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8 BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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10 In the matter of 2016 SWRCB Hearing re
11 CalWaterFix Petition for Change

**OPENING STATEMENT, NORTH DELTA
WATER AGENCY**

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1 The North Delta Water Agency will establish that the change in point of diversion
2 requested by Petitioners for the California WaterFix project stands to injure legal users of water
3 throughout the North Delta. The Agency encompasses approximately 302,000 acres situated in
4 the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including numerous reclamation districts, farms and
5 communities. The legal water users within the Agency's boundaries rely on adequate water
6 quality and water levels in the Delta's waterways in order to irrigate thousands of acres of rich
7 farmland. The Agency holds a contract with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) that
8 requires DWR to ensure a water quality in the north Delta similar to that which would occur
9 without the operation of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project. Since its execution,
10 the Agency has paid DWR over \$10 million for the assurance of an adequate water supply and
11 water quality as provided for in the contract. Adding points of diversion at the proposed new
12 intakes will compromise DWR's ability to provide adequate water supply and water quality by
13 removing from the Delta large quantities of the fresh water used to meet the contract
14 requirements.

15 The Agency will present evidence that the increases in salinity resulting from the Project
16 will put crops at risk of salt loading, and degradation of long-term agricultural productivity
17 throughout the north Delta. Unlike the gross averages presented by Petitioners, MBK Engineers
18 will present evidence that salinity levels in the north Delta could increase by as much as 78
19 percent during the irrigation season. Not only will this level of increased salinity harm irrigated
20 crops, it will likely result in increased exceedances of the water quality standards of the Agency's
21 contract with DWR. The Agency will also present evidence that the decreased water levels
22 resulting from the proposed project will reduce the efficiency of siphons utilized throughout the
23 region as an energy-efficient and cost-effective method of diversion. Reductions in water levels
24 that render such siphons inoperable would need to be replaced by electric pumps, requiring
25 additional infrastructure and strain on the state's energy grid.

26 The Agency joins in the evidence submitted by the Sacramento Valley Water Users and
27 their critique of the modeling results presented in support of the proposed project. Although
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1 Petitioners’ modeling appears to present a project with minimal impacts to water users, closer
2 scrutiny reveals the injurious nature and extent of those impacts. In particular, the modeling
3 conducted by Petitioners has little, if any, relationship to how the Central Valley Project and State
4 Water Project would actually be operated if the requested change is granted. The testimony and
5 exhibits presented by Walter Bourez, Dan Easton, Gary Kienlen, Gomathishankar Parvathinathan,
6 and Gilbert Cosio will present a detailed and realistic analysis of the operation of the proposed
7 project that reveals significant injury to legal users of water across North Delta Water Agency and
8 beyond.

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