



Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

Submission Form

Please complete this form if you would like to provide input or comments about coordination, preparedness for, response to and recovery from the 2019-20 'Black Summer' bushfires.

Personal and Background Information

1. **Full Name** **Margaret Brocx**
2. **Email** [REDACTED]
3. **Mobile/Telephone** [REDACTED]
4. **What is your preferred method of contact if we want to follow up with you?**

email

5. The Commission would like to understand the views of community groups based on their respective experiences and background.


- a. Please select Option 1 if you are providing input and comments primarily based on your personal situation.
- b. Please select Option 2 if you are providing input and comments primarily based on your professional knowledge, qualifications or experience, or on behalf of a group or organisation

Option 1: Based on your personal situation, please complete the following.

- a. What was your personal situation in relation to the 2019-20 Bushfires? Please choose all that apply.
 - I was not living in an area affected by bushfire
 - I lived in an area affected by bushfires but was not evacuated, and didn't suffer personal or financial loss
 - I lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, but didn't suffer personal or financial loss
 - I lived in an area affected by bushfires and was evacuated, and I suffered personal or financial loss
 - I was part of the emergency response as a fire fighter on the ground
 - I was part of the emergency response as an aerial fire fighter

- I was part of the emergency response as health professional
- I was part of the emergency response as an Australian Defence Force member
- I was part of the emergency response as a Commonwealth or State government employee
- I assisted the emergency response as a community support volunteer
- I assisted the emergency recovery (i.e. after the fire event) as a community support volunteer
- Other

b. Where do you live? Please provide your Local Government Area, town name and post code.

Local Government Area	Choose an item.
Town name	
Post code	6100

Option 2: Based on your knowledge, qualifications or experience, or your role representing a group or organisation, what is your area of expertise? Please choose all that apply.

- Emergency/disaster response and/or management
 - Environment/land management
 - Land use, planning, building standards
 - Impacts of changes in climatic conditions
 - Wildlife conservation
 - Traditional land and fire management practices of Indigenous Australians
 - Community welfare
 - Other
-

Input / Comments

6. In your experience, what areas of the bushfire emergency response worked well?

That there were volunteers who were willing to work day and night, and put their lives on the line to help others.

There were volunteers who were willing to rescue Wildlife and care for them.

The Federal Government eventually brought in the Army to assist Volunteer Firefighters (who are not responsible for managing catastrophic fire events).

7. In your experience, what areas of the bushfire emergency response didn't work well?

There was a lack of appreciation by the State and Federal Governments on the severity of the situation in terms of being prepared for a worst case scenario.

There are scientists who predicted that Australia is unprepared for climate change based fire hazards.

No co-ordinated response to save wildlife-everything is left to volunteers

No co-ordinated response for people who have been left homeless on an interim or longterm basis.

The Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, leaving management of the fires to dedicated volunteers, while he holidayed, not even in Australia, but overseas.

Public funding raised for those impacted by the fires were not targeted for specific communities, or projects. It was raised with the intention to assist, but the organisations that the funding was given to did not have a framework in place to use the funds as intended/anticipated.

8. In your experience, what needs to change to improve arrangements for preparation, mitigation, response and recovery coordination for national natural disaster arrangements in Australia?

This is a huge question with many components and requires a Royal Commission to investigate and answer for pre and post fire situations.

Preparation and-revised building codes, New National Fire Response Team/Task Force, this includes scientists, councillors, firefighters, army personell, wildlife Officers, Indigenous representatives, and a Medical Response Team. Smoke is carcinogenic, there are no guidelines for how to protect yourself from smoke inhalation during a fire.

Compulsory household fire plans

Mobile Centrelink team to assist homeless and devastated business owners with funding. People who are in a state of shock and have lost everything, including loved ones, are expected to apply for funding support without the resources to do so.

Compensation for firefighters who have lost income, and for families who have lost a breadwinner.

9. Is there anything else you would like to tell the Royal Commission?

Indiscriminate burning is not the solution. The Australian bush is replete with wildlife and highly volitle native species. How fires are managed should be evidence based, and not follow outdated fire manangement practices. As with housing developments in floodprone and cyclone areas, houses in high risk areas should be discouraged, or have appropriate building codes.

The fire response should be in keeping with the natural heritage values of the area, currently, there is no consideration, or training for fire management in sites of Natural and Cultural heritage.

10. Do you intend to provide supporting material? Yes No

If you are providing any supporting material, please include it with your Submission if possible. If you need to send it separately (e.g. if you make a Submission over the phone), please ensure supporting material can be clearly identified as relating to your Submission by including your name or other identifier so that it can be considered with your Submission.

11. Do you agree to your submission being published? (Mandatory) Yes, I agree to my submission being published in my name Yes I agree to my submission being published anonymously No I don't agree to my submission being published

Once you have completed this form, email it to rcnda.submissions@royalcommission.gov.au or print the form and post it to the Royal Commission at:

National Natural Disaster Royal Commission
Locked Bag 2000
Manuka ACT 2603

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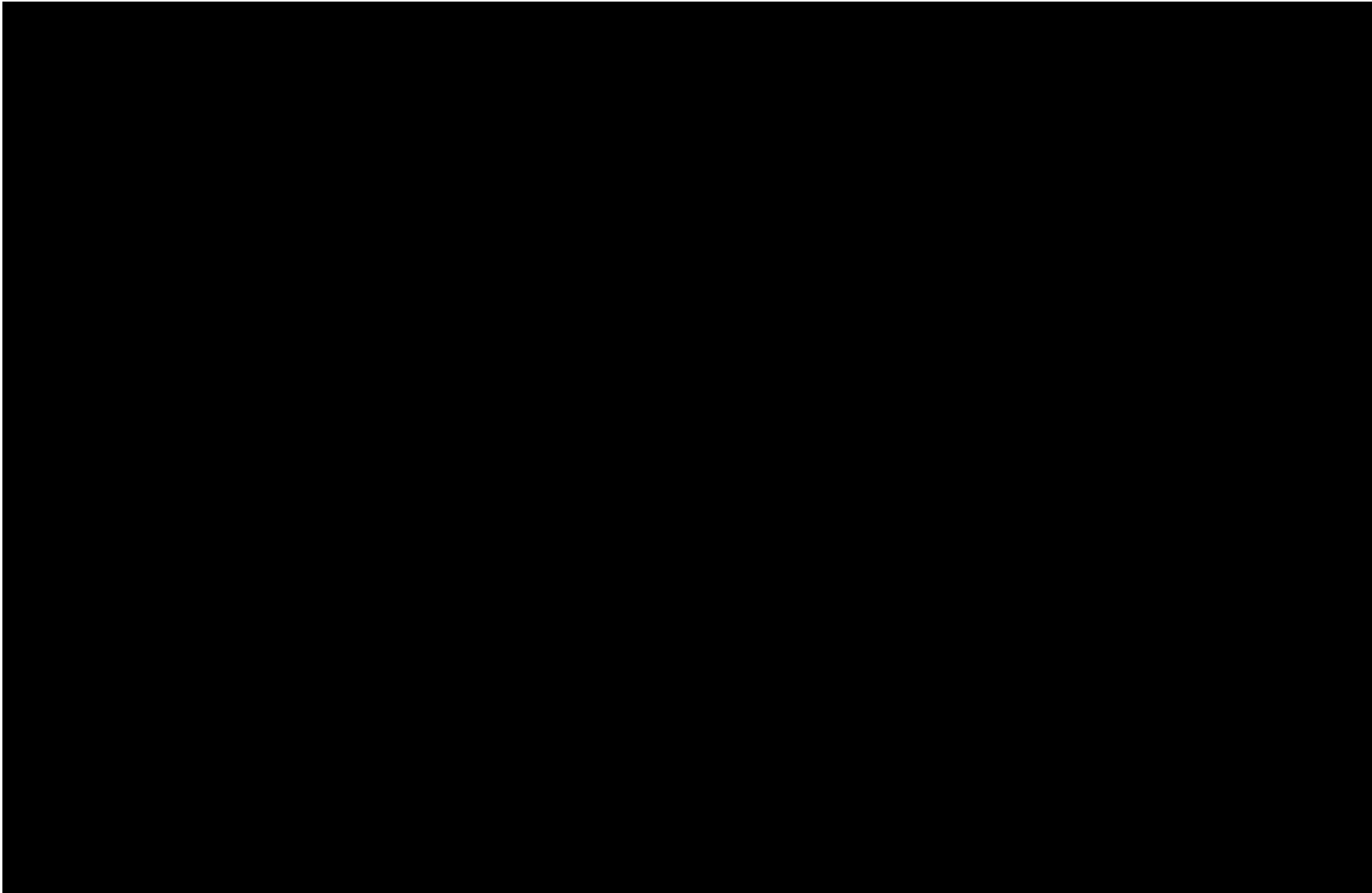
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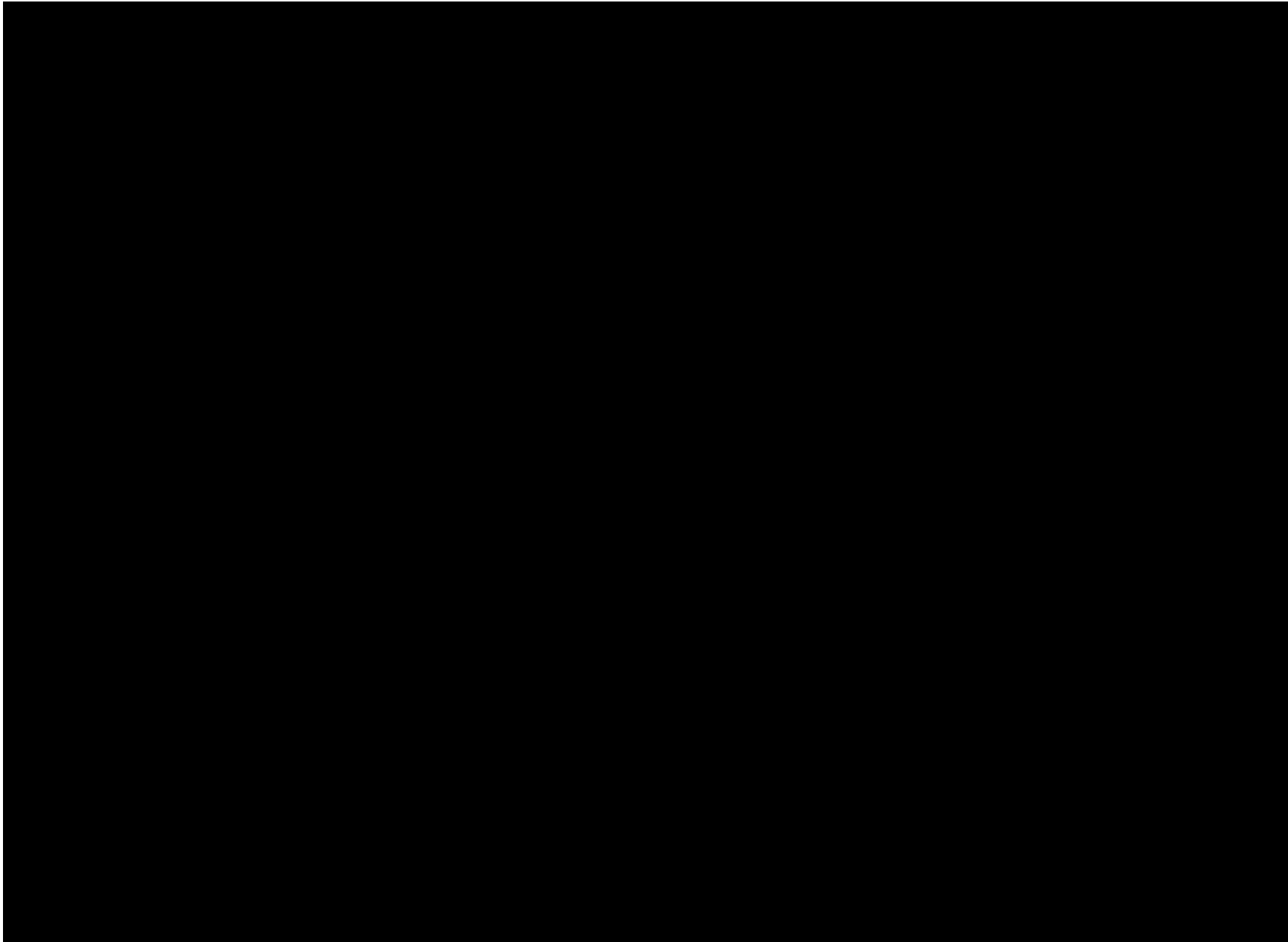
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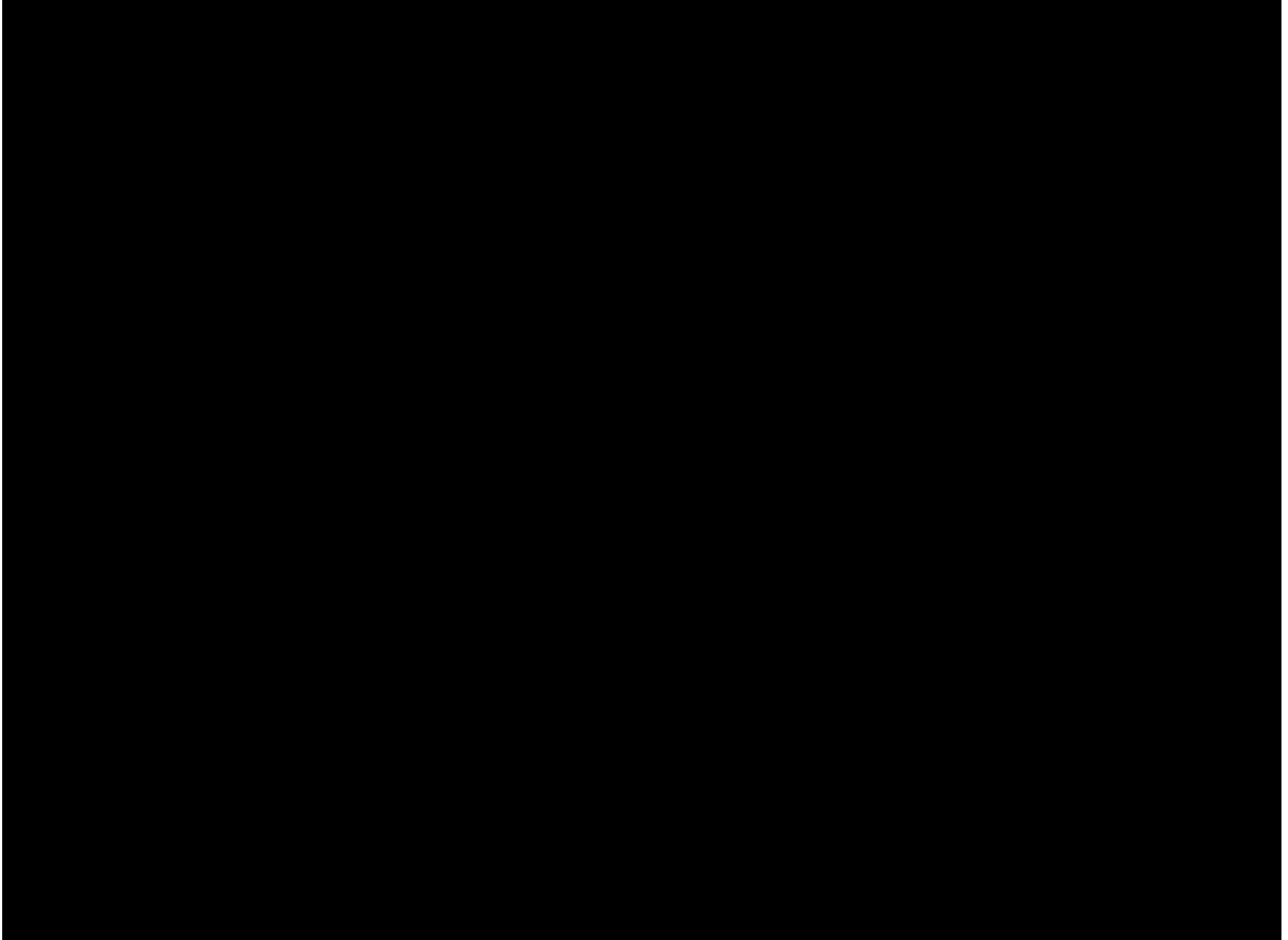
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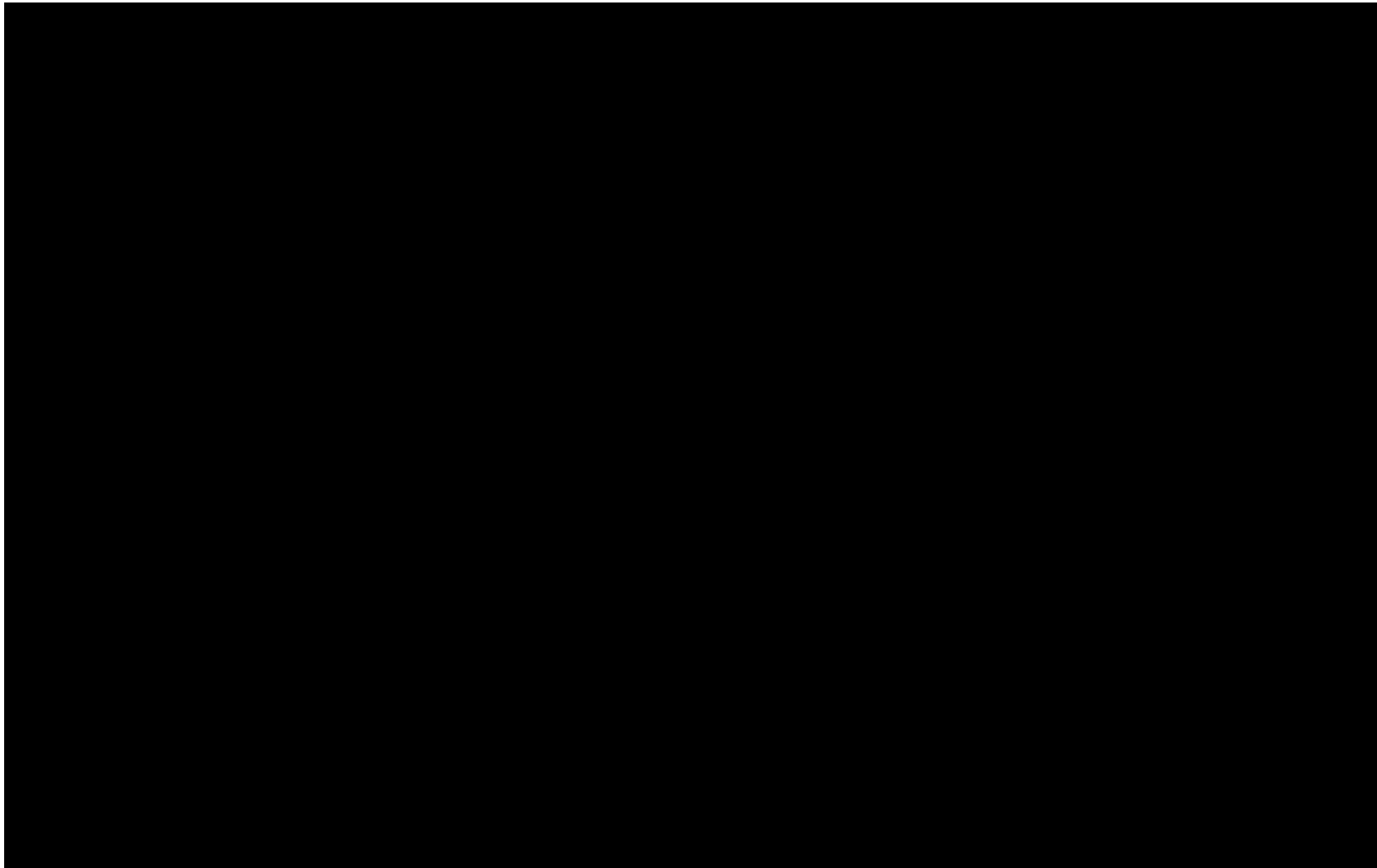
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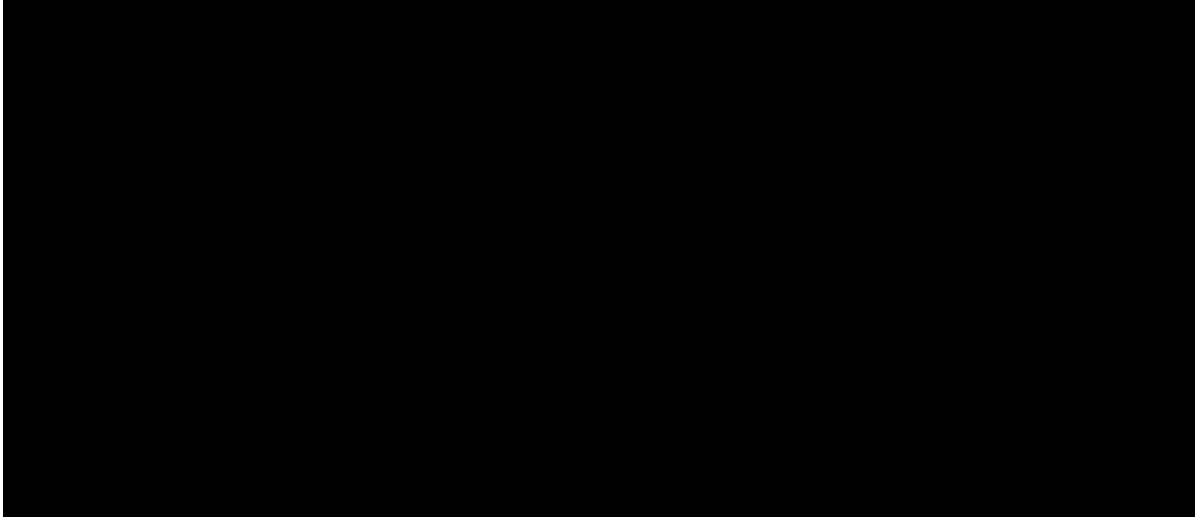
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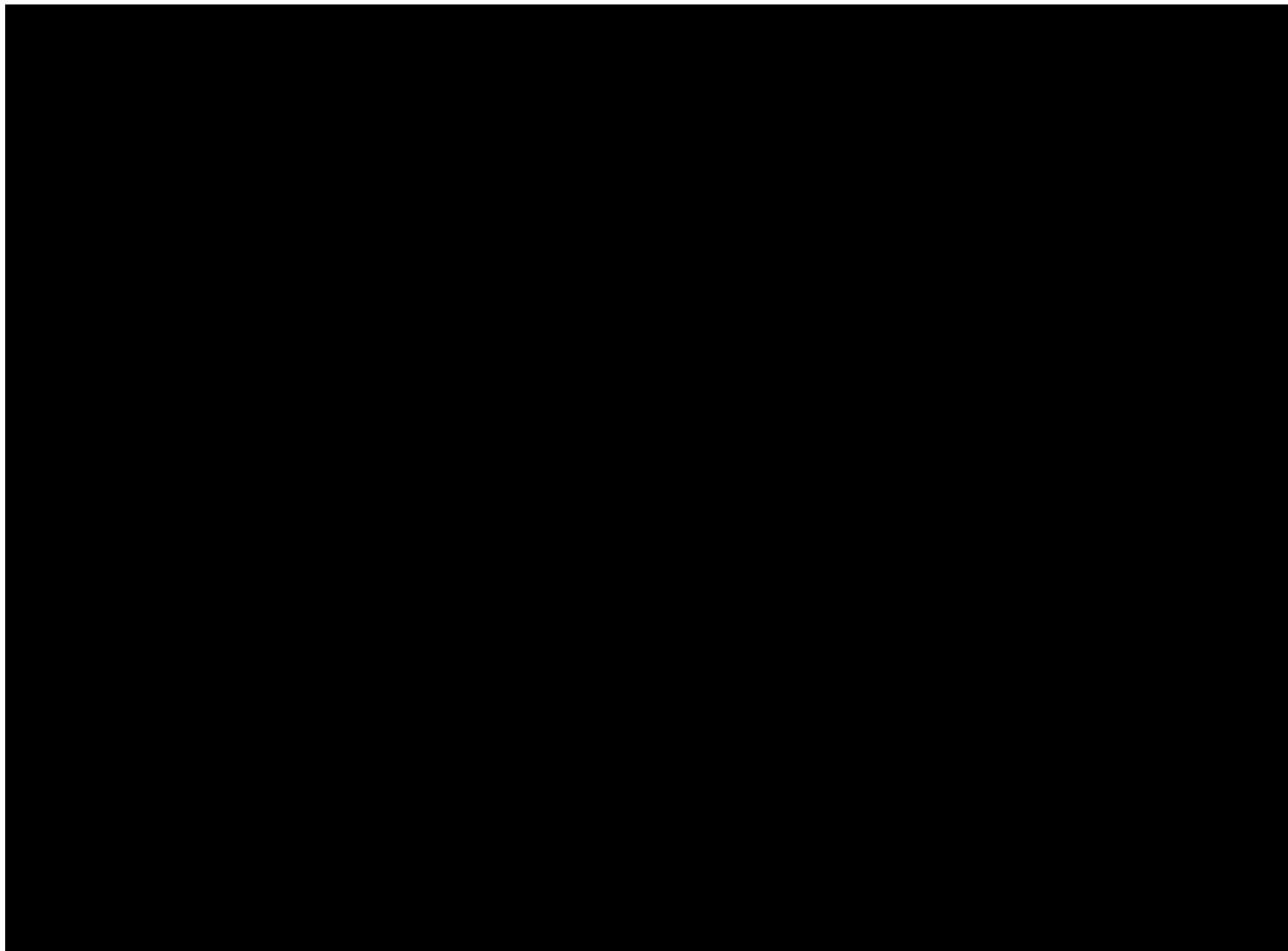
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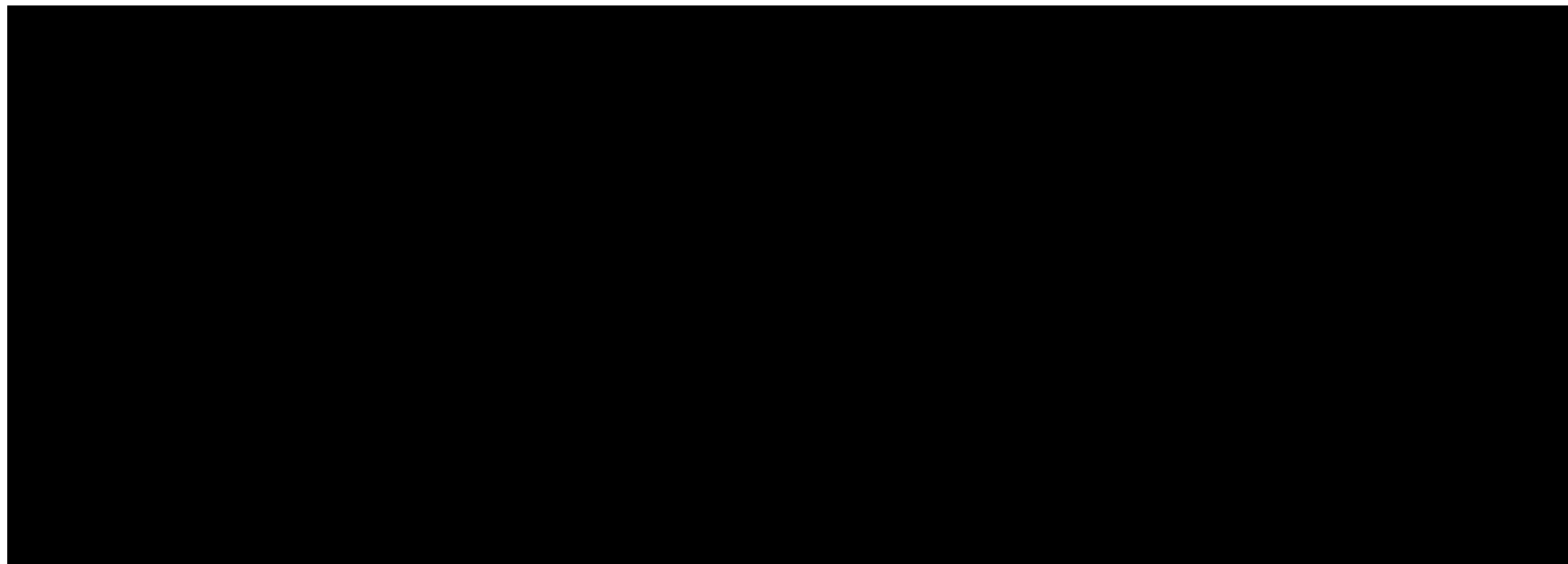
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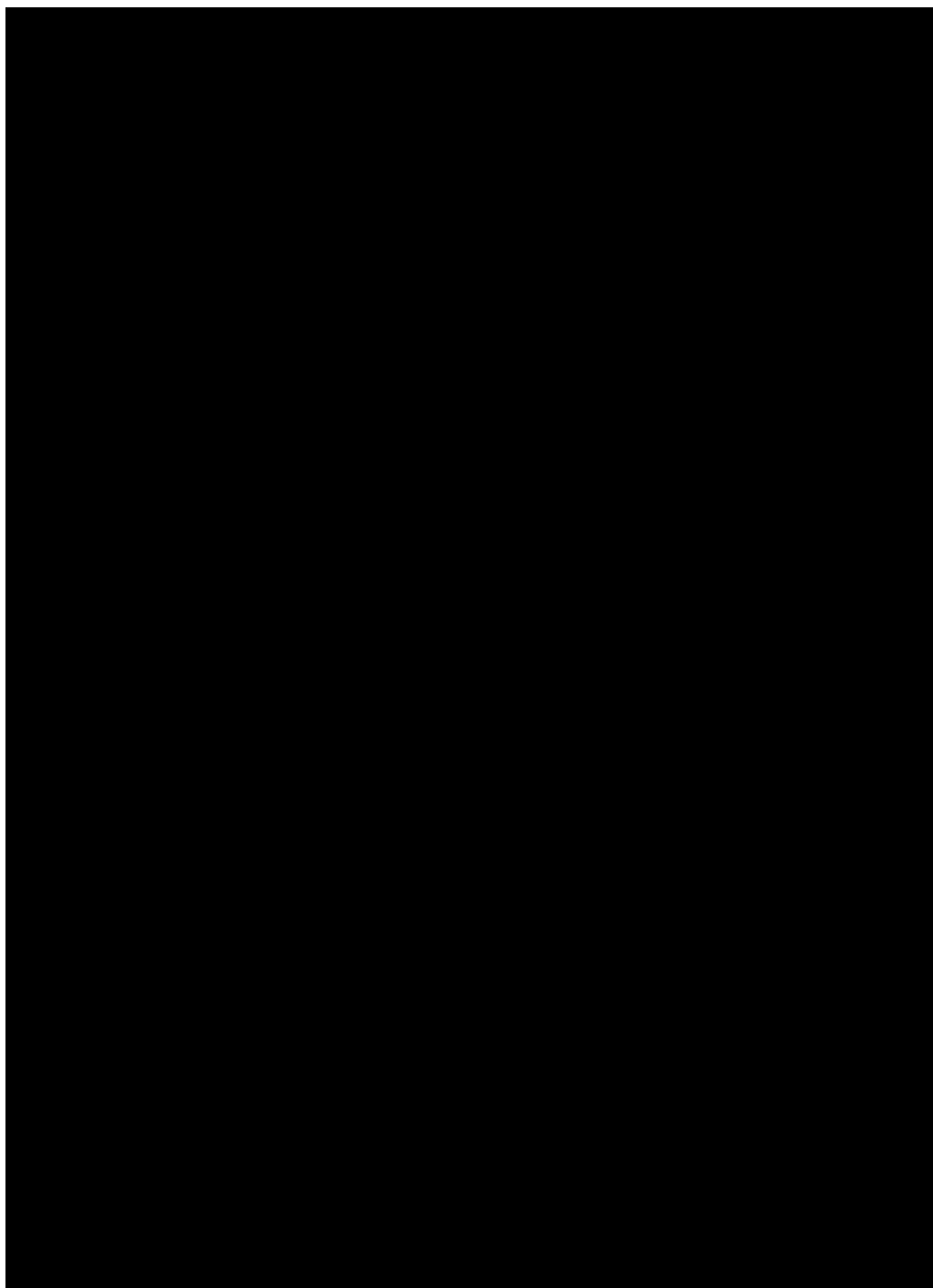
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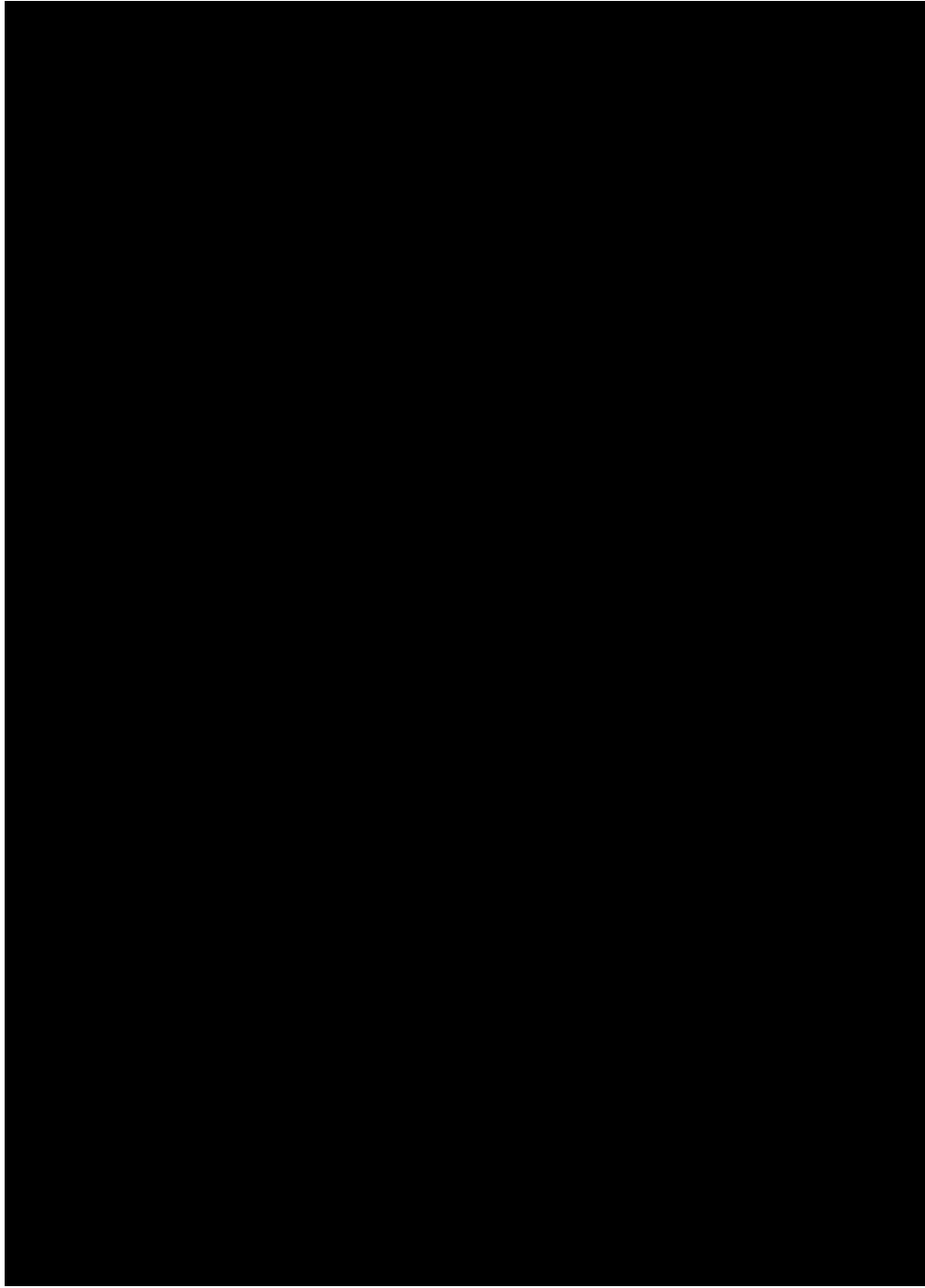
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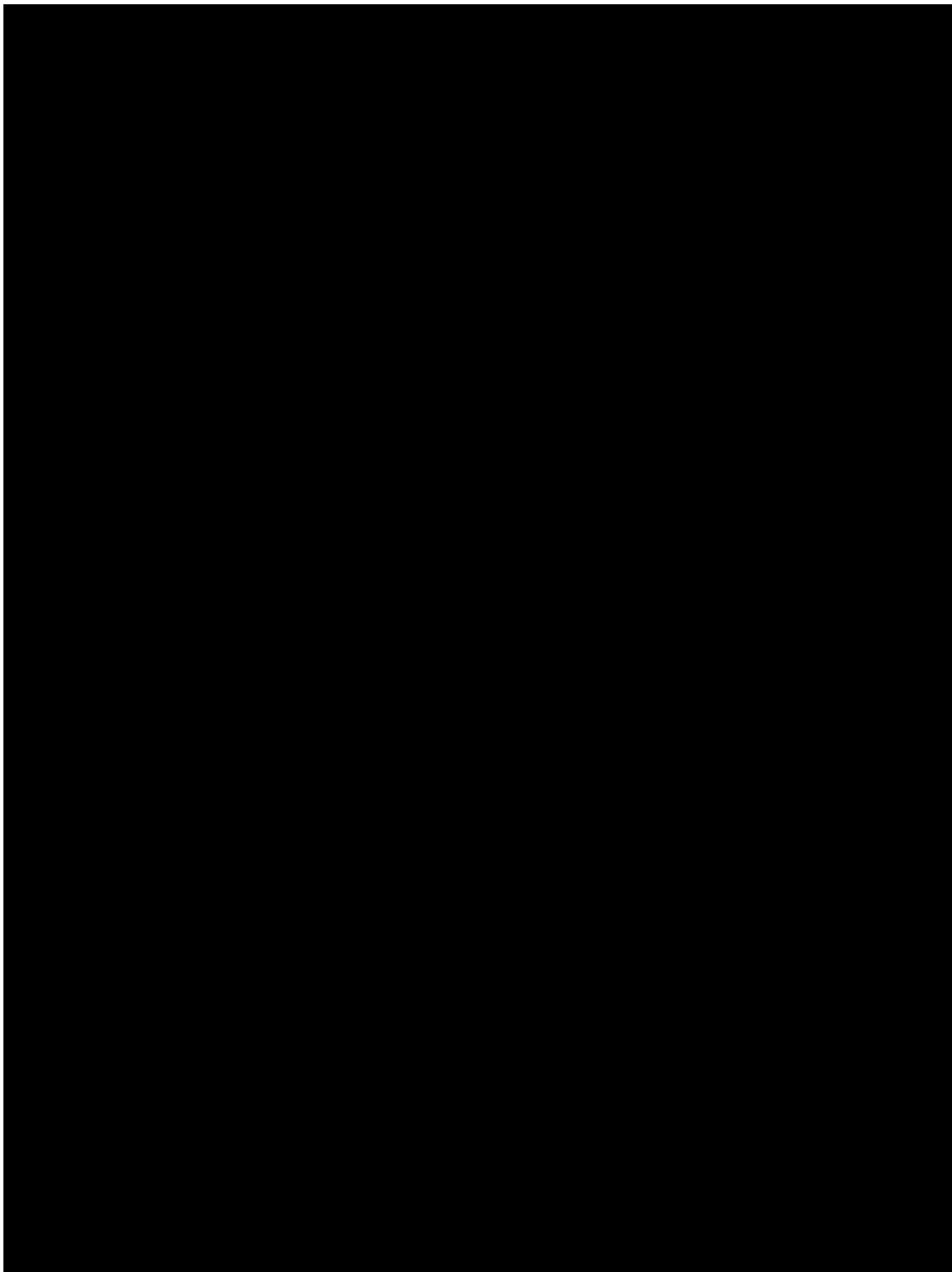
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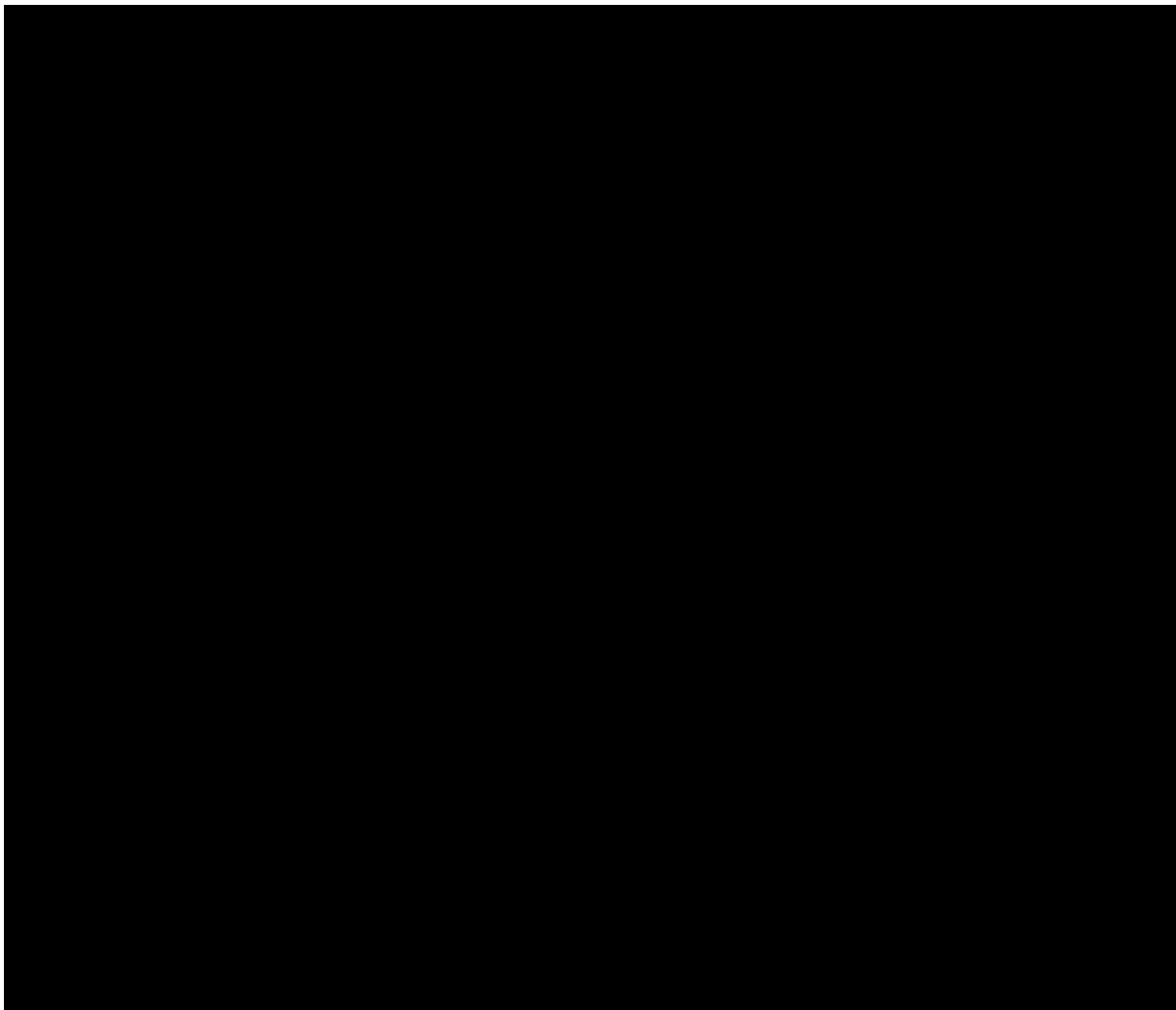
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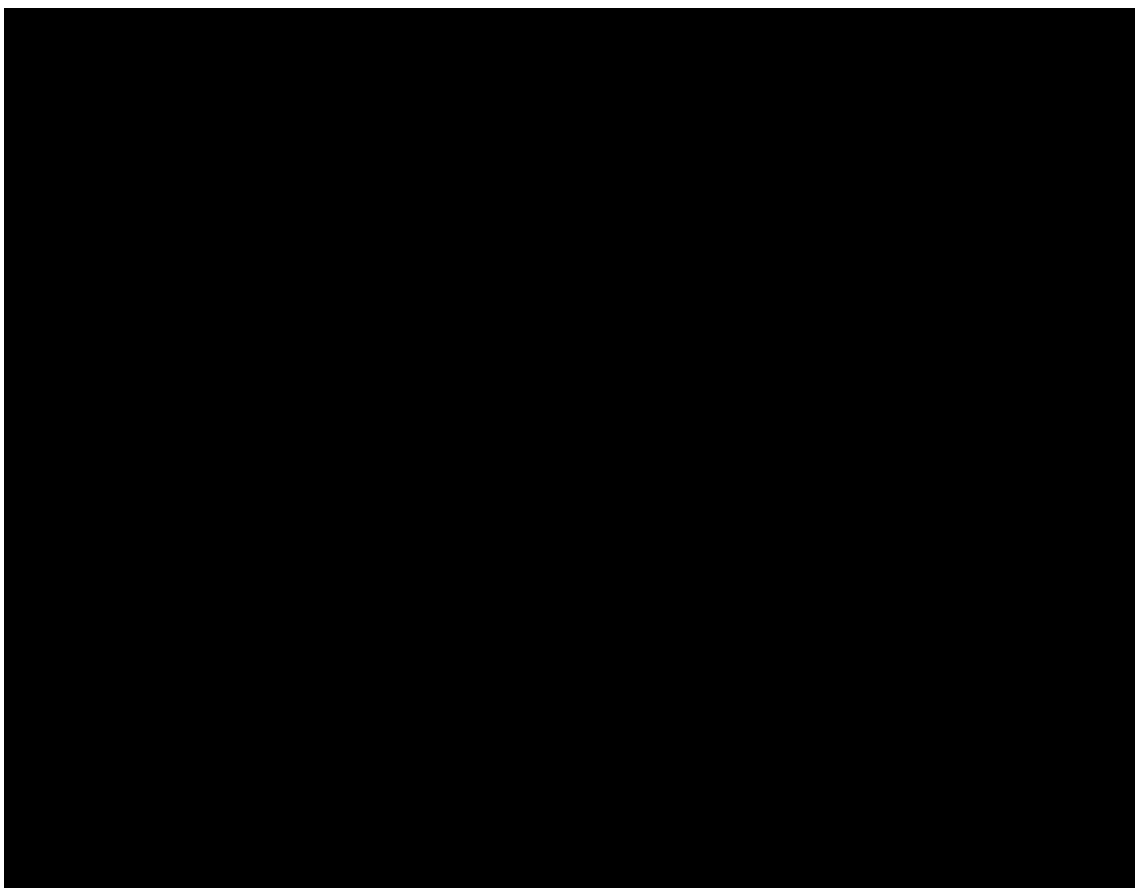
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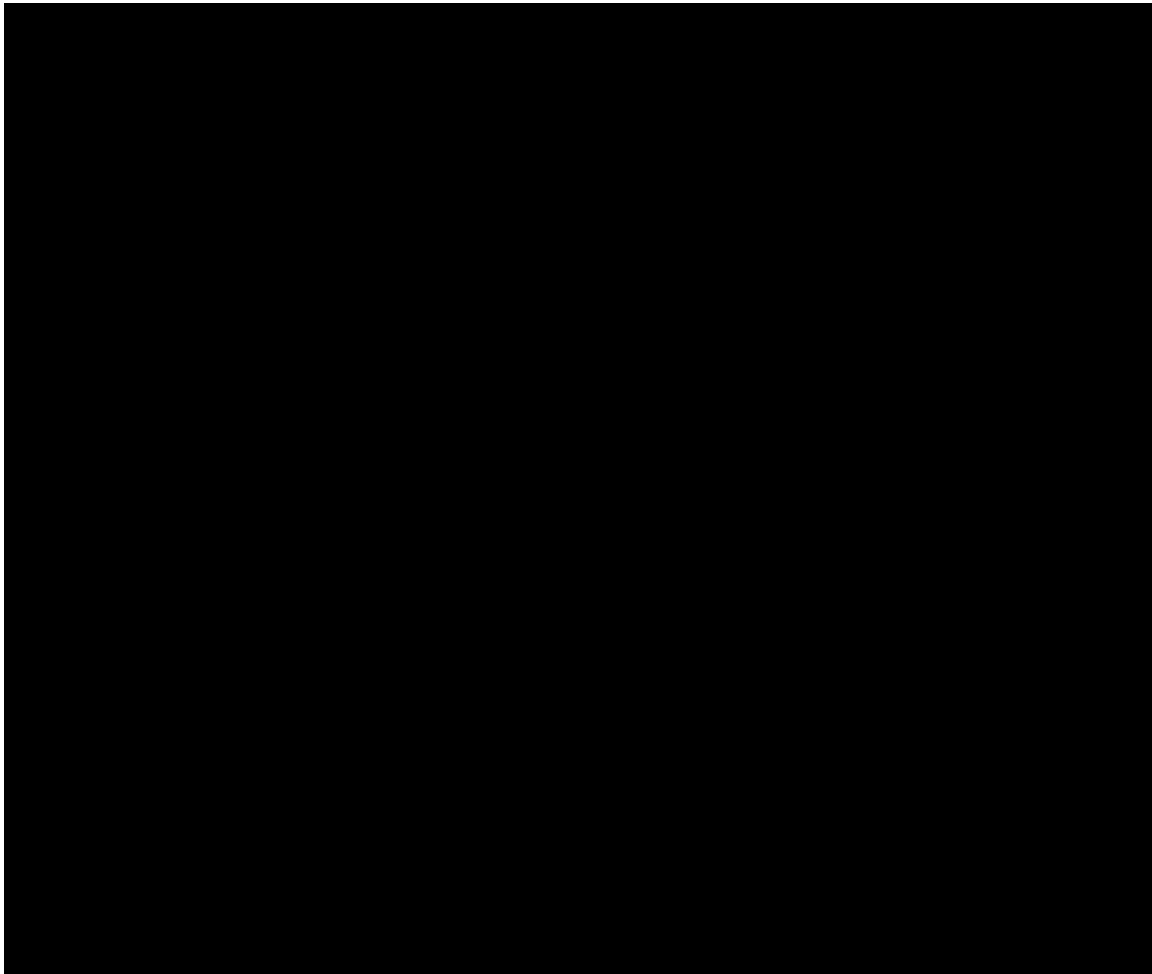






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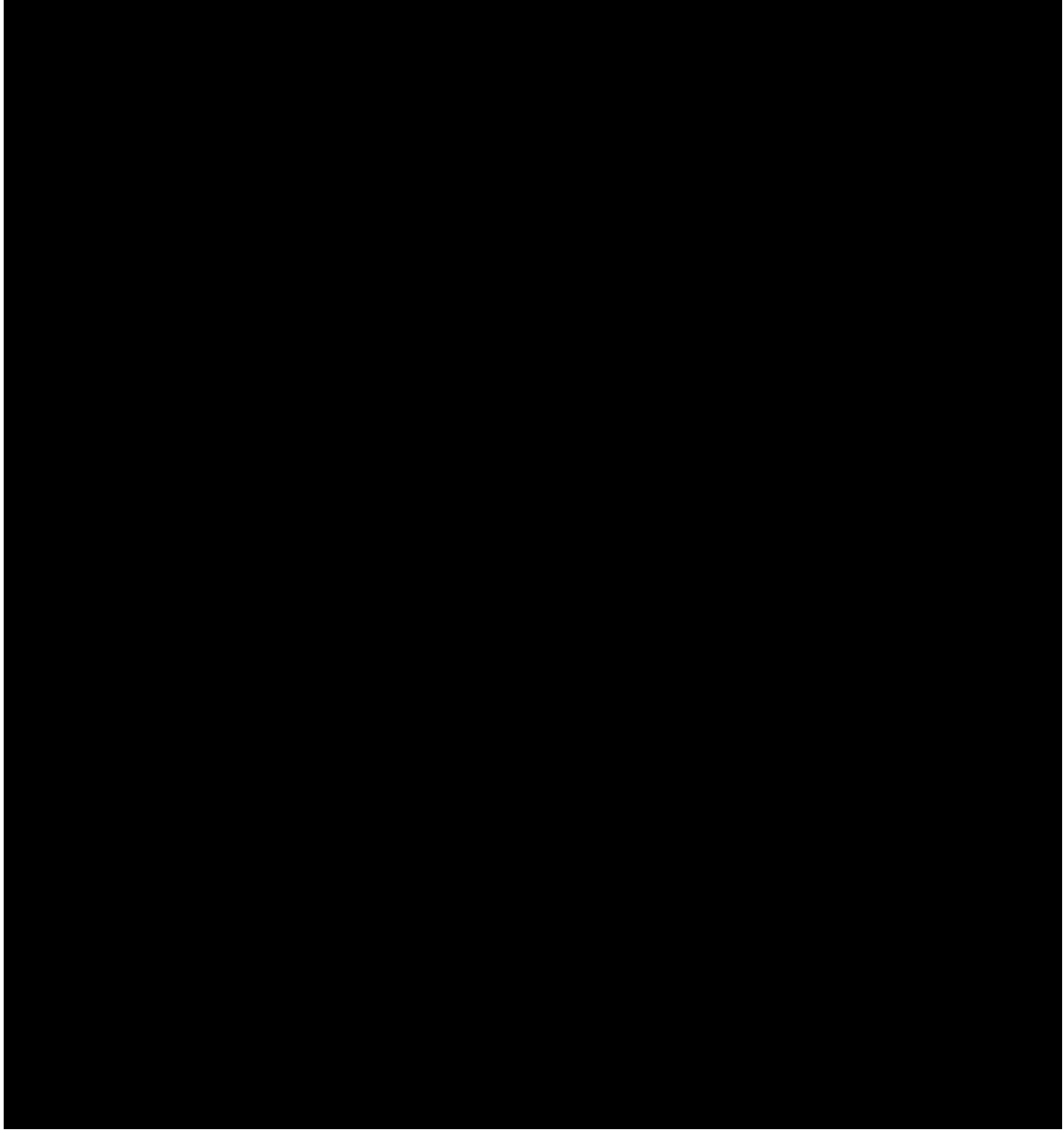
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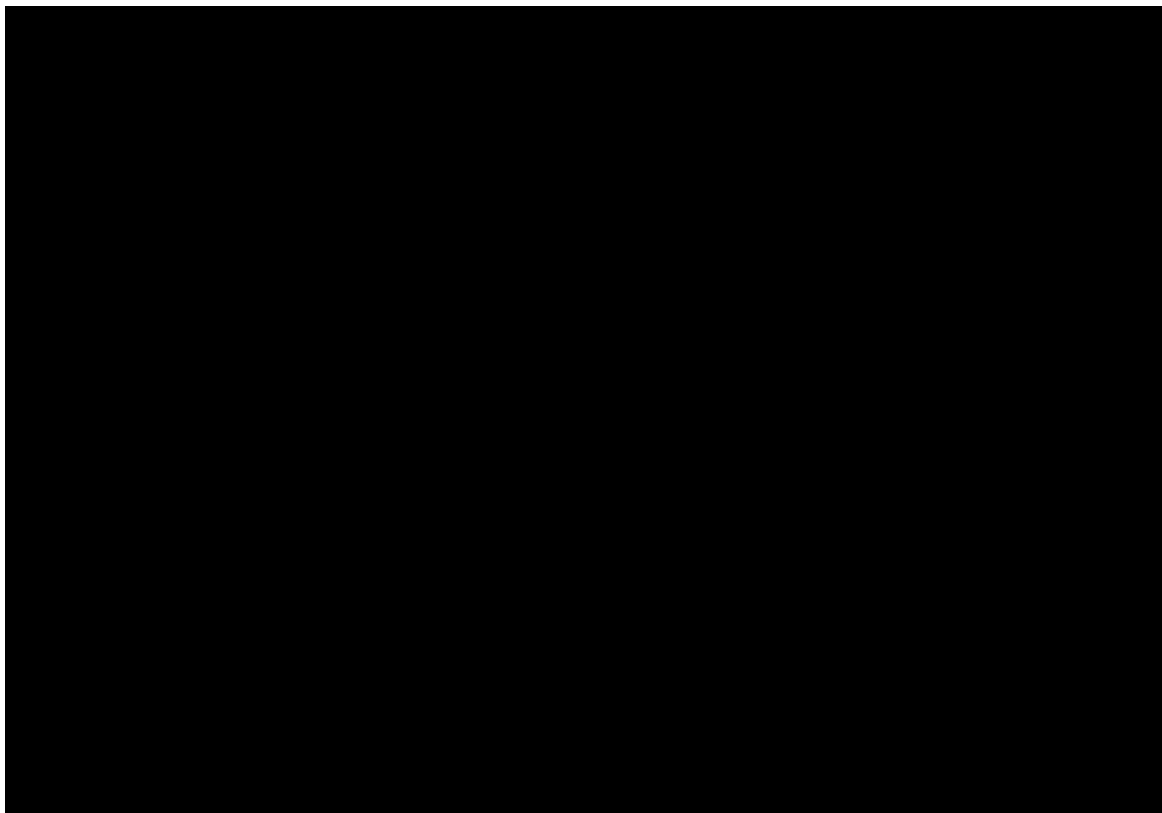
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