

1
2 Nicole S Suard, Esq
3 Managing Member, Snug Harbor Resorts, LLC
4 3356 Snug Harbor Drive
5 Walnut Grove, CA 95690
6 (916)775-1455
7 <http://snugharbor.net>
8

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

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 WATER FIX
REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF PROTESTANT NICOLE S. SUARD, ESQ.

11
12 SUMMARY OF PETITION: The Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of
13 Reclamation (USBR) have filed with the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) a petition
14 to change their water rights (change petition) for the California WaterFix Project (WaterFix Project), part
15 of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The WaterFix Project proposes to construct and operate
16 new water diversion facilities between the North Delta towns of Clarksburg and Walnut Grove
17 (document listed preferred alternative) to convey water from the Sacramento River through two tunnels
18 to the existing State and Federal pumping facilities in the South Delta from the Clifton Court Forebay
19 near the city of Tracy. In addition to other federal, State and local approvals, the WaterFix Project
20 requires changes to the water right permits for the State Water Project and Federal Central Valley
21 Project to authorize the proposed new points of water diversion and or re-diversion.

22 As outlined by the Water Board, the State Water Board’s order following the WaterFix proceeding
23 must be based upon evidence in the record developed at the hearing. Water Board directed that Parties
24 to the hearing should submit exhibits and testimony responsive to the issues that are to be considered
25 during the hearing. As outlined below.
26

27 **Part I – Effects of the Petition on Municipal, Industrial and Agricultural Uses of Water,
28 Including Associated Legal Users of Water**

- 29 1. Will the changes proposed in the Petition in effect initiate a new water right?
30 2. Will the proposed changes cause injury to any municipal, industrial or agricultural uses of
31 water, including associated legal users of water?
32 a. Will the proposed changes in points of diversion alter water flows in a manner that causes
33 injury to municipal, industrial, or agricultural uses of water?
34 b. Will the proposed changes in points of diversion alter water quality in a manner that causes
35 injury to municipal, industrial, or agricultural uses of water?
36 c. If so, what specific conditions, if any, should the State Water Board include in any approval
37 of the Petition to avoid injury to these uses?

38 For over a year, there have been hearings, submissions of testimony, rebuttals, and huge
39 volumes of evidence uploaded by both Petitioners and all Protestors. Petitioners have the
40 burden of proof, supposedly, and at this point in time most independently thinking persons
41 would answer “YES” to questions 1 and 2 above, with history showing that no matter what is

1 written, conditions of approval would not be met by operators without the need to litigate in
2 court. Per state code, Water Board should adhere to the policy of maintaining high quality of
3 waters of California, the Delta included¹.

4 Petitioners have also failed to disclose basic flow data based upon California codes².
5 Despite the huge volume of data, to date it still is not clearly disclosed by Petitioners DWR and
6 USBR exactly how much flow is actually diverted from the Sacramento River watershed into
7 the San Joaquin River watershed for eventual export delivery to users south of the Delta
8 region. The required "Delta Water Balance" table also referred to as the ae report online, is
9 an attachment to the California Water Plan Update 2013³, and the data was first published in
10 2012. We are told there will be a 2018⁴ water plan update, but the actual "Delta Water
11 Balance" has not been published as of this date, so DWR and USBR still have not disclosed to
12 the public actual Delta export and outflow verified numbers since 2005. ~~The Water Board
13 hearing members, all appointed by the governor who is one of the primary proponents or
14 supporters of the WaterFix project, are expected to filter through the data to come to a
15 determination of whether or not to grant the petition. Since the decision is supposed to be
16 based upon all data provided at the hearing, one would assume Water Board would accept all
17 verifiable data related to water diversions from the Delta which were or are currently published
18 by Petitioner DWR. However, Water Board has chosen to reject into the record evidence of
19 incorrect published flow data withheld by DWR⁵, evidence of creative water accounting by
20 DWR⁶, and has ignored the submitted evidence that DWR and USBR have operated the water
21 diversion projects in Northern California in such a way as to fail to comply with water quality
22 standards for humans and native fish species as well. Since DWR/USBR have failed to
23 protect drinking water quality in the Delta region even without the proposed WaterFix project, it
24 does not seem to make sense to even consider additional diversions from the Sacramento
25 River and in fact diversions and transfers from the Sacramento River watershed should be
26 substantially reduced until such time as the drinking water aquifer quality returns to current
27 Water Board standards.~~

28 As a rebuttal to the claim by DWR/USBR that the proposed project will not harm legal users
29 of water in the Delta region or Sacramento River watershed region (other than the few drinking
30 water wells and irrigation intakes noted in the WaterFix documents and maps) I wish to again
31 point out that neither DWR/USBR provided any testimony showing that the hundreds of
32 drinking water wells in the Delta region⁷ had been analyzed for impacts to water quality.
33 Therefore, if the Petitioners and their computer modeling staff did not recognize the location of,
34 nor analyze the impacts to drinking water wells during construction phase or long term

¹ <http://www.snugharbor.net/images-2016/labeled/SHR-29.pdf>

² Water Code section 10004.6 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/wrlaws.pdf

³ <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterplan/cwpu2013/final/> and
<http://www.water.ca.gov/waterplan/technical/cwpu2013/index.cfm#WaterBalance> (note original data was moved
by DWR so data is preserved at <http://www.snugharbor.net/waterfixexhibits2016.html>)

⁴ <http://www.water.ca.gov/waterplan/cwp/update2018/index.cfm>

⁵ ~~<http://www.snugharbor.net/images-2016/labeled/shr-7large.pdf>~~

⁶ ~~<http://www.snugharbor.net/images-2016/labeled/SHR-7largeposter.pdf>~~

⁷ <http://www.snugharbor.net/images-2016/labeled/SHR-17.pdf>

1 operation, there is nothing in the record to validate DWR/USBR claim of no injury. I also wish
2 to point out that Water Board itself has been monitoring and reporting online drinking water
3 quality issues statewide, and the maps and locations of the drinking water wells and irrigation
4 intakes have been well documented by Water Board staff. DWR/USBR had the opportunity to
5 access that data and do analysis of the short term and long term impacts to surface and
6 drinking water quality in the Delta and Sacramento River Watershed and San Francisco Bay
7 area, yet choose to ignore this very important issue. While there was some testimony by DWR
8 witnesses that there would be a process or system set up to “mitigate” for impacts to drinking
9 water wells, the testimony of a long time Delta farmer who provided over fifty (50) years of
10 damages incurred by DWR/USBR operations at Clifton Court Forebay area showed that
11 DWR/USBR have had no intention to mitigate in the past, so why would any rational person
12 assume DWR/USBR representatives would compensate for damages in the future? (See
13 Womack testimony).

14 ~~I applaud the fact Water Board has developed a program to protect the right to fresh~~
15 ~~drinking water for all Californians⁸, and I find it to be quite a conflict that the same Water Board~~
16 ~~hearing persons that are being asked to approve a project that would destroy the Delta’s~~
17 ~~drinking water aquifer over time are also being asked to protect drinking water for all~~
18 ~~Californians. It is my hope that persons from the new project are monitoring and commenting~~
19 ~~on the ongoing WaterFix hearing new data as it is being received.~~

20 ~~As part of the testimony on behalf of SHR, I pointed out that water flow management on~~
21 ~~Steamboat Slough over the last several years has degraded the drinking water quality in the~~
22 ~~North Delta, based on water well records. I have gathered additional records and it is clear~~
23 ~~there is a pattern that has emerged since early 2000, when DWR/USBR started revising flows~~
24 ~~into and through the Delta under the CALFED ROD, and under restoration projects associated~~
25 ~~with BDCP. The pattern shows that as DWR/USBR increased exports to other areas of the~~
26 ~~state, surface water quality in the Delta degraded and then the drinking water aquifer also~~
27 ~~began to degrade. Concentrations of mercury and arsenic increased as diversions increased,~~
28 ~~and this affected the quality of most of the drinking water wells in the Delta, causing increase~~
29 ~~filtration costs.~~

30 ~~As another example of impacts due to flow management, I want to point out new evidence~~
31 ~~which occurred February 2017. DWR main website page says that the job of DWR is~~
32 ~~“Managing and Protecting California’s waters”. As reported in the news, Oroville Dam spillway~~
33 ~~that had not been maintained and was severely damaged when the spillway was used. To~~
34 ~~protect the Dam and the persons living below the dam in the immediate vicinity, water was~~
35 ~~quickly released into the river systems below, regardless of the impacts to the properties down~~
36 ~~river already experiencing high flows. DWR’s method of alleviating the crisis at Oroville was to~~
37 ~~push the excess water onto other land owners, causing flooding, levee breaks and~~
38 ~~infrastructure damage. Specifically, DWR’s management of flows on Steamboat Slough~~
39 ~~caused flooding and damage to the SHR drinking water system, which required a full shut~~
40 ~~down and weeks of waiting to be able to repair once the high water receded. I will be~~

⁸ http://waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/hr2w/index.shtml

1 ~~submitting the bills for repair to DWR as a test of DWR intent to “mitigate” for failure of~~
2 ~~appropriate management of flows in our area of the Delta.~~

3 Finally, I wish to point out that a recent draft biological opinion from the NOAA-West Coast
4 Fisheries review of proposed WaterFix indicates that surface water quality in the Delta from
5 proposed tunnel operations would be so severely degraded that salmon and other fish species
6 that utilize the Delta would become extinct⁹. That is an indication of the impacts to surface
7 water quality for humans, as the standard for humans is higher than for fish usually. ~~Instead of~~
8 ~~allowing any additional diversions to be built by DWR/USBR, it seems it would be a greater~~
9 ~~service to all Californians to require that DWR/USBR first assure the appropriate long term~~
10 ~~maintenance of existing facilities, as well as reduce diversions and exports to a level that~~
11 ~~allows restoration of the Delta drinking water aquifer and native fisheries. In addition,~~
12 ~~diversions or transfers from Northern California watersheds to Southern California uses should~~
13 ~~only be allowed as emergency last resort method, and require all beach cities to develop~~
14 ~~desalination plants and require households to utilize atmospheric water generators, or develop~~
15 ~~other self sustaining methods for drinking water. In addition, transfers of water for irrigation to~~
16 ~~desert lands, including the lower Central Valley, would necessarily be limited to what is actually~~
17 ~~“surplus” waters, if at all, in any given water year.~~

18 Note that screen prints of the resources provided in the footnotes are added to this rebuttal
19 to preserve the reference data as it shows online as of the date of this letter.

20 Respectfully submitted

21 /s/ Nicole S. Suard, Esq.

22 Managing Member, Snug Harbor Resorts LLC

23

⁹ http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/central_valley/WaterFix/WaterFixReviewBiOp.html and
[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/CAWaterFix/Peer%20Review%202B/ca.wat
erfix.phase2b.version2017mar07_final_to_dsp.pdf](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/Central_Valley/CAWaterFix/Peer%20Review%202B/ca.wat
erfix.phase2b.version2017mar07_final_to_dsp.pdf)

www.waterboards.ca.gov

CA.GOV CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

Home About Us Public Notices Board Info Board Decisions Water Issues Publications/Forms Press Room

Welcome to the State Water Resources Control Board |

Office of Governor
Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Visit his Website

Board Chair Felicia Marcus
Visit the Water Board Members Page

California Water Boards
Protecting California's Water

- CalEPA
- State and Regional Water Boards' Map
- Board Priorities
- Laws/Regulations
- Make a Payment
- Plans/Policies
- Programs
- Decisions Pending and Opportunities for Public Participation

- Agriculture
- Bay-Delta / Delta Watermaster
- Clean Beaches & Ocean Standards
- Drinking Water
- Drought Year Info
- Enforcement
- Financial Assistance
- Groundwater
- Operator Certification
- Permit / Licensing
- Petitions
- Septic Systems (OWTS)
- Storage Tanks
- Storm Water
- Strategic Plan
- Water Quality Assessment
- Water Rights
- More...

Emergency Water Conservation Regulations Portal

1
2

water.ca.gov

CA.GOV CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

HOME NEWSROOM & EVENTS ISSUES ABOUT US

Oroville Spillway
UPDATES
View resources and information.

Managing & Protecting California's Water Resources

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is responsible for managing and protecting California's water resources. DWR works with other agencies to benefit the State's people and to protect, restore and enhance the natural and human environments.

3

1

The screenshot shows the website for the California State Water Resources Control Board. The page title is "HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER PORTAL" with the tagline "safe & clean. affordable. accessible." The main content area includes a section titled "HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER (HR2W)" with text explaining that on September 12, 2012, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed Assembly Bill (AB) 685, making California the first state to legislatively recognize the human right to water. It also states that the state now recognizes that "every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes." The page features a navigation menu with links like Home, About Us, Public Notices, Board Info, Board Decisions, Water Issues, Publications/Forms, and Press Room. There are also sections for "GENERAL INFORMATION" with links to Press Release and Frequently Asked Questions, and "DOWNLOAD HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER DATA" with links to Data Disclosure and Exceedance/Compliance Status of Public Water Systems (PWSs).

2

The screenshot shows the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for NOAA HOME, WEATHER, OCEANS, FISHERIES, CHARTING, SATELLITES, CLIMATE, RESEARCH, COASTS, and CAREERS. Below this is the NOAA logo and the text 'NOAA FISHERIES | West Coast Region' with 'NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION' underneath. A search bar is located in the top right corner.

On the left side, there is a vertical menu with the following items: West Coast Region Home, About Us, What We Do, Aquaculture, Fish Passage, Habitat, Protected Species, Fisheries, Hatcheries, Resources, Permits & Authorizations, Publications, Education & Outreach, Maps & Data, Recent Stories, and Newsroom.

The main content area features a large banner with a background image of tall grasses. The text on the banner reads 'DELTA POLICY & RESTORATION'. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'CA WaterFix Aquatic Science Peer Review Phase 2B'. This section includes the following text: 'Final Report of the 2016 Independent Review Panel on the California WaterFix Aquatic Science Review Phase 2B (March 10, 2017)', 'Meeting Notice – January 23-24, 2017 (NOTE: Updated Webcast URL)', 'January 23-24, 2017 Review Meeting Video Recording', 'Review Materials, Supplemental Documents, Background Information, and Presentations', and a link that says 'Click here to return to overview page'.

1
2
3

www.snugarbor.net/images-2016/labeled/SHR-7largeposter.pdf

Where did the unaccounted for fresh water flow from the Delta go from 2006 to 2010?

DWR provided the chart below at the following link accessed January 2014: [HTTP://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/docs/cwpu2013/ae/water_portfolio_inflow_outflow_delta.pdf](http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/docs/cwpu2013/ae/water_portfolio_inflow_outflow_delta.pdf)

Chart is supposed to provide the total numbers of water inflow, exports and outflow from the Delta in thousand acre feet (TAF). However, when one reviews the numbers, it appears starting in 2006 there is unaccounted for flow. Where did that water go? How and who received the unaccounted for flow which would have a value of \$3.5 Billion or more? Newly-built Diamond Lake in Southern California was filling up during the same time as there is unaccounted for flow, so that might be one place to look. How does the reported flow numbers affect computer modeling of the BDCP?

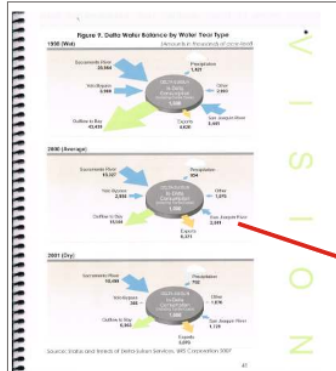
- (1) Do the below unaccounted for flows get reflected in the modeling of the public draft of the BDCP, or not?
- (2) Is this unaccounted for flow the cause of the decline of native salmon species that migrate through the Delta, or not?
- (3) Why is CCWD exports included as both Delta Consumptive Use and also CCWD exports at Rock Slough and Old River? That is double-counting the same export numbers.
- (4) Why don't the drafters of the BDCP acknowledge or address the unaccounted for flows in the public draft of the BDCP, as the below numbers must surely be part of the baseline historical flow data used to determine the leftover flows for the Delta once the conveyance system is fully operational. Or is the revised central conveyance system fully operable and the chart below reflects the diverted North Delta flow by failing to disclose that flow?

So that anyone viewing this comment regarding missing or unaccounted for flows, I created pie charts and compared my numbers to the ones used by the Delta Vision group to portray Delta inflow and outflow. Note the Delta Vision chart numbers are similar to the same years on the chart from DWR above for 1998 to 2005. Then starting in 2006 there seems to be substantial amounts of unaccounted for flow, as the excel spread sheet shows. Pie charts were made of the exact numbers from the DWR chart, and where the numbers did not total out, the category "unaccounted for flows" was used.

http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/docs/cwpu2013/ae/water_portfolio_inflow_outflow_delta.pdf

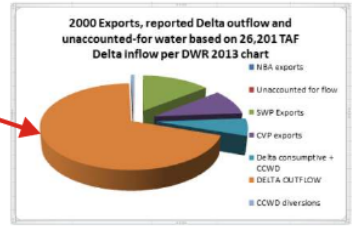
Delta Water Balance Estimates* (TAF)	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Sacramento River Inflow	29015	21770	18360	16017	13104	18304	17279	16747	20019	13030	9557	9867	12777
Yuba Bypass Inflow	8996	1635	2961	366	308	1122	3121	707	13034	248	417	317	659
Eastside Tributaries Inflow	2096	1399	1078	372	462	534	445	1173	9679	1979	0	1231	2461
San Joaquin River Inflow	8456	3668	2846	1725	1396	1365	1373	3777	7343	1586	1334	865	1829
North Bay Aqueduct Exports	39	37	47	45	47	42	52	45	43	61	35	46	43
Central Valley Project Exports at Banks	160	133	126	104	121	138	120	119	116	112	135	107	94
State Water Project Exports at Banks	2134	2439	3092	2635	2960	3458	3251	3625	3527	2954	1527	1636	2496
Jumping Plant or Cotton Court Intake	2474	2262	2487	2332	2595	2685	2722	2679	2628	2679	3018	1884	2341
Central Valley Project Exports at Tracy	1691	1691	1693	1691	1691	1691	1693	1691	1691	1693	1693	1693	1666
Delta Consumptive Use ¹	1823	74	66	784	76	71	71	100	100	427	606	467	708
Delta Outflow ²	43482	22442	18156	16844	9163	14026	14932	15403	43805	49248	1929	4719	2981

¹ Data from DAYFLOW Program; NOTE: includes DAYFLOW corrections through 01-07-2004 (<http://dep.water.ca.gov/dayflow>)
² Content Required by Water Code Section 10004.6



2000 Water Exports based on 26,201 TAF Inflow

Central Valley exports	2,487
State Water Project exports	3,962
North Bay Aqueduct exports	47
CCWD diversions	126
Delta Consumptive Use (incl. CCWD diversions)	1,693
Reported Delta Outflow	18,155
Unaccounted for flow	1



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Inflow into the Delta is measured and calculated from various monitoring stations. Outflow numbers are based on a combination of flow station reports