

## Opening Statement of the Sacramento County Water Agency

September 1, 2016

The Sacramento County Water Agency (Water Agency) is a statutorily created, dependent special district charged with making water available for the beneficial use of the lands and inhabitants within Sacramento County. The Water Agency currently serves over 50,000 households, and is the primary water supplier for the major growth areas of unincorporated Sacramento County and the Cities of Rancho Cordova and Elk Grove. For decades, the Water Agency has been a regional leader in groundwater management and conjunctive use, and is signatory to the landmark Water Forum Agreement -- a comprehensive, regional sustainability partnership representing diverse interests in Sacramento, El Dorado, and Placer counties.

As such, the Water Agency has participated for decades in sometimes difficult and always complicated water supply issues, discussions, and negotiations. The Water Agency is here to ensure Sacramento County residents, and the Water Agency's customers, have access to safe and reliable water supplies by being fairly represented, clearly heard, and not injured by the current, myopic proposal. The Petitioners have not presented the information necessary to support this Board concluding that the proposed changes do not injure other legal users of water. The Water Agency will now present how the Petitioners' requested change petition and resulting project and its operations would, in fact, injure the availability and use of Water Agency water supplies.

By and through its partnerships, the Water Agency will present evidence that the Petitioners' modeling is flawed and does not accurately represent the State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) as they would be realistically operated. Under more realistic operations scenarios, impacts of the proposed Water Fix project -- as compared to the No Action Alternative-- would reduce Water Agency's CVP deliveries, increase the frequency of Term 91 curtailments affecting availability Water Agency's appropriative supply, and reduce carryover storage in Folsom Reservoir decreasing the likelihood that Water Agency's CVP contract totals can be delivered. The Water Agency will also present evidence that increased frequency and duration of reverse flow events requiring shutdown of the Freeport Regional Water Project intake constrain the Water Agency's diversions of both surface and remediated groundwater, potentially disrupting the Water Agency's groundwater pumping plan and its conjunctive use program. Finally, the Water Agency will demonstrate that the Petitioners have not adequately evaluated the proposed project's potential to detrimentally impact long-term groundwater recharge to the subbasin underlying the central part of Sacramento County and the Water Agency's service area.

The Water Agency urges this Board's careful attention to the Protestants' evidence, and its demonstration that the Petitioners have failed to adequately prove that their proposed project and requested change does not harm other water rights holders, including the Water Agency.