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SVWU RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS TO WRITTEN TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS

I. INTRODUCTION

The objections submitted by San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority ("SLDMWA") to the testimony of Walter Bourez offered by the Sacramento Valley Water Users¹ ("SVWU") are without merit. As that testimony is relevant, reliable, and plainly admissible, the SVWU respectfully request that the SWRCB overrule the objections in their entirety and deny SLDMWA's accompanying request to exclude this evidence.

II. BACKGROUND

Water Code section 1702 requires that, when a petition for change is filed, the petitioner must establish that the change will not operate to the injury of any legal user of the water involved. (Water Code, § 1702.) The burden of proof is on the petitioner (SWRCB Order No. 95-6, at p. 7.) Part 1 of this hearing therefore addresses whether the Department of Water Resources' ("DWR") and the Bureau of Reclamation's proposed changes would injure any municipal, industrial or agricultural uses of water, including associated legal users of water. (October 30, 2015 Notice of Hearing ("Notice"), p. 11.)

On September 1, 2016, the parties of the SVWU jointly submitted the expert testimony and exhibits of Messrs. Walter Bourez and Dan Easton of MBK Engineers on issues common to the SVWU parties. SLDMWA objects to certain portions of Mr. Bourez's testimony on the grounds that this testimony is hearsay, irrelevant, and would result in undue consumption of time. For the reasons stated below, the SWRCB should overrule SLDMWA's objections.

III. ARGUMENT

Evidence in a hearing on a petition for change is admitted in accordance with Government Code § 11513. (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 23, § 648.5.1.) Under Government Code section 11513(c), relevant evidence must be admitted if "it is the sort of evidence on which responsible persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs, regardless of the existence of any common law or statutory rule which might make improper the admission of the evidence over objection in

¹ As shown in the signature block on the last page of these objections, each member of the Sacramento Valley Water Users is a party to this proceeding. This grouping has been coordinated for the convenience and expedience of the SWRCB and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

civil actions." (Gov. Code § 11513(c).) The testimony of Messrs. Bourez and Easton testimony is both relevant and reliable, would be admissible in any civil action and is admissible in this hearing.

A. The statements offered by Mr. Bourez are admissible expert testimony.

SLDMA objects to paragraphs 6 through 8, 12 through 13, and 17 through 19 of Mr. Bourez's testimony as inadmissible hearsay. Those paragraphs either identify or briefly describe the findings in certain reports prepared by MBK Engineers. Each report is attached as an exhibit, and each is authored either by Mr. Bourez (see Exhibit SVWU-100, ¶ 5.), or by MBK Engineers generally. Initially, none of Mr. Bourez's testimony to which SLDMWA objects is hearsay in the context of this hearing. Under Evidence Code section 1200, hearsay is a statement made other than by a witness while testifying at the hearing. The SWRCB ordered that direct testimony in this hearing be submitted in writing. (Notice, Enclosure D, p. 33) The paragraphs to which SLDMWA objects refer to written exhibits Mr. Bourez has adopted as his testimony in his written testimony. The statements and reports to which SLDMWA objects therefore are just as much testimony in this hearing as the rest of Mr. Bourez's written testimony. Statements of a witness explaining his interpretation of an exhibit which is also offered as evidence are not hearsay. (See, e.g., *People v. Cudjo* (1993) 6 Cal.4th 585, 608 ("Neither the hearsay rule nor its exceptions are concerned with the credibility of witnesses who testify directly to the jury.").)

The SWRCB also has previously stated it will "decline to exclude or strike any evidence on the grounds that it is hearsay," but will consider relevant hearsay evidence "subject to the limitations imposed by Government Code section 11513, subdivision (d)." (Procedural Ruling on Motions filed in the matter the Administrative Civil Liability Complaint against Byron-Bethanny Irrigation District and Draft Cease and Desist Order against West Side Irrigation District, March 18, p. 4.) Under Government Code section 11513, hearsay evidence may be used "for the purpose of supplementing or explaining other evidence" but is not sufficient in itself to support a finding by the Board, unless that evidence "would be admissible over objection in civil actions." (Gov. Code, § 11513(d); see also Notice, Enclosure D, p. 36.)

The testimony to which SLDMWA objects also is appropriate expert testimony. Evidence

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Under Evidence Code section 801, the opinion testimony of an expert may be based on any

matter personally perceived by or known to the expert or any matter "made known" to the expert.

An expert is entitled to base his opinion upon technical reports and scientific literature, provided

such matter is "of a type that reasonably may be relied upon by an expert in forming an opinion

upon the subject to which his testimony relates." (Evid. Code, § 801(b); People v. Bui (2001) 86

Cal.App.4th 1187, 1196.)

SLDMWA has not objected to the admission of the exhibits themselves as hearsay, but even if it did, Mr. Bourez would be entitled to rely on that evidence to form his expert opinion. An expert witness is entitled to rely upon his own reports, and the reports prepared by other experts, in formulating his testimony. (See Evid. Code, § 804.) An objection on the grounds that an expert has relied on inadmissible material to form an opinion (for example, hearsay) goes "only to the purpose for which the challenged statements may be received. The correct ruling is not to exclude them...the trial court need only confirm that it is not accepting the challenged statements as proof of the matters asserted, but only as a foundation for the accompanying opinions." (Cole v. Town of Los Gatos (2012) 205 Cal.App.4th 749, 766.) There is no leap of logic here: Mr. Bourez's testimony is founded on reports that he either participated in preparing, or which were prepared by his firm, and with which he is intimately acquainted.

In any event, the testimony and reports offered are the "sort of evidence on which responsible persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs" and should be admitted on this basis alone. (See Gov. Code § 11513(c).)

B. Mr. Bourez's comments on the RDEIR/SDEIS methodology are relevant and reliable.

SLDMWA objects to Mr. Bourez's summary of his firm's September 2015 technical comments on the Draft Environmental Statement for the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("LT Ops DEIS"), on the grounds that the operations described in that document are not the same as the operations anticipated for the current Project, and that the testimony is therefore not relevant.

Evidence is relevant if it has "any tendency in reason to prove or disprove any disputed fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action." (Evid. Code, § 210.) The question presented in Part 1 of this hearing is whether Petitioners have demonstrated that the proposed change will not cause injury to a legal user of water. (Notice, p. 11.) The SWRCB has explained that a party may rely on a CEQA document "as evidence of the potential effects of the project on legal users of water, or they may wish to refute that analysis." (Jan. 15, 2016 Pre-Hearing Conference Agenda, p. 5-6.)

As Mr. Bourez's testimony explains, the 2015 technical comments are relevant to this stage of the hearing because the flawed methodology identified in those comments was carried over into the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan DEIS/EIR and the California Water Fix Revised DEIS/EIR, and results in unrealistic assumptions about the ability of the Project to meet existing regulatory and legal demands for water. Mr. Bourez's testimony identifies specific flaws in Petitioners' modeling that, if correctly analyzed, reveal injury to numerous legal users of water and is directly relevant to Part 1.

C. The admission of Mr. Bourez's testimony will not result in undue consumption of time.

The hearing officers have discretion to exclude evidence if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the probability that its admission will necessitate undue consumption of time. (Govt. Code, § 11513 subd. (f); Hearing Officers' Ruling on Post-Hearing Evidence Motions in the Fahey matter, May 23, 2016, at p. 1.) On these grounds, SLDMWA asks that Mr. Bourez's testimony be excluded. However, SLDMWA has failed to demonstrate that the significant probative value of this evidence is "substantially outweighed" by the probability that this testimony's admission will result in undue consumption of time. The testimony offered by Mr. Bourez reveals fundamental flaws in the modeling of the current project, and Mr. Bourez has been offered by 41 separate parties as a witness. This testimony has high probative value, and its presentation, given its importance to the central hearing issues and the number of parties coordinating to present it, does not result in the undue consumption of time. (See Oct. 7 Ruling, p. 6 ("The presentation of joint panels and joint cases in chief will serve to improve the efficiency

of the hearing...").)

IV. SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO SLDMWA OBJECTIONS

The SVWU offer the following responses to the specific portions of testimony that SLDMWA has objected to:

Evidence Objected to:	Response to Objection:
Bourez testimony, ¶¶ 6-7.	This is not hearsay. SVWU-109 is a
Bourez testimony, 0-7.	technical report authored by MBK
Objection: Hearsay, Gov. Code §	Engineers, the contents of which Mr.
11513 (d).	Bourez is familiar with, and which he is
11313 (a).	entitled to rely upon in preparation of his
	expert testimony.
Evidence Objected to	Response to Objection:
Evidence Objected to:	
Bourez testimony, ¶ 8	This is not hearsay. SVWU-108 is a
Objection Heaven Con Colo C	technical report authored by MBK
Objection: Hearsay, Gov. Code §	Engineers, the contents of which Mr.
11513 (d).	Bourez is familiar with, and which he is
	entitled to rely upon in preparation of his
	expert testimony.
Evidence Objected to: Bourez	Response to Objection:
testimony, ¶¶12-13.	This is not hearsay. SVWU-102 is a
	technical report authored by MBK
Objection: Hearsay, Gov. Code §	Engineers, the contents of which Mr.
11513 (d).	Bourez is familiar with, and which he is
	entitled to rely upon in preparation of his
	expert testimony.
Evidence Objected to: Bourez	Response to Objection:
testimony, ¶¶17-18	This is not hearsay. SVWU-104 is an
	analysis co-authored by Mr. Bourez.
Objection: Hearsay, Gov. Code §	
11513 (d).	
	Response to Objection:
Evidence Objected to: Bourez	This is not hearsay. SVWU-107 is a
testimony, ¶19.	technical report authored by MBK
	Engineers, the contents of which Mr.
Objection : Hearsay, Gov. Code §	Bourez is familiar with, and which he is
11513 (d).	entitled to rely upon in preparation of his
	expert testimony.
Evidence Objected to: Bourez	Response to Objection:
testimony, ¶¶17-18.	The evidence is relevant to this proceeding
₹ 7 H H	because the climate change analysis in the
Objection: Relevancy, the operations	LT/DEIS and the climate change analysis
described in the DEIR are not the	presented in this proceeding use the same
relevant operations for the Project.	methodology.

Evidence Objected to:

Bourez testimony, ¶¶ 9-11.

Objection:

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Consideration of this testimony would result in undue consumption of time.

Response to Objections:

This testimony reveals fundamental flaws in the modeling of the current project, and Mr. Bourez has been offered by 41 separate parties as a witness. This testimony has high probative value, and its presentation, given its importance to the central hearing issues and the number of parties coordinating to present it, does not result in the undue consumption of time.

V. DWR'S ASSERTION REGARDING SVWU'S STATUS AS A PARTY ARE WITHOUT MERIT.

DWR did not submit any specific objections to the testimony of Walter Bourez or Dan Easton. (See California Department of Water Resources' Master Objections to Protestants' Cases-in-Chief Collectively, at Attachment B (listing of the specific objections filed by DWR).)² Rather, DWR asserts in a footnote in its Objections to Sacramento Valley Group Written Testimony and Exhibits Submitted by Protestants in Support of Part 1B Case in Chief and Related Joinders (the "SVG Objection") that "the testimony submitted under the name of SVWU does not provide sufficient reference to the actual parties it seeks to represent." (SVG Objection, p. 2 n. 2.) Contrary to DWR's assertion, the parties of the SVWU made clear their coordinated submittal of the testimony of Messrs. Bourez and Easton on the date of that submittal, September 1, 2016. Specifically, the cover letter to the submittal stated "The Sacramento Valley Water Users ("SVWU") is comprised of the protestants identified in Attachment A. The SVWU parties hereby jointly submit written testimony for the hearing . . . The submittal includes: written direct testimony of Walter Bourez (MBK Engineers), Dan Easton (MBK Engineers), SVWU's exhibit identification index, a Powerpoint presentation, exhibits, and an opening statement." Each member of the SVWU is a party to this proceeding, each has been clearly identified, and the parties have coordinated as the SVWU to offer the testimony of Mr. Bourez and Mr. Easton as a group, in the interest of efficiency. DWR attempts to assert this challenge as one based on lack of foundation, but no such objection could stand in the face of the express statement of the parties of

² If DWR intended to assert its Master Objections against the testimony of Messrs. Bourez and Easton, those objections should be overruled for all of the reasons stated in the Sacramento Valley Water Users' Response to Department of Water Resources' Master Objections.

the SVWU regarding the joint submittal. Even if DWR's footnote amounts to an evidentiary objection, it should be overruled in its entirety.

CONCLUSION VI.

For the reasons outlined herein, and summarized above, the objections filed by SLDMWA and assertions made by DWR regarding the testimony and exhibits of Messrs. Bourez and Easton should be overruled in their entirety.

SVWU RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS TO WRITTEN TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS

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STATEMENT OF SERVICE

CALIFORNIA WATERFIX PETITION HEARING Department of Water Resources and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Petitioners)

I hereby certify that I have this day submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board and caused a true and correct copy of the following document(s);

SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATER USERS' RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS TO WRITTEN TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS

to be served by Electronic Mail (email) upon the parties listed in Table 1 of the Current Service List for the California WaterFix Petition Hearing, dated October 6, 2016, posted by the State of Water Resources Control Board at

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/california_waterfix/service_list.shtml:

Note: In the event that any emails to any parties on the Current Service List are undeliverable, you must attempt to effectuate service using another method of service, if necessary, and submit another statement of service that describes any changes to the date and method of service for those parties.

For Petitioners Only:					
	I caused a true and correct hard copy of the document(s) to be served by the following method of service to Suzanne Womack & Sheldon Moore, Clifton Court, L.P., 3619 Land Park Drive, Sacramento, CA 95818:				
	Method of Service:				

I certify that the foregoing is true and correct and that this document was executed on October 19, 2016.

Signature: An ame Am

Name: Catharine Irvine

Title: Legal Secretary

Party/Affiliation: Downey Brand, LLP

Address: 621 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814