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BEFORE THE

CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

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

TESTIMONY OF DANIEL WILSON

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Attorney for Protestants Islands, Inc.

1 My name is Daniel Wilson. I graduated from University of Californian Davis with a
2 Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. I have been involved with levees, floods and
3 water for 44 years since the 1972 Brannan Andrus flood. I was the contract administrator for
4 the reconstruction of Tyler Island and Dead Horse Island in 1986 and Dead Horse Island in
5 1997. I served eight years on the Delta Protection Commission. I am or have been a trustee
6 on Reclamations Districts 2111, 563, 556 & 3.

7 I am a sixth generation farmer managing several orchards and open land operations. I
8 am responsible for maintaining over 60 water diversions on various farms in the Sacramento
9 Delta. (See Daniel Wilson Protest.) I also manage Riverside Elevators in Isleton, the only
10 major public grain storage facility in the Delta. In addition, our family operates a pear packing
11 facility that was located on Andrus Island at the location of the second original muck pit.

12 On a personal note, my home, orchard and pear packing shed was in the original path
13 of the Twin Tunnels, and was also slated to be covered with twenty feet of muck. That
14 proposal focused my attention on the massive disruption this project would impose on my
15 family in particular, as well as the Delta and the greater San Francisco Bay. The proposed
16 configuration has since been moved east to McCormack-Williamson and Staten Islands.
17 However, the fact that this proposal was made at all illustrates the absolute disregard of the
18 quality of life in the Delta by the proponents of the Tunnels.

19 I manage several water diversions involving turbine pumps; low head centrifugal pumps
20 and high pressure sprinkler pumps, several of which are downstream from the proposed new
21 diversions. This raises two issues—water quality and water levels. According to the
22 information presented by the Petitioners, water levels in the north Delta in the vicinity, and in
23 particular, downstream of the intakes, will be lowered. (DWR-66, pp. 9-10.) Though the
24 testimony states that this will be for a “short period of time,” depending on the timing, this could
25 interfere with our ability to irrigate crops with our diversions. Sufficient information has not
26 been provided in the Petition to assess this injury. Additionally, it is the policy of DWR not to
27 assist farmers with higher pumping costs associated with lowered water levels. Thus, those
28

1 costs (injuries) would be borne by the water users even though we have had no part in
2 creating the adverse condition.

3 Changes to water quality downstream of the proposed intakes are also a serious
4 concern. (See, e.g., DWR-66, pp. 4-6 [discussing 18-19% increase in EC at Emmaton in July
5 and August for all scenarios].) In addition, the DWR is already proposing dams on Sutter and
6 Steamboat Sloughs during low flow years. If that was combined with pulling up to 9,000 cfs
7 out of the Sacramento River, it is clear to me that this will interfere with our ability to continue
8 to irrigate our orchards with high quality water and produce high quality fruit. Sufficient
9 information has not been provided in the Petition to assess this injury. If lands in the north
10 Delta become un-farmable, that will put well in excess of 1,000 people out of work in our
11 operation alone.

12 There has been much discussion about modeling of future scenarios and regulations to
13 that would ensure future diversions do not harm water users in the Delta. The modeling is
14 inadequate and inaccurate by its very nature. The Petitioners have made clear the modeling is
15 for comparative purposes only, and cross-examination has revealed serious problems with
16 even relying on modeling for comparative purposes. With respect to operating criteria that
17 would control operation of the new intakes, that can readily change, and we know the export
18 water interests will use all the power they have to take as much water as possible regardless
19 of the impacts on us.

20 My second issue is much more specific; the most northern intake is proposed to be on
21 top of one of our water diversions (S019377; DWR-2, slide 21) and family orchards.
22 The intake will completely destroy our orchard that has been in my family for four generations.
23 (LAND- 69, p. 91 [DCE CM1 Property Acquisition Management Plan].) My grandfather began
24 farming that orchard in the twenties. The orchard that would be destroyed by Intake Number 2
25 is a wonderful family orchard full of multiple and unique varieties of exotic pears. These
26 heirloom pears are a vital component in our overall varietal marketing plan. Intake 2 would
27 destroy the entire farm, including the water diversion on the Sacramento River that supplies it
28 with high quality Sacramento River water. (See LAND-57 [3 Maps of private Properties

1 Needed for Water Tunnel Intakes #2, 3 and 5].) I can think of no more severe injury than the
2 destruction of the diversion and the entire orchard it irrigates.

3 In summary, my family opposes this plan and respectfully requests that the Petition be
4 denied.



20 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the
21 foregoing statements are true and correct.

22 Executed on the 31st Day of August, 2016, at Walnut Grove, California.

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Daniel Wilson