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DISTRICT and BUTTE WATER DISTRICT
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10 **BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**
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12 In the matter of Hearing re California)
WaterFix Petition for Change,) **WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF DONNIE**
13) **STINNETT ON BEHALF OF RICHVALE**
14) **IRRIGATION DISTRICT, BUTTE**
15) **WATER DISTRICT, SUTTER**
16) **EXTENSION WATER DISTRICT AND**
17) **BIGGS-WEST GRIDLEY WATER**
18) **DISTRICT**

19 This testimony is being offered on behalf of the Richvale Irrigation District (RID), Butte
20 Water District (BWD), Sutter Extension Water District (SEWD) and Biggs-West Gridley Water
21 District (BWGWD), all of which are members of the Joint Water Districts Board (JWDB). RID,
22 BWD, SEWD and BWGWD are collectively referred to as the Joint Water Districts.

23 **I. BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS**

24 My name is Donnie Stinnett and I am the Manager/Water Master of the Joint Water
25 Districts Board. I have served in this capacity for 11 years. As the Manager/Water Master of the
26 JWDB, I am generally aware of each of the Joint Water Districts' water use, water rights, and
27 operations and assist the member districts in the preparation and submission of required reports
28 for the Joint Water Districts' pre-1914 water rights. I am responsible for the day-to-day
operations of the JWDB, including the coordination of water deliveries with the California

1 Department of Water Resources and sharing and delivery of that water to the Joint Water
2 Districts.

3 **II. PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION**

4 The purpose of my testimony is to identify the water rights held and claimed jointly by
5 the Joint Water Districts that are subject to injury by the proposed California WaterFix Project.
6 This testimony is not an exhaustive history or listing of the various water rights that may be held
7 individually by the individual Joint Water Districts.

8 **III. BACKGROUND**

9 The Joint Water Districts are situated on the east side of the Sacramento Basin with all
10 lands lying easterly of the Sacramento River and consists of approximately 120,000 acres in
11 Butte and Sutter Counties. The Joint Water Districts purchased and acquired undivided interests
12 to pre-1914 water rights, a canal system and related water distribution facilities from the Sutter
13 Butte Canal Company.

14 In 1969, the Joint Water Districts entered into an "Agreement on Diversion of Water
15 From the Feather River" with the State of California, acting by and through the Department of
16 Water Resources (1969 Agreement). In 1970, the Joint Water Districts entered into a "Joint
17 Operating Agreement" for the purpose of internally designating each district's respective rights
18 and obligations concerning the undivided interests each district had acquired in the water rights
19 and facilities of the Sutter Butte Canal Company ("Operating Agreement"). A true and correct
20 copy of the Operating Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit MLF 41.

21 **III. WATER RIGHTS OF THE JOINT DISTRICTS**

22 The Joint Water Districts' collective rights to divert water in the quantities and at the
23 locations and times are set forth in the 1969 Agreement. A true and correct copy of the 1969
24 Agreement is attached hereto as Exhibit MLF 42. In response to Order WR 2015-0002-DWR,
25 the Joint Water Districts prepared and submitted certain information concerning the Joint Water
26 Districts' water rights. A true and correct copy of the Joint Water Districts' response to Order
27 WR 2015-0002-DWR is attached as Exhibit MLF-43. Certain rights and entitlements are reported
28 in State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Statement of Diversion and Use. I am

1 responsible as Manager/Water Master of the JWDB for the preparation and submission of the
2 Statements. True and correct copies of the Statements for the period of 2011 through 2015 are
3 attached hereto as Exhibit MLF 44-48.

4 **IV. INJURY TO JOINT DISTRICTS**

5 Please refer to the expert testimony of MBK Engineers, specifically Marc Van Camp,
6 Walter Bourez, Dan Easton and Lee Bergfeld for the injury suffered by the Joint Water Districts
7 resulting from the proposed California WaterFix project.

8 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
9 foregoing is true and correct.

10 Executed this 30 day of August, 2016, in the City of Oroville, County of Butte, State of
11 California.

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13 _____
14 DONNIE STINNETT

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