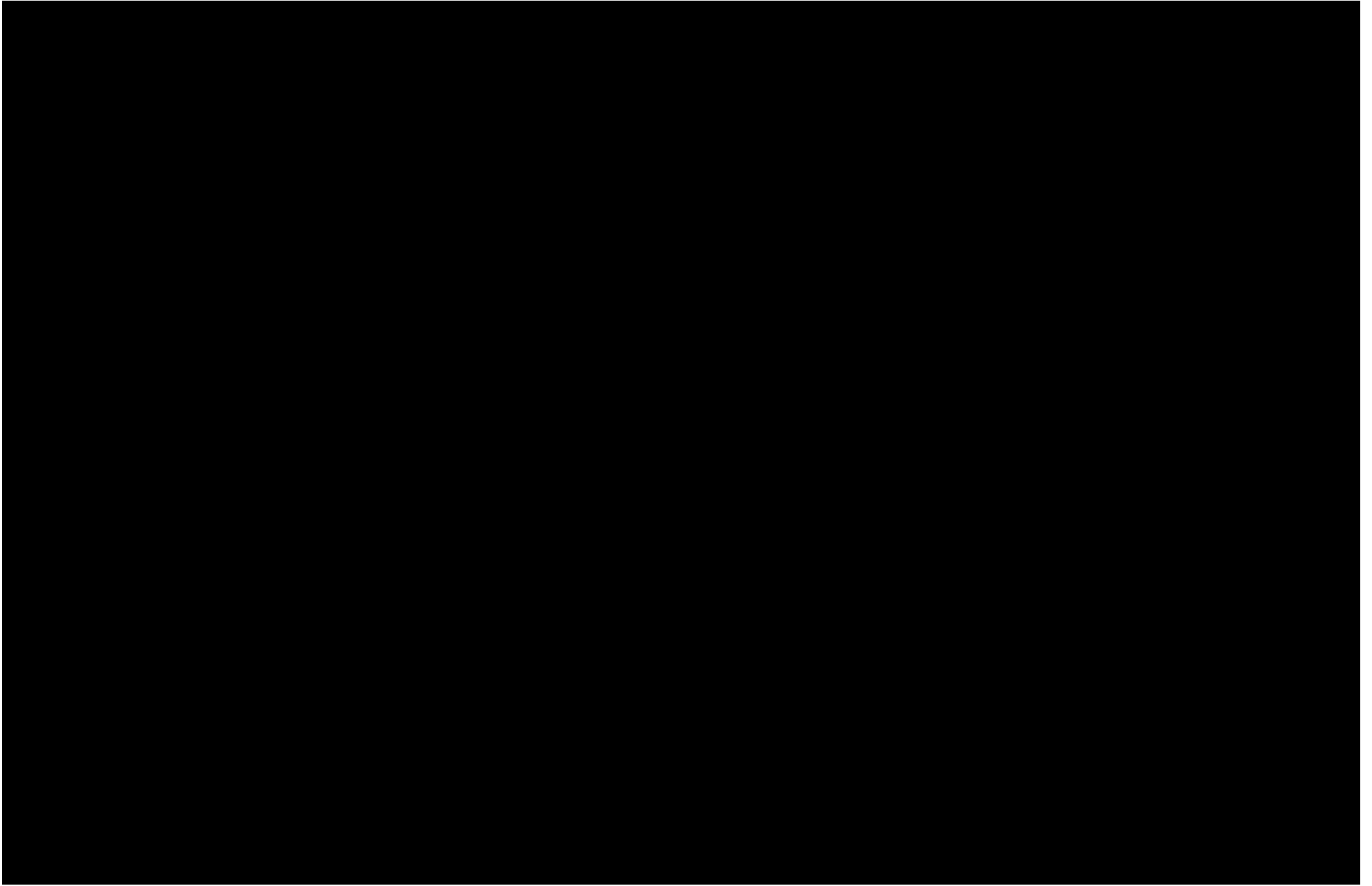


j. Front gross axle weight rating (lb/kg);	(lb / kg)	2646 / 1200	←	←	←	←	←	←	←	2646/1200	←	←	←	←	←	2645 / 1200	←	←	←	←	←	←	←
k. Rear gross axle weight rating (lb/kg);	(lb / kg)	3638 or 3925 / 1650 or 1780	←	←	←	←	←	←	←	3638/1650	←	←	←	←	←	3300 or 3525 / 1496 or 1600	←	←	←	←	←	←	3525 / 1600
l. Interior volume (passenger and storage area);	(cu.ft.)	131	←	←	←	←	←	←	←	146.7	←	←	←	←	←	137	←	←	←	←	←	←	←
m. Horizontal distance (in/cm) from aft most point of the rear axle to forward most point of the fuel tank; (in / cm)		██████	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
n. Horizontal distance (in/cm) from aft most point of the fuel tank to the aft most point of the vehicle's rear bumper;	(in / cm)	██████	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
o. Vertical distance (in/cm) from bottom/lower most surface of the fuel tank to bottom/lower most surface of vehicle's rear bumper at center line position (positive value indicates the tank surface is above bumper,negative value below the bumper);	(in / cm)	██████	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
p. Vertical distance (in/cm) from the ground/road surface to the bottom/lower surface of i) the vehicle's rear bumper at center line position, and ii) the vehicle's tow hitch at center line position (when equipped with a tow hitch);	(in / cm)	██████ ██████	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
q. If not originally equipped with, whether or not a protective guard for the fuel tank was optionally available, and if so, the part number of the optionally available protective guard; and		Originally equipped (MB248948)	←	←	←	←	←	←	←	Originally equipped (MR432999)	←	←	←	←	←	Originally equipped (MR135570)	←	←	←	←	←	←	←
r. Whether the vehicle was equipped with an ORVR/Onboard Refueling Vapor Recovery system.		No	←	←	←	←	←	←	←	No	Yes	←	←	←	←	No	←	←	←	Yes	←	←	←

**Confidential** (Request for confidentiality is being requested from the Office of Chief Counsel for the redacted information)

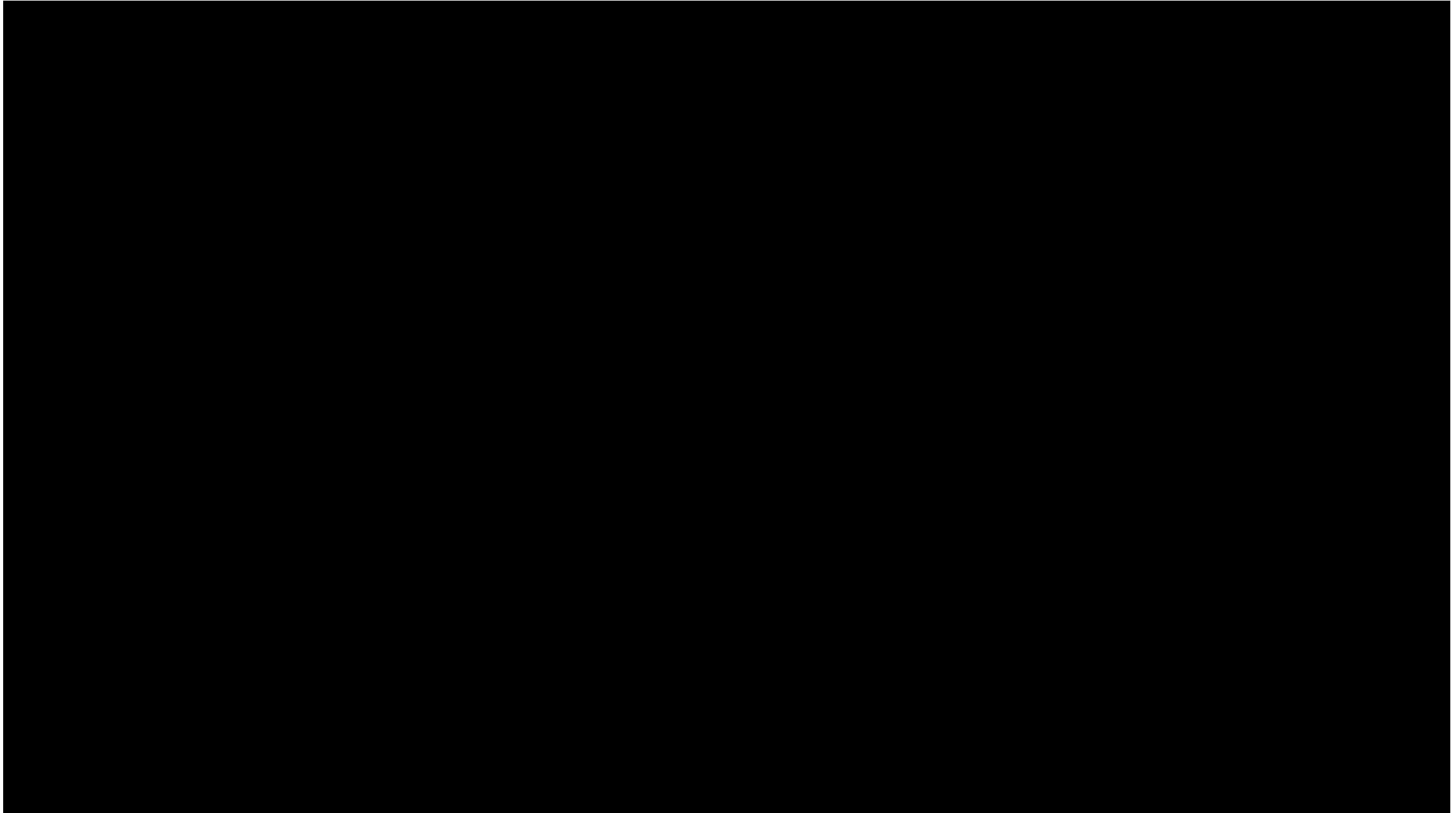


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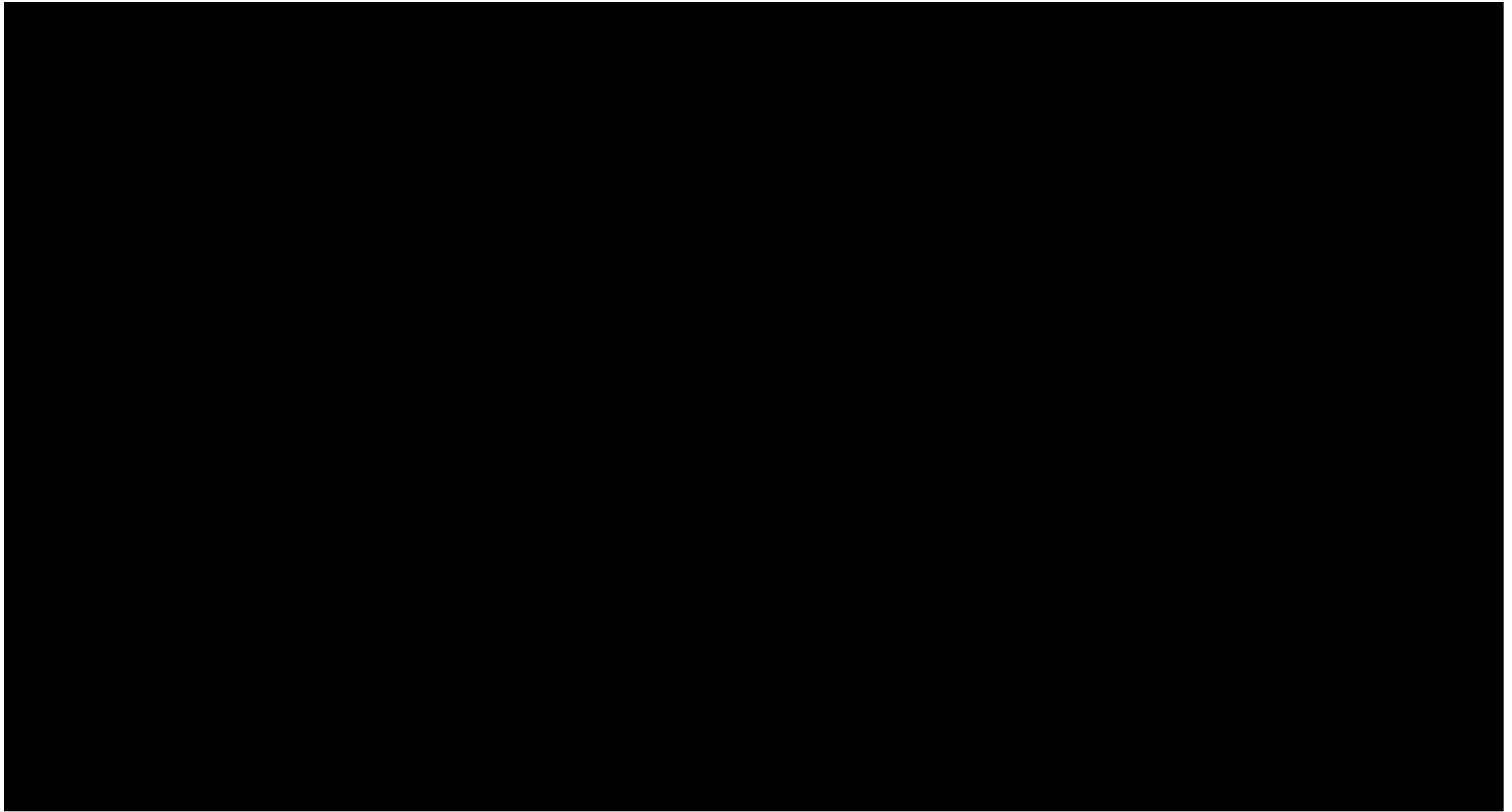
Confidential

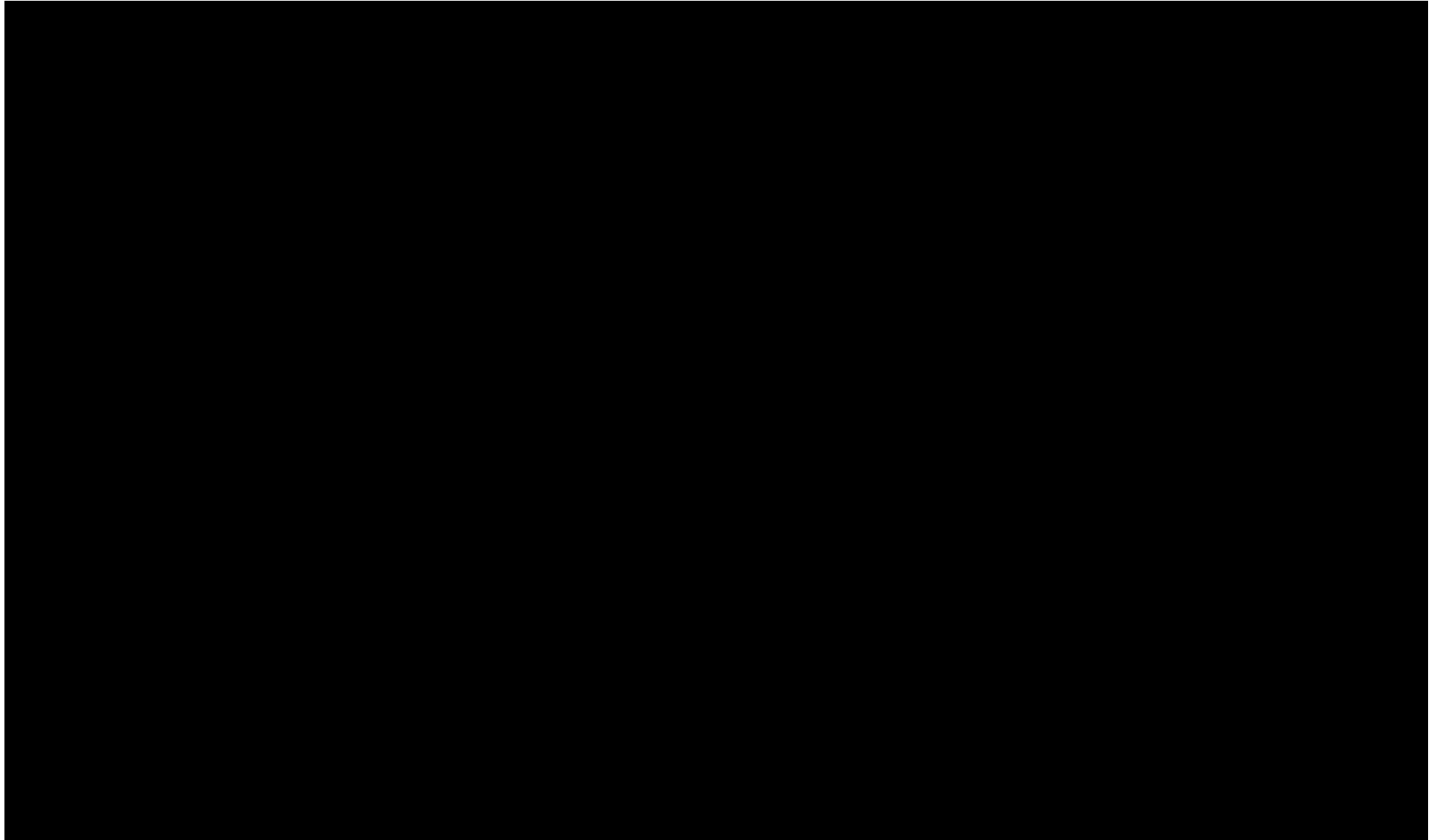
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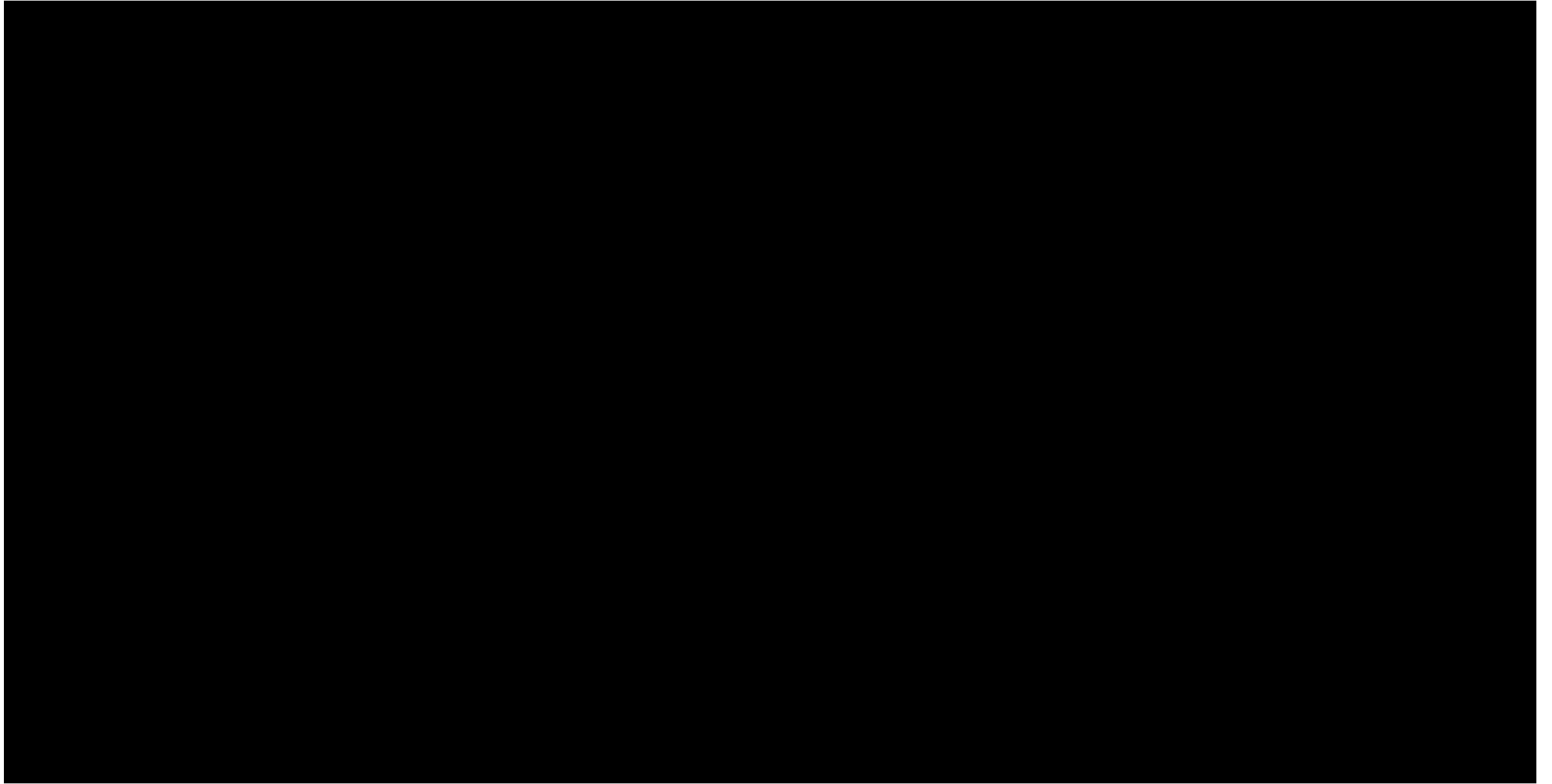


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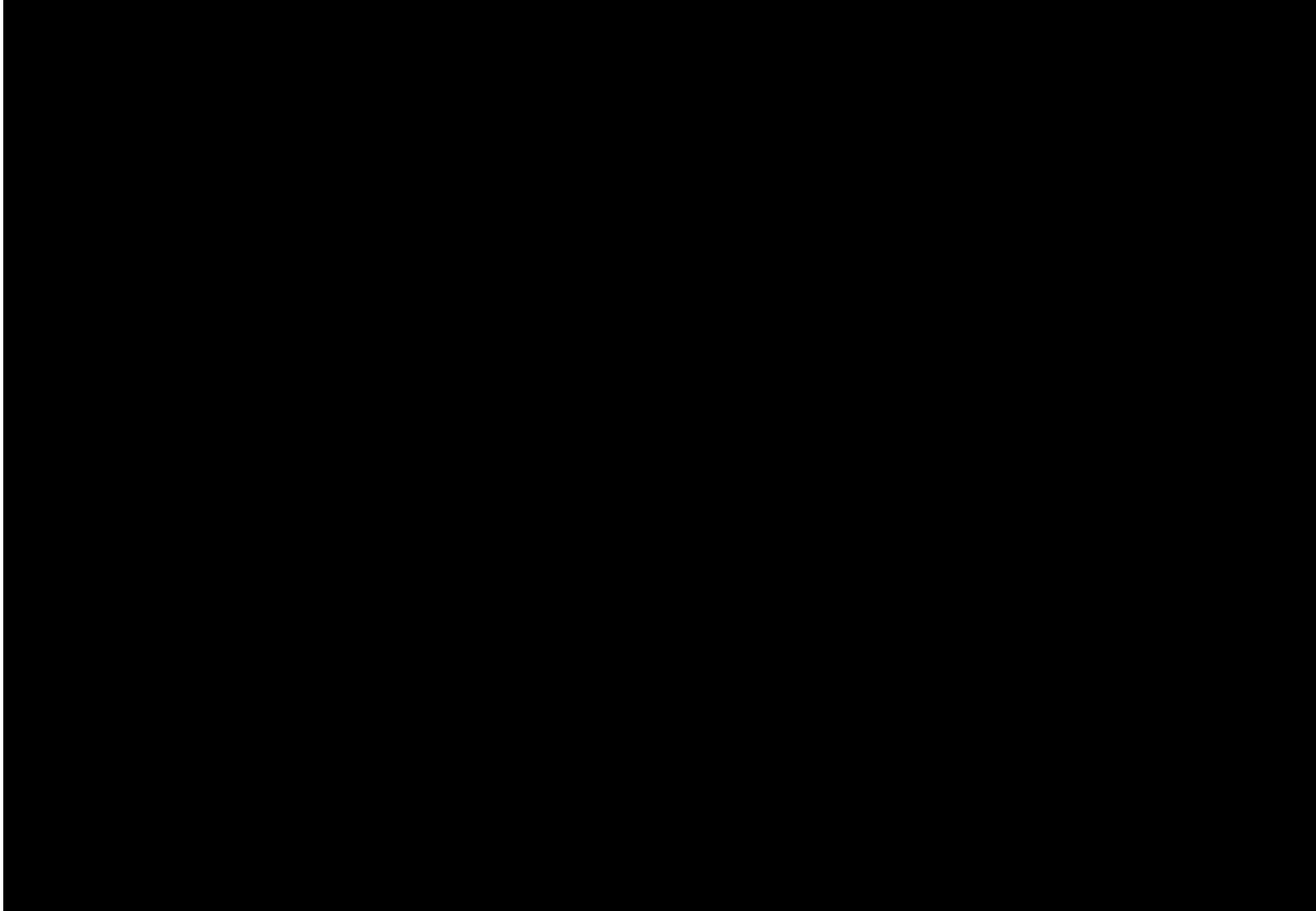






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