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10 BEFORE THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
 11 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

12 In the Matter of:)
 13 DOUGLAS AND HEIDI COLE AND) CLOSING BRIEF
 14 MARBLE MOUNTAIN RANCH)
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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 The Prosecution Team for the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water
3 Board), Division of Water Rights (Division) requests that the State Water Board find that
4 Douglas and Heidi Cole and Marble Mountain Ranch (collectively the “Diverter”) have
5 diverted and used water and continue to divert and use water in violation of Article X,
6 section 2 of the California Constitution and section 100 of the California Water Code¹,
7 which both provide that the right to water or to the use or flow of water in or from any
8 natural stream or water course in this State is and shall be limited to such water as shall
9 be reasonably required for the beneficial use to be served, and such right does not and
10 shall not extend to the waste or unreasonable use or unreasonable method of use or
11 unreasonable method of diversion of water.² The Prosecution Team further requests that
12 the State Water Board order corrective actions in accordance with a time schedule to
13 eliminate the misuse and prevent further harm to public trust resources.
14
15

16 **II. BACKGROUND**

17 **A. Marble Mountain Ranch**

18 Marble Mountain Ranch (MMR) is located at 92520, Highway 96 in Somes Bar,
19 Siskiyou County. (Prosecution Team Exhibit WR-7³, p. 1053; WR-87, p. 2486.) Douglas
20 and Heidi Cole own and operate MMR with their family. (*Id.*) MMR functions as a
21 commercial guest ranch that offers activities such as horseback trail and arena riding,
22 hiking, whitewater rafting, jet boat rides, sport shooting, fly fishing and kayaking. (WR-7, p.
23 1053; WR-87, p. 2489; MMR-01, p. 1.)
24

25 _____
26 ¹ All references to the “Water Code” shall refer to the California Water Code.

27 ² Under regulations implementing Article X, section 2 of the California Constitution and Water Code section
28 100, any waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diverting of
water is collectively referred to as a “misuse of water” or “misuse.” (23 Cal. Code Regs. §855, subd. (b).)

³ Further references to Prosecution Team exhibits will be “WR-[Exhibit Number].” Page references to
exhibits the Prosecution Team submitted for its case in chief (WR-1 through WR-193) will cite Bates stamps.

1 The Diverters' guest season runs from approximately April 1 through December 1.
2 (MMR-01, p. 1; WR-135, p. 2915; WR-157, pp. 3457, 3469-3477.) Their peak guest
3 season occurs from about middle to late June through middle to late August. (RT⁴
4 (11/16/2017), pp. 232:11-236:1, 261:19-263:21; 285:23-25.) Up to 50 people may occupy
5 MMR during the peak guest season, but occupancy exceeds 25 people less than 60 days
6 a year. (WR-61, p. 2029, 2032, 2035, 2037; WR-78, p. 2404; WR-111; WR-155; WR-157,
7 p. 3469-3477.) Six people occupy the ranch in the off-season. (RT (Nov. 14, 2017), pp.
8 157:18-22, 174:2-10; RT (Nov. 16, 2017), p. 286:1-15.) MMR occasionally supports a fire
9 crew with as many as 500 people. (WR-135, p. 2915.)
10

11 The Diverters divert surface water from Stanshaw Creek, a tributary to the Klamath
12 River, in Siskiyou County, under a pre-1914 claim of appropriation, filed under Statement
13 of Water Diversion and Use 15022 and 16375, and a Small Domestic Use Registration.
14 (WR-7, p. 1053; WR-32; WR-61; MMR-1, p. 2.) The pre-1914 claim of appropriation
15 originates from an 1867 claim by Mr. E. Stanshaw for six hundred (600) miner's inches,
16 about 15 cubic feet per second (cfs), on a large patented parcel that includes the present-
17 day MMR property. (WR-7, p. 1053; WR-32; WR-61; WR-80, p. 2411; WR-87, pp. 2486-
18 2487, 2489.) The Diverters today claim up to 3 cfs under the pre-1914 claim of
19 appropriation. (WR-110, p. 2744; MMR-1, p. 1.) The Small Domestic Use Registration,
20 D030945R, supports a pond used for recreation and fire prevention. (WR-34, p. 1858.)
21
22

23 The Diverters' point of diversion (POD) is located approximately three-quarters of a
24 mile upstream of the Highway 96 crossing, on United States Forest Service (USFS)
25 property. (WR-9, p. 1075; WR-82, p. 2439; WR-87, p. 2495.) The POD consists of a
26 handmade rock wing diversion dam that extends about halfway across the creek. (WR-9,
27

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⁴ Citations to the Reporter's Transcripts are indicated by "RT," followed by the date of the transcript, page(s), and line(s).

1 p. 1075; WR-82, p. 2439; WR-87, p. 2495.) The POD has no fish screen and operates
2 independent of demand, limited only by available flow and capacity of the ditch. (WR-82,
3 p. 2439; CDFW-13, p. 4; RT (11/13/2017), pp. 45:8-46:2.) The Diverters regulate the
4 diversion rate at the POD by rearranging and re-stacking the diversion dam's rocks by
5 hand. (WR-9, p. 1075; WR-87, p. 2495; RT (11/13/2017), p. 195:10-22; RT (11/14/2017),
6 pp. 147:21-148:10.) They may regulate the amount of water in the ditch by rearranging
7 flashboards, but lack other means of regulating the diversion rate at the POD.⁵ (RT
8 (11/16/2017), pp. 256:23-257:2.) The Diverters have diverted most of Stanshaw Creek's
9 flow and even dewatered the creek during low-flow periods. (WR-76; WR-89, pp. 2524,
10 2537; OMRT-5; RT (11/16/2017), pp. 104:19-108:20; 170:17-173:19, 186:18-188:24.)

12 A partially lined ditch conveys the water by gravity approximately one-half mile
13 southeast to MMR along the side of a steep hill slope. (WR-9, p. 1075; WR-82, p. 2440;
14 WR-87, p. 2495.) The POD and ditch were constructed in the late 1800s. (WR-7, p. 1053;
15 WR-82, p. 2440; WR-87, p. 2495.) The ditch has a capacity of up to 3 cfs, but captures
16 significant sediment from upslope and frequently overtops and fails, causing severe
17 erosion and discharging sediment into Stanshaw Creek even when not in use for
18 diversion.⁶ (WR-87, p. 2499; WR-89, pp. 2526-2538; WR-142, pp. 3135-3137; WR-167,
19 pp. 3815-3816; WR-197; RT (11/13/2017), pp. 208:5-211:12; RT (11/15/2017), pp.
20 133:20-134:1; RT (11/16/2017), pp. 229:24-232:6.) Conveyance losses in the ditch from
21 the POD to the penstock have been measured at 0.5 cfs. (WR-4, p. 176-177; WR-9, p.
22 1077; WR-82, p. 2444; WR-87, p. 2497; RT (11/14/2017), pp. 77:25-79:1.)

25 ⁵ Mr. Cole claimed he could precisely regulate MMR's diversion any time by rearranging flash boards. (RT
26 (11/14/2017), pp. 214:23-217:11.) However, this contradicted Mr. Howard's testimony and technical report,
27 which was based both on Mr. Howard's observations at MMR and on information Mr. Cole provided Mr.
28 Howard. (WR-82, p. 2439; RT (11/13/2017), p. 45:3-7; RT (11/14/2017), pp. 217:14-221:18.) Even if true, it
would fail to explain the Diverters' historical practice neglecting to regulate MMR's diversion and diverting
water in excess of what they reasonably required for their beneficial uses.

⁶ Mr. Cole has claimed that, when the ditch is in good condition, its capacity may be 4-5 cfs, but has also
acknowledged that going beyond 3 cfs risks overtopping. (WR-82, p. 2440; RT (11/15/2017), p. 133:20-24.)

1 At MMR, the Diverters divert water for domestic use into a series of storage tanks
2 sufficient to support the ranch for up to a week at full occupancy. (WR-9, p. 1075; WR-80,
3 p. 2409.) Flows continue to a penstock and Pelton wheel, which generates hydropower.
4 (WR-9, p. 1076; WR-87, p. 2496; WR-200, p. 3.) Hydropower effluent discharges into a
5 ditch leading to their pond. (WR-9, pp. 1076-1077; WR-82, p. 2440.) When the pond
6 overflows, it discharges into another unlined ditch, which then discharges into a tributary
7 to Irving Creek, a tributary to the Klamath River southeast of MMR, causing erosion and
8 discharging eroded soil.⁷ (WR-9, p. 1077; WR-13, pp. 1100, 1104-1107; WR-82, p. 2440)

9
10 MMR's current diversion works allow the Pelton wheel to produce up to 33.9 kW.
11 (WR-4, pp. 219, 221; WR-9, p. 1078; WR-22, p. 1782; WR-82, p. 2440.)⁸ This is sufficient
12 to meet MMR's highest electrical demands, which occur during its peak guest season.
13 (WR-82, p. 2440; RT (11/14/2017), p. 156:10-23.) However, the Pelton wheel has a
14 minimum operating threshold of approximately 2 cfs and flows in Stanshaw Creek drop
15 below 1.5 cfs even in robust water years. (WR-5, p. 542; WR-40, pp. 1885-1886; WR-53,
16 p. 1982; NMFS-1, p. 7; NMFS-12; RT (11/14/2017), pp. 198:5-6, 207:12-21; RT
17 (11/15/2017), pp. 172:15-173:3.) During low flow periods, the Diverters divert more flow
18 than necessary for their consumptive uses, but not enough to operate the Pelton wheel at
19 its minimum operating threshold. (WR-82, pp. 2441, 2453; RT (11/13/2017), pp. 47:17-
20 48:8) When they cannot divert sufficient flows, they use a diesel generator to meet MMR's
21 electrical demands. (WR-9, p. 1078; WR-82, pp. 2441, 2453) The Pelton wheel and diesel
22 generator operate as a "binary" system, with either the Pelton wheel or the diesel
23
24

25 ⁷ Mr. Cole testified that Blue Heron Ranch relies on tailwater MMR discharges to Irving Creek. (RT (Nov. 16,
26 2017), p. 271:13-18.) However, Blue Heron Ranch has no valid claim of right to appropriate MMR's Irving
27 Creek tailwater flows. (WR-5, p. 552-553; RT (Nov. 16, 2017), pp. 223:10-226:2.)

28 ⁸ The Pelton wheel could theoretically operate at its rated 40 kW capacity with 3 cfs, but the penstock only
has capacity for 2.4-2.5 cfs. (WR-4, pp. 385, 418, 432, 436, 447; MMR-18, p. 6; RT (11/13/2017), p. 58:18-
22; RT (11/14/2017), pp. 30:7-10; 78:16-22.) This limits the Pelton wheel's operating capacity to less than
40 kW. A POD at higher elevation with more hydraulic head would allow equivalent power generation with
less flow. (RT (11/14/2017) p. 165:1-10.)

1 generator providing electricity. (WR-82, p. 2441; RT (11/13/2017), p. 47:20-48:17.)

2 **B. Parallel Enforcement and Regulatory Actions**

3 On August 4, 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (North
4 Coast Water Board) issued CAO No. R1-2016-0031 (CAO) to the Diverters requiring that
5 they eliminate the threat of future discharges and clean up and abate the effects of
6 discharges of soil, rock and miscellaneous debris into Irving Creek, Stanshaw Creek, and
7 the Klamath River, caused by their diversion facility and conveyance system. (WR-142.)
8 The Diverters filed a petition with the State Water Board on September 6, 2016 seeking
9 review of the CAO. (WR-145.) The State Water Board took no action and the petition was
10 dismissed by operation of law. The Diverters filed no legal challenges to the CAO.
11 Pursuant to Water Code section 13330 the CAO is no longer subject to judicial review. As
12 of the hearing on this matter, the North Coast Water Board has issued three notices of
13 violation for the CAO. (WR-13, pp. 1113, 1114-1116; WR-152; WR-162; WR-167.)

15 **III. KEY ISSUES**

16 **A. Key Issue 1 - The Past and Current Diversion and Use of Water by the**
17 **Diverters Constitutes a Misuse of Water, Particularly in Light of**
18 **Impacts on Public Trust Resources**

19 **1. Reasonable Use and the Public Trust Doctrine**

20 The State Water Board has the authority to prevent the misuse of water, regardless
21 of the basis under which the right is held. (*Cal. Farm Bureau Federation v. St. Water Res.*
22 *Control Bd.* (2011) 51 Cal.4th 421, 429, *as modified* (Apr. 20, 2011).) Under Water Code
23 section 275, the State Water Board shall take all appropriate proceedings or actions to
24 prevent the misuse of water. There is no property right in the unreasonable use of water
25 and no taking when the State Water Board applies the prohibition on waste and
26 unreasonable use to a water right holder. (*In re Waters of Long Valley Stream System*
27 (1979) 25 Cal.3d 339, 354; *Joslin v. Marin Mun. Water Dist.* (1967) 67 Cal.2d 132, 145.)
28

1 A reasonable use inquiry must consider “statewide considerations of transcendent
2 importance.” (*Id.* at 140.) “Since what occurs is development of a standard of
3 reasonableness on the facts of the case it should be described as a making of law for the
4 particular case,” such as in the case-by-case determination of the standard of reasonable
5 care in tort law. (*Cal. Trout, Inc. v. St. Water Res. Control Bd.* (1989) 207 Cal.App.3d 585,
6 624.) What constitutes unreasonable water use depends upon the circumstances
7 presented and varies as the current situation changes. (*Imperial Irrigation Dist. v. St.*
8 *Water Res. Control Bd.* (1986) 186 Cal.App.3d 1160, 1166.) Particular methods of use
9 once considered reasonable can become unreasonable due to their deleterious effects.
10 (*U.S. v. St. Water Resources Control Bd.* (1986) 182 Cal.App.3d 82, 130.)

12 Although the standard of reasonableness is often fixed “ad hoc,” the Legislature
13 has the power to “fashion rules concerning reasonableness... by enacting statutory safety
14 obligations which become the basis of negligence per se.” (*Cal. Trout, supra* 207
15 Cal.App.3d at 624.) The State Water Board, in carrying out its statutory duties to
16 administer the state’s water resources, prevent misuse of water, and exercise the
17 adjudicatory and regulatory functions of the state, may similarly enact regulations
18 governing the reasonableness of using water. (*Light v. St. Water Res. Control Bd.* (2014)
19 226 Cal.App.4th 1463, 1484, *as modified on denial of reh'g* (July 11, 2014).)

21 The State Water Board also has the authority and the obligation to protect public
22 trust beneficial uses, such as interests in commerce, fisheries, recreation, and ecology,
23 whenever feasible. (*Nat’l Audubon Society v. Superior Court* (1983) 33 Cal.3d 419, 434.)
24 The public trust doctrine provides that the State, as sovereign, “owns all of its navigable
25 waterways and the lands lying beneath them as trustee of a public trust for the benefit of
26 the people.” (*Id.*) The purpose of the public trust “evolve[s] in tandem with the changing
27 public perception of the values and uses of waterways.” (*Id.*) The public trust doctrine
28

1 prevents any party from acquiring a vested right to divert or use water in a manner
2 harmful to the interests protected by the public trust. (*Id.* at 445.) The State has the
3 obligation, as trustee, to take the public trust into account in the planning and allocation of
4 water resources and to preserve public trust property from harmful diversions by water
5 rights holders whenever feasible. (*Id.* at 445-448.) Public trust uses must conform to the
6 standard of reasonable use. (*Id.* at 443.) However, the public trust and reasonable use
7 doctrines interact. A diversion that harms public trust resources constitutes a misuse of
8 water if the diversion can be managed to avoid the harm. (*Light, supra* 226 Cal.App.4th at
9 1482; *U.S. v. St. Water Resources Control Bd., supra* 182 Cal.App.3d at 130.)

11 The State Water Board has previously applied a series of factors as guidance in
12 determining whether a misuse of water is occurring. The factors are: 1) Other potential
13 beneficial uses for conserved water; 2) whether the excess water serves a reasonable
14 and beneficial purpose; 3) the amount of water reasonably required for current use; 4) the
15 availability of a physical plan or solution; 5) the amount and reasonableness of the cost of
16 saving water; 6) whether the required methods of saving water are conventional and
17 reasonable rather than extraordinary; and 7) the probable benefits of water savings. (WR-
18 20, p. 1679-1684; WR-63, p. 2318.) Not all of the factors apply or apply equally in every
19 case. (WR-63, p. 2318.)

21 **2. The Diverters Harm Other Beneficial Uses of Water**

22 **a. The Diverters Harm Public Trust Beneficial Uses**

23
24 Stanshaw Creek has a short but significant section of habitat for coho salmon
25 (*Onchorhynchus Kisutch*) (coho) below the Highway 96 crossing that includes an off-
26 channel pool located just upstream of its confluence with the Klamath River. (WR-7, p.
27 1054; WR-141, pp. 3122-3123; NMFS-3, pp. 2-3.) Juvenile chinook, coho, and steelhead
28 have been documented in Stanshaw Creek. (WR-40, p. 1885; KT-4, p. 3; KT-6, p 11.)

1 Coho “threatened” under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and California
2 Endangered Species Act. (WR-7, p. 1054; CDFW-13, p. 2; 62 Fed.Reg. 24,588 (May 6,
3 1997).) The Klamath River system and adjacent streamside riparian zones are designated
4 critical habitat for coho under. (WR-131, p. 2899; 64 Fed.Reg. 24,049 (May 5, 1999).)

5 The Klamath River is a recreational component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers
6 System. (Pub. Res. Code, § 5093.54.) Under the California Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, “It
7 is the policy of the State of California that certain rivers which possess extraordinary
8 scenic, recreational, fishery, or wildlife values shall be preserved in their free-flowing
9 state, together with their immediate environments, for the benefit and enjoyment of the
10 people of the state.” (Pub. Res. Code, § 5093.50, subd. (a).) “Such use of these rivers is
11 the highest and most beneficial use and is a reasonable and beneficial use of water within
12 the meaning of Section 2 of Article X of the California Constitution.” (*Id.*)

13
14 The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) designates
15 beneficial uses, establishes water quality objectives to protect those beneficial uses,
16 contains implementation programs for achieving water quality objectives, and
17 incorporates, by reference, plans and policies adopted by the State Water Board. (WR-13,
18 pp. 1100-1104; WR-62; WR-142, p. 3.) Under the Basin Plan, “The beneficial uses of any
19 specifically identified water body generally apply to all its tributaries.” (WR-62, p. 2057.)
20 Designated beneficial uses in the Basin Plan for the Klamath River, and by extension
21 Stanshaw Creek, include Cold Freshwater Habitat; Contact and Non-Contact Recreation;
22 Commercial and Sport Fishing; Spawning, Reproduction and/or Early Development; Rare,
23 Threatened or Endangered Species; Municipal; Hydropower Generation; and Migration of
24 Aquatic Organisms. (WR-13, p. 1101; WR-62, p. 2062.)

25
26 The Basin Plan temperature objective for intrastate waters prohibits any alteration
27 of natural receiving water temperature “unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction
28

1 of the [North Coast] Water Board that such alteration in temperature does not adversely
2 affect beneficial uses.” (WR-13, p. 1102; WR-62, p. 2078.) To implement temperature
3 objectives, the implementation plan for the Klamath River includes a Thermal Refugia
4 Protection Policy that provides enhanced protection of thermal refugia. (WR-13, p. 1104;
5 WR-62, p. 2078.) The Basin Plan identifies Stanshaw Creek as a tributary to the Klamath
6 River known to provide thermal refugia. (WR-13, p. 1102; WR-62, p. 2189.) The Basin
7 Plan defines “thermal refugia” as “Colder areas within a water body that provide cold
8 water refuge from unsuitably warm water.” (WR-13, p. 1104; WR-62, p. 2155.)

9
10 “Water temperature is one of the most important factors in the survival of juvenile
11 [coho]” salmon and other salmonids, “especially during the late-spring and early summer,”
12 when “temperature conditions in the Klamath River become inhospitable and salmonids
13 migrate into tributaries to over summer in the cooler temperatures to survive.” (CDFW-1,
14 p. 2.) Water temperature influences growth, physiology, and behavior. (*Id.*) Flow volume
15 influences wetted rearing area, macroinvertebrate production, and attraction and fish
16 passage flows, as well as temperature. (*Id.*) While juvenile steelhead can tolerate higher
17 water temperatures than coho, steelhead also benefit from cold water refugia in the
18 mainstem and tributaries of the Klamath River Basin. (KT-4, p. 4.)

19
20 In the Klamath River watershed, water temperature conditions routinely exceed
21 temperature thresholds protective of salmonids. (WR-62, p. 2181; NMFS-7, p. 2.) Over
22 summering habitat is currently limited to areas of cold water created and maintained by
23 cold water from tributaries, making tributaries “absolutely critical” for the survival of
24 juvenile salmon during the dry hot summer months. (KT-4, p. 3; NMFS-7, p. 2.) When
25 mainstem Klamath River temperatures approach detrimental temperatures in the summer,
26 juvenile coho seek thermal refugia and typically reside there until mainstem temperature
27 again become suitable and migration safe. (KT-4, p. 4.) All upstream salmon populations,
28

1 including those from the Shasta River, Scott River, and Upper Klamath River, must
2 migrate through the mainstem Klamath River and benefit from thermal refugia if they can
3 detect it and move in. (RT (11/15/2017), p. 157:3-9.) Available off-channel ponds and
4 thermal refugia pool are factors limiting coho recovery. (*Id.* at 156:9-19.)

5 Stanshaw Creek represents a critical and unique habitat for the survival of coho in
6 the Klamath Basin. (NMFS-7, pp. 2, 5; NMFS-9, pp. 38, 61, 66-67.) The thermal refugia
7 pool is in the floodplain, just adjacent to the mainstem Klamath River during low flows.
8 (RT (11/15/2017), p. 155:16-22.) Klamath River flows inundate the thermal refugia pool in
9 the winter, flushing and refreshing the habitat, bringing in nutrients from the mainstem and
10 providing food resources to the fish rearing there through the winter. (*Id.* at 155:22-156:2.)
11 The thermal refugia pool provides excellent habitat for juvenile salmonids with cold water
12 temperatures, significant cover and overhanging vegetation, and still water for velocity
13 refuge. (NMFS-7, p. 4.) During the summer, when flows from Stanshaw Creek are low,
14 juvenile fish are essentially trapped in the thermal refugia pool and highly vulnerable to
15 flow manipulations and other habitat impacts. (KT-4, p. 4.)

16 Stanshaw Creek has year-round benefits. The thermal refugia pool's connection to
17 the mainstem Klamath remains critical in the fall when juvenile coho salmon redistribute to
18 find different winter rearing habitat. (NMFS-7, p. 4.) During the winter, the thermal refugia
19 pool maintains deep and slow water habitat that provides velocity refuge from the
20 mainstem. (*Id.*) Juvenile salmonids, including coho, use the pool for over summer and
21 winter rearing. (*Id.*) Juvenile coho that overwinter in the thermal refugia pool rely on a
22 connection to the Klamath mainstem in the spring, from March through June, to
23 outmigrate as smolts when they are one year old. (*Id.*) Variability is important in the
24 winter, because high flows shape the channel by tumbling rocks, moving sediment,
25 preventing riparian vegetation from encroaching, and refreshing substrate. (RT
26
27
28

1 (11/15/2017), pp. 199:16-200:11.) Connection from the thermal refugia pool to the
2 mainstem Klamath is again critical in the fall when juvenile coho salmon redistribute to
3 find different winter rearing habitat. (NMFS-7, p. 4.) Due to limited thermal refugia habitat,
4 losing Stanshaw Creek's habitat benefits would be detrimental to the Klamath River coho
5 population as a whole. (RT (11/15/2017), pp. 197:16-199:1.)

6 MMR is the only diversion on Stanshaw Creek large enough to measurably affect
7 flow and public trust beneficial uses. (WR-141, p. 3128; NMFS-3, p. 8; KT-4, p. 6.) MMR's
8 diversion causes significant hydromodification and habitat alteration in Stanshaw Creek.
9 (WR-13, p. 1105; RT (11/16/2017), pp. 23:19-24:3.) It has been routinely dewatering the
10 creek since at least 1994. (OMRT-4; OMRT-5; RT (11/16/2017), pp. 155:8-11, 156:17-23,
11 170:17-173:19.) Moreover, MMR's POD operation rapidly changes Stanshaw Creek's
12 flows and sediment inputs, contributing to the creek's two significant problems. (NMFS-1,
13 p. 7; KT-4, pp. 5-6; OMRT-3, p. 5.) First, fish in the Klamath River mainstem cannot
14 access the thermal refuge pool when flows are too low to connect to Stanshaw Creek.
15 (KT-4, p. 4.) They must seek refuge in other locations further upstream or downstream,
16 which extends their exposure to lethally warm conditions. (*Id.*) Second, fish in the thermal
17 refuge pool are trapped and cannot migrate away from harmful conditions. (*Id.*)

18 Multiple fish kills have occurred in the thermal refugia pool due to MMR's diversion,
19 including a fish kill in July 2009 reported to the Karuk Tribe. (KT-4, p. 5; RT (11/16/2017),
20 pp. 28:8-31:4, 156:17-23.) Toz Soto, a fish biologist for the Karuk Tribe, responded to July
21 2009 fish kill and identified dead coho and steelhead. (KT-4, p. 5; RT (11/16/2017), pp.
22 28:21-30:9.) Alterations in MMR's POD rapidly reduced flows in Stanshaw Creek and
23 killed the fish. (KT-4, p. 6; RT (11/16/2017), p. 70:12-17.) Low flows, "a trickle," had
24 reduced the thermal refugia pool to a fraction of its normal size. (KT-4, p. 6; RT
25 (11/16/2017), pp. 30:16-31:2.) A rapidly head cutting inlet channel indicated a rapid draw-

1 down of the thermal refugia pool. (*Id.*) The fish were trapped in the pool, could not escape,
2 and died from thermal shock. (KT-4, p. 6; WR-96, p. 2; RT (11/16/2017), p. 70:12-17.) The
3 fish kill coincided with extremely high air temperatures. (KT-4, p. 6.)

4 Temperature and flow data corroborate the Diverters' impacts on the thermal
5 refugia pool. 2009 flow and temperature data from the Karuk Tribe and USFS indicate a
6 correlation between the MMR diversion and high temperatures in the thermal refugia pool.
7 (WR-13, p. 1117-1118.) Additional data indicate water levels in the thermal refugia pool
8 were drawn down to levels that would no longer support refugia habitat. (WR-13, p. 1117.)
9 In July 2009, the MMR POD drew the thermal refugia pool down so low it exposed the
10 temperature gauge. (WR-13, p. 20; WR-191; RT (11/15/2017), pp. 116:3-120:9.)

12 The MMR diversion also entrains fish. (CDFW-1, pp. 2-3; CDFW-13, p. 4.) Division
13 staff have observed rainbow trout in the diversion ditch during field inspections. (WR-30,
14 p. 1.) Jennifer Bull, of CDFW, identified salmonids in the MMR pond, down-ditch of the
15 Pelton wheel, during a field visit to MMR on May 14, 2015. (CDFW-1, pp. 2-3.) During that
16 visit, Mr. Cole stated the fish in the pond came from Stanshaw Creek. (CDFW-1, pp. 2-3.)
17 Mr. Cole admitted that a fish that found its way into the MMR pond would have no
18 survivable means of escape. (RT (11/15/2017), pp. 105:9-107:13)

20 Mr. Steve Cramer, who testified for the Diverters, concluded that Stanshaw Creek
21 lacks suitable habitat for a self-sustaining coho population and is unlikely to support a self-
22 sustaining population of steelhead. (MMR-21, pp. 4, 12, 21, 22.) However, he only
23 surveyed Stanshaw Creek once. (MMR-21, p. 3; RT (11/13/2017), pp. 113:5-7.) A single
24 visit is insufficient to adequately understand the habitat value of Stanshaw Creek or the
25 thermal refugia pool, because it only offers a "snapshot" of the many fish moving in and
26 out from season to season and year to year. (RT (11/15/2017), pp. 170:10-171:6.) He also
27 conducted only one snorkel survey consisting of one circuit around the thermal refugia
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1 pool in each direction. (MMR-21, p. 3.) However, estimating population in a thermal
2 refugial pool requires multiple dives over the course of a day; not just one. (RT
3 (11/16/2017), pp. 73:22-74:5.) Mr. Cramer also opined that the thermal refugia pool was
4 poor habitat, but acknowledged that the pool, like other thermal refugia, is highly dynamic
5 and will look different every year. (KT-4, p. 3; RT (11/13/2017), pp. 121:10-122:8.)
6 Regardless, he acknowledged that the thermal refugia pool has year-round habitat value,
7 because juvenile salmonids utilize it for refuge habitat in the summer and winter and seek
8 to access the pool in spring and fall. (MMR-21, p. 22; RT (11/13/2017), pp. 142:4-143:9.)

9
10 Mr. Cramer emphasized that he observed few fish in Stanshaw Creek, even though
11 he visited in October, when temperatures had diminished and fewer fish would have
12 utilized the thermal refugia pool. (RT (11/16/2017), pp. 19:11-23, 102:15-104:18.) Juvenile
13 coho numbers are currently depressed throughout the Klamath River Basin. (*Id.* at p.
14 98:11-15.) However, Mr. Cramer did not compare his observations in Stanshaw Creek to
15 fish counts elsewhere in the Klamath River Basin to determine whether they were
16 consistent. (RT (11/13/2017), pp. 118:22-119:14.) He further acknowledged that he did
17 not evaluate whether the number of fish he observed reflected impacts from the California
18 drought of 2012-2016. (*Id.* at pp. 127:19-129:11.)

19
20 NMFS has issued flow recommendations for Stanshaw Creek (NMFS Flow
21 Recommendation). (WR-141; NMFS-3; NMFS-1, pp. 1-2.) The NMFS Flow
22 Recommendation applies to all diverters on Stanshaw Creek and requires a 90 percent
23 bypass flow. (WR-141, pp. 3131-3132) Additional flows may be diverted for non-
24 consumptive uses if a minimum of 2 cfs is bypassed at the POD and non-consumptively
25 used flows are returned to Stanshaw Creek above the point of anadromy. (WR-141, pp.
26 3131-3132; NMFS-3, pp. 11-12.) Limiting consumptive diversions to 10 percent of
27 unimpaired flow will provide a high level of protection for coho by minimizing changes in
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1 the natural structure and function of the riverine ecosystem, while a 2 cfs minimum bypass
2 will maintain stream connectivity above the anadromous reach. (WR-141, pp. 3128-3129;
3 NMFS-3, pp. 8-9; RT (11/15/2017), pp. 200:2-9, 213:20-217:23.) The California
4 Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) has concurred that the NMFS Flow
5 recommendation is scientifically supported and issued a draft lake or streambed alteration
6 agreement (LSAA) with conditions substantially similar to recommendations by Division
7 and North Coast Water Board staff. (CDFW-37, p. 7; RT (11/15/2017) pp. 226:15-227:5)
8 The Karuk Tribe also supports the NMFS Flow Recommendation and the conditions
9 CDFW recommends in its Draft LSAA. (RT (11/16/2017), p. 31:5-19.) Implementing the
10 NMFS Flow Recommendation ensures minimum flows for protecting public trust beneficial
11 uses. Failure to bypass these flows constitutes a misuse of water.
12

13 **b. The Diverters Harm Senior Rights**

14 A diversion that cannot be managed to avoid harming a senior right is a misuse of
15 water. Old Man River Trust (OMRT) owns property that was part of the original Stanshaw
16 patent and eventually severed. (WR-4, p. 185; WR-15; WR-16; WR-53, p. 1981; WR-193,
17 p. 5357; SWRCB-3; OMRT-1; OMRT-2, p. 2.) OMRT claims rights as both a successor in
18 interest to the E. Stanshaw pre-1914 claim and under a riparian claim of right. (WR-5, pp.
19 605-606; WR-53, p. 1985; WR-98, p. 2601; WR-99, p. 2609; RT (11/16/2017) pp. 154:7-
20 20, 174:7-178:12.) As a riparian owner, OMRT has water rights equal to and superior to
21 the Diverters' claimed rights. (*U.S. v. St. Water Res. Control Bd.*, *supra* 182 Cal.App.3d at
22 104-105.) The Diverters did not dispute these claims. MMR's diversion has dewatered
23 Stanshaw Creek and impaired both the water supply and quality at OMRT's POD. (WR-4,
24 p. 104; RT (11/16/2017), pp. 181:11-189:1.) The less reliable water supply makes it
25 harder for OMRT to rent cabins. (WR-4, p. 104; RT (11/16/2017), p. 159:18-21.) The
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1 Diverters' diversion and use of water therefore harms OMRT's use and enjoyment of its
2 property and deprives OMRT of water it is entitled to divert and use under its water rights.

3 **c. The Diverters Impact Water Quality to the Detriment of**
4 **Beneficial Uses**

5 A diversion or use of water that harms water quality to the detriment of beneficial
6 uses constitutes a misuse of water. (*U.S. v. St. Water Resources Control Bd.*, *supra* 182
7 Cal.App.3d at 130.) Since 1994, at least half a dozen ditch failures and mudslides have
8 discharged sediment into the thermal refugia pool. (OMRT-4; OMRT-5; RT (11/16/2017),
9 pp. 154:8-11, 156:17-23, 170:17-173:19.) One failure discharged the bulk of a sediment
10 plug into the thermal refugia pool in 2005-2006. (WR-184, p. 4273; CDFW-17; RT
11 (11/16/2017), pp. 41:10-42:3, 181:11-182:18.) In February 2015, North Coast Water
12 Board staff identified evidence of ditch failures and repairs. (WR-13, pp. 1105-1108; WR-
13 89, p. 2524-2539; WR-142, p. 3135; WR-201, pp. 5-18; RT (11/13/2017), pp. 209:5-
14 211:16.) In 2016, the North Coast Water Board issued the CAO, because the methods of
15 diversion, including the poorly regulated POD, unlined diversion ditch, and hydropower
16 effluent discharge into Irving Creek, create conditions of pollution or nuisance in waters of
17 the state by unreasonably impacting water quality and beneficial uses, in violation of
18 section 301(a) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1311(a)), Water Code section 13376,
19 and Discharge Prohibition 1 and 2 in the Basin Plan's Action Plan for Logging,
20 Construction, and Associated Activities. (WR-88, p. 2519; WR-142, pp. 3135-3141; RT
21 (11/13/2017), p. 208:2-13.) Subsequent evidence shows the Diverters' manner of
22 operating their POD results in elevated temperatures that harm beneficial uses
23 designated in the Basin Plan. (WR-13, pp. 1101, 1117-1118; WR-89, pp. 2522-2539; WR-
24 142, p. 3137; WR-188; WR-189; WR-190; WR-191; WR-201, pp. 28-31; RT (11/13/2017),
25 pp. 214:5-220:2; RT (11/16/2017), pp. 29:12-31:2.) Water quality impacts of MMR's
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1 diversion have continued. State Water Board staff identified additional evidence of failures
2 in a follow-up visit in February 2017. (WR-197; RT (11/16/2017), pp. 230:8-232:10.)

3 **d. The Diverters Harm Tribal Beneficial Uses**

4 The physical and spiritual health and cultural identity of the Karuk Tribe are
5 intimately tied to the ecological integrity of the Klamath River Basin. (KT-1, p. 1; RT
6 (11/14/2017), pp. 128:2-129:16; *see also Karuk Tribe of Cal. v. U.S. Forest Service* (9th
7 Cir. 2012) 681 F.3d 1006, 1011.) The Karuk Tribe is the second largest federally
8 recognized Indian Tribe in California, with over 3,600 members. (KT-1, p. 1.) Its aboriginal
9 territory is located immediately downstream of the Klamath River dams and spans large
10 portions of Siskiyou and Humboldt Counties in Northern California, an area that
11 encompasses Stanshaw Creek. (*Id.*) Before European settlement, the Karuk heavily relied
12 on salmon for their daily diet, but the decline in the Klamath River salmon fishery has led
13 to a significant decline in fish in the Karuk People's diet and, as a result, their overall
14 health. (KT-1 at 3.) The Diverters' misuse of water, by impacting the Klamath River
15 salmon fishery and ecological integrity, impacts the Karuk Tribe's beneficial uses. (*Id.*)

18 **3. Excess Water Does Not Serve a Reasonable and Beneficial Use**

19 An excessive diversion of water for any purpose cannot be regarded as a diversion
20 for a beneficial use. (*Tulare Irr. Dist. supra* 3 Cal.2d at 547.) Consequently, a "beneficial
21 use" is not necessarily a "reasonable use." (*Joslin, supra* 67 Cal.2d at 143.)

22 For routine operations, the Diverters use a set of markings in a 30-inch corrugated
23 metal pipe to determine whether MMR is diverting sufficient water. (WR-82, p. 2441; RT
24 (11/15/2017), pp. 10:9-11:12.) These markings, which Mr. Cole refers to as "Stanshaw
25 Units," are unique and do not correlate with any commonly used unit of measure. (WR-82,
26 p. 2441; RT (11/15/2017), pp. 10:21-11:12, 133:8-19; RT (11/16/2017), p. 261:1-16.)

27 Diversion measurement regulations adopted by the State Water Board are evidence of a
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1 per se standard of reasonableness for measuring water use. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§
2 931-938.) The “Stanshaw Unit” does not meet these requirements. (RT (11/16/2017), pp.
3 258:7-259:2; WR-69, p. 2345; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 933, subd. (b)(1).) Since the
4 Diverters cannot adequately measure their diversion, there is no evidence that they apply
5 no more than the reasonable amount of water necessary for their beneficial uses.

6 The Diverters similarly lack information indicating how much power MMR
7 generates at different times of the year or how much it consumes. (WR-157, pp. 3458-
8 3459.) Estimated unimpaired flow dips below 3 cfs in late July and most of August,
9 September, and October, a period that includes most of the Diverters’ peak guest season
10 and their highest electrical demands. (WR-40, p. 1885.) To meet their electrical demands
11 under these conditions, the Diverters must use their diesel generator, but since the Pelton
12 wheel and diesel generator operate as a binary system, diversion flows do not generate
13 power that support the ranch. (WR-82, p. 2441; RT (11/13/2017), p. 47:20-48:17.)

14 Although power needs may change in the course of a year, more people generally
15 require more power and, for hydropower generation, more flow. (WR-82, p. 2451; MMR-
16 18, p. 6; RT (11/14/2017), pp. 157:2-158:16, 224:14-15.) Mr. Cole claimed that MMR
17 needs 3 cfs to support its electrical demands in the off-season, even though only six
18 people occupy MMR. (RT (11/14/2017), pp. 180:9-13, 225:21-226:7.) Mr. Cole’s statement
19 is inconsistent with characterizations that MMR’s peak electric demand occurs in the peak
20 guest season. (WR-82, p. 2440; RT (11/14/2017), p. 156:10-23.) If true, it constitutes a
21 staggering amount of water use, approximately one acre-foot per person per day, which
22 on its own is enough for MMR’s hydropower use to be unreasonable.⁹

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⁹ 1 cfs equals 1.98 acre-feet per day. (WR-5, p. 624; WR-49, p. 1.) 3 cfs would therefore require 5.94 acre-
feet per day. An acre-foot is equal to approximately 325,580 U.S. gallons. (*Stockton East Water Dist. v. U.S.*
(Fed. Cir. 2009) 583 F.3d 1344, 1350 n6, *on reh’g in part* (Fed. Cir. 2011) 638 F.3d 781.) This is sufficient to
meet the domestic needs of at least 26,000 people a day. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §697, subd. (b).)

1 **4. The Diverters Claim Far More Water Than Reasonably Required**
2 **for Their Current Beneficial Uses**

3 The most recent consumptive use calculations indicate the Diverters use up to
4 0.183 cfs during their peak guest season, but this occurs less than 60 days a year. (WR-9,
5 p. 1087; WR-111; WR-140, pp. 3119-3120; WR-155; MMR-18, p. 3; RT (11/16/2017), pp.
6 261:19-263:21.) Consumptive water use would be even lower in the off-season when only
7 six people occupy the ranch. (WR-61, p. 2029, 2032, 2035, 2037; WR-78, p. 2404.)

8 MMR may occasionally use up to 0.235 cfs when its supports a fire camp. (WR-9,
9 p. 1087; WR-140, pp. 3119-3120; MMR-18, p. 3.) USFS staff have reported using the
10 ditch for fire suppression, but there is no evidence they actually use 3 cfs from the ditch.
11 (MMR-1, p. 9-10; MMR-18, p. 3; RT (11/15/2017), pp. 12:17-14:10.) Regardless, the
12 USFS has alternative sources it may use instead of the ditch and USFS policies prohibit
13 filling fire trucks from areas that serve thermal refuges. (RT (11/15/2017), pp. 14:11-15:3.)

14 The Diverters use the vast majority of their diversion flows for hydropower
15 generation, but no evidence indicates how much they reasonably need. The Electrician
16 estimated MMR's annual power demand at 126,265 kWh per year. (WR-157, p. 3458,
17 3536; MMR-19, pp. 1.) However, people who live off-grid rely on appliances with low
18 electrical demands. (MMR-19, p. 1; RT (11/16/2017), p. 165:21-166:13.) Since the
19 Diverters did not include The Electrician's attachment explaining how their annual power
20 demand was calculated, there is no evidence they reasonably and prudently rely on
21 appliances with low electrical demands. (WR-157, p. 3458, 3536; MMR-19, pp. 1-2; RT
22 (11/16/2017), pp. 167:23-170:5) The Diverters have not conducted an energy audit and
23 they have refused to comply with the CDO's directive to review opportunities to optimize
24 water needs and use for power generation. (WR-9, p. 1088; WR-13, p. 1110; WR-167, p.
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1 3808-3810.) They have instead asserted that, under their pre-1914 claim of appropriation,
2 they may use their water as they wish. (WR-183, pp. 2466-2467.)

3 Although the Diverters today claim 3 cfs, Mr. Cole previously defended the
4 conclusions in a report, known as the "Lennihan Report" for its author Martha Lennihan,
5 which independently evaluated MMR's water rights. (WR-83, p. 2475; KT-2, pp. 2-3; RT
6 (11/16/2017), pp. 135:1-24, 228:18-229:23.) The Lennihan Report concluded that MMR's
7 pre-1914 appropriative right was likely 1.16 cfs, with 0.5 cfs for conveyance losses, 0.31
8 cfs for hydropower, and 0.35 cfs for consumptive uses. (WR-80, pp. 2430-2431.) Although
9 the Prosecution Team does not assert that the Lennihan Report establishes MMR's pre-
10 1914 water right or that 0.66 cfs is reasonable for MMR's beneficial uses, if Mr. Cole was
11 willing to accept the Lennihan Report's findings that MMR only has a right to 0.66 cfs for
12 beneficial use, it is reasonable to infer that when he made the statements he reasonably
13 believed MMR could feasibly operate with 0.66 cfs - much less than the 3 cfs claimed.
14 Regardless, depending on the time of year, 3 cfs is more than reasonably necessary for
15 MMR's beneficial uses, unavailable due to insufficient flows, or available only with
16 substantial impacts to public trust beneficial uses and senior water rights.
17
18

19 **5. Reasonable and Feasible Physical Solutions are Available**

20 In disputes between competing water users, "physical solution" can meet the needs
21 of all competing users and put water to beneficial use to the fullest extent capable. (WR-
22 20, p. 1683; *City of Barstow v. Mojave Water Agency* (2000) 23 Cal.4th 1224, 1250.)
23

24 Installing a pipe in the diversion ditch would allow the Diverters to properly regulate
25 their diversion to ensure they divert only water necessary for their beneficial use
26 demands, as well as eliminate conveyance losses, ditch failures, erosion, and sediment
27 discharges into Stanshaw Creek. (WR-4, p. 176-177; WR-9, pp. 1075, 1077; 1079; WR-
28 82, p. 2444; WR-87, p. 2497; WR-157, pp. 3458-3459; RT (11/13/2017), p. 206:10-11; RT

1 (11/14/2017), pp. 77:25-79:1; RT (11/15/2017), pp. 133:10-19, 238:8-24.) A pipe could
2 include a fish screen, diversion control structure, and diversion measurement device.
3 (WR-114, p. 2772; WR-122, pp. 2848-2849; WR-125; WR-126; WR-177, pp. 4225-4226;
4 RT (11/13/2017), pp. 49:15-50:25.)

5 Another proposed solution would use alternative energy systems to reduce reliance
6 on hydropower generation. (WR-177, p. 4225-4226; RT (11/13/2017), p. 49:10-14.) The
7 Electrician proposed a system using solar power, batteries, and a propane generator that
8 would interconnect with the current hydropower system, which would remain available for
9 winter use. (MMR-19, p. 1; WR-157, p. 3536; RT (11/13/2017), pp. 48:18-49:18) Golden
10 West Energy proposed a system using solar power and batteries. (MMR-19, pp. 3-27.)
11 The Diverters also stated they would conduct an energy audit to evaluate alternatives for
12 reducing their overall electrical demand. (WR-110, p. 2747; WR-115, p. 2805.)

14 **6. The Cost of a Physical Solution is Reasonable and Will Save** 15 **Significant Water**

16 The cost of water conservation does not justify wasteful or unreasonable practices.
17 (WR-20, p. 1682.) For the Diverters, physical solutions will save significant water and
18 ultimately cost less than their current operations by offsetting significant expenses.

19 A proposed 6-inch pipe, sized to support the Diverters' consumptive use demands,
20 with a fish screen, diversion control structure, and Doppler flow meter, would have cost
21 \$77,675. (WR-114, p. 2774.) By comparison, Mr. Cole testified that from 1994 to 2016,
22 MMR spent roughly \$321,000 solely on employee time for ditch maintenance and repair,
23 an average of roughly \$14,000 a year. (MMR-26, p. 24; RT (11/16/2017), p. 268:16-19.)

24 The Diverters could save significant water by using alternative methods of energy
25 production such as solar power to reduce their reliance on hydropower. The Electrician
26 quoted a system for \$425,000. (WR-157, p. 3536; MMR-19, p.1.) Golden West Energy
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1 quoted a system for \$526,000. (MMR-19, pp. 2-3; WR-157, pp. 3459, 3536.) The quotes
2 were based on MMR's current electrical demands. (RT (Nov. 15, 2017), pp. 42:5-43:22.)

3 The Diverters currently rely on diesel power generation for much of their peak
4 guest season, because flows in Stanshaw Creek are insufficient for them to divert
5 adequate flows to generate sufficient power. (RT (11/14/2017), p. 207:15-21; RT
6 (11/16/2017), pp. 261:11-263:21.) The Diverters have reported utility expenses, which
7 would have included fuel costs for the diesel generator, in the range of \$31,296 to
8 \$37,522 in their tax returns from 2013 through 2016. (WR-194, p. 4; WR-196, p. 13; RT
9 (11/14/2017), pp. 239:25-240:8, 242:5-7.) With financing and tax credits, the Diverters
10 could pay off the Golden West Energy system in as little as 8 years. (MMR-19, pp. 3; RT
11 (11/14/2017), p. 249:5-21.) They could continue operating the system for at least 12 to 17
12 more years with dramatically lower utility expenses. (RT (11/14/2017), pp. 249:22-251:10;
13 RT (11/16/2017), pp. 221:18-222:22.) The system would reduce the cost of upgrading
14 other diversion infrastructure, because a larger diversion for hydropower generation would
15 be unnecessary. (*Id.*) Long-term, the Diverters could save money. (WR-194, p. 5; RT
16 (11/16/2017), pp. 220:17-221:9, 222:3-22.) Although these are preliminary quotes, they
17 nonetheless demonstrate that reasonable and feasible alternatives are available.
18
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20 The Diverters are financially capable of paying for corrective actions. (WR-194, pp.
21 1-5; WR-196, p. 15; RT (11/16/2017), pp. 220:2-221:16) MMR has positive net cash flow
22 and substantial equity in the property and business. (RT (11/16/2017), p. 221:10-12.)
23 There is no indication of any excessive expenses incurred over the last year. (*Id.* at p.
24 221:13-15.) The alternatives with available cost information – the engineering and land
25 surveying services from KASL Engineering and the alternative energy system quotes, are
26 financially feasible, based on a review of the Diverters' current cash flow, net worth,
27 liabilities, and excessive expenses. (WR-194, p. 5; RT (11/16/2017), p. 220:2-16.) Insofar
28

1 as the Diverters have declared “losses,” such losses are relevant to tax liability; not
2 necessarily to the health of the business or of the ability of the business to pay for
3 necessary improvements. (WR-194, p. 2; WR-196, p. 5; RT (11/16/2017), p. 213:1-13.)

4 The Diverters have made substantial capital investments in recent years, such as new
5 structures and vehicles. (WR-194, p. 4.) They can reinvest in their business. (*Id.*)

6 The Diverters submitted evidence of additional expenses, but insofar as these
7 expenses have been included in their financial disclosures, directly or indirectly, the
8 Prosecution Team included them in its financial analysis. (MMR-25; MMR-26; MMR-27.).
9 To the extent the Diverters alleged additional expenses, they did not explain how such
10 additional expenses would preclude them from paying for substantial corrective actions.
11

12 **7. Required Methods of Saving Water are Conventional and** 13 **Reasonable**

14 Conformity of a use, method of use, or method of diversion of water with local
15 custom is only one factor weighed in considering whether misuse is occurring. (Water
16 Code § 100.5.) Even common practices consistent with local custom can be unreasonable
17 depending on conditions and the amount of water used. (*Tulare Irr. Dist., supra* 3 Cal.2d
18 at 586; *Erickson v. Queen Valley Ranch Co.* (1971) 22 Cal.App.3d 578, 585.)

19 Mr. Meyer testified that conveyance losses in MMR’s ditch were similar to losses in
20 other ditches he has evaluated and that he had observed similar failures in other unlined
21 ditches located along steep hillsides. (RT (11/14/2017), pp. 139:1-140:9.) However, he
22 acknowledged he has never evaluated a ditch that diverts water from a stream that is
23 above a rim dam, used by ESA-listed salmonids, designated as having thermal refugia
24 under the Basin Plan, or used by tribes dependent on salmon. (*Id.* at pp. 163:14-164:10.)

25 Mountain Home, the Diverters’ upstream neighbor, uses a pipeline, rather than an
26 unlined ditch, to transport water from its POD to place of use. (WR-118, p. 2827.)
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1 Mountain Home also uses solar power, hydropower generation that returns tailwater to
2 the source stream, and batteries to store excess power generation. (WR-9, p. 1080; WR-
3 118, p. 2829; WR-119, p. 2832; WR-120, p. 18; RT (11/13/2017), p. 199:14-22.) Use of
4 these methods by Mountain Home, just upstream of MMR, shows they are conventional
5 and reasonable even in the mid-Klamath region.

6 **8. Saving Water Has Significant Benefits**

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8 Conserving water will result in substantial benefits. Implementing the NMFS Flow
9 Recommendation will maintain the natural functions of Stanshaw Creek, including
10 temperatures in thermal refuge pool, and contribute to protecting chinook, steelhead, and
11 ESA-listed coho. OMRT will benefit from improved water supply and water quality for its
12 water rights. Lining or piping the ditch will eliminate conveyance losses and ditch failures
13 and improve water quality.

14 The Diverters will benefit as well. Lining or piping the ditch will improve their water
15 supply reliability by eliminating risk of ditch failure. It will also substantially reduce the cost
16 and labor of ditch maintenance. Solar power generation and batteries will reduce their
17 reliance on hydropower and diversion flows from Stanshaw Creek, providing them with
18 more reliable power year-round to continue operating their business at lower overall cost.

20 **B. Key Issue 2**

21 **1. The Diverters Should Implement Corrective Actions, With a Time** 22 **Schedule, to Eliminate Their Misuse of Water**

23 To eliminate the misuse of water, the Prosecution Team recommends that the
24 State Water Board adopt the Draft Order. (WR-1.) However, instead of ordering the
25 Diverters to cease their discharges to Irving Creek and return flows to Stanshaw Creek,
26 as currently proposed in Table 3 and Table 4, the Prosecution Team instead recommends
27 simply requiring the Diverters to meet the NMFS Flow Recommendation. (WR-1, pp. 21-
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1 22.) This would give the Diverters more flexibility, while achieving the end goal of
2 protecting public trust beneficial uses.

3 Issues related to the diversion and use of water at MMR have been continuing for
4 many years without resolution. Division staff identified the Diverters' public trust and water
5 quality impacts as early as 2000 and recommended substantially similar solutions as
6 those in the Draft Order. (WR-1; WR-35. WR-36; WR-37; WR-38; WR-39; WR-40, WR-42;
7 CDFW-1, p. 1; p. 1887; RT (11/16/2017), pp. 226:23-228:14.) An investigation in 2002
8 again recommended similar actions. (WR-53, p. 1990-1991.) The Diverters proposed their
9 own compliance project and time schedule in 2016, but missed one deadline after another
10 and subsequently abandoned nearly their entire proposed project. (WR-9, p. 1088; RT
11 (11/13/2017), pp. 203:1-11, 213:2-12) The Diverters have voluntarily limited their spring
12 and summer diversion to their consumptive use demands since about May 2016, but
13 nothing requires them to continue limiting their diversion. (WR-147, p. 3235.)

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16 The Karuk Tribe has proactively met with the Diverters and attempted to
17 collaborate and present grant opportunities to improve flows available for public trust
18 beneficial uses through improved water conservation. (KT-4, p. 7; RT (Nov. 16., 2017),
19 pp. 128:16-130:12, 133:22-140:7.) CDFW similarly attempted to facilitate grants. (CDFW-
20 13, pp. 2-7; RT (Nov. 15, 2017, pp. 232:17-247:4.) Despite 20 years of discussions and
21 attempts at collaborative solutions, the Diverters did little. (WR-9, p. 1088; KT-1, p. 3; RT
22 (11/13/2017), p. 203:1-11) The Diverters will not eliminate their misuse of water absent an
23 order and implementation time schedule holding them legally accountable.
24

25 **2. An Implementation Time Schedule for Corrective Actions Should**
26 **Be Consistent With the Requirements of the CAO Issued By the**
North Coast Water Board

27 Any order the State Water Board issues should include an implementation time
28 schedule for corrective actions consistent with the time schedule and corrective actions

1 ordered in the CAO. The Diverters petitioned for review of the CAO and the State Water
2 Board took no action. As a result, the findings, time schedule, and corrective actions are
3 no longer subject to judicial challenge. Insofar as the Diverters believe modifications of the
4 CAO would be necessary to comply with an order from the State Water Board, this
5 argument is speculative as it presumes the State Water Board order will direct actions that
6 are in conflict with the CAO requirements. The relief sought in this action, and the
7 measures required in the CAO can be implemented without conflict. Further, the CAO
8 provides a remedy for any alleged inconsistency as the CAO allows the Diverters to
9 request that the North Coast Water Board modify the CAO. (WR-142, pp. 3147-3148.)
10

11 **IV. CONCLUSION**

12 The Diverters have misused water and continue misusing water. Their POD
13 dewater Stanshaw Creek, altering habitat and impairing thermal refugia utilized by ESA-
14 listed salmonids. Their diversion ditch erodes and discharges sediment into Stanshaw
15 Creek. Their hydropower effluent discharges into Irving Creek with more sediment. They
16 kill steelhead and ESA-listed coho and injure senior water rights. The Diverters have
17 feasible physical solutions available to control and measure their diversion, eliminate
18 sediment discharges, and implement the NMFS Flow Recommendation. The Prosecution
19 Team therefore requests that the State Water Board find that the Diverters have misused
20 water and continue to misuse water. The Prosecution Team further requests that the
21 State Water Board order the Diverters to cease misusing water and order corrective
22 actions, in accordance with a time schedule to eliminate the misuse.
23
24

25 Respectfully submitted,

26 

27 Kenneth Petruzzelli
28 **OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT**
Attorney for the Prosecution Team

**SERVICE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Douglas and Heidi Cole and Marble Mountain Ranch
Waste and Unreasonable Use Hearing
Scheduled for November 13, 2017**

PARTIES

THE FOLLOWING **MUST BE SERVED** WITH WRITTEN TESTIMONY, EXHIBITS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS. (All have AGREED TO ACCEPT electronic service, pursuant to the rules specified in the hearing notice.)

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Douglas and Heidi Cole
Marble Mountain Ranch
Waste and Unreasonable Use
Hearing

List created July 14, 2017
Updated November 3, 2017

**SERVICE LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Douglas and Heidi Cole and Marble Mountain Ranch
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PARTIES, CONT'D

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