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9
10 BEFORE THE
11 CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

12 HEARING ON THE MATTER OF
13 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER
RESOURCES AND UNITED STATES
14 BUREAU OF RECLAMATION REQUEST
FOR A CHANGE IN POINT OF DIVERSION
15 FOR CALIFORNIA WATER FIX.

**PART TWO TESTIMONY OF ROBERT
BENEDETTI**

16
17 **I. INTRODUCTION**

18 My name is Robert Benedetti and I submit this testimony on behalf of Sacramento
19 County in Part Two of the California WaterFix (WaterFix) petition for change proceeding
20 pending before the California State Water Resources Control Board. Relevant to this
21 proceeding, I was Co-Director of Delta Narratives, a project to assemble historical
22 records of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and to relate that record to regional and
23 national trends. I hold a doctorate in Political Science from the University of
24 Pennsylvania. I have taught and been an academic administrator at New College
25 (Florida) and the University of the Pacific. Currently, I am a research scholar at the
26 Center for California Studies, CSU Sacramento. I have been chair of both the Florida
27 Endowment for the Humanities and California Humanities as well as served on the board
28

1 of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. My curriculum vitae is Exhibit SACO-3.

2 **II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY**

3 My testimony will demonstrate the historical and cultural significance of the
4 Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. My analysis focuses particularly on the portion of the
5 Delta from Hood to Courtland as this is one area most at risk from the implementation of
6 the WaterFix project. In my opinion, the built environment, the natural environment, the
7 transportation venues, and the historical artifacts of the region provide a unique view of
8 California's evolution from a refuge for native peoples, a testing ground for agricultural
9 innovation, a mecca for recreation, and a tourist destination. The Delta has attracted the
10 attention of artists and writers as well as immigrants from every continent. To preserve
11 its stories, it is necessary to protect the environment out of which they grow. The
12 WaterFix will inalterably change the material and natural environment within the
13 Sacramento River Delta, particularly between Clarksburg and Walnut Grove, and
14 fundamentally compromise its unique cultural and historic resources.

15 **III. DISCUSSION**

16 "If this Delta were almost anywhere but California –it would no doubt have
17 been heralded as a major scenic wonder and perhaps would be protected
as a national park."¹

18 The Sacramento River Delta between Clarksburg and Walnut Grove is the
19 epicenter of the proposed WaterFix construction and operation. The area between Hood
20 and Courtland will be particularly impacted by both construction activity and the effects of
21 the WaterFix's permanent facilities. These portions of the Delta are key to the
22 preservation of the region's historic and cultural heritage and to providing an opportunity
23 for future generations to experience the patterns of life in 19th and 20th century California.

24 **A. Prehistoric Cultural Resources**

25 Plains Miwok tribelets were strung along the Sacramento River on the eastern as
26 well as the western banks from Rio Vista north for as many as 10,000 years. While little
27

28 ¹ Richard Dillon, Delta Country, Forward (1982).

1 of their material culture survives, the habitat which supported their long and generally
2 tranquil existence remains. Their reverence for nature has impressed observers
3 including John Muir and Malcolm Margoles and continues to challenge assumptions
4 about environmental sustainability. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan/WaterFix Final
5 Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (FEIR/EIS) identifies
6 multiple archeological sites in Sacramento County potentially affected by Alternative 4A.²
7 The FEIR/EIS also documents the multiple archeological sites which have yet to be fully
8 explored and which new techniques may make available to us.³

9 Dr. Narciso Duran recorded detailed observations of the lower Sacramento River
10 in 1817, but the Spanish did not choose to settle the area. Even before the Spanish and
11 Mexican governments sold off Delta lands to private entrepreneurs, malaria and
12 smallpox epidemics decimated native populations. Those possessing land grants
13 focused settlements in Sacramento, Stockton, and the Pittsburg/Antioch region, leaving
14 much of the Delta open for future immigrants.

15 **B. Historic-Era Cultural Resources**

16 **1. Accessible Properties**

17 It is well known that the world rushed in to California to find gold following its
18 discovery in 1849. Less appreciated are the choices made by miners who did not strike it
19 rich. An option for many was farming the rich soils of the Delta, which the 49ers had
20 witnessed on the boat ride from San Francisco to Sacramento, the gateway to the
21 northern mines. With funds saved from successful prospecting, Josiah Buckman Greene
22 bought property on the western side of Sacramento River sight unseen in 1850. Greene
23 later expanded his holdings on the eastern side, where the house bearing the Greene
24 name still stands. He and his family were responsible for early levee building and had a

25 _____
26 ² Exhibit SWRCB-102, FEIR/EIS, App. 18 B, p. 18B-1; Table 18B-1 identifies CA-SAC-21, CA-SAC-395,
CA-SAC-056, CA-SAC-057, and CA-SAC-062.

27 ³ Exhibit SWRCB-102, FEIR/EIS, p. 18-133: 39-42; As noted in Appendix 18A at 18A-5: 31-34, the
28 presence of numerous recorded prehistoric resources, and the presence of landforms that are sensitive for
additional unidentified resources, suggests that the action alternatives will disturb both additional
resources that can be identified through inventory, and buried resources that cannot be feasibly identified.

1 talent for the use of technology including the early dredger.

2 Though the Greene family focused on cattle ranching, over time, a branch of the
3 family planted pear trees on the so-called Pierson parcel on the east bank of the
4 Sacramento. There have now been five generations from Joseph Greene raising pears
5 at this location. Jane Wolff points out the importance of pear farming for the culture of
6 this area:

7 Pears engenders rituals. The Pear Fair is held every July in Courland;
8 people eat pear fritters, and the new Pear Queen is crowned. There
9 are pear dynasties. The history of the north Delta can be told through
10 the stories of pear families like the McCormacks, the Wilsons, the
Learys, the Eliots, the Greenes, the Caseys, the Mealers, the Van
Lobensels, the Fongs, and the Gardeners.⁴

11 According to the FEIR/EIS, the Greene home between Hood and Courtland has
12 been overlooking the Sacramento River since 1876.⁵ The FEIR/EIS also indicates the
13 potential for a significant impact on this dwelling with the implementation of WaterFix,
14 including a permanent visual impact.⁶ The impacts to the Greene home are an example
15 of the WaterFix's acknowledged significant and unavoidable impacts on built-
16 environment cultural resources due to direct demolition or changes in the setting that
17 remove the resource or substantially alter the resource character.⁷

18 The Greene home and farm is hardly the only historic building along Delta
19 waterways. An evaluation of historical resources undertaken in 2012 and 2013 as part of
20 the preparations for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan found 680 structures of potential
21 historical value, but only 440 or two thirds could be accessed directly. Fifty-five (55) of
22 the 440 were found to be significant, using rigorous government standards of value.⁸
23 Thus, the Greene home and others along the River Road between Hood and Courtland
24

25 ⁴ Jane Wolff, *Delta Primer: A Field Guide to the California Delta* (2003), p. 140.

26 ⁵ Exhibit SWRCB-102, FEIR/EIS, App. 18B, p. 18B-49:28.

27 ⁶ Exhibit SWRCB-102, FEIR/EIS, App. 18B, p. 18B-69, PTO_016_001. Direct physical impacts to the
Greene property are discussed more fully in the Part 2 testimony of Virginia Hemly Chhabra.

28 ⁷ Exhibit SWRCB-102, FEIR/EIS, p. 18-142:20-24, 30-31.

⁸ Addendum 1 to *The Built Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Project* (ICF: September, 2013), p. 11. (2013 Built Resources Report)

1 are part of a chain of architectural gems documenting the story of agribusiness and
2 settlement in the Delta. Their restoration and maintenance is an important part of
3 maintaining and establishing cultural tourism in the region as testified by the role of
4 historical restoration in the establishment of National Heritage Areas nationally that have
5 benefited from increased tourism like the Erie Canal in upstate New York.

6 **2. Inaccessible Properties**

7 The 2013 Built Resources Report lists 12 sites in Sacramento County which were
8 not accessible and therefore not evaluated for historical or cultural value.⁹ Two were in
9 Hood and one in Courtland.¹⁰ An additional five were on the River Road near these
10 towns.¹¹ Clearly given the significance of other buildings in these areas, the fact that
11 these structures have not been evaluated opens the possibility that residences of historic
12 value are undercounted and have not yet been appropriately evaluated for potential
13 mitigation to address unknown significant impacts associated with historic, inaccessible
14 properties.

15 **3. Adopted Mitigation Inadequate to Protect Resources Because Cannot 16 Retain Historic Character and Setting Once Disturbed**

17 The FEIR/EIS discusses mitigation for three historic structures along the River
18 Road between Freeport and Courtland: the Mosher House (mistakenly listed in Yolo
19 County), The Greene House, and the Rosebud Rancho. The FEIR/EIS recommends
20 that the Mosher House be moved, the Greene House be “stabilized” and possibly moved
21 temporarily, and the Rosebud Rancho be ignored since it has sustained fire damage.
22 Since a substantial part of the value of these residences is their location, relocation
23 would substantially lessen their value and impact on visitors. Temporary relocation and
24 “mothballing” would take portions of the Greene property out of commission for an
25 indeterminate period risking mold and other destructive forces. While the Rosebud
26 Rancho may be damaged, refusing to protect it may jeopardize any future restoration of

27 ⁹ 2013 Built Resources Report, p. 22.

28 ¹⁰ 2013 Built Resources Report, p. 22.

¹¹ 2013 Built Resources Report, p. 22.

1 a property long seen as valuable to the region and often included on tourist agendas.

2 **C. Historic Communities**

3 In addition to native habitats, historic homes, and long established agricultural
4 businesses, the eastern side of the Sacramento River benefited from the founding of
5 several towns, two of which survive to the present day. Both Hood and Courtland have
6 been recognized by the California Legislature as “Legacy Communities”. These towns
7 provide the anchors for any attempt to vitalize the Delta as a center for those attempting
8 to trace the history of the region. Among their stories are the resilience of their citizens in
9 accommodating changing modes of transportation (boats, rail, cars, pleasure craft),
10 changing market conditions for food, shifting dreams for community development, and
11 the vagaries of nature (subsidence, flooding, salinization).

12 The 2012 *Built Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Bay Delta*
13 *Conservation Plan Project* sums up their historical value:

14 The early development of Hood and Courtland was driven by fruit
15 production and other agricultural activity Initially known as
16 Richland, Hood was established in 1860 as a river landing with a
17 warehouse and school house... Courtland was founded in 1867,
18 when a post office was moved there from across Steamboat Slough.
19 Encompassing wharves, a hotel, and stores, Courtland experienced
20 continued growth after 1900. Unlike other Delta landing settlements,
21 Courtland sent its fruits and vegetables to other towns for ...
22 processing. Eschewing industry, Courtland remained a residential
23 settlement and agricultural shipping center with a wharf and a
24 commercial district serving area farmers. Courtland and Richland
25 would remain well known for pear production into the twentieth
26 century.

27 ... In 1909, the Southern Pacific Company named the small shipping
28 enclave for William Hood, a Southern Pacific engineer who planned a
rail spur from the landing to Franklin Junction on the Sacramento
Southern Railroad, As a complement to its rail spur to Hood, the
Southern Pacific erected a wharf on the Sacramento River. The
building continues to stand today...

The Southern Pacific partnered with Madison P. Barnes to develop a
residential community adjacent to the new shipping facilities. A
prominent Sacramento businessman and civic leader, Barnes is
credited with founding the real estate development firm Hood
Improvement Company in 1909.... Early promotional efforts tied the
development—fancifully dubbed “a New Netherlands”—to SP’s
Netherlands Route, a steamboat passenger line between
Sacramento and San Francisco...William Barnes commissioned the

1 1914 construction of a twenty-one-room Netherlands Hotel (no longer
2 extant). Barnes' efforts were poorly timed, however, and Hoods
3 residential growth remained limited for several decades. Around the
4 Southern Pacific wharf, however, several growers' associations and
5 companies established warehouses, packinghouses, and cold
6 storage facilities ...¹²

7 The two towns encapsulate the economic history of the Delta and California in
8 their boom and bust cycles, reliance on global agricultural markets, close ties to
9 transportation conglomerates and experimentation residential development. Importantly,
10 the architectural footprints of each cycle are still visible in their precincts.

11 With the introduction of the outboard motor and improvements in pleasure craft,
12 Courtland also became a mecca for recreational activities on the water. Hal Schell, long
13 considered the informal spokesperson for the Delta's waterways, wrote in 1995:

14 Courtland Docks is a comfortable little marina here with guest
15 docking, fuel, cocktails, a café and some supplies...Cruising this
16 section of the river, you will pass a surprising number of marinas.
17 Although few are imposing each has its own personality and adds to
18 the overall charm of the Delta. Each has its river rats and its live-a-
19 boards and its own local characters.¹³

20 In other words, the Delta evolved from agricultural hub to a resort and escape for
21 dropouts and sports men from the Bay Area and farther afield. Earle Stanley Gardner,
22 the author who invented Perry Mason, chronicled many of these characters in three
23 books on the Delta. And, as journalist and yachtsman, Robert Walters reminds those
24 visiting Courtland,

25 Behind those high levees are streets and old buildings straight out of
26 a rural 1915 movie set. Along the way, there is also some fascinating
27 architecture in the grand farmer estate manner. From your boat,
28 these spots can be located by the fine stand of old trees, plantation
style, reaching about the river banks.¹⁴

Given the significance of these communities to the historic and cultural character
of the Delta, it is surprising that the FEIR/EIS does not discuss how community life will

¹² *The Built Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Project* (ICF:September, 2012), pp. 43-44.

¹³ Hal Schell, *Cruising California's Delta* (1995), p. 35.

¹⁴ Robert E. Walters, *Cruising the California Delta* (1972), p. 24.

1 be sustained during and following the implementation of the WaterFix. Traffic will make
2 daily contacts difficult and damage the transactions of business.¹⁵ Customers and
3 residences will not be able to continue routines; community events, such as the annual
4 Courtland Pear Fair, that contribute to community cohesion and identity, and also attract
5 substantial numbers of visitors, likely will be disrupted.¹⁶ Investments may be put on
6 hold. Some residents may leave, others not arrive. Safety that had been taken for
7 granted may no longer be secure.¹⁷ For these towns to survive as social units, the
8 boomtown milieu that often accompanies a construction site needs to be avoided.

9 **D. Historic Transportation Routes**

10 State Highway 160, which runs the length of the Delta from Sacramento to
11 Antioch has been designated a Scenic Highway because of the beauty and history of the
12 scenes that one passes on a drive along its winding way. It fulfills the purposes and
13 deserves the protections implicit in the legislation that formed the designation:

14 260. It is the intent of the Legislature in designating certain portions of
15 the state highway system as state scenic highways to establish the
16 State's responsibility for the protection and enhancement of
17 California's natural scenic beauty by identifying those portions of the
18 state highway system which, together with the adjacent scenic
19 corridors, require special scenic conservation treatment. It is further
20 declared to be the intent of the Legislature in designating such scenic
21 highways to assign responsibility for the development of such scenic
22 highways and for the establishment and application of specific
23 planning and design standards and procedures appropriate thereto
24 and to indicate, in broad statement terms, the location and extent of
25 routes and areas requiring continuing and careful co-ordination of
26 planning, design, construction, and regulation of land use and
27 development, by state and local agencies as appropriate, to protect
28 the social and economic values provided by the State's scenic
resources.¹⁸

23 ¹⁵ Exhibit SWRCB-102, FEIR/EIS, pp. 19-210-211, 215, CT-23, -24, -25, -26, -27, -28; SC 09, 10 (showing
24 WaterFix will generate substantial increases in hourly traffic volumes on all segments of Highway
25 160/River Road from City of Sacramento limits to Walnut Grove Bridge); Exhibit SWRCB-102, FEIR/EIS,
26 p. 19-218:5-9 (indicating it is likely that these impacts could remain significant and unavoidable, even after
27 mitigation).

28 ¹⁶ Exhibit SWRCB-102, FEIR/EIS, p. 23-132; 5-11, 20-24; Figure 23A-04, Figure 23A-11 (discussing
disruptive noise associated with intake and surface construction activities and truck traffic); see also pp.
23-134 – 23-136 (identifying the adverse effects of groundborne vibration from intake construction).

¹⁷ Exhibit SWRCB-102, FEIR/EIS, p. 3B-81 (recognizing potential for theft and vandalism in major
construction sites after work hours); See Exhibit SWRCB-102, FEIR/EIS, Figure M3-4: Sheet 2 of 15
(showing approximately 120-acre construction work area immediately adjacent to the Town of Hood).

¹⁸ Streets and Highway Code, State of California, Sections 260-284.

1 In particular, the section between Sacramento and Walnut Grove has been
2 recognized as typifying Delta culture. In 1971 when Sunset magazine published “Back
3 Roads of California” by Earl Thollander, it selected this particular stretch of Highway 160
4 to feature: “The Sacramento River is on your left and below on the right is the vast
5 farming area of the delta. Pretty country towns along the way are Clarksburg and
6 Courtland.”¹⁹

7 The novelist Gayle Brandeis captures one’s emotional response to driving near
8 Courtland:

9
10 We drove past grand estates, crumbling canning houses, lots of little
11 wooden markets, orchard after orchard after orchard as the road
12 curved with the greenish river. At some point, we took a small ferry,
13 free of charge, that was pulled across the water by cables; it was big
14 enough for maybe six cars, although ours was the only one to make
15 the three-minute crossing. Quinn was thrilled—she said it felt like we
16 were being transported back in time as we floated to the other side.
17 Time did seem to change in the Delta; I could feel my internal clock
18 begin to slow, start to turn as languid as the Sacramento.²⁰

19 This idyllic route will be physically altered forever with the relocation of the
20 highway at each of the three intakes, thereby taking passers by 220 feet further inland
21 from the river.²¹ Certainly, the visual aesthetic of the highway in and around the intakes
22 will starkly contrast with the relatively placid surroundings elsewhere on the route.²²
23 Construction will change the driving experience for 10+ years on Highway 160 given the
24 increases in traffic volumes from Sacramento to Walnut Grove.²³

25 **E. The Prerequisites for Cultural Tourism**

26 That the State of California intends to preserve and protect the historical and
27 cultural values inherent in the Delta generally and in the portion from Hood to Courtland
28 specifically is made manifest in the multiple citations of state and local ordinances noted

25 _____
26 ¹⁹ See Earl Thollander, *Back Roads of California* (1971), p. 178.

27 ²⁰ Gayle Brandeis, *Delta Girls* (2010), p. 7.

28 ²¹ Exhibit DWR-212, p. 12-1.

²² Exhibit DWR-212, p. 6-3; see also SWRCB-102, FEIR/EIS, App. 17D-29, 30, 31 (describing “very noticeable effect” on viewers at intake locations).

²³ Exhibit SWRCB-102, pp. 19-210-211, 215 (CT-23, -24, -25, -26, -27, -28; SC 09, 10).

1 in the FEIR/EIS, Chapter 18. However, the analysis there relies on hypothetical impacts
2 on casual visitors. It does not adequately take into account the fatigue factor that would
3 weigh on visitors, property and business owners, and potential investors in cultural
4 tourism institutions over the course of construction, and subsequently during operation of
5 the WaterFix. In my opinion, the WaterFix has insufficient mitigation for the significant
6 impacts of construction and operation (including permanent physical effects of the
7 WaterFix diversion structures and related facilities) to balance against the significant
8 impacts both to the specific area and for the development of the Delta as a living and
9 cultural archive. The opinions of residents and sensitive observers like artists and
10 writers need to be consulted. It is significant that residents who have left the area are
11 currently returning for retirement attracted by the ambiance of the area. Further, a
12 number of internationally recognized artists, including Wayne Thiebaud, Ning Hou, and
13 Greg Kondos, as well as photographers like Rich Turner, continue to focus major works
14 on the Delta and in particular the stretch from Freeport to Walnut Grove.

15 One of the specific vulnerabilities for cultural tourism regarding the WaterFix
16 project relates to potential investment in historical restoration in the Courtland-Hood
17 area. Clarksburg, across the Sacramento River, already has begun several restoration
18 projects in the hope of generating sufficient sites to stimulate cultural tourism. More
19 generally, the Delta Protection Commission's pursuit of a National Heritage Area
20 Designation, as discussed below, is based on the assumption that the Delta region will
21 continue to improve its access to significant artifacts and interrelate the stories of its
22 various settlements. It is reasonable to expect that the WaterFix will effectively put on
23 hold any participation by the Courtland-Hood communities to achieve this designation
24 and substantially impede efforts to attract outside investors to such initiatives. However,
25 formal designation by state or federal authorities as a cultural or historic resource is not
26 necessary to further articulate the narratives of these towns, as well as their physical
27 structures. Generally speaking, private foundations and local organizations do not
28 define projects worthy of investment based on governmental approval designation; it is

1 the physical and historic character of the area that is most important. Nevertheless, the
2 inability to obtain, or delay in obtaining, a notable designation may have long-term
3 consequences for protection of the area. Moreover, those interested in preservation
4 may come from outside a town's limits: history buffs in Elk Grove have long taken tours
5 to the Rosebud Rancho, built in 1887, but remodeled in 1990, and located on the
6 Sacramento River just north of the Town of Hood. However, the FEIR/EIS suggests the
7 property is in such disrepair that it should be declassified as a National Historical Site.²⁴
8 The FEIR/EIS states that WaterFix would result in a permanent surface impact including
9 adding an access road and transmission line at the site.²⁵ In my opinion, the permanent
10 alteration of the site, including the likely further deterioration of the property during the
11 lengthy WaterFix construction, would thus slow, if not make impossible, any attempt to
12 restore this National Register property.

13 While each of the five Delta counties has developed future oriented plans for the
14 region, the most visionary plan, developed by the Delta Protection Commission in the
15 form of a proposal, is the application for a Delta Heritage Area addressed to the
16 Department of the Interior and the U.S. Congress.²⁶ It sets out the following vision and
17 six goals:

18 **Vision:**

19 A regional network of partner sites with interpretive/educational components that
20 will be linked where possible and serve as the primary attractions, on existing public
21 properties or on private properties with the voluntary consent and involvement of the
22 landowners.

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26 ²⁴ Exhibit SWRCB-102, App.18B, p. 18B-17, 69, PTO_010_002.

27 ²⁵ SWRCB-102, App.18B, p. 18B-69, PTO_010_002.

28 ²⁶ National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally prominent landscape. Public-private partnerships are critical to the success of community-driven heritage conservation and economic development.

1 **Goals:**

- 2 1) Identify the Delta as a region of national significance to educate the public
3 about 'Delta as a Place', and build more support for preserving, protecting,
4 and enhancing the Delta.
- 5 2) Support economic development of the Delta by drawing visitors to designated
6 partner sites, as well as local markets, restaurants, hotels, campgrounds, bed
7 and breakfasts, hostels, farmstays, and other recreation and visitor facilities.
- 8 3) Promote heritage tourism, ecotourism, and agritourism, which are aligned with
9 existing activities, infrastructure, and land uses in the Delta. Maintain Delta
10 agriculture while improving public access and developing necessary visitor
11 amenities in the Delta such as public restrooms, garbage receptacles,
12 directional signage, and dockage.
- 13 4) Make available maps of partner sites which identify waterways and byways to
14 connect the sites.
- 15 5) Undertake and provide resources for historic preservation projects at partner
16 sites with the consent and involvement of willing landowners.
- 17 6) Develop interpretive signage to educate the public about the Delta's natural,
18 historical and cultural heritage; and support programs which teach Delta
19 history.²⁷

20 In my opinion, the WaterFix will substantially undermine the vision and the
21 attainment of its specific goals. In fact, it likely will retard progress that has already been
22 made in regard to tourism and recreation. *The Feasibility Study for a Sacramento San*
23 *Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area* (July 2012), at p. 33, states:

24 Recreation is an integral part of the Delta economy, generating roughly 12
25 million visitor days of use annually and approximately \$250 million dollars
26 of visitor spending in the Delta each year. Of the roughly 12 million visitor
26 days spent in the Delta each year, approximately 8 million days are for
26 resource-related activities (e.g., boating and skiing), 2 million days are for

27 ²⁷ Delta Protection Commission, *Feasibility Study for a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage*
28 *Area* (July, 2012), p. 37.

1 right-of-way related tourism activities (e.g., bicycling and driving for
2 pleasure), and 2 million days are for urban parks-related activities (e.g.,
3 picnicking and organized sports). Boating and skiing have the biggest
4 economic impact, and are estimated to generate nearly 80 percent of the
5 recreation and tourism spending in the Delta, including significant
6 expenditures on lodging, meals, supplies, marina services, and fuel. Delta
7 recreation and tourism supports over 3,000 jobs in the Delta counties.
8 These jobs provide over \$100 million in labor income and over \$175
9 million in value added to the regional economy. Across all of California,
10 Delta recreation and tourism supports over 5,300 jobs, and contributes
11 about \$353 million in value added.

12 It is reasonable to expect that the WaterFix project will slow or prevent the
13 realization of all six goals. The Delta could be identified as a redistribution station for a
14 natural resource in the public mind rather than an historical cultural region. Damage to
15 the environmental ambiance will impede the development of “partner sites” including
16 markets, restaurants, and visitor facilities. The impact of WaterFix likely will deter
17 agritourism, ecotourism, and heritage tourism by impairing local farming, habitats, and
18 historic structures. The potential for such growth is illustrated by the current success of
19 the Old Sugar Mill, a venture integrating the telling of industrial history, agritourism, and
20 a pleasing habitat. It is in Clarksburg directly across from the Hood/Courtland area.
21 Mapping, as contemplated by the goals for implementing the Delta Heritage Area vision,
22 will be a meaningless exercise if, as would occur under WaterFix, the waterways and
23 byways lack aesthetic, environmental, or recreational interest. The uncertainty
24 surrounding the impact of the WaterFix on the region’s economy and environment will
25 reduce the number of partners willing to support historic preservation projects in the
26 Delta. Finally, the Delta experience will not be able to fulfill its promise as a way to teach
27 historical and environmental realities to visitors as the material culture and habitats will
28 no longer be accessible; its narratives will wither without the preservation of a cohesive
physical setting to reinforce the viewer’s imagination.

1 In sum, the historical and cultural heritage of the Hood/Courtland corridor has
2 been an important part of the Sacramento San Joaquin narrative for over 10,000 years.
3 From the Native American experience through the agricultural boom following the Gold
4 Rush and subsequent revolutions in transportation, to the rise of the Delta for recreation

1 and escape, this area has been fully engaged. The WaterFix puts at significant risk the
2 preservation of historic sites and the promotion of tourism in the region. Many who reflect
3 on the future of the Delta have concluded that agritourism, eco-tourism, and heritage
4 tourism is an appropriate future; the WaterFix not only will result in the loss of distinct
5 and cohesive cultural and historic resources, but also will substantially impede, and
6 perhaps prevent, the goals for the Delta to attain National Heritage Area status and to
7 become an internationally recognized tourist destination like the Erie Canal has become
8 in recent years in the state of New York.

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