



FRIENDS OF THE RIVER

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August 9, 2017

Via Email

Tam Doduc, Hearing Officer
Felicia Marcus, Hearing Officer
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 94596
CWFhearing@waterboards.ca.gov

Re: Objection to Department of Water Resources Request to Issue Notice for Part 2 of Water Fix Water Rights Change Petition Hearing and Joinder in Request of Save the California Delta Alliance

Dear Hearing Officers Doduc and Marcus:

Protestants Friends of the River and Sierra Club California object to the August 3, 2017 request of petitioner Department of Water Resources that you issue notice for Part 2 of this hearing, for the reasons stated in the August 3, 2017 correspondence of Save the California Delta Alliance (SCDA). These protestants join in the SCDA objection and request regarding the process for scheduling Part 2 of this hearing.

The February 11, 2016 Ruling expressly stated that:

As previously planned, Part 2 of the hearing will commence following completion of the CEQA/NEPA and ESA/CESA processes. (2/11/16 Ruling p. 3).

Parties have also objected to moving forward with the hearing prior to completion of the CEQA/NEPA and ESA/CESA consultation processes. We previously explained that it was standard practice for the State Water Board to begin a water right hearing before a final CEQA document has been prepared, and that Part 2 of the hearing (focused on environmental issues) would not commence before these processes were final. (2/11/16 Ruling p. 5).

The CEQA/NEPA process is not final and cannot be final unless and until such time as the Bureau of Reclamation issues a Record of Decision.

Sincerely,

E. Robert Wright, Senior Counsel, Friends of the River