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6 *Attorneys for Protestant Restore the Delta*

7  
8 **BEFORE THE**  
9 **CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

10  
11 HEARING IN THE MATTER OF  
12 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER  
13 RESOURCES AND UNITED STATES  
14 BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REQUEST  
FOR A CHANGE IN POINT OF DIVERSION  
FOR CALIFORNIA WATERFIX

**DECLARATION OF WES RHEA**

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1 I, WES RHEA, declare as follows:

2 1. I am an adult over the age of eighteen. I have personal knowledge of all the facts  
3 contained in this declaration, except those stated on information and belief. As to those statements  
4 based on information and belief, I believe them to be true. If called to testify, I would and could  
5 completely and truthfully testify as to the statements contained herein.

6 2. I am Chief Executive Officer with Visit Stockton, located at 125 Bridge Place,  
7 Stockton, CA 95202.

8 3. Visit Stockton (the Stockton Convention & Visitors Bureau) is charged with the  
9 promotion and marketing of the City of Stockton as a meetings, events, and travel destination. The  
10 bureau is a 501c6 non-profit organization funded by the collection of an assessment paid by guests to  
11 Stockton lodging establishments.

12 4. Visit Stockton services include the development of an annual tourism marketing plan  
13 and its implementation through advertising, public relations, tour package development,  
14 online/electronic means, and attendance at consumer and trade shows.

15 5. Our mission is to promote Stockton by increasing the awareness and enhancing the  
16 image of our diverse cultural, historical, and recreational assets.

17 6. Currently our lure to Visit Stockton is our outstanding recreational opportunities and  
18 how our community offers many local recreational opportunities such as professional sports teams ,  
19 an Olympic size ice rink, and the Delta, which provides thousands of miles of waterways for water  
20 skiing, sailing and other water activities. This invitation to Visit Stockton is currently on our website.

21 7. Among those recreational opportunities for visitors is to visit the San Joaquin Delta  
22 waterways all the way to the heart of Downtown Stockton. The city of Stockton is embarking on a  
23 new downtown redevelopment. Nobody wants to Visit Stockton surrounded by polluted waterways.

24 8. Along the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel is the new Stockton Marina where  
25 visitors may set anchor for a while at our guest docks or consider a long term berth.

26 9. Such visitors can also step off of their boats and experience Downtown Stockton by  
27 strolling along the Joan Darrah Promenade where there is beautiful public art. They can enjoy  
28 Stockton's many downtown restaurants or get lodging at any of several Downtown Stockton hotels.

1 There are many activities and resources along the Stockton Delta that include dining, attractions and  
2 boating services.

3 10. Stockton is also home to some of the oldest and most successful farmers' markets in  
4 the region, described online at [http://www.downtownstockton.org/  
5 stockton\\_events\\_farmers\\_market.php#fridaymarket](http://www.downtownstockton.org/stockton_events_farmers_market.php#fridaymarket).

6 11. We have a whole week devoted to the vast array of gastronomic influences found  
7 only in Stockton. From the Great Stockton Asparagus Dine Out to the Downtown Stockton Asian  
8 Farmer's Market where you can explore the flavors of Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Korea, China and  
9 India, you'll find culinary treats to suit any taste. Here, taste buds are tempted with a balance of  
10 flavors that range from locally sourced specialties to exotic dishes and fare.

11 12. Visitors can also enjoy the view of the California delta from many of our restaurants  
12 on the water such as Garlic Brothers (<http://www.garlicbrothersonline.com/>), Chitivas  
13 (<https://www.facebook.com/Chitivas-Salsa-Sports-203369736372525/>), Bob's Marina  
14 (<http://www.bobsatthemarina.com/>) and Nena's : <http://www.nenasmexicanrestaurant.com/>).

15 13. Visitors can also enjoy sports in Stockton. The Stockton waterfront events center  
16 defines the city's redevelopment efforts, and includes the 10,000-seat Stockton Arena, plus the  
17 adjacent Stockton Ballpark. We have three professional teams, including the new Thunder Hockey  
18 team and the Oakland A's farm team, the Stockton Ports. Stockton also has beautiful golf courses.

19 14. Visitors can also enjoy a Delta cruise, or take time to watch commercial ships load  
20 merchandise for destinations on the other side of the world. Downtown you can boat to a Stockton  
21 Ports minor league ball game or an event at the arena or even take in a downtown festival. Find all of  
22 your boater needs here.

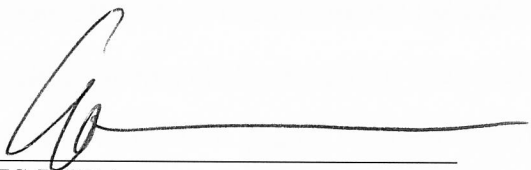
23 15. However with the Tunnels project I am concerned that "outstanding recreational  
24 opportunities" will cease to exist with an over infestation of toxic algae blooms and water hyacinth.

25 16. I am also very concerned that the Delta tunnels would harm a myriad of water users,  
26 fisheries, and species due to degraded water quality. The Delta tunnels will weaken our local  
27 tourism economy which depends on healthy water ways.

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17. It is my opinion that what tunnels proponents call water supply reliability is really giving people in other parts of California the good water quality while destroying water quality for Stockton. Diverting the Sacramento River leaves a greater concentration of the SJ River water in the Delta—that's polluted water loaded with selenium, boron, bromides, and salt. Flows will decrease, water will be warmer, creating toxic algal blooms.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 29 day of August, 2016, at STOCKTON, California.

  
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WES RHEA