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10 Attorneys for BUTTE WATER DISTRICT

11 **BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

12 In the matter of Hearing re California Water)
13 Fix Petition for Change,) **TESTIMONY OF MARK ORME ON**
14) **BEHALF OF BUTTE WATER DISTRICT**
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29 This testimony is being offered on behalf of the Butte Water District (BWD).

30 **I. BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS**

31 My name is Mark Orme and I am the General Manager of BWD. BWD is a water district
32 formed and operating pursuant to Division 13 of California Water Code (Wat. Code § 34000, et.
33 seq.). I have served in this capacity for 21 years and I have been an employee of the District for
34 30 years. As a long-time employee and current general manager for BWD, I am aware of
35 BWD's water use, water rights, contract administration, and general operations.

36 **II. PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION**

37 The purpose of my testimony is to identify the water rights held and claimed by BWD.

38 **III. BACKGROUND**

39 BWD was formed in 1956 and is a multi-county special district covering approximately
40 31, 000 acres and serving portions of Butte and Sutter Counties.

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1 **IV. WATER RIGHTS OF THE BUTTE WATER DISTRICT**


2 BWD's primary water rights are pre-1914 appropriative and are owned jointly with
3 Richvale Irrigation District (RID), Biggs-West Gridley Water District (BWGWD), and Sutter
4 Extension Water District (SEWD) (collectively the Joint Water Districts). The Joint Water
5 Districts' pre-1914 water rights were acquired, together with canals and other water distribution
6 facilities, from the Sutter Butte Canal Company. In 1969, BWD and the other Joint Water
7 Districts entered into an "Agreement on Diversion of Water from the Feather River" with the
8 State of California acting by and through the Department of Water Resources (1969 Agreement).
9 The 1969 Agreement memorialized the Joint Water Districts' collective rights to divert water in
10 the quantities, and at the locations and times set forth therein. A true and correct copy of the
11 1969 Agreement is attached to the testimony of Donnie Stinnett, manager of the Joint Water
12 Districts Board, as Exhibit MLF 41. In 1970, the Joint Districts entered into a "Joint Operating
13 Agreement" for the purpose of internally designating each district's respective rights and
14 obligations concerning the undivided interests each district had acquired in the water rights and
15 facilities of the Sutter Butte Canal Company ("Operating Agreement"). A true and correct copy
16 of the Operating Agreement is attached to Mr. Stinnett's testimony as Exhibit MLF 40.

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18 **V. INJURY TO BWD**

19 Please refer to the expert testimony of MBK Engineers, specifically Marc Van Camp, Walter
20 Bourez, Dan Easton, and Lee Bergfeld for the injury suffered by BWD resulting from the
21 proposed California Water Fix project.

22 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
23 foregoing is true and correct.

24 Executed on this 30 day of August 2016, at Gridley, California.

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26 
27 MARK ORME
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