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8	BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA				
9	STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD				
10					
11	Public Hearings to Determine Whether to Adopt) Cease and Desist Orders against:	CLOSING BRIEF OF COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN AND SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY			
12	Yong Pak and Sun Young (Pak/Young), Duck Slough in San Joaquin County;	FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT			
13	Rudy Mussi, Toni Mussi and Lori C. Mussi				
14	Investment LP (Mussi et al.), Middle River in San Joaquin County				
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	Closing Brief of County of San Joaquin et al. 630888-3				

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The County of San Joaquin and the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (hereinafter collectively "County") hereby submit the Closing Brief in the above referenced matters before the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Water Board" or "Board").

I. INTRODUCTION

The pending cease and desist hearing by the State Water Board are entirely improper to determine the nature, extent and validity of the pre-1914 or riparian water right held by Mussi et al. ("Mussi") and Pak/Young. The State Board lacks the authority to issue a cease and desist orders regarding riparian or pre-1914 water rights or to determine the nature, extent or validity of those rights. Furthermore, Mussi and Pak/Young presented substantial evidence to support the existence of riparian and pre-1914 water rights to serve their properties which are located along historic Duck Slough.

The draft cease and desist orders ("CDOs") issued on December 14, 2009 to Mussi and Pak/Young allege that the "[Board] is authorized under California *Water Code* section 1831 to issue a Cease and Desist Order requiring [the specified diverter] to cease and desist its unauthorized diversion, collection and use of water in violation of section 1052 of the *Water Code*." (See Exhibit PT-7 at p. 1 for Pak/Young and Exhibit PT-7 at page 1 for Mussi.)

Mussi and Pak/Young claim riparian water rights. (See Mussi Exhibit 7 and Pak/Young Exhibit 7.) The Board does not have the authority to determine the validity, nature or extent of riparian water rights and a cease and desist order proceeding is not proper regarding riparian or pre-1914 water rights.

The Board's inquiry into and any determination regarding the parties riparian water rights is improper and in excess of the Board's authority. The validity, nature and extent of pre-1914 and riparian water rights are clearly and widely recognized as outside of the jurisdiction of the Board. Any determination regarding these water rights in this proceeding by the Board would be improper. Determinations regarding the nature and extent of pre-1914 and riparian water rights are properly determined by a court of law, not the Board. Any dispute regarding the use of water based on a pre-

1914 or riparian water right must be properly determined in a court of law pursuant to a quiet title or adjudication proceeding.

The CDO is issued pursuant to *Water Code* sections 1831 and 1052¹. These sections do not grant the Board the authority to issue a cease and desist order against claimed pre-1914 water rights and riparian water rights. The Board's authority to issue cease and desist orders is limited to that authority given to the Board by statute. The power of the Board to issue cease and desist orders does not include the authority for the Board to make determinations regarding the validity of the parties riparian or pre-1914 water rights. It's jurisdictional. The Board simply does not have any jurisdiction or authority to determine pre-1914 and riparian water rights. Specifically, the Board's power pursuant to cease and desist orders authorized by *Water Code* 1831 and 1052 simply does not extend to pre-1914 or riparian water rights—the Board's jurisdiction is limited to statutory, post-1914, appropriations. If the Board can determine whether or not these parties' riparian or pre-1914 water rights exist in this cease and desist proceeding, then the Board is determining the validity and nature of these riparian and pre-1914 water rights, which is outside of the Board's statutory authority and jurisdiction.

While the Board does have some measure of enforcement authority over riparian and pre1914 water rights, that authority is limited to actions involving waste, unreasonable use or diversion,
lack of a beneficial use, or protection of public trust resources (§§ 275, 1831(d)(3)) and such
enforcement authority is not necessarily exercised in the form of a CDO. Additionally, the Board
may act upon a petition for a "statutory adjudication" of any stream system or act as a referee or
investigate matters referred to it by a court of competent jurisdiction (§§ 2000, 2075, 2500), which
may involve examination of riparian and pre-1914 rights as part of the process. However, the
Board's permitting authority is limited and "does not involve adjudication of such rights" and even in
a statutory adjudication or court referral, its determinations are tentative in nature and must be filed
with a court for final determination. (*United States v. State Water Resources Control Board* (1986)

¹ Unless otherwise specified, all future code section references will be to the California Water Code.

182 Cal.App.3d 82, 104.) This proceeding is not pursuant to a statutory adjudication or pending matter in a court of competent jurisdiction, such as a quiet title action. Thus, the Board has no authority to issue a CDO against Mussi and Pak/Young regarding their claimed riparian and pre-1914 water rights.

II. ARGUMENT

A. THE BOARD DISCLAIMS AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE THE VALIDITY OF RIPARIAN AND PRE-1914 WATER RIGHTS.

The Board has varying degrees of administrative authority over California's three different types of surface water rights. The authority of the Board with respect to these matters is derived from specific statutory authority--that is, the Board may only exercise those powers vested in it by statute. It is well recognized and undisputed that the Board has full authority to authorize, regulate and determine the validity of post-1914 appropriative rights pursuant to the Water Commission Act and subsequent legislation now codified in the California Water Code. However, the Board's permit authority extends only to post-1914 appropriative water rights, and not to riparian and pre-1914 water rights: "The Board has jurisdiction over water flowing in a known and definite channel, whether surface or subterranean, to the extent it has not been previously appropriated or is not being used upon riparian lands (Water Code §§ 1200 and 1201)." (SWRCB Decision 1595, p. 8, emphasis added) The Board's authority over riparian and pre-1914 water rights is far more limited, and specifically does not extend to determining the validity of those rights.

The County recognizes that the Board has some limited regulatory authority over riparian and pre-1914 water rights in those certain circumstances where the Board has been given specific statutory authority, such as where the exercise of these water rights results in waste, unreasonable diversion or use, unreasonable method of diversion, or impacts to the public trust pursuant to *Water Code* section 275. In the present matter, however, the Board lacks authority to issue cease and desist orders against a claimed riparian or pre-1914 water right holder, because to do so would necessarily require the Board to make a factual determination regarding the validity of the parties riparian and/or pre-1914 water rights. Such action exceeds the Board's authority.

The Board's own literature states that the Board "does not have the authority to determine the validity of vested rights other than appropriative rights initiated December 19, 1914 or later." Exhibit A to County's Motion for Official Notice at p.7-8. The Board's literature also indicates that it will not investigate complaints involving pre-1914 or riparian surface water rights due to its lack of authority over those rights:

Because we do not have permitting authority over groundwater or pre-1914 and riparian surface water rights or authority to determine the relative priority of these classes of use, we will not investigate complaints that involve diversions by these water users unless the complaint involves waste or unreasonable diversion or use or unreasonable method of diversion or impacts to the public trust. Disputes between these water users must be resolved by a court. The court may refer the matter to the State Water Board for findings of fact or of law.

(SWRCB, Frequently Asked Questions: Will the Division of Water Rights accept complaints involving matters other than illegal diversions of water or permit or license condition violations? Exhibit B to County's Motion for Official Notice at p. 8.

Federal Judge Oliver Wanger acknowledged the Board's own denial of authority over pre1914 and riparian water rights in the recent decision *Natural Res. Def. Council v. Kempthorne*(2009) 621 F. Supp.2d 954, stating: "The SWRCB disclaims authority to directly adjudicate or otherwise resolve disputes over the validity, nature, or extent of pre-1914 water rights. *See* SWRCB, *Information Pertaining to Water Rights in California-1990* at p. 8." (*Id.*, p. 963, fn. omitted.)

Numerous Board water rights decisions and orders indicate that the Board has no power to adjudicate riparian and pre-1914 water rights and that the Board has no jurisdiction to validate riparian rights or pre-1914 appropriative rights-such determinations are within the sole purview of a court of law. (See e.g., SWRCB Decision 1379, at p. 8 ["The Board does not have jurisdiction to adjudicate or determine the validity of individual vested water rights-this is a judicial function"]; Also see, SWRCB Decisions D-934, at p. 3; D-1282, at p. 7; D-1290, at p. 32; and D-1324 at p. 3.)

Despite its own repeated admissions, and despite judicial acknowledgment of those admissions, the Board now attempts to vest itself with this authority by pursuing the issuance of a CDO against Mussi and Pak/Young regarding their riparian and pre-1914 water rights. This it

cannot do. Such determinations regarding the parties riparian and pre-1914 water rights are in excess of the Board's limited jurisdiction over such rights.

THE BOARD DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY TO ISSUE CEASE AND DESIST B. ORDERS AGAINST CLAIMED PRE-1914 AND RIPARIAN WATER

The Board's Authority to Issue Cease and Desist Orders Is Limited to Specific 1. Statutory Situations Not Present in the Current Proceeding.

The Board does not have blanket authority to issue a cease and desist order for merely any matter in which the Board may otherwise have jurisdiction or be involved. The Board's authority to issue cease and desist orders is limited to the specific situations authorized and enumerated in Water Code section 1831.² The authority of the Board is limited to the specific situations enumerated in statute and the cease and desist authority is specifically limited by statute to apply to only the substantive legal issues in which the Board otherwise has authority. This does not include determining the validity or extent of riparian or pre-1914 water rights.

Subsection (e) of Water Code section 1831 specifically provides that "This article shall not authorize the board to regulate in any manner, the diversion or use of water not otherwise subject to regulation of the board under this part." This "part" referenced in subsection (e) refers to Part 2 of

- When the board determines that any person is violating, or threatening to violate, any (a) requirement described in subdivision (d), the board may issue an order to that person to cease and desist from that violation.
- The cease and desist order shall require that person to comply forthwith or in (b) accordance with a time schedule set by the board.
- The board may issue a cease and desist order only after notice and an opportunity for (c) hearing pursuant to Section 1834.
- The board may issue a cease and desist order in response to a violation or threatened (d) violation of any of the following:
 (1) The prohibition set forth in Section 1052 against the unauthorized diversion or
 - use of water subject to this division.
 - Any term or condition of a permit, license, certification, or registration issued (2) under this division.
 - Any decision or order of the board issued under this part, Section 275, or (3)Article 7 (commencing with Section 13550) of Chapter 7 of Division 7, in which decision or order the person to whom the cease and desist order will be issued, or a predecessor in interest to that person, was named as a party directly affected by the decision or order.
- This article shall not authorize the board to regulate in any manner, the diversion or (e) use of water not otherwise subject to regulation of the board under this part.

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² Section 1831 reads in full as follows:

³ For purposes of understanding the references within the Water Code the Water Code is developed based on the following hierarchy: Division, Part, Chapter, Article, Section.

Division 2 of the Water Code regarding "Appropriation of Water," which includes sections 1200 1 through 1851 and this "article" is Article 2 of Chapter 12 of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Water Code, 2 regarding cease and desist orders, which includes sections 1831, 1832, 1834, 1835 and 1836. 3 Pursuant to subsection (e) of section 1831 enforcement by the Board in the form of cease and desist 4 orders is specifically restricted to the diversion and use of water regulated as specified in Part 2 of 5 Division 2 of the Water Code which relates to the appropriation of water --- permits and licenses 6 issued by the State Board pursuant to post-1914 statutory appropriations. A complete review of 7 every section in Part 2 of Division 2 does not reference any authority by the Board to regulate 8 claimed riparian or pre-1914 water rights. Therefore, because there is no statutory authority vested 9 in the Board to issue cease and desist orders with respect to riparian or pre-1914 water pursuant to 10 Part 2 of Division 2, the Board lacks the authority to do so as a matter of law, and issuance of the draft CDOs exceeds the Board's jurisdiction. 12 In response to the writ of prohibition filed by these parties, the Attorney General argued on behalf of the Board that in 2002 the authority of the Board was expanded thus any prior Board 14 Decisions "disclaiming" authority over riparian and pre-1914 water rights are not relevant. See p. 15 13, Fn. 7. of SWRCB Opposition to Petition for Writ of Prohibition. However, the 2002 legislation, 16 AB 2261 (2001-2002 Reg. Sess.) clearly indicates that those 2002 legislative changes did not expand the powers of the Board. The purpose of subsection (e) of section 1831 was to make that clear. Subsection (e) added on the Senate Floor on August 12, 2002 and that was the only amendment 19 made to the bill on that date. See Exhibit C to County's Motion for Official Notice also located at 20 http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/01-02/bill/asm/ab 2251-2300/ab 2267 bill 20020812 amended sen.html.

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Senate Floor Amendments of 8/12/02 clarify that by streamlining the administrative process for issuing cease and desist orders the bill does not also expand the powers of the SWRCB.

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Exhibit D to County's Motion for Official Notice located at http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/01- 02/bill/asm/ab 2251-2300/ab 2267 cfa 20020820 153745 sen floor.html.

The Senate Rules Committee Bill Analyses dated August 19, 2002, clearly states that the 2002

amendments to the cease and desist order procedures do not expand the powers of the Board stating:

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The Board's powers prior to 2002 did not include the ability to determine riparian or pre1914 water rights and the Board did not then gain such powers over such riparian and pre-1914
water rights. In the pending proceeding the Board alleges its authority to issue a cease and desist
order is based upon a violation of section 1052. Section 1052 was not amended by AB 2261 in
2002. See Exhibit E to County's Motion for Official Notice also located at
http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/01-02/bill/asm/ab_2251-2300/ab_2267_bill_20020918_chaptered.html. In
2002, the Board's authority to regulate was specifically not expanded. As will be discussed below,
in cease and desist proceedings the Board continues to lack authority over riparian and pre-1914
water rights, except in limited situations not at issue in the pending proceeding. Making any
determinations regarding the existence or validity of pre-1914 and riparian water rights in these
cease and desist proceedings is beyond the Board's authority and not proper.

2. Riparian and Pre-1914 Water Rights Are Not Subject to Division 2 of the Water Code Referenced in Section 1052 for Issuance of a Cease and Desist Order Pursuant to Section 1831.

The CDOs specify that the cease and desist orders are issued pursuant to section 1831 due to a prohibition set forth in section 1052. (Exhibit PT-7 at p. 1 for Pak/Young and Exhibit PT-7 at page 1 for Mussi.) Subsection (d)(1) of section 1831 provides that the Board may issue a cease and desist order for a violation or threatened violation of "[t]he prohibition set forth in Section 1052 against the unauthorized diversion or use of water subject to this division." Subsection (a) of Section 1052 provides that "The diversion or use of water subject to this division other than as authorized in this division is a *trespass*." (Emphasis added.) The "division" referenced in this subsection (a) of Section 1052 is Division 2 of the *Water Code* which includes sections 1000 through section 5976. Therefore, a "trespass" for purposes of section 1052 is limited to situations that fail to comply with the requirements of sections 1000 through 5976. Riparian and pre-1914 rights are not regulated by the Board by any provision in sections 1000 through 5976. Therefore, there can be no "trespass" by riparian and pre-1914 water right holders and thus no grounds for the Board to issue the pending CDOs against the parties claimed riparian and pre-1914 water rights.

In order for the Board to have authority to issue a cease and desist order, there must be a violation of something that is subject to regulation by the Board, as authorized by sections 1000 through 5976. The diversion of water by Mussi and Pak/Young claiming a diversion of riparian and pre-1914 water rights is not subject to regulation by Division 2 of the Water Code. Therefore, the use and diversion of water under a claim of riparian and/or pre-1914 water rights cannot be the subject of a cease and desist order issued pursuant to section 1831 due to an alleged violation of section 1052. Such action by the Board is in excess of its authority and jurisdiction.

a. The Board Itself States Riparian and Pre-1914 Water Rights Are Not Subject to Division 2's Statutory Appropriation Procedures.

The Board itself has stated that riparian and appropriative rights perfected prior to December 19, 1914 do not have to comply with the statutory appropriation procedures set forth in Division 2 of the Water Code. For example, SWRCB Water Rights Order, WR 2001-22, states, at page 14: "With the exception of riparian rights or appropriative rights perfected prior to December 19, 1914, all water use is conditioned upon compliance with the statutory appropriation procedures set forth in division 2 of the *Water Code* commencing with section 1000. (Wat. Code., §§ 1225, 1201.)"

b. Shirokow Confirms That Division 2's Statutory Appropriation Procedures Do Not Apply to Riparian and Pre-1914 Water Rights.

In *People v. Shirokow* (1980) 26 Cal.3d 301, the California Supreme Court provided an extensive review of California water law including the ability of the Board to regulate certain water rights. This case specifically addressed the circumstances under which the Board could obtain an injunction pursuant to *Water Code* section 1052. In so doing, *Shirokow* evaluated the language of section 1052 and what types of water diversions or use are subject to regulation by section 1052 as specified in Division 2. *Shirokow* then evaluated Division 2 of the Water Code itself, and specifically section 1201. Section 1201 provides that the authority of the Board over appropriation of water subject to the Water Code provisions is as follows:

All water flowing in any natural channel, excepting so far as it has been or is being applied to useful and beneficial purposes upon, or in so far as it is or may be reasonably needed for useful and beneficial purposes upon lands riparian thereto, or

otherwise appropriated, is hereby declared to be public water of the State and subject to appropriation in accordance with the provisions of this code.

In determining the application of section 1201 of the *Water Code*, *Shirokow* interpreted section 1201 to apply as broadly as possible "in accordance with the code to the fullest extent consistent with its terms." (*People v. Shirokow*, *supra*, 26 Cal.3d 301, 309.) The Court concluded that the application of Division 2 of the Water Code is as follows:

The rights not subject to the statutory appropriation procedures are narrowly circumscribed by the exception clause of the statute and include only riparian rights and those which have been otherwise appropriated prior to December 19, 1914, the effective date of the statute. [Fn. omitted.] Any use other than those excepted is, in our view, conditioned upon compliance with the appropriation procedures of division 2.

(*Ibid.*, emphasis added; see also *Modesto Properties Co. v. State Water Rights Bd.* (1960) 179 Cal.App.2d 856, 860 [appropriation includes any taking of water for other than riparian or overlying uses]; *City of Pasadena v. City of Alhambra* (1949) 33 Cal.2d 908, 925 [term "appropriation" means any taking of water for other than riparian or overlying uses].)

Shirokow clearly indicates that riparian and pre-1914 water rights are not subject to compliance with the statutory appropriation procedures in Division 2 of the Water Code. As discussed above, in order to constitute a "trespass" pursuant to section 1052, which provides authority for the Board to issue a cease and desist order, there must be a violation of one or more requirements in Division 2. Contrary to the Board's suggestion in the instant draft CDO, both the Board and Shirokow acknowledge that riparian and pre-1914 water right holders cannot be found to have violated any of Division 2's statutory appropriation procedures because those procedures simply do not apply to the exercise of such rights.

Shirokow acknowledges, however, that the Board may indeed have authority over riparian water rights pursuant to other provisions in Division 2 of the Water Code; however, none of those provisions are applicable to the instant CDO proceedings. At footnote 11 in Shirokow, the Court discusses the authority of the Board over riparian rights including "prospective" riparian rights, stating:

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Section 1201 by its terms exempts from water subject to appropriation riparian rights which are being applied to, or *may be* reasonably needed for, useful and beneficial purposes. The status of prospective riparian rights is discussed in our recent opinion in *In re Waters of Long Valley Creek Stream System* (1979) 25 Cal.3d 339 []. The opinion holds the board possesses broad authority in statutory adjudications pursuant to section 2500 et seq. to make determinations as to the scope, nature, and priority of future riparian rights, in order to foster the most reasonable and beneficial use of the scarce water resources of the state.

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(People v. Shirokow, supra, 26 Cal.3d 301, 309, fn. 11.) As pointed out in this footnote, the Board does have some jurisdiction over riparian water rights but the jurisdiction referenced by the Court is limited to "statutory adjudications" which is provided for in Division 2 of the Water Code at section 2500 et seq. However, that authority is expressly limited to a statutory adjudication proceeding, and the Board's role in such proceedings is limited to the facts and circumstances of that proceeding. A statutory adjudication is not in any manner implicated in the instant CDO proceedings. (Incidentally, the reference in Shirokow to the Board's authority to limit riparian water rights in the event of a statutory adjudication pertained to then-unexercised riparian water rights, not existing riparian rights then in use, and where the Board's authority to limit those future riparian rights was necessary in order to foster "reasonable and beneficial use" of water within the state.)

Shirokow also discussed section 1050 in its analysis of the Board's authority over various water rights pursuant to Division 2 of the Water Code. Section 1050 states that "[Division 2 of the Water Code] is to be in furtherance of the policy contained in Section 2 of Article X of the California Constitution" As a result, Division 2 of the Water Code may be deemed to be in furtherance of the policy contained in Section 2 of Article X of the California Constitution which applies to all water rights including riparian and pre-1914 water rights and which prohibits the "waste or unreasonable use or unreasonable method of use of water." Shirokow reviewed the policies expressed in the Water Code as consistent with the expression in the 1928 amendment including sections 100, 102, 104 and 105, which are within Division 1 of the Code. The Court stated that "[t]hese declarations of policy together with the comprehensive regulatory scheme set forth in section 1200 et seq. demonstrate a legislative intent to vest in the board expansive powers to safeguard the scarce resources of the state." (People v. Shirokow, supra, 26 Cal.3d 301, 309.)

However, despite the Court's finding of legislative intent to vest the Board with "expansive powers," 1 the Court still concluded that riparian and pre-1914 water rights are not water rights which are 2 conditioned upon compliance with the statutory appropriation procedures of Division 2. (Ibid.) 3 4 Shirokow clearly determined that the scope of Division 2 of the Water Code, and particularly any enforcement pursuant to section 1052 of the Water Code, is limited to water rights that are subject to 5 6 Division 2's statutory appropriations, which do not include riparian and pre-1914 water rights. 7 The Parties Claim Riparian and Pre-1914 Water Rights Which Are Not Subject c. to Division 2 of the Water Code and Which Are Not Subject to the Board's Authority to Issue Cease and Desist Orders. Mussi and Pak/Young claim riparian water rights. (See Mussi Exhibit 7 and Pak/Young 9 Exhibit 7.) The Prosecution Team was presented with evidence prior to the hearing in which the 10 11 12

parties asserted these riparian water rights. (See Mussi PT-1 at p. 2, and Pak/Young PT-1 at p. 3.) The parties submitted evidence at the hearings of their claimed riparian and pre-1914 water rights. The Board lacks the authority to make a factual determination of the existence or non-existence of these rights as a matter of law. Such determinations are outside of the authority of section 1052 and are thus not proper bases for cease and desist orders issued pursuant to section 1831. Such a determination of the extent, nature and validity of claimed riparian and pre-1914 water rights must be determined by a court of law. As the Board's own literature posted on its website states, riparian, prescriptive or pre-1914 water rights "can only be confirmed by the courts." Exhibit B to County's

The Board is exceeding its authority by pursuing the pending cease and desist orders against Mussi and Pak/Young who claim and have provided evidence of riparian and/or pre-1914 water rights. This pursuit of the pending cease and desist orders against Mussi and Pak/Young, and others similarly situated, exceeds the Board's authority as it has no jurisdiction to engage in these enforcement proceedings which determine the validity, nature and extent of claimed riparian and/or pre-1914 water rights.

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Motion for Official Notice at p. 4.

- C. THE BOARD DOES HAVE SOME AUTHORITY WITHIN DIVISION 2 TO DETERMINE RIPARIAN AND PRE-1914 WATER RIGHTS WHICH IS LIMITED TO SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND REMEDIES NOT INVOLVING CEASE AND DESIST ORDERS.
 - 1. In Determining Whether Surplus Water Is Available for Appropriation and in Issuing Appropriative Permits, the Board Does Not Affect Riparian or Pre-1914 Water Rights.

In 1986, First District Court of Appeal evaluated a decision of the Board regarding the Delta. (United States v. State Water Resources Control Board (1986) 182 Cal. App. 3d 82 ["Racanelli"].)

Racanelli indicates that in carrying out its authority, the Board does indeed make some determinations related to riparian and pre-1914 water rights. However, these determinations are limited to particular administrative processes and do not affect riparian and pre-1914 water right holders actual rights to water. The Board plays only a "limited role" in "enforcing rights of water rights holders, a task mainly left to the courts." (Id., p. 102.) Racanelli discusses the Board's role in issuing appropriative permits and the Board's authority over riparian and senior appropriators under the statutory appropriation procedure. Racanelli recognizes in "its role of issuing appropriation permits, the Board has two primary duties: 1) to determine if surplus water is available and 2) to protect the public interest." (Ibid.)

Racanelli explains the Board's role in determining the surplus water supply available for appropriation, and the limitations on the Board's authority over riparian and senior appropriators as follows:

Section 1375 declares the basic principle that: "As a prerequisite to the issuance of a permit to appropriate water ... [t]here must be unappropriated water available to supply the applicant." (Subd. (d).) Accordingly, in reviewing the permit application, the Board must first determine whether surplus water is available, a decision requiring an examination of prior riparian and appropriative rights. (Temescal Water Co. v. Dept. Public Works (1955) 44 Cal.2d 90.) In exercising its permit power, the Board's first concern is recognition and protection of prior rights to beneficial use of the water stream. (Meridian, Ltd. v. San Francisco [1939] 13 Cal.2d 424, 450.) Yet, the Board's estimate of available surplus water is in no way an adjudication of the rights of other water right holders (Temescal [supra], at p. 103); the rights of the riparians and senior appropriators remain unaffected by the issuance of an appropriation permit. (Duckworth v. Watsonville Water etc. Co. (1915) 170 Cal. 425, 431.)

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(*Id.*, p. 102-103, emphasis added.) In the above excerpt, the Court recognizes that the Board may consider riparian and senior appropriative rights in making a determination of available, unappropriated water, but that such a determination does not in any way alter these pre-existing rights.

The above except from Racanelli indicates that in a Board proceeding regarding the issuance of an appropriative permit "the rights of riparians and senior appropriators remain unaffected." Although the Board may evaluate the existence and relationship of riparians and pre-1914 water rights in an appropriative permit proceeding, such evaluation does not determine or validate the riparian and pre-1914 water rights. In 2001 in WR 2001-22 on the reconsideration of D 1635 which among other things approved a petition for partial assignment of a state filed application by El Dorado County Water Agency and El Dorado Irrigation District for water from the south fork of the American River which approved a new statutory water right, Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) argued that the Board did not have the authority to determine PG&E's pre-1914 water rights. The Board rejected PG&E's argument stating "PG&E's assertion that a prima facie showing of a pre-1914 water right ends the SWRCB's jurisdiction lacks legal support and is inconsistent with the SWRCB's statutory authority mandate to ensure that unauthorized diversions do not take place." WR 2001-22 at p. 14. The Board's conclusion may have been correct, but its stated justification is suspect. The Board does have some authority to evaluate pre-1914 water rights when it is making a determination regarding a statutory appropriation; however, as Racanelli explains during a water right permit process "the Board's role in examining existing water rights to estimate the amount of surplus water available for appropriation does not involve adjudication of such rights" and the "rights of riparian's and senior appropriators remain unaffected by the issuance of an appropriative permit." United States v. State Water Res. Control Bd., (1986) 182 Cal. App. 3d 82, 102-103, 104. Thus, in WR 2001-22, regarding a water right permit, the Board might have necessarily made conclusions regarding pre-1914 water rights, but in no way was such an "adjudication" or "determination" of those water rights nor was such a determination for purposes of enforcement subject to a cease and desist order. The Board's statement in WR 2001-22 that it has a mandate to

"ensure that unauthorized diversions do not take place" does not support the conclusion that the Board may issue a cease and desist order against claimed riparian or pre-1914 water rights nor can the Board use such proceedings to "adjudicate" or determine the validity of such claimed riparian or pre-1914 water rights.

Racanelli indicates that the Board has only a limited role with respect to disputes and the enforcement of water rights, and that such matters are properly resolved by *judicial* action:

Yet notwithstanding its power to protect the public interest, the Board plays a limited role in resolving disputes and enforcing rights of water rights holders, a task mainly left to the courts. Because water rights possess indicia of property rights, water rights holders are entitled to judicial protection against infringement, e.g., actions for quiet title, nuisance, wrongful diversion or inverse condemnation. [Citations.] It bears reemphasis that the Board's role in examining existing water rights to estimate the amount of surplus water available for appropriation does not involve adjudication of such rights. [Citations.]

(*Id.*, p. 104, bold emphasis added, italics in original.) *Racanelli* unequivocally recognizes that it is the courts, not the Board, which has the authority to resolve water rights disputes and enforce the rights of water right holders regarding riparian and/or pre-1914 water rights. He recognizes that riparian and pre-1914 water rights possess "indicia of property rights" that must be afforded judicial protection. This differs from a statutory appropriation of water, which is based on a permit, which is granted, administered and reviewed by the State Water Board. No such authority of the Board exists for riparian and pre-1914 water rights, which are not based on a permit from the Board.

The Board's past decisions regarding water rights reflect its understanding and acknowledgment of the Board's limitation against determining the existence of riparian water rights. In 1967, in SWRCB Decision 1282, the Board discussed the issuance of a new appropriative water right, where the applicant claimed to already possess a riparian or pre-1914 water right which served the same place of use as the pending appropriative right. In so doing, the Board placed a restriction on the application for a new appropriative water right permit:

Persons with apparent but unadjudicated riparian rights sometimes have reason to file with the Board applications to appropriate unappropriated water for use on such lands. To prevent situations such as that which would result from approval of this petition, the Board now uses where appropriate a permit clause which reads:

'Upon a judicial determination that the place of use under this permit or a portion thereof is entitled to the use of water by riparian right, the right so determined and the right acquired under this permit shall not result in a combined right to use of water in excess of that which could be claimed under the larger of the two rights.'

(SWRCB Decision 1282, p. 6; see also, SWRCB Water Rights Order, WR 65-25.) In issuing new appropriative rights, Decision 1282 stated quite clearly that the Board's practice was to not adjudicate any existing claimed riparian, or pre-1914, water rights: "The Board has no power to adjudicate this or any other claimed riparian right." (SWRCB Decision 1282, p. 7.) The Board acknowledged it lacked the authority to determine such rights and properly indicated that such determination is dependent on a "judicial determination." In the present matter, the Board is now attempting to adjudicate the validity of riparian and pre-1914 water rights. This is a determination that the Board expressly declined to make in Decision 1282 due to its lack of power to do so, even in the context of new appropriative water rights which are squarely within the Board's jurisdiction. Just as the Board lacked the authority to determine or adjudicate riparian or pre-1914 rights in Decision 1282, it lacks the authority to do so regarding Mussi and Pak/Young.

2. The Board's Statutory Authority to Make Recommendations to a Court Regarding Riparian and Pre-1914 Water Rights Does Not Grant the Board Authority to Determine the Existence of Such Rights Nor to Issue Cease and Desist Orders.

The superior courts have jurisdiction over water right disputes in California.⁴ Part 3 of Division 2 of the Water Code, entitled "Determination of Water Rights," provides the manner in which the Board may participate in a water right determination pending before a court. The Board may become involved in an action pending in court for the determination of rights to water as a court may "order a reference to the board, as referee, of any or all issues involved in the suit" (§ 2000) or "refer the suit to the board for investigation of and report upon any or all of the physical facts involved" (§ 2001). Therefore, the ability of the Board to referee or investigate any facts or issues related to water rights is limited to two situations: 1) when ordered to do so by a court of law (§ 2000); or 2) upon a petition filed by a claimant to water (§ 2525).

⁴ See sections 2000 and 2001 stating "In any suit brought in any court of competent jurisdiction in this State for determination of rights to water"

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A "statutory adjudication" (§ 2500 et seq.) is a court action to determine the nature, extent and validity of all water rights along a stream system. Section 2501 grants the Board authority to make a recommendation to the courts regarding the determination of rights of water, including riparian and pre-1914 water rights. However, authority to make such a determination is very limited in scope. First, there must be a pending court action. Second, the determination by the Board is only a recommendation which must be approved by the courts. Footnote 3 in Racanelli, which follows the statement: "It bears reemphasis that the Board's role in examining existing water rights to estimate the amount of surplus water available for appropriation does not involve adjudication of such rights" acknowledges that even in statutory adjudications the Board's role is limited and the Board does not determine or adjudicate water rights. Footnote 3 reads as follows:

In two instances the Board performs a limited adjunct function in the process of adjudication of water rights: One, as a special master or referee upon reference from the court (2000 et seq.), a function advisory in nature [citations]; another, as a hearing body to conduct a "statutory adjudication," upon petition of any water rights holder, determining all the water rights in a "stream system" (§ 2500 et seq.; [citation]). The statutory hearing is contingent upon the Board's finding that the public interest will be served by such determination. (§ 2525.) But again, the Board's determination is tentative in nature and must be filed in the superior court for hearing and final adjudication. (§§ 2750, 2768, 2769; [citation]; see In re Waters of Soquel Creek Stream System (1978) 79 Cal.App.3d 682 [], disapproved on other grounds in In re Waters of Long Valley Creek Stream System, supra, 25 Cal.3d 339 [] [trial court properly rejected and remanded Board's determination of water rights]; [citation.]

(United States v. State Water Res. Control Bd., supra, 182 Cal. App. 3d 82, 152.) If the Board has only limited authority to evaluate riparian and pre-1914 water rights when determining surplus water available for appropriation and if its recommendations in a statutory adjudication are only tentative and subject to a final court determination, then it would be entirely inconsistent for the Board to have the blanket authority to determine such riparian and pre-1914 water rights in a cease and desist proceeding which is outside the scope of a appropriative water right proceeding which requires a determination of available unappropriated water and also outside a statutory adjudication proceeding. Also, as discussed above, the specific authority for a cease and desist order clearly does not include riparian and pre-1914 water rights. It is inconsistent that the Board would have the authority to determine something in a cease and desist order proceeding, namely the validity of

riparian and pre-1914 water rights, when it doesn't otherwise have such authority based on its statutory powers, as it clearly does not as indicated by *Racanelli*.

There are numerous California cases related to the adjudication of water rights which reference the Board's authority over riparian and pre-1914 water rights in the context of a statutory adjudication. This line of cases cannot be interpreted to extend to the Board any authority over riparian and pre-1914 water rights outside of an adjudicatory proceeding. For example, *In re Waters of Long Valley Creek Stream System* (1979) 25 Cal.3d 339, holds that the predecessor to the Board possesses broad authority in statutory adjudications pursuant to section 2500 et seq. to make determinations as to the scope, nature, and priority of future riparian rights, in order to foster the most reasonable and beneficial use of the scarce water resources of the state. Again, this referenced authority is limited to statutory adjudications only, and was based upon the Board's authority to foster "the most reasonable and beneficial use of its scarce water resources." Additionally, in *In re Water of Hallett Creek Stream System* (1988) 44 Cal.3d 448, the California Supreme Court recognized the ability of the Board to determine riparian and pre-1914 water rights in a statutory adjudication. This authority of the Board to make recommendations determining water rights is similarly limited to statutory adjudication proceedings only.

Where the Board lacks the authority to determine or affect riparian water rights and prior appropriative rights, including pre-1914 rights, when the Board is called upon to determine the availability of surplus water for purposes of issuing new appropriative rights, and when in a statutory adjudication the Board's determinations are merely *recommendations* that must be approved by a court, then it is evident that the Board cannot make such water rights determinations generally, such as in the present matter. Therefore, the Board's attempt to do so against Mussi and Pak/Young in the form of a cease and desist order, which is not a court adjudication proceeding, is outside the scope of the Board's authority, and as such, contrary to law.

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D. THE BOARD'S AUTHORITY OVER RIPARIAN AND PRE-1914 WATER RIGHTS IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT AT ISSUE IN THE PENDING CDO PROCEEDINGS

1. The Board Has Power to Investigate, but this Does Not Confer Authority to Issue CDOs.

Section 1051 provides the Board with investigative powers, but this does not authorize the issuance of the pending CDOs. Section 1051 provides in full as follows:

The board for the purpose of this division may:

- (a) Investigate all streams, stream systems, portions of stream systems, lakes, or other bodies of water.
- (b) Take testimony in regard to the rights to water or the use of water thereon or therein.
- (c) Ascertain whether or not water heretofore filed upon or attempted to be appropriated is appropriated under the laws of this State.

An investigation of riparian and pre-1914 appropriative water rights might occur by the Board under the authority of section 1051. Such investigation can include taking testimony, and the Board may "ascertain whether or not" the water is "appropriated under the laws of the State." However, there is no authority in this section for the Board to issue any enforcement orders, or commence proceedings or actions based on that investigation, including the pending CDOs. Cease and desist orders must be issued pursuant to the circumstances specified by section 1831 only. The Board cannot issue cease and desist orders based solely on its general investigative power.

The Board's investigatory power was discussed in *Meridian v. City and County of San Francisco* (1939) 13 Cal.2d 424, at page 450:

The State Water Commission (now Department of Public Works, Pol. Code, sec. 363e), has the power under section 10 of the act to investigate all streams of the state for the purpose of ascertaining whether the use of water therein is in conformity with the water appropriation laws of the state. And the power extends to the use of water made under appropriations or attempted appropriations acquired or asserted prior to the passage of the act. By section 15 of the act the commission is given power to allow the appropriation for beneficial purposes of unappropriated water under such terms and conditions as in the judgment of the commission will best develop, conserve and utilize in the public interest the water sought to be appropriated. It should be the first concern of the court in any case pending before it and of the department in the exercise of its powers under the act to recognize and protect the interests of those who have prior and paramount rights to the use of the

waters of the stream. The highest use in accordance with the law is for domestic purposes, and the next highest use is for irrigation. When demands on the stream for those and other recognized lawful purposes by riparians and appropriators are fully met and an excess of water exists, it is for the state to say whether, in the conservation of this natural resource in the interest of the public, the diversion is excessive.

Meridian refers to the power of the predecessor to the Board to investigate, including the power to investigate pre-1914 water rights. However, Meridian does not extend this power of investigation to the power to issue a cease and desist order. Rather, this reference to an investigation was related to the appropriateness of the predecessor to the Board's issuance of a post-1914 water right and the application of the 1928 Constitutional Amendment requiring reasonable use of all waters of the State.

2. The CDOs Do Not Involve a Violation or Threatened Violation of a Prior Board Order Which Might Authorize the Issuance of a Cease and Desist Order Pursuant to Section 1831.

Subsection (3) of subsection (d) of section 1831 provides that the Board may issue a cease and desist order for a violation or threatened violation of "[a]ny decision or order of the board issued under this part, Section 275, or Article 7 (commencing with Section 13550) of Chapter 7 of Division 7 [regarding use of potable water instead of non potable water in certain circumstances], in which decision or order the person to whom the cease and desist order will be issued, or a predecessor in interest to that person, was named as a party directly affected by the decision or order." Thus, a cease and desist order may be issued for a violation of a previously issued Board order. No former Board order exists against Mussi and Pak/Young, and therefore, subsection (3) of subsection (d) of section 1831 does not apply.

The Board has the authority to issue a cease and desist order for any violation or threatened violation of any prior Board decision or order issued pursuant to *Water Code* section 275. Section 275 provides in full as follows:

The department and board shall take all appropriate proceedings or actions before executive, legislative, or judicial agencies to prevent waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diversion of water in this state.

This provision confers on the Board the authority to take all appropriate proceedings and actions to "prevent waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diversion

of water." Many Board decisions have been based on the Board's authority to regulate waste and 1 2 unreasonable use under section 275, including regulation of such with respect to the exercise of riparian and pre-1914 water rights. (See e.g., Forni v. State Water Resources Control Board (1976) 3 4 54 Cal.App.3d 743 [action brought by the Board against riparian water right based on reasonable use or reasonable method of use of water]; SWRCB Water Rights Order, WR 95-4 [the Board issued an 5 order requiring certain instream flow requirements be met by the pre-1914 water right holders based 6 7 upon the Board's authority over public trust resources and section 275 of the Water Code]; Imperial Irrigation Dist. v. State Wat. Resources Control Bd. (1990) 225 Cal. App. 3d 548 [Board has the 8 power to take steps necessary to prevent unreasonable use of water and board is vested with power 9 to investigate alleged water waste and to take appropriate remedial action].) These cases and 10 decisions involved the Board's broad authority to regulate waste and unreasonable use, even over 11 riparian and pre-1914 rights, pursuant to section 275. However, this authority does not grant the 12 Board the authority to issue CDOs nor determine the existence or validity of riparian or pre-1914 13 water rights. The pending CDOs do not allege that Mussi or Pak/Young have engaged in any 14 "waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diversion of 15 water" that would come under the purview of section 275. Exhibits PT-7. No such allegations 16 occurred during the hearing. Therefore, the CDO against Mussi or Pak/Young cannot be based upon 17 any authority of the Board derived from Water Code section 275. 18 A 2005 Law Review Article by Andrew H. Sawyer, who is the Assistant Chief Counsel to 19

A 2005 Law Review Article by Andrew H. Sawyer, who is the Assistant Chief Counsel to the Board, reviewed the implementation of the recommendations of the 1978 Governor's Commission to Review California Water Rights Law. Mr. Sawyer states in Footnote 89 of that article:

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The SWRCB has authority regarding pre-1914 rights under the public trust doctrine and *Water Code* section 275. [Citations.] *This continuing authority does not amount to regulatory authority over proprietary right issues to the same extent as for permitted and licensed rights*. Rather, the SWRCB may review and make findings on issues concerning claimed pre-1914 rights to the extent reasonably necessary to carry out the SWRCB's other responsibilities. e.g. Cal. *Water Code* §§ 1051, 1052, 1202.

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(36 McGeorge Law Review 209, 223, emphasis added.) This footnote indicates that the Board does not have continuing authority to regulate pre-1914 and riparian water rights to the same extent as it regulates permitted and licensed appropriative water rights. Although the Board might make findings regarding riparian and pre-1914 water rights in carrying out its other authority, such as determining surplus water to a stream as discussed in *Racanelli*, its authority does not amount to "regulatory authority over proprietary right issues" and the Board has no authority under *Water Code* section 1831 to issue the pending CDO.

III. CONCLUSION

Mussi and Pak/Young claim riparian and pre-1914 water rights. This was asserted prior to the hearing, and substantial evidence was presented during the hearing to support the existence of those rights. The Board is precluded from making any determinations regarding the validity, nature or extent of those rights within the instant cease and desist proceedings. The Board has not been granted authority by the Legislature to determine the validity, nature or extent of the alleged riparian and pre-1914 water rights, and therefore, the Board cannot, as a matter of law, make such determinations.

The Board itself recognizes this limitation in its authority as indicated in its own publications and issued Water Rights Orders. (See Exhibit A to SJC Motion for Official Notice at p.7-8 ["The SWRCB does not have the authority to determine the validity of vested rights other than appropriative rights initiated December 19, 1914 or later"]; and SWRCB Decision 1379, p. 8 ["The Board does not have jurisdiction to adjudicate or determine the validity of individual vested water rights-this is a judicial function"].) While the Board does have some regulatory authority over public trust resources and water use which is considered unreasonable or wasteful, the pending CDO does not allege public trust impacts or unreasonable or wasteful use. The pending CDO is issued pursuant to *Water Code* section 1831, based on an alleged violation of section 1052, which prohibits a diversion or use of water "subject to this division other than as authorized in this division." However, diversions and use of water subject to Division 2 of the Water Code does not include water diverted pursuant to riparian and pre-1914 water rights.

As indicated by the *Racanelli* decision "Because water rights possess indicia of property rights, water rights holders are entitled to judicial protection against infringement, e.g., actions for quiet title, nuisance, wrongful diversion or inverse condemnation." (*United States v. State Water Res. Control Bd.*, *supra*, 182 Cal. App. 3d 82, 104.) Any dispute regarding Mussi and Pak/Young's water rights and the use and enjoyment of these claimed property rights - that is, their riparian and/or pre-1914 water rights - must be determined in a court of law, not by the Board. Any issuance of a cease and desist order to Mussi or Pak/Young by the Board is a violation of the Board's statutory authority and the due process and property rights of Mussi and Pak/Young. A cease and desist order to Mussi or Pak/Young regarding their claimed riparian and pre-1914 water rights cannot be issued by the Board. In the event the Board evaluates the validity of Mussi and Pak/Young's riparian and pre-1914 water rights, the County submits that substantial evidence exists to establish their valid water rights and a cease and desist order shall not be issued by the Board.

Dated: August 30, 2010

NEUMILLER & BEARDSLEE A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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DEFANNE M. GILLICK

Attorneys for

County of San Joaquin and

San Joaquin County Flood Control and

Water Conservation District

PROOF OF SERVICE CCP 1013a

I am a resident of the State of California, over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to the within action. My business address is 509 W. Weber Avenue, Stockton, California 95203. On August 30, 2010, I served the within documents:

CLOSING BRIEF OF COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN AND SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT; REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL NOTICE AND DECLARATION OF DEEANNE M. GILLICK IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL NOTICE

(BY U.S. MAIL) I am readily familiar with the firm's practice of collection and \Box processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than on day after the date of deposit for mailing in affidavit. (BY PERSONAL SERVICE) I delivered such envelope by hand to the address(es) shown below. (BY ELECTRONIC MAIL) I caused a true and correct scanned image (.PDF file) copy to be transmitted via the electronic mail transfer system in place at Neumiller & Beardslee, originating from the undersigned at 509 W. Weber Avenue, 5th Floor, Stockton, California, to the email address(es) indicated in the attached Service List of Participants. (BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY) I enclosed the documents in an envelope or package П designated by an overnight delivery carrier and addressed to the persons at the addresses

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

or driver authorized by the overnight delivery carrier to receive documents.

stated below. I placed the envelope or package for collection and overnight delivery at an

office or a regularly utilized drop box of the overnight delivery carrier, or with a courier

Executed this 30th day of August 2010, at Stockton, California.

ELVIA C. TRUJILLO

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SERVICE LIST (VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL)

DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS PROSECUTION TEAM c/o David Rose State Water Resources Control Board 1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814 DRose@waterboards.ca.gov	MARK AND VALLA DUNKEL; RUDY MUSSI, TONI MUSSI AND LORY C. MUSSI INVESTMENT LP; YONG PAK AND SUN YOUNG c/o John Herrick, Esq. 4255 Pacific Avenue, Suite 2 Stockton, CA 95207 JHerrick@aol.com c/o Dean Ruiz, Esq. Harris, Perisho & Ruiz 3439 Brookside Road, Suite 210 Stockton, CA 95219 Dean@hpllp.com
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SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY AND THE SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT c/o DeeAnne M. Gillick Neumiller & Beardslee P.O. Box 20 Stockton, CA 95201-3020 dgillick@neumiller.com mbrown@neumiller.com	STATE WATER CONTRACTORS c/o Stanley C. Powell Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard 400 Capitol Mall, 27th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 spowell@kmtg.com