

Clarksburg Fire Protection District

P.O. Box 513
Clarksburg, CA 95612

August 31, 2016

Testimony Statement

TO: CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

Re: California Water Fix
Hearing in the Matter of California Department of Water Resources and
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
Request for a Change in Point of Diversion for California Water Fix
Testimony of Mark Pruner, Chair, Board of Directors/Commissioners
Clarksburg Fire Protection District

The proposed project, California WaterFix (“**CA WaterFix**” or the “**Project**”), if approved, will negatively and dramatically affect the water rights of the Clarksburg Fire Protection District (the “**District**”) and the manner in which the District meets its mission and delivers emergency services within District boundaries and in accord with its mutual aid agreements. Those mutual aid agreements include agreements with other fire districts within the northern Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The District owns, maintains and operates a groundwater well located in the rural town of Clarksburg, at the District’s fire station at 52906 Clarksburg Avenue (on some maps denominated Clarksburg Road), Clarksburg, California, 95612, and maintains rights to draw, and draws, surface water at various points within the District (including along the Sacramento River) for emergency purposes.

The District is a unit of local government located entirely within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (the “**Delta**”). The District generally covers and serves all of the geographical area beginning just south of the city limits of the City of West Sacramento, west of the Sacramento River, east of the Sacramento Deep Water Ship Channel, and south of the southern boundary of Yolo County. The District lies entirely within the legal boundaries of the Delta.

The mission and purpose of the District is to provide reliable fire suppression and emergency medical response to the people, residents, structures and businesses within the boundaries of the District and assist in holding insurance rates as low as possible. In

order to meet this mission and purpose the District relies upon a number of existing physical and economic facts within the District, including:

1. Reliant for the majority of its funding from agricultural land uses and operations, a system of assessments (including special assessments and a portion of general real property taxes) on real property parcels and structures, the maintenance of agricultural viability and land values, and the determination and payment of fees to meet the financial obligations of the District;
2. A system of roads and travel routes for the delivery of services both within the District and to facilitate and continue the existing deliveries of as needed mutual aid to and from other fire districts through existing agreements and, through strike teams, throughout California;
3. The on-going system of purchase and maintenance of equipment comprised of rolling stock, personal protection, fire suppression, medical aid, and supportive supplies, materials and equipment; and
4. The maintenance of existing levees and flood protection to reduce the risk of floods and the damage cause by inundation by water.

A number of State and federal entities are discussing formulating various devices, strategies, policies, habitat conservation plans, reports and other procedures (together, "**Plans**") which appear to have the potential to significantly and seriously disrupt or even prevent the District from accomplishing its mission and purpose by alteration of the physical and economic facts listed above. The CA WaterFix is one of these Plans currently under consideration.

The construction, maintenance and operation of the northern-most outtake proposed by the CA WaterFix, referred to as Pump Station No. 2, will be located across from the town of Clarksburg. Among other things, CA WaterFix, at proposed Pump Station No. 2, and surrounds, proposes to de-water the site in a manner which will negatively affect surrounding groundwater wells, including the District's well by lowering ground water levels, altering ground water flows and altering ground water quality in both temporary and permanent ways.

The proposed slurry wall (a deep in-ground permanent fixture) proposed to be built as part of the CA WaterFix, as the primary means to accomplish the de-watering of the construction zone, will cause the damage described in the paragraph immediately above. It is general knowledge that water travels underground, that underground water moves around impermeable objects (including artificial objects (e.g., concrete slurry)

installed into the ground, and that once objects are built into the ground, new waterways come into being.

Inasmuch as water is the primary resource expended to fight fires, the well located at the District fire station serves as an alternate source for fire suppression and is used on a regular basis for District maintenance procedures.

The District is of the opinion that CA WaterFix will lower the water table of its well during the term of the construction phase of the project to such a point that the District may need to spend approximately \$5000 or more to retro-fit its well to reach water at the lowered water table. Additional funds (estimated to be \$20,000 or more) may be required to bring water back to current water quality standards because of the CA WaterFix project.

Lack of water, and/or reduction in water quality, for water to which the District has rights, will require the District to spend monies estimated at \$5000 to \$25,000, or more.

In a typical year the District responds to approximately 25 fire suppression calls, 75 medical aid calls, and 68 other "first responder" calls. Depending upon the specifics of the actual construction project which may go forward (and specifically not agreeing that any project of any scope should go forward), the District forecasts a significant and substantial increase in call volume due to construction activities and increased traffic in and through the District. After the completion of all construction activity, and as a result of proposed project operations, the District estimates a nominal increase in call volume due to operational and maintenance activities relating to the Project. The increased call volumes as a result of construction, and also as a result of operations, will both be substantial, serious and significant impacts and effects on and for the District.

The District has determined that if CA WaterFix proceeds as proposed, additional costs and impacts will be caused to the District. It is estimated, based on an analysis of call volume and type over the past 10 years, that with the increased traffic within the District, additional construction related activities, and other matters related to the proposed Project, its construction, and its operations, emergency requests for assistance within the District and under mutual aid agreements with other Districts will increase by approximately 100 calls per year.

In order to meet this demand, it is estimated that the hiring of personnel in the persons of a Fire Chief, Battalion Chief, Captain, one or more Engineers, and Fire Fighters will be required. Additional equipment will need to be purchased, and additional other costs will be incurred. Additional training will be required. In total, it is estimated that the direct financial impact of the project as proposed to the District will

be \$1,675,000 on an annualized basis. This estimate is subject to updates in information and to further and more accurate information which may be received in the future.

The District states that the project proponents should be responsible to cover and pay the District for all of the actual costs of the project, its constructions and its operations.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,
CLARKSBURG FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

By: 
Mark Pruner, Chair
Board of Directors/Commissioners

cc: Secretary of the Board