

1 THOMAS H. KEELING (SBN 114979)  
FREEMAN FIRM  
2 1818 Grand Canal Boulevard, Suite 4  
Stockton, CA 95207  
3 Telephone: (209) 474-1818  
4 Facsimile: (209) 474-1245  
Email: [tkeeling@freemanfirm.com](mailto:tkeeling@freemanfirm.com)

5 J. MARK MYLES (SBN 200823)  
6 Office of the County Counsel  
County of San Joaquin  
7 44 N. San Joaquin Street, Suite 679  
8 Stockton, CA 95202-2931  
Telephone: (209) 468-2980  
9 Facsimile: (209) 468-0315  
Email: [jmyles@sigov.org](mailto:jmyles@sigov.org)

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11 Attorneys for Protestants County of San Joaquin,  
San Joaquin County Flood Control and  
12 Water Conservation District, and Mokelumne River Water  
and Power Authority

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14 [ADDITIONAL COUNSEL LISTED ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

15 **BEFORE THE**  
16 **CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

17 HEARING IN THE MATTER OF 18 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND UNITED STATES 19 BUREAU OF RECLAMATION 20 REQUEST FOR A CHANGE IN POINT OF DIVERSION FOR CALIFORNIA WATER 21 FIX	<b>WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF Brandon  Nakagawa</b>  <b>(Part 2 Rebuttal)</b>
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1 OSHA R. MESERVE (SBN 204240)  
2 SOLURI MESERVE, A LAW CORPORATION  
3 510 8th Street  
4 Sacramento, CA 95814  
5 Telephone: (916) 455-7300  
6 Facsimile: (916) 244-7300  
7 Email: osha@semlawyers.com

8 Attorneys for Local Agencies of the North Delta, Friends of Stone Lakes National Wildlife  
9 Refuge, Bogle Vineyards, Diablo Vineyards and Brad Lange, Elliot-Stillwater Orchards, and  
10 Delta Watershed Landowner Coalition  
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1 I am the Water Resources Coordinator for San Joaquin County. I received a  
2 Bachelor's of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of the Pacific (UOP) in  
3 2002, with a minor in chemistry. I am a Registered Civil Engineer in the State of California:  
4 License # C 67010. I have been employed by the San Joaquin County Department of Public  
5 Works since January, 2001. My qualifications are further described in SJC-70 and SJC-71,  
6 previously submitted in this hearing.

7  
8 A large part of my job now is focused on compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater  
9 Management Act (SGMA), which was passed by the State Legislature and signed by the  
10 Governor in 2014. As the Water Resources Coordinator for the County of San Joaquin, I am  
11 concerned about the effects of the WaterFix Twin Tunnels on well owners' ability to access  
12 groundwater along the Tunnel alignment, as well as the Delta Tunnels' effects on  
13 groundwater resources more generally.

14 In my Part 1 testimony, I discussed how Petitioners had failed to identify the legal users  
15 and uses of groundwater within the vicinity of what was then the proposed Tunnels alignment.  
16 (SJC-70, 4:24.) I explained how this deficiency prevented Petitioners from determining  
17 whether there would be injury from the proposed project to such users and uses of  
18 groundwater. (SJC-70, p. 4:27.) I suggested methods Petitioners could have used to locate  
19 this information. (SJC-70, p. 5:1.) I concluded by noting that without such information,  
20 Petitioners could not determine the impact of the proposed project on legal users and uses of  
21 groundwater. (SJC-70, p. 7:9.) In order to show the feasibility of finding the relevant  
22 information, my office independently collected data regarding groundwater wells in the vicinity  
23 of the project from the Department of Water Resources, analyzed that data, and prepared  
24 figures showing where wells were located in relation to the project. (See SJC-70, pp. 5-7,  
25 SJC-72 [well spreadsheet], SJC-73, SJC-74 and SJC-75 [well maps].)

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27 This Part 2 testimony highlights how the issues I discussed in Part 1 related to legal  
28 users and uses of water remain, particularly in light of the new information presented in the

1 Administrative Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Statement (ADSEIR/S).  
2 (SWRCB-113.) The ADSEIR/S contains no additional identification of existing wells in  
3 proximity to the Tunnels alignment, nor any analysis of the impacts to well owners. This Part  
4 2 Testimony comports with the July 2, 2018 Ruling, which states that “parties may contradict  
5 the data, analysis or conclusions in the administrative draft EIR/S Supplement by presenting  
6 their own evidence.” (P. 2.) I also note that the Tunnels alignment described in the ADEIR/S  
7 differs in character from the project described in the Petition submitted to this Board in 2015.  
8 (SWRCB-1, SWRCB-2.) Therefore, it does not appear that the public has received an  
9 adequate analysis of the potential impacts to well owners due to the currently petitioned  
10 project and that the changes may adversely affect water users and members of the public  
11 other than those affected by the project described in the Petition and the ADEIR/S.  
12

13 The ADSEIR/S claims that the proposed project’s refinements to the footprint of the  
14 water conveyance facilities will cause the tunnels to “avoid crossing under the community and  
15 to avoid affecting municipal water wells.” (SWRCB-113, p. 3-7:24; see also SJC-328 [CWF  
16 March 2018 Design Refinements, stating the realignment “[r]educes potential impacts to the  
17 town of Hood”.) Yet the ADSEIR/S fails to provide any information supporting this  
18 determination, or to address whether the newly proposed tunnel alignments and the project  
19 changes would result in injury to different legal uses and users of water. (See SJC-331.)  
20 Moreover, no analysis has been presented of the hydrogeologic effects caused by the  
21 Tunnels on wells in the area surrounding the newly aligned proposed tunnels and associated  
22 facilities. (See SJC-331.) The ADSEIR’s failure to provide this information and analysis,  
23 combined with the compressed timeframe for Protestants to respond to this new information  
24 in Rebuttal, effectively forecloses any possibility of performing even the most basic threshold  
25 analyses of effects on groundwater resources in the project area caused by the project  
26 changes.  
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1           The ADSEIR/S provides no information to support a determination that the proposed  
2 tunnels alignment would not result in injury to legal users of water, or that there would not be  
3 unreasonable effects on fish and wildlife, the public interest, and public trust resources. In my  
4 Part 1 Rebuttal testimony, I observed that maps with well locations are crucial for determining  
5 whether any legal users or uses of water would be affected by the tunnels alignment. (SJC-  
6 70, p. 7:9.) The ADSEIR/S does not include any analysis of the currently proposed project's  
7 impacts on groundwater, nor does it include any maps or figures addressing groundwater  
8 resources. (See e.g., SWRCB-113, p. 7-1 and Mapbook; SJC-330.)  
9

10           I would again like to highlight the necessity of incorporating maps showing the  
11 locations of wells into groundwater impact analyses. In order to determine whether legal  
12 users and uses of water could be affected by the tunnel's alignment, Petitioners would need  
13 to know who the legal users are, and where they are located. Petitioners failed to make this  
14 determination in Part 1 (see, e.g., Hearing Transcript, August 5, 2016, pp. 90-91), and it does  
15 not appear Petitioners have done anything to address this oversight in Part2.

16           I attempted to decipher Petitioners' reasoning for concluding that the project changes  
17 described in the ADSEIR/S would have beneficial effects (SWRCB-113, p. 3-7), or no effects,  
18 on groundwater resources (SWRCB-113, p. 7-1), but without any analysis or maps based on  
19 actual conditions, I was left to speculate. This is highly problematic and, in my view,  
20 unacceptable, because the new Tunnels alignment may be in close proximity to wells other  
21 than those affected prior to the new alignment (see SWRCB-113, Figure 3-1), and the  
22 Tunnels would be at a depth similar to that of the wells. (See LAND-35, p. 3:22 [Tootle noting  
23 that wells and the tunnels are at similar depths]; see also LAND-58, LAND-59.) If, as  
24 intimated in the ADSEIR/S, the changed Tunnels alignment would alleviate impacts to the  
25 wells in Hood (SWRCB-113, p. 3-7), that begs the question of what other impacts occur as a  
26 result of changing the footprint.  
27  
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1 Without analysis and maps, there is no way for Petitioners, or me, to analyze these  
2 effects. This surprised me because one would ordinarily (and reasonably) expect to find a  
3 map displaying locations of potentially affected wells in this type of situation, especially given  
4 my prior testimony pointing out the same deficiency, as well as the ready availability of such  
5 data. (See SJC-70, p. 7:9, SJC-72, SJC-73, SJC-74.)  
6

7 Another concern raised by the changes is that the proposed re-alignment puts the  
8 Tunnels closer to the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) than was the case with  
9 the previously approved project alignment. (See SWRCB-113, Figure 3-1, M3-4: Sheets 1  
10 and 2; see also SJC-329 [ADSEIR/S Figures].) Moving the Tunnels closer to the Refuge may  
11 negatively impact Stone Lake since the Tunnels may obstruct groundwater flows in the area.  
12 (LAND-35, p. 2:9 [Tootle explaining how the tunnel may impede the flow of groundwater]; see  
13 also SJC-223 [Lambie explaining how Sacramento River surface water discharges to  
14 groundwater]; SJC-227 [conceptual groundwater model].) As shown in SJC-330 (Refuge Well  
15 Map), South Stone Lake is very close to the proposed new alignment, and the Refuge also  
16 operates a well in that same area for wildlife enhancement purposes. Obstructions from the  
17 Tunnels may lead to reduced water availability for South Stone Lakes and nearby wells.  
18 (LAND-35, p. 3:24 [Tootle describing the Tunnels' potential effects on water supply and  
19 quality].) Similar to the issue with injury to legal users of water, additional analysis would be  
20 necessary to make any determination that water supplies for these important wildlife  
21 resources for would not be affected by moving the Tunnels closer.  
22

23 The ADSEIR/S also includes changes in the footprint of the locations for disposal of  
24 muck from the Tunnels. (SWRCB-113, Figures 3-1 and 3-2; see also SJC-329.) Yet there is  
25 no analysis of how these new muck locations relate to groundwater wells, irrigation systems,  
26 drainage systems or water diversions, nor the safe containment of muck and any associated  
27 dewatering activities which may threaten water quality. (See e.g., LAND-58, LAND-59,  
28 LAND-60, SJC-73, SJC-74, SJC-75.) It is my understanding that all beneficial water uses and

1 users are supposed to be protected if the Petition is granted, yet Petitioners have provided no  
2 information regarding these issues in light of their proposed project changes.

3  
4 I was also unable to find any information in the ADSEIR/S regarding the location of  
5 borrow pits, though the Incidental Take Permit (ITP) states that Petitioners will place  
6 approximately 2 million cubic yards of “borrow fill” at each intake site. (SWRCB-107, p. 17.) In  
7 total, Petitioners will require approximately 21 million cubic yards of “borrow fill.” (SWRCB-  
8 107, p. 44.) Petitioners’ proposed borrow pits raise serious and unanswered concerns about  
9 their effect on groundwater and other Public Trust resources. Petitioners, however, do not  
10 explain where the material will be collected from, nor do they provide maps showing the  
11 location(s). (See SWRCB-113, Figure 3-1; see also SJC-329.) The borrow pits may  
12 adversely impact both legal users of water and wildlife, for instance by disturbing existing  
13 wells or habitat. Without and disclosed locations of the borrow pits, one can only speculate  
14 about the likelihood and scope of those impacts.

15  
16 Furthermore, in my opinion the ADSEIR/S fails to describe certain project components  
17 that appear to be contemplated by the project that would injure legal uses and users or water,  
18 and also affect wildlife, public interest and Public Trust resources. For instance, pertinent  
19 project documents indicate that in order to preserve flood control capacity, bulbouts may need  
20 to be constructed across the river from each of the three intakes. (See LAND-226 [wetland  
21 resources delineation for area across from proposed Intake 5]; see also LAND-121, LAND-65,  
22 DWR-212.) The Draft EIR/S also indicated that the new intake facilities would be designed  
23 and constructed to a minimum 200-year level of performance, without specifying what work  
24 would be required across the river to preserve such capacity. (SWRCB-3, RDEIR/SDEIS,  
25 Appendix E – Supplemental Information for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, pp. E-25 to E-26.)

26 Yet on cross examination, DWR’s sole engineering witness, Mr. Bednarski, denied that  
27 work would be required across the river from the proposed new intakes:  
28

1 MS. MESERVE: .... In order to maintain flood control capacity, given the  
2 extension into the river, is it possible you would need to move the opposite levee  
3 to the west in order to maintain that capacity?

4 WITNESS BEDNARSKI: I don't believe that moving the levee on the west side is  
5 part of the project. In fact, I'm sure it's not.

6 (Hearing Transcript, March 5, 2018, pp. 155-156.) The question remains, as to why the  
7 Petitioners would include areas across the river in their Army Corps application (i.e., on the  
8 west side of the Sacramento River) if those areas were not targeted for any changes. (See  
9 LAND-226, DWR application to USACE, p. 53; see also LAND 121.) On this point, I note,  
10 also, that DWR conducted environmental surveys in June 2018 in the area across from  
11 proposed Intake 2. (See SJC-332 [letter to landowner, Mark Wilson, and map on p. 2  
12 showing environmental surveys on the Mr. Wilson's parcel marked with a "3"].)

13 Mr. Bednarski's response to the bulbout question also ignores information in the  
14 FEIR/S, whereby additional flood risk analysis would be prepared in conjunction with the  
15 section 408 permitting process. (SWRCB-102, Appendix 6A, p. 6A-43 to 6A-44 [later  
16 hydraulic analysis "will analyze changes in velocity, water surface elevation, flowage  
17 distribution, scour, sedimentation, and any up- or downstream effects as a result of  
18 constructing and operating the new water conveyance facilities, including the three new intake  
19 facilities and Head of Old River Barrier"].) Constructing bulbouts or setting back levees would  
20 injure water users across the river, convert agricultural land, and require moving the levee  
21 roads.

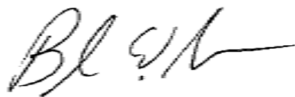
22 There are several agricultural diversions across from the proposed Tunnels intakes  
23 that would be injured by any changes to the west side of the Sacramento River (see LAND-5  
24 [Bogle Diversions], LAND-7 [Stillwater Orchards Diversions]; see also SWRCB-2, Attachment  
25 C [list of water rights in the Delta]), yet there has been no disclosure or analysis of the effect  
26 that bulbouts or other means to accommodate flood flows would have on these or other  
27 diversions. To the extent modifications to the levees on the west side of the river will be  
28 necessary to preserve flood capacity, those modifications should be disclosed in the  
ADSEIR/S or in other project documents so that injury to water users may be assessed as



1 part of this Hearing. (See, e.g., DWR-2 errata, slides 19-23 [identifying local water diversions  
2 under the footprint of the proposed new Delta Tunnels intakes].)

3 Finally, I also note that the Hearing Officers denied LAND et al.'s June 20, 2018,  
4 request for an extension for more time to review the ADSEIR/S, or staggering the timelines for  
5 submittal of testimony to ensure that Petitioners have sufficient time and information to  
6 address the new information in the ADSEIR/S. The very short timeframe from the date of the  
7 availability of the ADSEIR/S to the due date for Rebuttal, given my other responsibilities,  
8 provided insufficient time to fully review and respond to the information in the ADSEIR/S. It is  
9 my understanding, however, that in the context of this Petition for Change in Point of  
10 Diversion the Petitioners, not the Protestants, bear the burden of providing sufficient  
11 information to show that the currently proposed Tunnels and associated facilities and  
12 disturbances will not injure legal users or have unreasonable effects on fish and wildlife, the  
13 public interest and Public Trust resources. Based on the information I reviewed in preparing  
14 this testimony, that burden has not been met.

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16 Dated: July 10, 2018

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19 Brandon Nakagawa  
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