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13 On behalf of South Delta Water Agency,  
14 Central Delta Water Agency, Lafayette Ranch,  
15 Heritage Lands, Mark Bachetti Farms  
16 and Rudy Mussi Investments L.P.

17 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

18 **STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

19 Hearing in the Matter of California  
20 Department of Water Resources and  
21 United States Department of the Interior,  
22 Bureau of Reclamation Request for a  
23 Change in Point of Diversion for  
24 California Water Fix

25 **SUR REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF  
26 THOMAS K. BURKE, P.E.**

27 **Sur Rebuttal: Protestants South Delta Water  
28 Agency, Central Delta Water Agency,  
Lafayette Ranch, Heritage Lands, Mark  
Bachetti Farms And Rudy Mussi Investments  
L.P.**

1 I, Thomas K Burke do hereby declare:  
2

### 3 **I. INTRODUCTION**

4 My name is Thomas Burke, and I have previously testified in this matter. A summary  
5 of my experience is included in [Exhibit SWDA-76] and a true copy of my statement of  
6 qualifications has been previously been submitted as [Exhibit SDWA-75]

7 This surrebuttal testimony has been provided to respond to issues that were raised by  
8 the Petitioners in their rebuttal testimony. The testimony has been organized into 9 topics, with  
9 each section responding to a separate issue that was presented in the Petitioners' rebuttal  
10 testimony.

### 11 **II. Rebuttal Topics**

#### 12 **1. The ability of the DSM2 model's to provide a comparative assessment between** 13 **CFW scenarios on a short time step.**

14 Dr. Tehrani, in DWR-79 testified that the output from the DSM2 model should only be  
15 used to compare CWF scenarios by using a long-term monthly average for the  
16 parameter being evaluated. I disagree with Dr. Tehrani's position that only long term  
17 averages are appropriate for evaluating the model output. It is my opinion that using  
18 long-term averages and monthly values actually mask the specific impacts being  
19 evaluated between different scenarios.  
20  
21

22 The DSM 2 model is a hydrodynamic and water quality model that was developed by  
23 the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to evaluate flow and salinity within the  
24 Delta. It was developed to a great extent to respond to the need for obtaining accurate  
25 estimates of flow and salinity in the Delta to assist in meeting RWQCB Orders as far  
26 back as Board Order 1485 in 1978.  
27  
28

1 The DSM2 model was developed and calibrated to provide a hydrodynamic and water  
2 quality analysis of the Delta on a 15 minute time step. The tidal nature of the Delta  
3 makes it imperative that a short time step be used to evaluate water movement through  
4 this complex estuary. The results may not be perfectly accurate when trying to  
5 compare model results to actual Delta conditions on a specific day and time period, but  
6 when used in a comparative analysis, to evaluate different scenarios, it is perfectly  
7 acceptable and standard modeling practice. It is in this comparative mode, and at a  
8 time step that is small enough to capture the hydrodynamics of the Delta, that the model  
9 has its greatest use in comparing the CWF scenarios.

10 DWR has been developing, using, and refining DSM2 for hydrodynamic and water  
11 quality studies in the Delta for over 20 years. The model is typically run in a 15-minute  
12 time step. During the development of DSM2, DWR understood the need to use a  
13 correctly sized small time step to accurately model the Delta hydrodynamics. During  
14 that development process, they investigated using shorter time steps, and found the  
15 shorter time steps did not provide any significant increase in model accuracy.

16  
17 **2. The relationship between short time step data when presented chronologically**  
18 **versus sorted high to low in an exceedance analysis.**

19  
20 Dr. Tehrani, in DWR-79, testified that when comparing two CWF scenarios, the use of  
21 the hydrodynamic and water quality output from DSM2 on a 15-minute time step is not  
22 appropriate. He claims that the most appropriate way to look at the data is through  
23 exceedance graphs. I disagree. The difference between the 15-minute data DSM2  
24 output data viewed chronologically, and an exceedance graph of the 15-minute output  
25 data, is how the data are sorted. I disagree with Dr. Tehrani's testimony that when the  
26 15-minute data are sorted chronologically they are wrong, but when the same 15-  
27 minute data are sorted from high to low, as you would in an exceedance plot, they are  
28 correct. It is my opinion that the 15-minute data are correct and provide an invaluable  
insight into the response of the Delta to a CWF scenario, and can be used in a

1 comparative analysis, no matter what order you sort them in. The only real difference  
2 in comparing the CWF scenarios by exceedance graphs, is that you lose the ability to  
3 directly compare the response of the two scenarios over any specific time interval. The  
4 use of exceedance curves has some value, but obscures much of the detail in any direct  
5 comparison between the scenarios that you are trying to compare.

6  
7 **3. The inability to assess impacts when monthly averages are used in the assessment.**

8 Dr. Tehrani, in DWR-79 testified that “Statistics based on long-term and water year  
9 type averages are an appropriate use of model results”. I strongly disagree with this  
10 statement. Dr. Tehrani’s use of long-term monthly averages of water quality, stage, and  
11 flow to evaluate the difference between the CWF scenarios masks impacts. It may be  
12 acceptable to use long-term monthly and annual averages in forecasting *water*  
13 *deliveries*, but using that same averaging approach to evaluate the *impacts* from the  
14 operation of new water project diversions in a tidal estuary is inappropriate. It would  
15 be similar to taking long term averages of climate to characterize rainfall. If you  
16 evaluated climate using long-term monthly averages, you would determine that  
17 California does not have any floods or droughts, each month would just consist of small  
18 changes around a common mean, and would look very much like the Petitioners’ plots  
19 for the comparative analysis of the CWF scenarios for the Delta.

20  
21 The averaging process removes all of the detail of the high and low values from the  
22 actual data set. That makes it impossible to determine the magnitude of any impact.

23 Most of the beneficial uses of water in the Delta are time sensitive, in that they respond  
24 to, and are impacted by, changes to depth, flow, or water quality at a specific time. By  
25 averaging out the high and low values of the parameter that you are evaluating, you are  
26 effectively erasing the potential impacts that may occur.  
27  
28

1 In the rebuttal testimony of Dr. Tehrani and Mr. Munevar, no reference has been made  
2 to any DSM2 manuals or documentation, which supports their position that the 15-  
3 minute data output from DSM2 cannot be used directly in an analysis. DSM2 was  
4 developed, refined and calibrated explicitly to provide hydrodynamic and water quality  
5 information throughout that Delta on a 15-minute time step. Based on my 35 years of  
6 modeling experience, and knowledge of DSM2, using the 15-minute data set to  
7 compare alternatives will provide the best and most accurate way of evaluating the  
8 changes to the Delta from the CWF scenarios.

9  
10 **4. The importance in understanding that each scenario is composed of many**  
11 **elements, not just NDD's.**

12 Dr. Tehrani, in DWR-79, page 3, and Mr. Munevar in his rebuttal cross-examination testified  
13 that some of the differences between the CWF scenarios are due to the lack of meeting X2, or  
14 the implementation of a new HORB structure and barrier operations, or other components of  
15 each scenario other than the NDD's. It is inappropriate to ignore or discount the effect of the  
16 individual components from a scenario when you are evaluating each scenario. Each scenario  
17 is composed of many different components. All of these components act together a system and  
18 must be evaluated together within each scenario.

19  
20 **5. The difference between the probability of removal of X2 in the NAA and the**  
21 **removal from Scenario B1.**

22 In his rebuttal cross-examination, Mr. Munevar stated that it is inappropriate to  
23 compare B1 to the NAA, because the X2 requirement has been removed from the B1  
24 scenario and not from the NAA. Mr. Munevar insinuates that if X2 were allowed to  
25 be removed from B1 it would likely be removed independent of the CWF, and so,  
26 therefore, it should be removed from the NAA. I disagree with his assertion. With the  
27 NDD's in place, there is a significant benefit to the CVP and SWP if the X2  
28 requirement were to be removed. Therefore, it is my opinion that if Petitioners are

1 allowed to operate at B1, there will be significant pressure – much more so than exists  
2 today -- put on the agencies to have the X2 requirement removed. Therefore, it is  
3 appropriate to evaluate the impacts to the Delta from Scenario B1 with X2 removed  
4 when compared to the NAA which contains the X2 requirement.

5  
6 **6. The ability for the proponents to be able to model extreme conditions with the**  
7 **available models.**

8 In DWR-79, Dr. Tehrani testified that the CALSIM2 is unable to model extreme  
9 conditions because the model relies on generalized rules. I disagree with Dr. Tehrani's  
10 assertion.

11  
12 One of the purpose of running an operations model such as CALSIM2 over a long  
13 period of record is to inform what measures need to be implemented in the operations  
14 of the project during average and the extreme conditions.

15 The evaluation of an operations model is typically done by simulating the operations  
16 through a variety of year types so that you can evaluate the response of the operations  
17 model, to the changes in the climate patterns. Based on the observed response of the  
18 operations model to those year types, one can then make changes to the operations  
19 model, and re-run the model, with those changes, to evaluate the new response. This  
20 cycle of run-evaluate-modify-rerun of the model over multiple years, is performed  
21 iteratively until the operational rules are adjusted to provide the best acceptable  
22 response. If, in some years, an acceptable response is not possible, the model would  
23 indicate where reduced deliveries or operational curtailments will be necessary. Such  
24 operational requirements in extreme years may not be optimal for petitioners, but  
25 knowing what those are, and when they will occur, should be the primary purpose of  
26 running the model through a robust range of year types.  
27  
28

1 The biggest hindrance to evaluating the model response over various climatic  
2 conditions, including climatic extremes, is the lack of available climate data to  
3 represent years when those conditions exist. In the case of evaluating the CALSIM II  
4 and DSM 2 models, we have an amazing 82 year period of record that covers extreme  
5 drought periods as well as extreme wet periods. This allows DWR and the USBR to  
6 disclose how the operations model will respond to very wet, normal, and very dry  
7 years.

8  
9 The CALSIM II model has an integrated simulation language “Water Resources  
10 Simulation Model” (WRESL) that allows for the formulation of robust model control,  
11 allowing the model to dynamically respond to states and conditions that would occur  
12 during a model run. This allows for the model to be programmed to respond to extreme  
13 conditions in ways similar to how the project operators would respond during a drought  
14 or flood. Thus, DWR or the USBR can determine what measures would be required  
15 during those extreme conditions.

16 **7. Mr. Munevar states that the diversion of flows through the NDD’s will *not* make**  
17 **high flow years on the Sacramento River look like low flow years.**

18  
19 In his written rebuttal testimony (DWR-86, Page 37), Mr. Munevar states that the  
20 diversion of flows through the NDD’s will not make high flow years on the Sacramento  
21 River look like low flow years. I disagree with this statement. The NDD’s will remove  
22 a significant portion of the flow in the Sacramento River. An evaluation of DWR’s  
23 DSM2 model output data shows that in late summer, up to 45% of the flow will be  
24 diverted. This magnitude of diversion will remove much of the excess water during  
25 wet years, to a point where, in late summer, most all years will look like dry and  
26 critically dry years.

27  
28 In analyzing the data from the Petitioners’ DSM2 model work, it is evident that during  
the late summer, when good quality water quality is critical, the NDD’s result in the

1 Sacramento River having flow near to what the flow rate is during dry and critically dry  
2 years. This reduction in flow becomes more pronounced as you progress through the  
3 summer period.

4  
5 As part of my surrebuttal testimony I analyzed the Sacramento River flow data from the  
6 Petitioners DSM2 models at the North Delta Diversions (NDD's). Below I include  
7 three plots (Figures D-1, D-2, and D-3 which show the difference between Scenario B1  
8 and the NAA for the July, August, and September periods. Figure D-1 show the  
9 Sacramento River flow for the NAA and CWF Scenario B1 for the 16 year period that  
10 the Petitioners chose to model. On the figure, I have indicated the water year  
11 classification based on the Sacramento River Valley Water Year Index as developed by  
12 DWR. (See also SWRCB-104, p. 5.A-41: Figure 5.A-6 Example monthly-averaged  
13 and daily-averaged flow for Sacramento River at Freeport.) The blue line represents  
14 the flow rate for the NAA and the red line represents the flow rate for Scenario B1. As  
15 illustrated in figure D-1, after the diversions have been removed from the Sacramento  
16 River, nearly all years, except 1984 now fall between the flow rates that were  
17 previously experienced in dry to critically dry years. As the summer months  
18 progressed, this effect becomes more pronounced. Figure D-2 shows the same  
19 Sacramento River flow rates for the month of August. Figure D-3 shows the  
20 Sacramento River flow rates for September. In September, the flow rate after the  
21 diversions has nearly flat lined to what was previously primarily experienced only in  
22 critical year types.

23 Operation of the NDD's would basically remove much of the water that would  
24 otherwise flow through the Delta in a wet or above normal year out of the Sacramento  
25 River, leaving a river that is more frequently in a dry to critically dry state. It should be  
26 noted that this is most pronounced during the late summer and fall, when the need for  
27 flow and good water quality is most critical.



1 The same primarily applies to water quality. In DWR-79, page 7 of Dr. Tehrani's  
2 rebuttal testimony, he presents a plot of chloride for the period 1984 through 1987.  
3 This period contains two wet years and two dry years. The plot is provided below  
4 (identified as Figure 2). As illustrated in the plot, the chloride level in the wet years of  
5 1984 and 1986 goes from a very low level in the NAA and increases nearly 200% for  
6 Scenario B1. It raises to a level that is almost identical to the levels observed for the  
7 dry years of 1985 and 1987.

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Figure D1 - Sacramento River Downstream of NDD's - Mean July Flow Rate

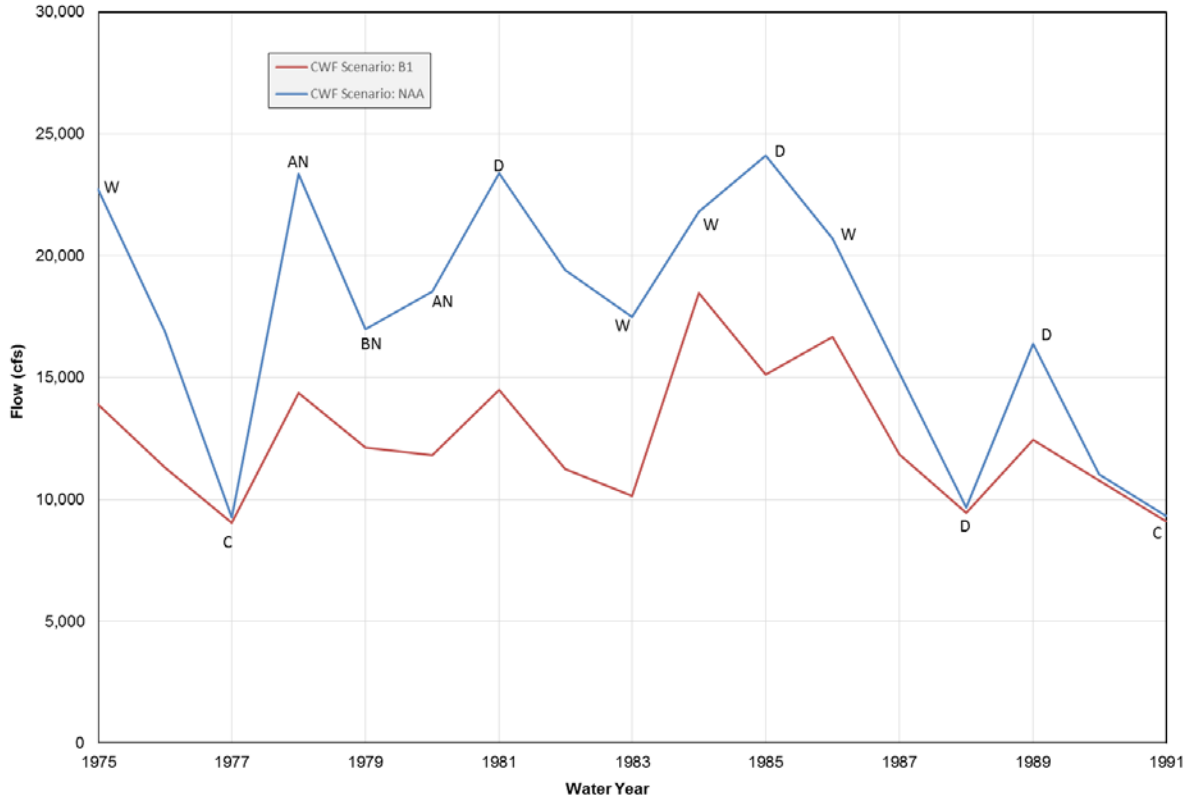


Figure D2 - Sacramento River Downstream of NDD's - Mean August Flow Rate

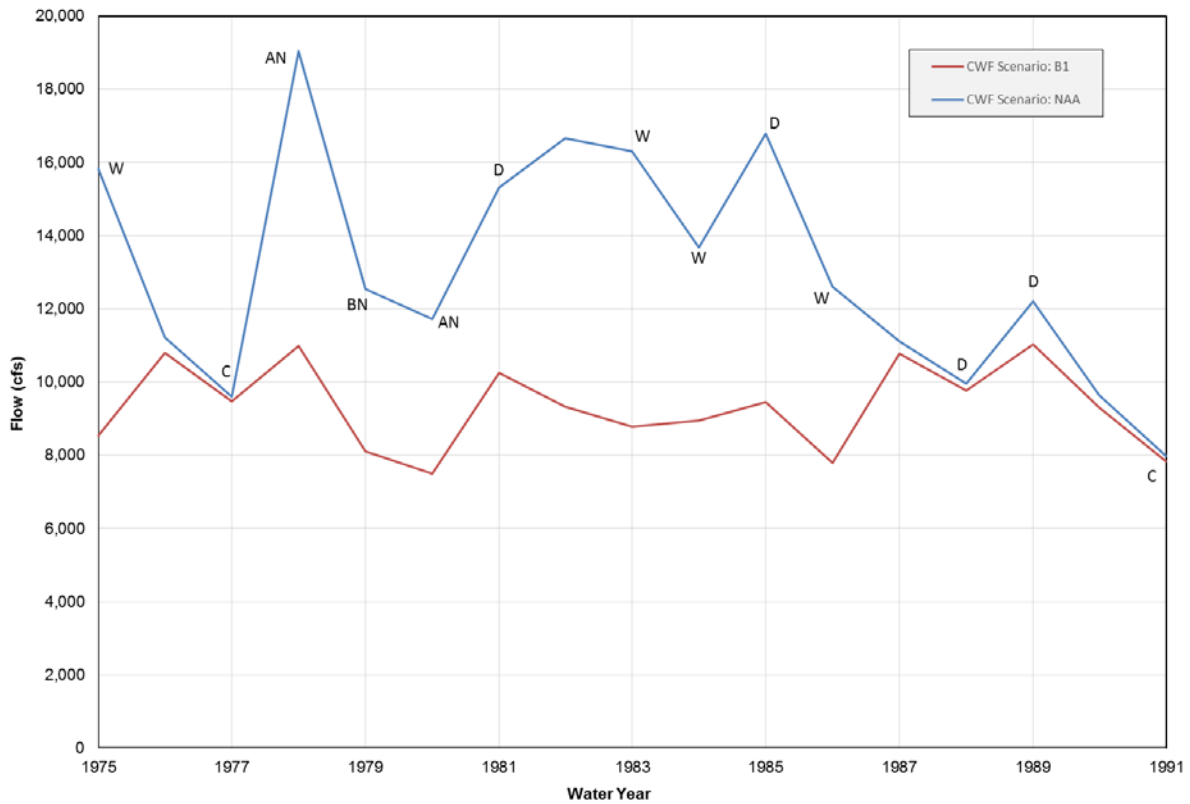


Figure D3 - Sacramento River Downstream of NDD's - Mean September Flow Rate

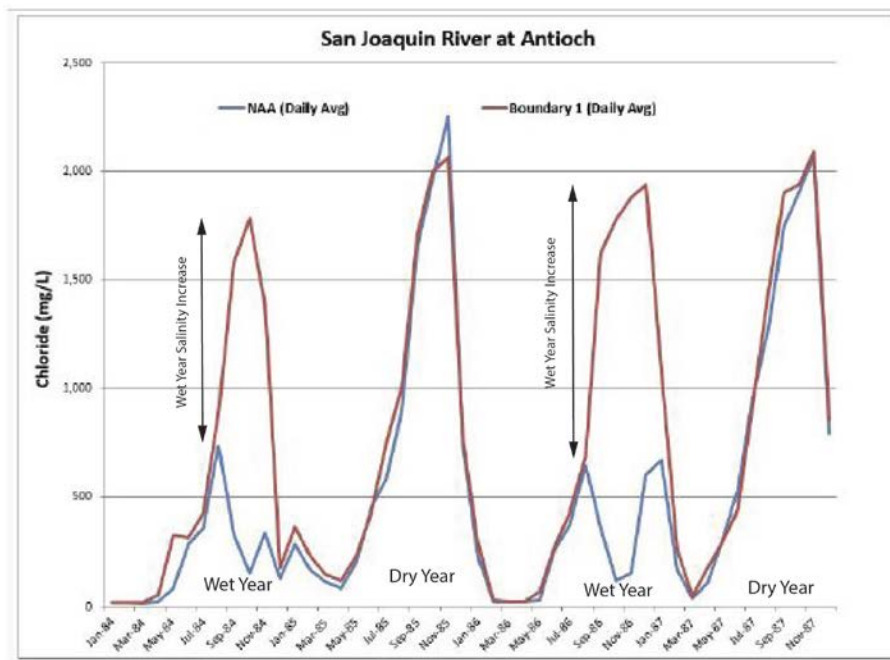
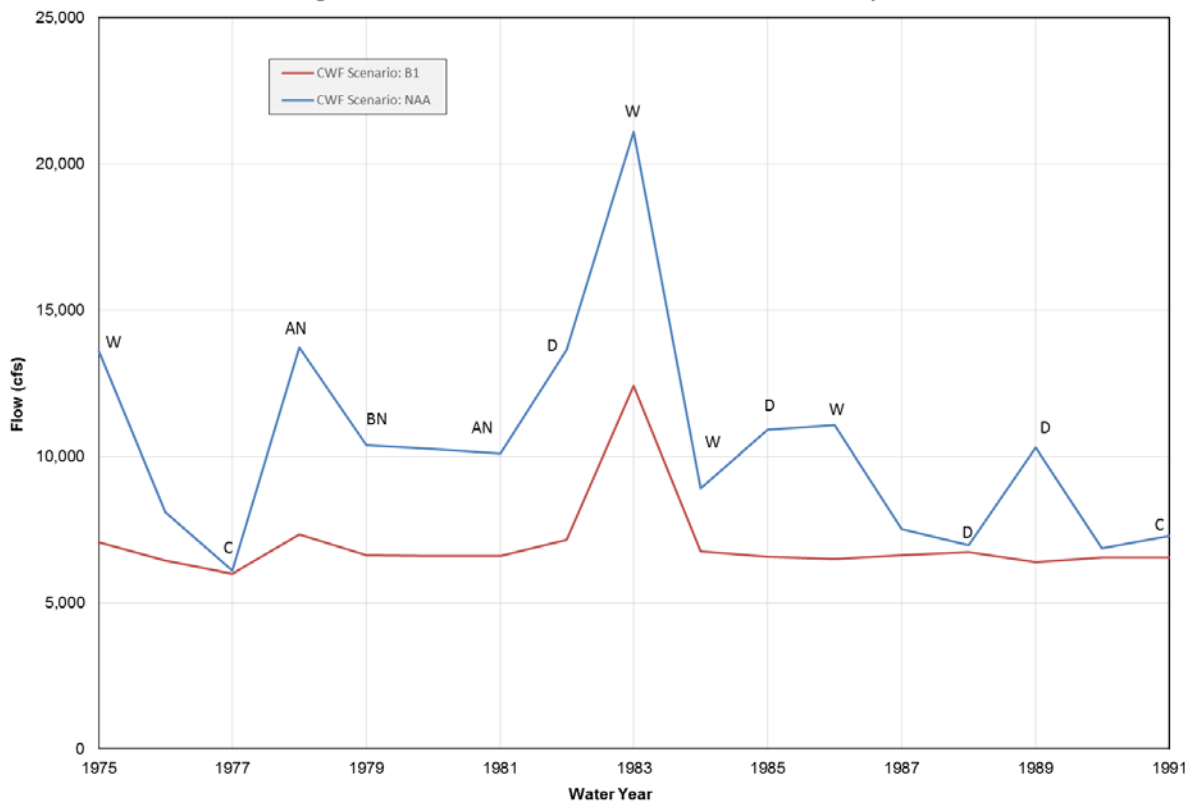


Figure 2. Monthly Average Chloride Concentration at Antioch (1984-1987)

From DWR-79, page 7

1 **8. The monthly CALSIM II boundary conditions for DSM2 prohibit accurate sub**  
2 **monthly analysis of DSM2 results.**

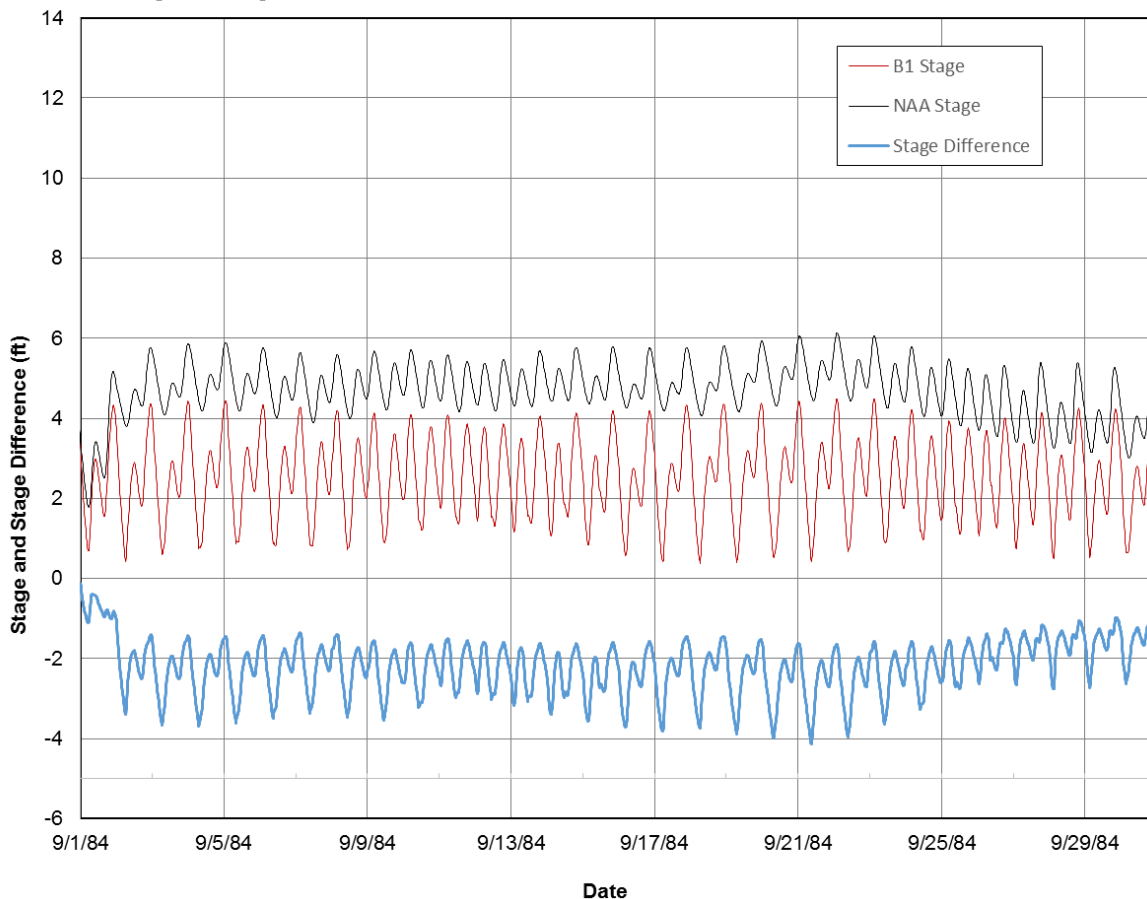
3 In DWR-79, that the data from CALSIM II is based on a monthly time step, and,  
4 therefore, precludes accurate sub monthly analysis when this data is transferred to  
5 DSM2. This monthly CALSIM II output becomes the boundary condition for the  
6 DSM2 model, which runs on a 15-minute time step. The conversion from Monthly to  
7 15-minute at the DSM2 boundary, is based on a predetermined disaggregation process.  
8 The disaggregation was developed from historic flow records. This disaggregation  
9 does not necessarily match the flow pattern on any specific day but, since the  
10 disaggregation process is applied *identically* to all the scenarios, the DSM2 15-minute  
11 time step data can be used for comparison purposes to evaluate the hydrodynamic and  
12 water quality changes between the different CWF scenarios on shorter than a monthly  
13 time step.

14  
15 **9. The Effect of Water Fix Scenarios on Water level**

16 In DWR-79, page 10, Dr. Tehrani testifies that the largest water level difference in the  
17 Sacramento River downstream of the NDD's was found for a single 15-minute time  
18 step in September of 1984. This representation is incorrect. It is true that the  
19 maximum, by definition, represents the worst single point but the water level change  
20 varied between 2 and 4 feet throughout September. Figure D-4 is a plot of the water  
21 level difference for September 1984. It was developed from the DSM2 model output  
22 data that was submitted by DWR. The worst decreases in water level were during the  
23 month of September for Scenario B1. Dr. Tehrani further testifies that the stage change  
24 was due to X2 removal from Scenario B1. That is partially true, but removal of X2 is a  
25 component of the scenario, and is intricately tied into the many other components of  
26 that scenario. This water level comparison was based on an evaluation of 15-minute  
27 data that in my professional opinion is not only appropriate, but necessary in order to  
28 evaluate the full impact. (See topic No's. 1, 3 and 8 above). If you were to take long-

1 term monthly averages of this data which is the approach taken by Petitioners, nearly,  
 2 all the negative impacts disappear.

4 Figure D-4 Stage Difference Between CWF Scenario B1 and The NAA, Downstream of NDD No. 5



19  
 20 Conclusions:

21  
 22 As discussed above, the conclusions of my surrebuttal testimony are as follows:

- 23  
 24 1. The DSM2 model output can be used on a 15-minute time step for the comparison of  
 25 the effects that each of the CWF scenarios have on the Delta. The model was  
 26 developed and calibrated to run at this time step and has been continually developed  
 27 and modified over the past 20 years to improve its accuracy. It is an excellent way to  
 28

1 evaluate impacts from different CWF scenarios, as compared to the NAA, especially in  
2 a comparative rather than a predictive mode.

- 3 2. Each of the proposed operation scenarios consist of many different components. These  
4 components act, and interact, together as a system that defines the scenario. It is  
5 inappropriate to discount any one component because it results in a negative impact.
- 6 3. The boundary conditions to DSM2 are the monthly output from the CALSIM II model.  
7 This monthly data is converted into 15-minute data for use in DSM2 exactly the same  
8 way for each scenario. Since the conversion to 15-minute data is performed identically  
9 for each scenario, the different scenarios can be directly compared on the 15-minute  
10 time step used by the model.
- 11 4. Evaluation of the impacts from the different CWF scenarios on a monthly or mean  
12 monthly basis, masks the actual impacts on the Delta from each scenario. The  
13 averaging process eliminates the high and low values from the data being evaluated. It  
14 is these high and low values that have the greatest potential for generating impacts.
- 15 5. The CALSIM II model has the ability to evaluate the operational scenarios for the  
16 extreme wet and dry periods which have occurred over 82 year climate data set that is  
17 available. The simulation language that is incorporated into the model can be used to  
18 develop operational criteria that responds to the extreme climate conditions.
- 19 6. Operation of the NDD's will result in the Sacramento River experiencing drought like  
20 conditions in late summer and early fall for all water years.
- 21 7. Based on the model results that were submitted by DWR, the water level change in the  
22 Sacramento River downstream of the NDD's can be significant. In some instances, it  
23 was determined to vary between 2 and 4 feet for a month or more.

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the  
2 foregoing statements are true and correct.

3 Executed on the 8th day of June 2017, at Placerville, California.  
4

5 

6 Thomas K. Burke  
7 **Thomas K. Burke, P.E.**  
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