

1 **S. DEAN RUIZ, ESQ., SBN 213515**  
2 **HARRIS, PERISHO & RUIZ**

**SDWA 111**

3 Brookside Corporate Center  
4 3439 Brookside Rd. Ste. 210  
5 Stockton, CA 95219  
6 Telephone: (209) 957-4254  
7 Facsimile: (209) 957-5338  
8 Email: dean@hprlaw.net

9 **JOHN HERRICK, ESQ., SBN 139125**

10 **Law Office of John Herrick**  
11 4255 Pacific Avenue, Suite 2  
12 Stockton, California 95207  
13 Telephone: (209) 956-0150  
14 Facsimile : (209) 956-0154  
15 Email: jherrlaw@aol.com

16 **Attorneys for Central Delta Water Agency,**  
17 **South Delta Water Agency (Delta Agencies),**  
18 **Lafayette Ranch, Heritage Lands, Inc.,**  
19 **Mark Bacchetti Farms and Rudy Mussi Investments L.P.**

20 **BEFORE THE**

21 **STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

22 HEARING REGARDING PETITION REQUESTING  
23 CHANGES IN WATER RIGHTS OF THE  
24 DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND U.S.  
25 BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOR THE  
26 CALIFORNIA WATERFIX PROJECT

27 TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM  
28 "CHIP" SALMON

29 I, William "Chip" Salmon, do hereby declare:

30 My name is William Salmon. I reside at 7749 West Undine Road, Stockton, California.

31 For the past 25 years I have been the manager of ABF Services, Inc. ("ABF"), Union Island  
32 Farms and I also own and lease other property in the South Delta which I farm separately.

33 As manager of ABF, I farm a piece of property at the east end of Grant Line Canal  
34 as indicated on SDWA 112. It is my understanding this property is riparian to both

35 Grant Line Canal and Middle River. The land is also benefitted by two licenses 4481 and 1286

1 (see Exhibit SDWA 113). The crops on this property have included walnuts, grapes, beans,  
2 alfalfa, tomatoes and other row crops.

3 Since the early 2000's, I have noticed an increasing and substantial damage to the  
4 crops resulting from salinity. This problem has been verified by representatives of the  
5 Ag Extension Service and by a laboratory analysis done by my fertilizer representative at Wilbur  
6 Ellis Fertilizer (Formally John Taylor Fertilizer). Exhibit SDWA 114 is a copy of the tissue  
7 analysis of the walnuts. It indicates acute chloride toxicity.

8 Exhibits SDWA 115 and SDWA 116 are certain water quality sampling data from DWR  
9 for Middle River and Grant Line Canal, the two places from which I diverted water for this  
10 property. The Middle River data for 2002 shows EC levels in the 700 and 800 range for  
11 most of the year, especially in summer. The Grant Line Canal data (measured at Doughty Cut)  
12 shows EC in August was generally above 800 and sometimes 900. For the summer months in  
13 general, the level was most always above 700, though of course there were fluctuations. It is my  
14 understanding that the EC agricultural objectives during the summer months is 700 at Vernalis  
15 and the other three southern Delta compliance locations.

16 I have also attached some pictures as Exhibit SDWA 117 which show some of the salt  
17 damage to the crops. Copies are difficult to view, but they do show the burned margins  
18 of the leaves and arrested growth associated with the salt damage.

19 The data for the damages in 2002 are as follows. The 105 acres of walnuts had a  
20 decrease in yield from 254,580 tons in 1999 to 105,380 in 2002 for the Payne variety and  
21 85,420 tons in 1999 to 33,440 tons for the Westside variety. There was obvious leaf burn  
22 and stunted growth on the walnuts from the salts. Although the orchard would have to  
23 have been removed eventually due to a virus, it still should have had many more years of  
24 production left. However, I had to remove the orchard in 2002 because of the decrease in  
25 yield at a cost of \$450 - \$550 per acre which included tree removal, root removal and  
26 associated labor.

27 The grapes are 47 acres of the Chardonnay variety. The sugar levels necessary to  
28 allow harvest for the contract I have were never reached, the grapes actually began to

1 turn into raisins and the vines to defoliate. Although I did harvest some of them for juice,  
2 basically the entire crop was lost.

3 Beans were planted on 68 acres. The stunted growth of the plants was very  
4 obvious and the crop yield was one-half of other fields using the same seed and cultural  
5 practices. This acreage yielded 10 sacks per acre while the others were 20.

6 Similar impacts from salinity occurred in the years since 2002. Although I have not  
7 calculated other recent or the current year's problems, the Chardonnay grapes are again stressed  
8 and will have a decreased yield and the young walnut trees I have planted which include the  
9 varieties of Tulare and Chandler are suffering from chloride stress.

10 During the end of this 2015 fall harvest, I had no economic choice other than pulling all  
11 existing Walnuts, wine grapes and newly planted Walnuts. The constant battle with water  
12 quality has led to the removal of some 300 acres of prime wine grape varieties along with 500  
13 acres of Chandler and Tulare Walnuts all under the age of 18 years.

14 To address this problem over the years I have applied soil amendments such as  
15 gypsum and have flooded the fields in winter to attempt to flush out the salts. However, the soil  
16 pH in combination with the salty water binds the chlorides and prevents leaching. The walnuts  
17 and grapes acreage are installed with tile drainage, but even that aid to drainage and leaching was  
18 inadequate.

19 In addition to this salinity problem, we regularly experience low water levels which  
20 adversely impact our ability to divert water as needed for agricultural practices. Even when the  
21 temporary rock barriers are installed and operated each year, we regularly experience low water  
22 levels especially in Middle River (near the Undine Bridge). Those low levels in that location do  
23 indeed limit and often prevent any diversions from the channel. I am informed that there is some  
24 sort of water level requirement placed upon the projects. Whether or not such a requirement is  
25 indeed in place or enforced local levels are certainly not maintained at heights that allow  
26 irrigation as necessary.

27 If the water quality in the interior South Delta channels, including the Middle River near  
28 Old River compliance location was maintained at the 700 EC standard (April through August) or

1 bettered, the injuries from salt problems I am experiencing would certainly decrease and result in  
2 a direct economic benefit to ABF and associated parties. Since the State Water Resources  
3 Control Board does not enforce these water quality standards and allows DWR and USBR to  
4 regularly violate them, all local agricultural interests will continue to be harmed.

5         If the WaterFix project results in increase salinity in the channel water in the southern  
6 Delta or further lowers the water levels in the area the ongoing harm to local agriculture will  
7 increase and we will continue to bear the burden of injury caused by the projects.

8         In my opinion the SWRCB should first require DWR and USBR to meet their obligations  
9 to protect water quality and water levels before entertaining any petition to authorize the use of  
10 the twin tunnels.

11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28