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Local Agencies of the North Delta  
Bogle Vineyards / Delta Watershed Landowner Coalition  
Diablo Vineyards and Brad Lange / Delta Watershed Landowner Coalition  
Stillwater Orchards / Delta Watershed Landowner Coalition

15  
16 **BEFORE THE**

17 **CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

18 HEARING IN THE MATTER OF  
19 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER  
20 RESOURCES AND UNITED STATES  
21 BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S  
22 REQUEST FOR A CHANGE IN POINT OF  
23 DIVERSION FOR CALIFORNIA WATER FIX

**TESTIMONY OF BRADFORD A. LANGE**

1 I, Bradford Lange, do hereby declare:

2 I am a hands-on co-owner and operator of Diablo Vineyards, which is one of the  
3 companies associated with our family's winegrape growing and wine production operation  
4 known as Lange Twins. Our farm began with 125 acres, five generations ago. Our operation  
5 is 100 percent family run.

6 In all, our family owns about 1,400 acres, and manages 6,500 acres of winegrapes. We  
7 grow grapes in Lodi, the Clements Foothills east of Lodi, and the North Delta, north of Highway  
8 12. In the North Delta, each year we produce approximately 12,000 tons of winegrapes, which  
9 produces over 2 million gallons of wine. Documentation of our riparian and pre-1914 water  
10 rights for our North Delta diversions, as well as other diversions associated with my family's  
11 farming operations, are on file with the SWRCB. (LAND- 54; see also LAND-4 [and LAND-6](#).)

12 Lange Twins farms 1,600 acres of winegrapes within the north Delta, on Ryer Island,  
13 Pearson District, and Merritt Island. Our operation in the north Delta has been underway since  
14 1984. The soils, elevation, good quality water supply, and microclimate (including Delta  
15 breezes) of the North Delta are excellent for winegrape growing. Varietals we grow in the  
16 north Delta include: Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, Pinot Noir, Chenin Blanc, Muscat Canelli,  
17 Viognier, Petite Sirah, Cabernet, Merlot, and Sauvignon Blanc.

18 The winegrapes we grow in the north Delta have unique characteristics that make an  
19 important contribution to the wines that we produce. We market Delta winegrapes and wine to  
20 multiple customers in California, the U.S. and Internationally. We have customers that  
21 specifically request Delta grown grapes, including the Clarksburg appellation, for their wines.

22 It takes a significant investment to grow winegrapes. Our family has invested  
23 significantly in vineyards in the North Delta and plans to farm there generationally, given its  
24 beneficial growing environment and the availability of high quality water. In general, 1,600  
25 acres of vineyards represents \$24,000,000 in today's dollars, not including land costs. In my  
26 opinion, land costs alone are at least \$16,000 per acre. Thus, it takes many years to reap a  
27 return on investment. While we are not thinking of expanding at this time, I note that many  
28 wine producers are expanding operations in the Delta due to the favorable growing conditions.

1 In my decades of experience in growing winegrapes, I have observed that grape vines  
2 do not have a high tolerance for salt. Saltier water negatively affects quality and yield. If there  
3 is widespread vine collapse, that could put us out of business. Our vineyards depend on high  
4 quality Sacramento River water, which is also conveyed through Duck Slough, Steamboat  
5 Slough and Snodgrass Slough, where our diversions are located. If Sacramento River  
6 freshwater flows are significantly reduced, as shown in the modeling assumptions (e.g., DWR-  
7 515; see also DWR-5 Errata slide 25), our water quality would become more saline. Non-  
8 farmers without expertise in agronomy and/or viticulture, may believe that relatively small  
9 increases in average salt content would not interfere with our continued beneficial use of water  
10 under our water rights. (See, e.g., DWR-66, pp. 4-6 (discussing 18-19% increase in EC at  
11 Emmaton in July and August for all scenarios). Although model results for Ryer Island were  
12 not made available to us (see LAND-72 [email from DWR refusing to provide requested  
13 outputs]), it is reasonable to assume that there will also be increases in salinity at Ryer and our  
14 other vineyards if the Tunnels are built and operated.

15 Over time, increased salinity—even incremental increases—is a real concern for our  
16 operation. Today, we have very few situations where localized salinity buildup leads to burnt  
17 leaves and little or no crop in our Delta vineyards. We depend upon rain and good quality  
18 irrigation water to leach the soils of the salts that can accumulate over time.

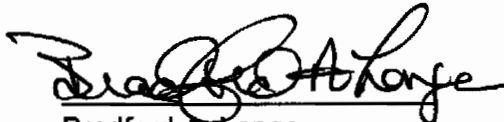
19 We have experienced some issues with salt intrusion on the southern end of Ryer  
20 during recent drought years, which are part of the existing hydrologic cycle. We monitor water  
21 quality, and to date have not seen significant damage to vineyards from salt. The water table  
22 on Ryer is high, about five feet below sea level. We have installed a tile drain system on our  
23 Ryer Island vineyards, and also expanded our drainage system to improve growing conditions  
24 for our vines. Currently, higher flows in the winter help flush out salts that may accumulate  
25 during dry years.

26 In the long term, we believe the amounts of water that would be diverted in the Tunnels  
27 would seriously impair our ability to continue exercising our senior water rights and producing  
28 high quality grapes in the north Delta. In particular, we are concerned that the diversions

1 would impose permanent drought conditions in the northern Delta. This would interfere with  
2 our operations and our water rights. Thus, we respectfully request that the Hearing Officers  
3 protect sustainable Delta agriculture and our water rights, and deny the Petition.

4 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the  
5 foregoing statements are true and correct.

6 Executed on the 31st Day of August, 2016, at Acampo, California.

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9 Bradford A. Lange

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