

**Hearing on the Matter of  
California Department of Water Resources and  
United States Bureau of Reclamation  
Request for a Change in Point of Diversion for  
California WaterFix**

**Testimony of Kit H. Custis**

**On Behalf of AquAlliance**

**August 2016**

- *To the extent that implementation of the cumulative projects reduces SWP and CVP Delta exports, there would be a cumulative effect on cross-Delta water transfers evidenced as an increase in the frequency of water transfer demands and an increase in the average annual cross-Delta. (RDEIR/SDEIS Water Supply Chapter 5 on Cumulative Effects of Water Transfers Section 5.2.2.1, pg. 5-45, Impact WS-6)*
- *.... transfer water could potentially be moved at any time of the year that capacity exists in the new BDCP cross-Delta facility and the export pumps, depending on operational and regulatory constraints. If the new north Delta facilities are not restricted to the current July through September transfer export window, crop idling or crop shifting-based transfers may become a more viable source of transfer water for much of the Sacramento Valley. (Chapter 30, 2013 DEIR/EIS, Section 30.3.6 Environmental Impacts Relating to Water Transfers, pg. 30-117)*

- *Groundwater substitution transfers would withdraw more water from the groundwater basin below the participating users than without the transfer, so this option is generally only used in basins that are well-managed and not in a state of significant groundwater overdraft, or in areas where the water supplier determines that the water transfer would not contribute to groundwater overdraft. (Appendix 5C, 2013 DEIR/EIS, the Historical Background of Cross-Delta Water Transfers and Potential Source Regions, Section 5C.10.2, pg. 5C-15)*

- *Therefore, except during drought, the Sacramento Valley groundwater basin is “full,” and groundwater levels recover to pre-irrigation season levels each spring. Historical groundwater level hydrographs suggest that even after extended droughts, groundwater levels in this basin recovered to pre-drought levels within 1 or 2 years following the return of normal rainfall quantities. (Chapter 7, 2013 DEIR/EIS, the Delta Watershed Groundwater Setting, Section 7.1.1.3, pg. 7-13)*
- *Today, groundwater levels are generally in balance valley-wide, with pumping matched by recharge from the various sources annually. Some locales show the early signs of persistent drawdown, including the northern Sacramento County area, areas near Chico, and on the far west side of the Sacramento Valley in Glenn County where water demands are met primarily, and in some locales exclusively, by groundwater. These could be early signs that the limits of sustainable groundwater use have been reached in these areas. (Chapter 7, 2013 DEIR/EIS, the Delta Watershed Groundwater Setting, Section 7.1.1.3, pg. 7-13)*