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Attorneys for SACRAMENTO REGIONAL  
COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

BEFORE THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

HEARING ON THE MATTER OF  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER  
RESOURCES AND UNITED STATES  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REQUEST  
FOR A CHANGE IN POINT OF DIVERSION  
FOR CALIFORNIA WATER FIX.

**TESTIMONY OF  
CHRISTOPH DOBSON**

This testimony is offered on behalf of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District ("Regional San" or "District") and the Sacramento Area Sewer District (SASD).

**I. INTRODUCTION**

My name is Christoph Dobson. I am the Director of Policy and Planning for Regional San and SASD, and have been so continuously since July of 2013. I have been working with Regional San and SASD for 23 years in a variety of capacities,

1 including seven years as Director of Operations for SASD, before my current position. I  
2 received a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of  
3 California at Davis, and I am a Registered Professional Civil Engineer in the State of  
4 California. I report to the District Engineer and receive direction from the District  
5 Engineer and Board of Directors. As the Director of Policy and Planning, I have overall  
6 responsibility for several District programs, including water recycling, legislative and  
7 regulatory affairs, and scientific research. My testimony addresses Regional San's  
8 efforts over many years to increase water recycling and contribute to the region's water  
9 supply reliability.

## 10 II. REGIONAL SAN'S WATER RECYCLING EFFORTS

### 11 A. Planning and Outreach

12 For well over a decade, Regional San has been actively involved in water  
13 recycling efforts, including working to sustain current water recycling and to plan,  
14 promote, fund, and implement future opportunities, and we are making substantial  
15 progress in water recycling. Exhibit SRCSD-5 provides an overview of Regional San's  
16 Recycled Water Program as it was envisioned in 2004, and is a true and correct copy of  
17 that document. Exhibit SRCSD-6 provides an updated overview prepared in 2014, and  
18 is a true and correct copy of that document.

19 In 2007, Regional San, in collaboration with regional stakeholders, completed the  
20 Water Recycling Opportunities Study (WROS). The WROS identified and analyzed the  
21 most viable recycled water projects that could potentially allow Regional San to meet its  
22 goal of expanding recycled water use in the region. The WROS also helped guide  
23 Regional San's vision for water recycling. Our vision includes a large-scale Water  
24 Recycling Program with the following goals:

- 25 • Increase water recycling throughout the Sacramento region by up to 30 to  
26 40 million gallons per day (mgd) by 2024;

- 1 • Increase utilization of recycled water to expand Regional San's treated
- 2 wastewater management options beyond continued discharge to the Sacramento
- 3 River;
- 4 • Increase recycled water use to reduce demands on existing and future potable
- 5 supplies;
- 6 • Use our water assets in an environmentally responsible manner.

7 Regional San strongly believes that collaboration is the cornerstone to having a  
8 successful Water Recycling Program. Working with key stakeholders has helped shape  
9 the water recycling projects Regional San is pursuing. In 2010, Regional San convened  
10 a variety of stakeholders and formed the Sacramento Water Recycling Coalition. This  
11 Coalition developed a charter and guiding principles to help shape the type of water  
12 recycling projects they would support in the Sacramento region. A letter signed by the  
13 various members of the Coalition outlines their support for one of our largest projects,  
14 the South Sacramento County Agriculture and Habitat Lands Recycled Water (South  
15 County Ag) Program, described herein in section C.3. Exhibit SRCSD-7 is a true and  
16 correct copy of that letter.

17 Regional San also has been engaged with the Coalition to Support Delta Projects.  
18 This Coalition is comprised of various statewide water supply, environmental, and public  
19 interests, such as Metropolitan Water District, Westlands Water District, The Planning  
20 and Conservation League, The Bay Institute, and Restore the Delta, to name just a few.  
21 This Coalition's goal was to establish a ranking criteria and subsequent identification of  
22 near-term Delta projects that should be considered for potential grant funding and that  
23 should receive timely and complete environmental and permit reviews. Regional San's  
24 South County Ag Program was one of the projects listed as a near-term project that  
25 should be supported to move forward, as reflected in the Coalition's October 17, 2012  
26 letter of recommendation to Governor Jerry Brown. Exhibit SRCSD-8 is a true and  
27 correct copy of the document.

1 Regional San continues to build on these partnerships with local, regional, state,  
2 and federal agencies, as well as environmental organizations, the agricultural  
3 community, and customers to support the expansion of its Water Recycling Program.  
4 Examples of other agencies and organizations that Regional San has been working  
5 closely with over the past decade include:

6 **Local and Regional Coordination**

- 7 • City of Sacramento
- 8 • County of Sacramento
- 9 • City of Elk Grove
- 10 • Sacramento County Water Agency
- 11 • Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
- 12 • Regional Water Authority
- 13 • Sacramento Power Authority
- 14 • SMUD
- 15 • Sacramento County Farm Bureau
- 16 • Ducks Unlimited
- 17 • The Nature Conservancy
- 18 • Friends of Swainson's Hawk
- 19 • Sierra Club

20 **State and Federal Agency Coordination**

- 21 • State Department of Water Resources
- 22 • State Water Resources Control Board
- 23 • Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
- 24 • United States Bureau of Reclamation

25 **B. Water Recycling Program and Projects**

26 Sacramento County and the City of Elk Grove's general plans promote the use of  
27 recycled water in the region. The Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) Zone 40  
28 Water Supply Master Plan includes an objective to meet future water demands through a  
conjunctive use program that includes recycled water supplies. Regional San is actively  
engaged in a variety of recycled water programs and projects that further the statewide  
goal for increased water recycling, address the needs of the region, and continue  
progress toward the goal of a large-scale Water Recycling Program.

1 **1. Elk Grove Water Recycling Program**

2 In 2003, Regional San began treating a portion of its wastewater through  
3 additional filtration and disinfection at our on-site water recycling facility (WRF),  
4 producing up to 3.5 mgd of recycled water from its existing discharge flows for irrigation

1 use in parks, landscape medians, and school fields in areas of the City of Elk Grove. A  
2 Master Water Reclamation Permit (Central Valley Water Board Waste Discharge  
3 Requirements Order 97-146) permits up to 10 mgd recycled water production, with  
4 distribution by the SCWA. Exhibit SRCSD-9 is a true and correct copy of this permit. A  
5 2002 Regional San Board Resolution established the wholesale agreement between  
6 Regional San and SCWA for distribution of recycled water. Exhibit SRCSD-10 is a true  
7 and correct copy of that resolution. Regional San monitors recycled water quality, while  
8 SCWA distributes the water to customers and monitors its use. The Elk Grove Water  
9 Recycling Program is an ongoing and successful partnership between Regional San and  
10 SCWA. This partnership helps preserve groundwater supplies, while keeping these open  
11 spaces green, healthy, and usable. Over 3.4 billion gallons of recycled water have been  
12 provided to the City of Elk Grove since 2003.

## 13 **2. Recycled Water Fill Station Program**

14 Regional San has developed a Recycled Water Fill Station Program to expand its  
15 recycled water opportunities and help support the statewide efforts to conserve water  
16 and provide sustainable water supplies to deal with recurring drought conditions.  
17 Connection points at the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP)  
18 allow water tanker trucks, street-sweepers, residential customers, and others to fill up  
19 their water tanks with recycled water. The recycled water fill station has been open  
20 since the summer of 2015. We are evaluating the development of an off-site distribution  
21 system as well.

## 22 **3. Sacramento Power Authority Cogeneration (Cooling Water) Project**

23 Regional San, in partnership with the Sacramento Power Authority (SPA) and the  
24 City of Sacramento, plans to provide recycled water to a cogeneration facility in south  
25 Sacramento. This project would provide approximately 1,000 acre-feet per year of  
26 recycled water for cooling purposes at the cogeneration facility, thereby reducing  
27 consumption of precious drinking water resources. The transmission pipeline would  
28 initially convey recycled water from the SRWTP to the facility, but will be configured to

1 serve other nearby users in the future. Construction has begun on this project and  
2 completion is expected in 2017. The transmission line serving the SPA cogeneration  
3 facility opens the door to additional opportunities in the southern part of the City of  
4 Sacramento. Regional San is working closely with the City to identify potential sites that  
5 could use recycled water, such as school fields, parks, golf courses, and landscaped  
6 street medians.

7 **4. South Sacramento County Agriculture and Habitat Lands Recycled**  
8 **Water Program**

9 The South County Ag Program is a multi-faceted program that would provide  
10 drought-proof irrigation water to agriculture and habitat lands that are currently using  
11 ground and surface water, thus minimizing reliance on these water supplies. This  
12 program is anticipated to provide up to 50,000 acre-feet per year of Title 22 disinfected,  
13 tertiary-treated recycled water for irrigation, in-lieu recharge, and habitat enhancement.  
14 The project will convey recycled water from the SRWTP to potential customers in  
15 southern Sacramento County. Construction is estimated to begin in 2019; recycled  
16 water could be delivered as soon as 2023, when the EchoWater Project is completed,  
17 and infrastructure is in place to deliver the recycled water. Exhibit SRCSD\_11 is a true  
18 and correct copy of the notice of availability for the draft environmental impact report  
19 (EIR) prepared for the project and circulated for public review in July and August 2016,  
20 and provides an overview of the project.

21 Regional San is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for  
22 the project. In addition, a Feasibility Study has been prepared on the project and has  
23 been deemed complete by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation).  
24 Exhibit SRCSD-12 is a true and correct copy of Reclamation's December 16, 2015  
25 memorandum documenting its concurrence that the Feasibility Study is complete and  
26 meets the requirements of federal law and Reclamation's requirements. In support of  
27 the project, on August 3, 2016, Regional San filed with the State Water Resources  
28 Control Board a wastewater change petition under Water Code section 1212. A true and

1 correct copy of Regional San's wastewater change petition is attached as  
2 Exhibit SRCSD-13.

3 The South County Ag Program is a model multi-benefit project that truly integrates  
4 water management by combining in-lieu recharge, groundwater storage, water reuse,  
5 urban-agricultural cooperation, improved agricultural land viability, and water quality and  
6 ecosystem enhancement. Benefits of this project include its potential to raise  
7 groundwater elevations in the Sacramento Central Basin; promote wildlife and riparian  
8 habitat restoration; provide groundwater storage opportunities for regional water supply  
9 sustainability; and reduce the discharge of treated effluent to the Sacramento River.

10 **5. City of Elk Grove Phase II Expanded Irrigation – East Franklin and**  
11 **Laguna Ridge Areas**

12 Regional San also is planning an expansion of recycled water deliveries of up to  
13 2,600 acre-feet per year to additional subdivisions in the East Franklin and Laguna  
14 Ridge areas of Elk Grove. Pending funding availability and required treatment plant  
15 upgrades, this project could be synergistically implemented with the South County Ag  
16 Program to further reduce transmission piping costs.

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

19 Executed on this 29th day of August 2016 in Sacramento, California.

20   
21 Christoph Dobson