

Statement of Phillip Hansen

August 22, 2011 SWRCB Hearing Relating to the Section 1735 Long-term Transfer Request

My name is Phillip Hansen. I am the fourth generation of our family farm. I am one of the General Partners and responsible for day to day operations. Also with me in the audience are Paul Newton and Phil Brooks who are the other landowners involved in the proposed transfer request. In the interest of time, I will speak to the reasons why our family, as well as the Brooks and Newton families, are pursuing the transfer request being considered today. All of our family farms have very similar circumstances.

All of our families own and operate farms in one or both of Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District (TLBWSD) and Empire West Side Irrigation District (EWSID). Both of these Districts receive State Water Project (SWP) water. We also have farms in Westlands Water District (WWD) that receive water from the Central Valley Project. The crops planted on our lands within WWD produce yields equal to or greater than the yields produced on lands outside of WWD. However, as the reliability on both the state and federal projects began to diminish due to environmental and regulatory restrictions, we were forced to rely on water transfers from one area to another in order to mitigate for the diminished water supplies and sustain our yields.

We have processed annual transfers for the past 10 years. With due consideration of DWR and SWRCB staff's time to process the annual transfer, and after consulting with DWR and your staff, we determined it was only prudent to pursue a long term transfer to both allow timely transfer and avoid unnecessary time, resources, and expenses. We want to be respectful to the limited local, DWR, and SWRCB staff time by avoiding the processing of annual transfers.

The proposed long term transfer will not result in any new lands being brought into production. Nor will the transfers increase any exports out of the Sacramento San Joaquin delta. The proposed transfer will allow lands currently in production to remain in production. As we have in the past, we are jointly managing our state and federal project supplies to optimize our farming operations in keeping as many lands in production as possible. Like many other farming operations, we are struggling to keep our operations viable. One strategy we use to stay viable is to make sure we can irrigate our most profitable crops in any specific year.

We have implemented a number of efficient water management practices and water conservation measures such as tailwater recovery systems, implemented weather based irrigation schedules, and monitoring of soil moisture. Absent the transfer, we will

utilize our SWP supplies on our lands in the TLBWSD and EWSID, and we will likely be forced to use lower quality Westside groundwater on or fallow our WWD lands. Use of groundwater and land fallowing have adverse impacts. If groundwater is used, it requires additional energy, is of lower quality than surface water, and may cause land subsidence. If land is fallowed, crop production is reduced, jobs are lost, dust emissions may increase, and pest issues may arise.

We believe this transfer request is consistent with the State's policy to resolve water shortages with transfers. We are hopeful that new delta facilities will be constructed in the near future to restore the reliability of the state and federal projects so these types of transfers will not be necessary. We would greatly appreciate your approval of these proposed long term transfers that are critical to our farming operations and those farm workers and their families who are dependent on our lands remaining in production.

SB 586266 v1:014117.0010