CR
WATER REGOVERATE GOVERNOL BOARD
WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES' RESPONSES TO OBJECTIONS TO EXHIBITS
SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF
PETITIONERS' CASES-IN-CHIEF

DDUCTION
ees ("DWR") hereby responds to remaining pending
ised in motions, objections and oppositions filed by
ntinue Objection to Hearsay Testimony, to Exclude timony, to Rule on Prior Objections, and to Allow
nony filed September 21, 2016;
sing Petitioners' Submission of Surprise Testimony
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Second Revised Notice provided that the deadline for Petitioners' Part 1A case-in-chief was May 31, 2016 with written procedural/evidentiary objections concerning Petitioners' case-in-chief due June 15, 2016. The deadline for written/procedural objections was later extended to July 12, 2016 by ruling dated June 10, 2016. The June 12, 2016 ruling made clear that any motions to disqualify any petitioners' witnesses, or to exclude a witness's testimony, in whole or in part, must be filed and served on petitioners and other parties by July 12, 2016.

The hearing commenced on July 26, 2016 with the presentation of policy statements followed immediately by Petitioners' Part 1A case-in-chief and cross-examination of Petitioners' witnesses. Petitioners closed their case-in-chief on September 27, 2016 and submitted a written exhibit list on September 28, 2016, which was later amended to incorporate exhibits utilized on cross examination in Part 1B.

On December 19, 2016, the Hearing Officers issued a ruling setting a deadline of December 30, 2016 to submit objections to evidence to testimony or exhibits that have been offered into evidence, including exhibits that were introduced during cross examination. The ruling did not extend or modify the July 12, 2016 deadline established in the June 12, 2016 ruling pertaining to Petitioners' case-in-chief. Rather, it only applies to protestants' cases-in-chief and any exhibits of Petitioners or protestants submitted for purposes of cross-examination of protestants' cases-in-chief. The December 19, 2016 ruling also established a deadline of January 6, 2016 for responses to any additional objections to the party's testimony or exhibits that were filed during or after presentation of the party's case-in-chief.

LEGAL STANDARDS

As stated in the October 30, 2015 hearing notice, this is an administrative hearing governed by Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, section 648-648.8, 649.6, and 760; Chapter 4.5 of the Administrative Procedure Act (commencing with 11400 of the Government Code); sections 801 to 805 of the Evidence Code; and section 11513 of the Government Code. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 648, subd. (b).)

In this hearing, the Hearing Officers shall admit any relevant evidence if it is the sort of evidence on which responsible persons are accustomed to rely on in the conduct of serious affairs,

regardless of the existence of any common law or statutory rule which might make improper the admission of the evidence over objection in civil actions. (Govt. Code § 11513 subd. (c).) However, the Hearing Officers have discretion to exclude evidence if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the probability that its admission will necessitate undue consumption of time. (Govt. Code, § 11513 subd. (f).)

RESPONSE TO OBJECTIONS

I. Objections to the Admission of Modeling Files as Exhibit DWR-500 on Grounds of "Surprise" Evidence are Unfounded

Ms. Des Jardins and the LAND et al. parties submitted motions/objections to DWR's submission of modeling files, originally made available on May 16, 2016, as an exhibit on its September 28, 2016 exhibit list, on the grounds that exhibit DWR-500 constitutes improper "surprise" evidence as well as a due process violation of protestants' right to fully examine, cross examine and rebut evidence. (See Ms. Des Jardin's motions filed September 21, 2016 [p. 13:21-22.], September 27, 2016 and September 30, 2016 (p. 3:12-16.), and LAND et al.'s motion filed October 6, 2016.) At the Hearing Officer's request, DWR provided its rationale for including DWR-500 in its letter accompanying the submission of its exhibit list dated September 28, 2016. (See Vol. 19, pp. 111:10-112:7.)

Ms. Des Jardins and LAND et al. argue that they were prejudiced by the submission of the modeling files in DWR's exhibit list on September 28, 2016. These protestants assert that they lacked sufficient time to prepare their cases-in-chief, though other protestants prepared extensive cases-in-chief analyzing the modeling output, which had been publically available since May 16, 2016 (modeling for the BDCP/WaterFix environmental review and the draft BA was available in February 2016 and earlier). A good example would be Mr. Bourez's analysis of the modeling data presented in exhibit SVWU-109 on behalf of the Sacramento Valley Water Users.

These parties also assert that they were not afforded the opportunity to effectively cross

In her motions, Ms. Des Jardins failed to note that the Hearings Officer overruled her oral objection that the modeling package was not originally submitted as an exhibit during the cross examination of the Petitioners' modeling panel by Ms. Taber on behalf of the City of Stockton. (See Vol 25, p. 103:1-10.)

examine Petitioners' witnesses on issues such as authentication of the modeling and related issues, even though Petitioners' witnesses were subject to extensive cross examination regarding the modeling performed in reaching the conclusions in their testimony as well as the conclusions in the BDCP/WaterFix environmental review documents (SWRCB-3 and SWRCB-4), the adequacy of the models used, the appropriate use of such models and, as any participant to the hearing can attest, the peer review and validation of such models. (See Vols. 13, 14, 15 and 16 comprising 4 days of cross examination of DWR's modeling panel, in particular Ms. Des Jardins cross at Vol. 15, pp. 252:2- 266:4 and Vol. 16, pp. 2:19-21:14 and 251:21-284:17, which included questions regarding "who" performed the modeling, "error checking," calibration, validation, Sacramento Valley hydrology, historical simulation and the reservoir module [See Vol. 15, pp. 253:4-254:1 and 258:4-24 for cross topics].)

While both protestants characterize the submission of DWR-500 as a legal strategy to avoid scrutiny, the truth of the matter is that the modeling for the WaterFix, including the modeling in support of the Petition, was information publically available to protestants for many months, and in no way represents "surprise" evidence. The narrow modeling contained in DWR-500 was announced on May 16, 2016 in a letter to the Hearing Officers, which made clear that the Petitioners intended to submit as part of their case-in-chief updated modeling results related to the proposed project and modeling on an adaptive operational range for the Board's consideration. The letter offered to make available, upon request, the model study package used for this modeling to any party. Further, at the Water Board's request, the modeling package in support of the testimony was also submitted to the Board on May 25, 2016 and made available to all parties through the State Water Board's website and ftp site.

All other modeling data, in support of the Draft Biological Assessment, the Final EIR/S or the RDEIR/SDEIS was publically available in February 2016 or earlier. Moreover, DWR has provided detailed explanations concerning the modeling performed. (See e.g., DWR Letters to

³ In fact, the release of the modeling package was in direct response to requests for information by parties, such as Ms. Des Jardins who now opposes its submission into evidence.

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the Hearing Officers dated March 11, 2016 and May 25, 2016 and the explanatory testimony of Armin Munevar, DWR-71, pp. 3-16.) All of the modeling data, including the modeling data made available on May 16, 2016 is not "new" surprise information elicited for the first time on cross examination to the prejudice of protestants. Rather it is thoroughly examined evidence. Parties were not only aware of its purpose and import upon submission of DWR's written case-in-chief, but had access to the modeling data for months prior to the deadline for submission of protestants' cases-in-chief.

As modeling data submitted to the Water Board in support of Petitioners' case-in-chief, which then came up extensively during cross examination of Petitioners' modeling witnesses, the modeling files contained in DWR-500 are informative to the decision making of the Water Board. Indeed, Hearing Officer Doduc even noted at one point during the hearing that she would be opening these files and doing analysis herself. (See Vol. 15, pp. 106:22-25.) For the reasons stated above, the motions to exclude DWR-500 should be denied.

II. Exhibits DWR-505, DWR-514, Table 2, and DWR-71 are Relevant to the Proceeding and Have Adequate Foundation, and Objections are Untimely

Rulings by the Hearing Officers established a deadline of July 12, 2016 for any motions to disqualify any of Petitioners' witnesses, or to exclude a witness's testimony in whole or in part. In her motion filed on September 21, 2016, Ms. Des Jardins requests that the Hearing Officers exclude DWR exhibits DWR-505, a Technical Memorandum Report titled "CalSim II Simulation of Historical SWP/CVP Operations" dated November 2003, DWR-514, Table 2 which is derived from the results of DWR-505, and the testimony of DWR modeling expert Armin Munevar on these exhibits, DWR-71, pp. 9:2-16. DWR-505 and DWR-514, Table 2 were referenced in Mr. Munevar's written direct testimony explaining the development of the CalSim model and its review over the years. (DWR-71, pp. 7:6-9:17.) In his testimony, Mr. Munevar explains that since the 2003 Technical Report, which showed a close fit between simulated and actual historical values, DWR and Reclamation have continued to improve CalSim II. (Id.)

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Ms. Des Jardins asserts that the DWR-505 and Table 2 of DWR-514 have little probative value to the hearing, and should be excluded on those grounds along with Mr. Munevar's testimony. (September 21, 2016 Motion, p. 17:6-18:4.) She claims DWR attorneys successfully objected to her questions during cross examination of the DWR modeling panel that these exhibits were not relevant to the current version of the model. Ms. Jardins' mischaracterizes DWR's general objections during much of her cross examination, on August 26, 2016, which were to her repeated unfocused questions on CalSim II generally that did not focus upon the use of modeling in support of the WaterFix. (See Vol. 16, pp. 2:19-21:14 and 251:21-284:17.) DWR never objected that DWR-505 and Table 2 of DWR-514 were not relevant to this proceeding and the choice to use the CalSim II model for analysis in support of the Petition.

As explained in Mr. Munevar's testimony (DWR-71, pp. 8:22-9:17) and Mr. Reyes on cross examination by Ms. Des Jardins (Vol. 16, pp. 277:12-278:2.), the 2003 Technical Memorandum Report demonstrated that the CalSim model does an accurate job of water allocation and water accounting, and that, since the study in 2003, there have been continued improvements to the model. It is an important part of Mr. Munevar's testimony that the CalSim II model represents the state-of-the art model for comparing WaterFix scenarios. (DWR-71, pp. 7:6-9:17.)

As such, the exhibits referenced in Mr. Munevar's direct testimony, and Mr. Munevar's testimony on these exhibits, is evidence relevant to the proceeding helpful to the trier of fact.⁵

III. Motion to Exclude SWRCB-3, SWRCB-4, DWR-513 and DWR-514 or Limit Use Is Unsupported, Repetitive and Untimely

Rulings by the Hearing Officers established a deadline of July 12, 2016 for any motions to disqualify any of Petitioners' witnesses, or to exclude a witness's testimony in whole or in part.

Ms. Des Jardins argues that exhibits SWRCB-3 and SWRCB-4, the entire RDEIR/SDEIS and

⁴ Ms. Des Jardins provides no citation to the transcripts. In fact, having re-reviewed Ms. Des Jardins' muddled, and in parts confusing, cross examination on August 26, 2016, conducted in two parts to allow her additional time to get better organized, DWR is not entirely certain to which cross examination questions and objections Ms. Des Jardins is referring exactly.

⁵ As publically available models, on the website of the Water Board, DWR-500 is also subject to official notice.

DEIR/EIS for the BDCP/WaterFix, and DWR-513 and DWR-514, respectively DSM2 and CalSim II Modeling results, should be excluded from the record, because, in her opinion, the model results presented in these exhibits "are unsuitable for their proposed use in the hearing." (See October 7, 2016 Motion, p. 1.) The basis of her arguments is that Petitioners failed to provide independent reviews validating the CalSim II model's simulation of hydrologic processes or "current, relevant" information on the calibration of the model's simulation of hydrologic processes. (See October 7, 2016 Motion, p. 10.) Alternatively, she requests that the use of the models should be limited in the hearing to non-quantitative purposes. (See October 7, 2016 Motion, p. 1.)

Ms. Des Jardins ignores, or merely disagrees with, the testimony put forward by Petitioners that CalSim II represents the widely-accepted, start of the art model for comparing WaterFix scenarios (DWR-71, Testimony of Armin Munevar), the information contained in the DEIR/EIS and RDEIR/SDEIS regarding the models utilized, and the extensive testimony on cross examination by Petitioners' modeling panel concerning the use, peer review, calibration and validation of the CalSim II model, and the continual process of the modeling community to improve and update the CalSim II model. Even the modeling expert of protestants Sacramento Valley Water Users, Dan Easton, acknowledged on cross examination that CalSim II was the best available tool (Vol. 21, pp. 5:15-6:9) and Sacramento Valley Water Users' other modeling expert, Walter Bourez, acknowledged that the operation of the model is adequate to mimic actual CVP/SWP operations for planning studies. (Vol. 21, pp. 75:10-19.)

While Ms. Des Jardins may have the opinion that the information put forward by the Petitioners regarding the adequacy of the models chosen is insufficient, which is an issue for the trier of fact, Ms. Des Jardins points to no actual evidence that the CalSim II or DSM2 models are, as alleged, "unsuitable" for the modeling conducted. Moreover, any challenges to Petitioners' use of the CalSim II or DSM2 models go to the weight of the evidence, and not its admissibility

⁶ In fact, much of Ms. Des Jardins' motion appears to be an argument that the Petitioners have failed to submit the information required by Title 23, Section 794, of the California Code of Regulations in support of the Petition. This argument, however, is not an evidentiary objection but rather an early closing brief on the sufficiency of the Petition.

as explained in DWR's extensive response to similar objections submitted by protestants to Petitioners' case-in-chief, including Ms. Des Jardins, to the modeling programs, which response DWR hereby incorporates. (See DWR's July 20, 2016 Master Response to Objections, pp. 14-18.)

For these reasons, Ms. Des Jardins request that exhibits SWRCB-3, SWRCB-4, DWR-513 and DWR 514 be excluded from the record, or that their use by limited, should be denied.

IV. Motion To Disqualify Ms. Sergent And To Strike Her Testimony, Or, Alternatively To Strike Portions Of Her Cross Examination Testimony Lacks Merit

The City of Antioch seeks to wholly disqualify Ms. Sergent as an expert and strike her testimony. Rulings by the Hearing Officers established a deadline of July 12, 2016 for any motions to disqualify any of Petitioners' witnesses, or to exclude a witness's testimony in whole or in part. The City of Antioch did not file objections to Ms. Sergent's testimony or qualifications in advance of the July 12, 2016 deadline. As such, the City's motion to disqualify Ms. Sergent or to exclude her direct written testimony is untimely.

To the extent the Water Board determines that the City of Antioch's motion is not untimely, DWR incorporates herein its extensive response found in its July 20, 2016 Master Response to Objections (pp. 13 and 22) to similar objections to Ms. Sergent's testimony on legal argument grounds. As explained in DWR's Master Response (p. 22), Ms. Sergent's testimony is not legal argument, but rather her description of the legal framework governing the hearing. Such understanding is necessary, proper and relevant to this hearing as it helps Ms. Sergent describe her expert opinion to the Board on matters concerning DWR's water rights and settlement agreements and how the CWF will be operated consistent with its permits and obligations.

As further grounds for the exclusion of Ms. Sergent's testimony, the City of Antioch also complains that Ms. Sergent's testimony provides no new information, opinion or analysis

Ms. Jardins also attempts to argue that the alleged lack of a peer review is significant because it violates the Kelly-Fry standard (p. 5), but seems unaware that the Kelly-Fry standard does not apply in proceedings before the Water Board. (See the Water Board's March 18, 2016 Ruling on Motions filed in the enforcement proceedings against Byron-Bethany Irrigation District and the West Side Irrigation District in which the Board explained the reasons why the Kelly-Frye standard does not fully translate to the administrative context, including proceedings before the Board.)

regarding injury or harm and that she herself provided no independent analysis. City of Antioch mischaracterizes the purpose and scope of Ms. Sergent's testimony, DWR-53. Ms. Sergent provides unique expertise that builds on the testimony of other experts in Part 1A to provide additional information to the State Water Board to support a decision that, within the framework of DWR's water rights, regulations, and contracts, the CWF can be constructed and operated without injuring other legal users of water or initiating a new water right. Ms. Sergent is an expert on SWP water rights and regularly prepares petitions to the Water Board related to changes to DWR's water rights. (DWR-53, pp. 1:17-2:20; DWR-19.) Her testimony provides relevant information regarding the DWR's water right permits for the SWP at issue in the pending Petition and her understanding how the CWF will be operated consistent with those permits and also provides an overview of DWR's water supply and settlement agreements. (DWR-53, pp. 2:21-4:7.) As part of Petitioners' larger case-in-chief, Ms. Sergent's testimony is relevant and helpful to the trier of fact, particularly in light of the City of Antioch's own reliance upon contracts with DWR, which Ms. Sergent has years of experience interpreting.

Alternatively, City of Antioch also seeks to exclude specific testimony made by

Ms. Sergent during cross examination by the City of Antioch on September 23, 2016. First,

Antioch seeks to strike testimony on cross regarding any opinion concerning mitigation to

Antioch under the 1968 Agreement on the grounds that she has insufficient information regarding

Section 10 of the 1968 Agreement and no knowledge of the new 2016 agreement with Contra

Costa Water District. (October 7, 2016 Motion, pp. 3-5.) Contrary to Antioch's allegations (pp.

4-5), Ms. Sergent demonstrated ample knowledge of the 1968 City of Antioch Agreement on

cross examination by the City and did not testify that she was unfamiliar with Section 10 of the

Agreement or that she had no knowledge of the 2016 Agreement with Contra Costa Water

District. (See Vol. 18, pp. 167:25-187:20.) For this reason, Ms. Sergent's testimony on cross

examination regarding the 1968 Agreement should not be excluded.

The City of Antioch also seeks to strike testimony by Ms. Sergent regarding her alleged conversation with Dr. Nader-Tehrani regarding "useable days" of water under Antioch's "water rights" on the grounds that this is "new information" and also regarding Dr. Nader-Tehrani's

analysis of the EC impacts of the new 2016 Agreement with Contra Costa Water District on the grounds that her testimony is a new opinion contradicted by the testimony of Dr. Nader Tehrani and Ms. Pierre. (October 7, 2016 Motion, pp. 3-6.)

Antioch is unclear as to what "conversation" between Ms. Sergent and Dr. Nader-Tehrani it is referencing in regards to Ms. Sergent's testimony on cross examination on this topic. (See Vol. 18, pp. 173:2- 174:24.) Looking past this lack of specificity and addressing the first point, Ms. Sergent clearly testified that her determination regarding Antioch was based on Dr. Nader-Tehrani's modeling regarding number of days when water would be available at Antioch, which was based on the compliance location located at the Contra Costa Canal. (See Vol. 18, pp. 173:2-174:24.) Contrary to assertions, this is not new evidence or information but information clearly discussed in the testimony of Dr. Nader-Tehrani as pointed out by Ms. Sergent on cross. (DWR-66, pp. 8:1-9:2; DWR-513.)

As to the EC impacts of the new 2016 Agreement with Contra Costa Water District, Ms. Sergent testified accurately on cross examination that her direct testimony did indeed state that the modeling analysis in DWR-512 by Dr. Nader-Tehrani represented "two possible worst case scenarios" or "two extreme implementations" of the agreement. (Vol. 18, pp. 177:2-178:4, 184:7-186:3.) This is accurate as to Ms. Sergent's direct testimony and also Dr. Nader-Tehrani's analysis. (See DWR-512; DWR-53, p. 23.) Instead of a problem with Ms. Sergent's testimony, Antioch instead seems to be taking exception to the fact that Dr. Nader-Tehrani did not utilize Boundary 1 in his modeling analysis in DWR-512, an issue that has nothing to do with Ms. Sergent's cross examination testimony.

For these reasons, Antioch's requests to strike specific (non-specified) sections of Ms. Sergent's cross examination testimony should be denied.

V. Objections to Cross Examination Exhibits DWR-558 and DWR-563 on the Grounds of Relevance and Lack of Foundation Lack Merit

City of Sacramento objects to the admission of exhibits DWR-558 and DWR-563 on the grounds that these two exhibits, utilized by DWR on cross examination of the City of

Sacramento's witnesses lack foundation and relevance to the proceeding.

DWR-558 is a copy of a document referenced in Ms. Starr's testimony as recent work conducted by the CV-RWQCB regarding potential drivers of cyanobacteria growth in which water temperature and residence time were cited factors of algal growth. (CITYSAC-8, p. 18, n. 31.) The study was shown to Ms. Starr in order to ask her about the statement in the document that microcystis colonies are rarely seen on the mainstem of the Sacramento. (Vol. 23, pp. 205:10-209:3.) Ms. Starr herself cited the document as a reference, and would presumably be familiar with the work. The document was relevant to counter testimony regarding occurrence of microcystis at the City of Sacramento's intake on the Sacramento River. The exhibit has an adequate foundation and is clearly relevant to the proceeding.

DWR-563 is an excerpt of Section 8 on Water Quality from the RDEIR/SDEIS which quotes the 2008 OCAP BiOp and was used by DWR on the cross examination of Ms. Vandeyar and Ms. Starr concerning the correlation between water temperatures and algae growth, including temperature. (See Vol. 23, pp. 186:7-187:22 and pp. 201:20-202:24.) The excerpt was shown to both witnesses to determine whether they were aware of the BiOp's conclusion that water temperatures in the Delta, including as far upstream as Freeport, were primarily driven by air temperature and not flows on the Sacramento River. The excerpt is relevant in that both witnesses' testimony for City of Sacramento attempted to link reservoir releases/operations to impacts upon water temperatures in the vicinity of the City's intake. (See CITYSAC-8.) The excerpt is clearly labeled as an excerpt from the RDEIR/SDEIS, the full copy of which is SWRCB-4. DWR-563 is supported by an adequate foundation and is clearly relevant to the proceeding in light of the City of Sacramento's testimony.

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CONCLUSION For the above-stated reasons, DWR respectfully requests that the Hearing Officers deny these pending objections to evidence submitted by the DWR. Dated: January 6, 2017 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES James (Tripp) Mizell Office of the Chief Counsel