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7 Attorneys for RICHVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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9 **BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

10 In the matter of Hearing re California
11 WaterFix Petition for Change,

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)
) **WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SEAN**
) **EARLEY ON BEHALF OF RICHVALE**
) **IRRIGATION DISTRICT**
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15 This testimony is being offered on behalf of the Richvale Irrigation District (RID).

16 **I. BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS**

17 My name is Sean Earley and I am the General Manager of RID. I have served in this
18 capacity for four years. RID is an irrigation district formed and operating pursuant to Division
19 11 of California Water Code (Wat. Code § 20500 et. seq.). As general manager for RID, I am
20 aware of RID's water use, water rights, contract administration, and general operations.

21 **II. PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION**

22 The purpose of my testimony is to identify the water rights held by RID.

23 **III. BACKGROUND**

24 RID was formed in July 7th 1930, and is a special district covering approximately 34,000
25 acres and serving portions of Butte County.

26 **IV. WATER RIGHTS OF THE RICHVALE IRRIGATION DISTRICT**

27 RID's primary water rights are pre-1914 and are owned jointly with Butte Water District
28 (BWD), Biggs-West Gridley Water District (BWGWD), and Sutter Extension Water District

1 (SEWD) (collectively the Joint Water Districts). The Joint Water Districts' pre-1914 water
2 rights were acquired, together with canals and other water distribution facilities, from the Sutter
3 Butte Canal Company. In 1969, RID and the other Joint Water Districts entered into an
4 "Agreement on Diversion of Water From the Feather River" with the State of California acting
5 by and through the Department of Water Resources (1969 Agreement). The 1969 Agreement
6 memorialized the Joint Water Districts' collective rights to divert water in the quantities, and at
7 the locations and times set forth therein. A true and correct copy of the 1969 Agreement is
8 attached to the testimony of Donnie Stinnett, manager of the Joint Water Districts Board, as
9 Exhibit MLF 42. In 1970, the Joint Districts entered into a "Joint Operating Agreement" for the
10 purpose of internally designating each district's respective rights and obligations concerning the
11 undivided interests each district had acquired in the water rights and facilities of the Sutter Butte
12 Canal Company ("Operating Agreement"). A true and correct copy of the Operating Agreement
13 is attached to Mr. Stinnett's testimony as Exhibit MLF 41.

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15 **V. INJURY TO RID**

16 Please refer to the expert testimony of MBK Engineers, specifically Marc Van Camp,
17 Walter Bourez, Dan Easton, and Lee Bergfeld for the injury suffered by RID. I declare under
18 penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

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20 Executed on this 30th day of August 2016, at Richvale, California.

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24 SEAN EARLEY
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