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THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION FOR WATER, A NONPROFIT PUBLIC  
BENEFIT CORPORATION

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**BEFORE THE**

**CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

<b>HEARING IN THE MATTER OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND UNITED STATES BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REQUEST FOR A CHANGE IN POINT OF DIVERSION FOR CALIFORNIA WATERFIX</b>	<b>PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF ALLEGRA KYLAN ROSE SCHÜNEMANN ON BEHALF OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COALITION FOR WATER</b>
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TESTIMONY OF ALLEGRA SCHÜNEMANN



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I, Allegra Schüneman, treasurer and co-founder for Generation: Our Climate, do hereby declare:

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The purpose of my prepared direct testimony is to present an argument against the WaterFix.
2. I have reviewed several articles, testimony, and other sources about the impacts these tunnels could have.
3. I am a high school student and active member and co-founder of the testifying body of Generation: Our Climate, a youth climate activism group.
4. I have personally examined the effects that improper water usage can have on the ability of a governing to regulate water usage when influenced by corporations.

## **II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

5. In my testimony, I first summarize my understanding of the dangers of the transfer of water that is a public resource into the privately held corporations that pose a legitimate threat to the accessibility of water in the future and the impacts the tunnels will have.

6. I then proceed to describe how the privatization of water in California has been so detrimental to the very basis of California. WaterFix is just a further extension of private corporations attempt to commandeer the water industry for personal gain.

### **III. PRIVATIZATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER**

7. It is my understanding that the WaterFix are an attempt to further the transfer of California water to the private sector.

8. It is further my understanding that water rights have been slowly flowing away from the public and into privately owned corporations. The allowances afforded to other companies and the permitted usage of the water is a violation of the Public Trust Doctrine. Just this year, Nestlé extracted 27,000,000 gallons of water from the California water supply and paid just \$524 for it. This is a clear example of the cheap price companies are willing to pay, and not only that but they are also afforded the opportunity to not pay what they owe, and not only in monetary reimbursement. This water is supplied to corporations with little regard to the environmental impacts of allowing this reckless use of these important resources. The WaterFix would further enable corporate exploitation of the water resources that California possesses, and it is the duty of this board to hold in the highest regard the best interests of the citizens of this state, considering we are the ones that will be affected by this landmark construction.

9. It is my opinion, based on the foregoing, that the California WaterFix and ecorestore project will in no way aid Californians and only cause damage to the ecosystem of the San

Joaquin and Sacramento River delta, and take power away from the citizens and users of this water and put it into the hands of powerful corporations instead.

### **A. Archaic Water Rights**

10. It is my understanding that the water rights laws currently in effect are in dire need of revision. The way that access to water is handled is harmful and the WaterFix is a further example of just that.

11. It is further my understanding that the system of water rights possession is archaic and detrimental to the health of the ecosystem of California. The way that they are currently managed, water rights from hundreds of years ago are still in effect. This means that water rights obtained by citizens years ago, under different circumstances, are still relevant. This oversight is just a further example of what can happen when leaders ignore the evidence that is in front of them, pointing at what to do, but ignoring it for the sake of corporate profit.

12. It is my opinion, based on the foregoing, that it is the duty of the state to not go through with WaterFix, because it is a symbol of the growing influence corporations have over the individual consumer, and a dangerous one at that.

## VI. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, WaterFix would be a mistake. The pervasive corporate influence in water and the privatization of California water is a trend that must be stopped, immediately. The only way to effectively begin the eradication of this influence is to block WaterFix before it has the chance to harm the ecosystem of the delta and the citizens around it.

I declare that the foregoing is true and correct. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Signed: 

Printed name:

Allegra Schönenmann

Date:

11/30/17

## VII. STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

I am a high school sophomore. I am an avid reader of sci-fi and fantasy. I have played piano for more years than I can count, and have been passionate about the environment for even longer.

The opportunity to co-found this environmental action group *Generation: Our Climate* was too good to pass up. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to do my duty as a young citizen to speak up for my generation and do my best to create a thriving environment for me and my peers to live in many years into the future.