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6 **BEFORE THE**  
7 **CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

8 HEARING IN THE MATTER OF DOUGLAS  
9 COLE AND HEIDI COLE AND MARBLE  
10 MOUNTAIN RANCH, DRAFT ORDER NO.  
11 2018-00XX

**CLOSING BRIEF OF CALIFORNIA  
SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE**

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14 **I. INTRODUCTION**

15 The California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) respectfully submits this closing  
16 brief for the hearing in the matter of Douglas Cole and Heidi Cole and Marble Mountain Ranch.

17 The key hearing issues are as follows:

- 18
- 19 1) Does the past or current diversion or use of water by Douglas and Heidi Cole and  
20 Marble Mountain Ranch constitute a waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of  
21 use, or unreasonable method of diversion of water, particularly in light of any impacts to  
22 public trust resources?
  - 23 2) If the past or current diversion or use of water by Douglas and Heidi Cole and Marble  
24 Mountain Ranch constitutes a waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or  
25 unreasonable method of diversion of water, what corrective actions, if any, should be  
26 implemented, and with what time schedule should they be implemented? How should the  
27 implementation time schedule for any corrective actions be coordinated with the  
28 requirements of the Cleanup and Abatement Order issued by the North Coast Regional  
Water Quality Control Board?

The hearing record demonstrates that some of the past diversion and use of water by Douglas and Heidi Cole has constituted an unreasonable use of water and an unreasonable method of diversion of water. The hearing record also clearly demonstrates that Marble

1 Mountain Ranch's past unreasonable use and unreasonable method of diversion has harmed  
2 public trust resources.

3 The State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) should adopt the Draft Order,  
4 including the NMFS minimum recommended bypass flows, adjusting the timetable as  
5 recommended in the conclusion of this document..  
6

## 7 **II. BACKGROUND**

8 Stanshaw Creek is a perennial tributary to the Klamath River in Siskiyou County.  
9 Diverter Marble Mountain Ranch (MMR) diverts up to 3 cfs from Stanshaw Creek .87 miles  
10 upstream of the confluence of Stanshaw Creek and the Klamath River. (Ex. MMR-1, pp. 2-3)  
11 MMR diverts up to .35 cfs for consumptive purposes. (Water use estimated by Cascade  
12 Stream Solutions, CSS Report, WR-82, p. 14) MMR uses the remainder of the water that it  
13 diverts from Stanshaw Creek to generate hydropower that provides electricity to MMR and its  
14 associated property and buildings. Water that passes through MMR's hydropower generator  
15 and that MMR does not otherwise use on the ranch discharges to Irving Creek, a tributary to  
16 the Klamath River that enters the Klamath downstream of the mouth of Stanshaw Creek.  
17 MMR claims a pre-1914 water right of 3 cfs as its basis-in-right for its diversion. That basis-in-  
18 right is not a subject of dispute in this hearing. It appears that at times, MMR may divert water  
19 in excess of that claimed right. (Ex. WR-82, p. 7)

20 MMR's diversion of water for hydropower has been the subject of dispute since at least  
21 1994, when MMR filed application 29449 for a water right to divert water from Stanshaw Creek  
22 for hydropower. (Ex. WR-5) CSPA filed a protest of this application in 2000. (Ex. WR-42)  
23 Efforts to resolve disputes relating to the MMR diversion have been ongoing since 2002. (Ex.  
24 WR-80, p. 1) Various parties collaborated to seek funding to assist MMR in making changes  
25 and/or improvements to its diversion and associated works. Because grant funders were  
26 reluctant to fund improvements to a diversion without a clear basis in right, Lennihan Law, the  
27 Mid Klamath Watershed Council and Cascade Stream Solutions produced a report on  
28 September 1, 2014 that analyzed the water rights of MMR. (Ex WR-80, "Lennihan Report")

1 The Lennihan Report found that the likely amount of the MMR pre-1914 right was 1.16 cfs. (*Id.*,  
2 p. 2) Grant proposals for improvements and changes to the MMR diversion works proceeded  
3 in 2014-2016 based in part on this report, and a grant offer from the National Fish and Wildlife  
4 Foundation (NFWF) was live through July 2016. However, though witnesses Murano and  
5 Anderson (and others) testified in this hearing that Mr. Cole initially indicated interest in  
6 accepting this NFWF grant (HT 11/16/17, p. 228 l. 18 to p. 229 l. 23), Mr. Cole subsequently  
7 declined the grant on the grounds that acceptance would limit the face value of his water right.  
8 (HT 11/14/17, p. 188 l. 23 to p. 189 l. 7) The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control  
9 Board issued a cleanup and abatement order (CAO) to the Coles on August 4, 2016, mooting  
10 the NFWF grant. (Ex. WR-142)

11 Mr. Cole testified in hearing that he was willing to forego all future diversions for  
12 hydropower in the months of June, July and August. (HT 11/14/17, pp. 236-237) Pending the  
13 resolution of this hearing, MMR has shut down its power generating facilities since 2016. (HT  
14 11/14/17, p. 236, l. 8 to p. 237, l. 2)

### 16 **III. MARBLE MOUNTAIN RANCH'S METHOD OF DIVERSION IS UNREASONABLE.**

#### 17 **A. MMR does not continuously measure its diversion in cfs.**

18 MMR has acknowledged that it does not measure its diversion in cubic feet per second.  
19 Its professed method of measurement is a notch system in its flashboard works that Mr. Cole  
20 has dubbed "Stanshaw units." (HT 11/15/17, p. 10, l. 21 to p. 11, l. 12) While this site-specific  
21 system assists MMR in the practical management of its diversion, it does not provide a reliable  
22 means of quantifying its diversion for purposes of reporting its diversion to the State Board or  
23 in the event of future bypass-flow requirements. According to Prosecution Team witness  
24 Sklyer Anderson, quoting page 8 of Exhibit WR-82, "This unit of measurement is unique and  
25 has not been correlated to a commonly-used unit of measurement, e.g., cubic feet per  
26 second." (HT 11/16/17, p. 258, ll. 15-17)

1           **B. MMR does not continuously measure the flow in Stanshaw Creek upstream of**  
2           **its diversion or the flow that it allows to bypass its diversion.**

3           Nowhere in the record is there evidence that MMR maintains permanent gaging  
4 equipment that measures the flow of Stanshaw Creek upstream of the MMR diversion or  
5 downstream of the MMR diversion.

6           **C. MMR's diversion works do not allow precise regulation of the amount of water**  
7           **diverted.**

8           MMR's point of diversion "consists of a hand-stacked rock wing dam located on the  
9 south bank of Stanshaw Creek. The rock wing dam extends about halfway across the creek  
10 channel." (Direct testimony of Prosecution Team witness Taro Murano, HT 11/13/17, p. 184, ll.  
11 3-6)

12           **D. MMR's diversions for hydropower deprive Stanshaw Creek of flow because**  
13           **MMR does not return the water discharged from its generator to Stanshaw**  
14           **Creek.**

15           As stated *supra*, water that passes through MMR's hydropower generator and that  
16 MMR does not otherwise use on the ranch discharges to Irving Creek. Witness Steven  
17 Cramer for MMR testified that the fisheries benefits of Irving Creek are not dependent on the  
18 added flow of water discharged from MMR's hydropower operation. (HT 11/13/17, p. 130, l. 22  
19 to p. 131, l. 3)

20           MMR's out-of-basin diversion deprives Stanshaw Creek of flow. See Exhibit KT-8, pp.  
21 29-31, for quantification of flow reductions into lower Stanshaw Creek, and analysis of these  
22 reductions, *infra*. The deprivation of flow to Stanshaw Creek caused by MMR's diversion  
23 reduces flow into the off-channel pond adjacent to the mouth of Stanshaw Creek. The amount  
24 of flow lost to the off-channel pond is variable, depending on the variable configuration at any  
25 given moment of the channel at the bottom end of Stanshaw Creek in relation to the off-  
26 channel pond. (Testimony of Steven Cramer, HT 11/13/17, p. 153, ll. 7-13)

1 MMR witness Mr. Cole testified that it would cost \$1 million to reconfigure his  
2 hydropower operation to return water discharged therefrom, and not otherwise used on the  
3 ranch, to Stanshaw Creek. (HT 11/15/17, p. 89, ll. 7-14)

4 Because of the biological effects of the MMR's diversion of water from Stanshaw Creek  
5 as described *infra*, MMR's method of diversion of water for hydropower is unreasonable.

6 **E. Klamath River coho salmon, steelhead and Chinook salmon rely on the thermal**  
7 **and velocity refuge provided by Stanshaw Creek for non-natal rearing.**

8 In Exhibit KT-8, Karuk Tribe fisheries biologist Toz Soto describes the general function  
9 of tributaries to the Klamath River in providing juvenile rearing habitat for anadromous  
10 salmonids, notably coho salmon, steelhead, and spring Chinook salmon:

11 In late summer months the Klamath River becomes too warm for salmon to the point  
12 where fish must actively migrate and seek out cold water patches known as thermal  
13 refugia in order to survive. Thermal refugia are typically located in lower reaches of  
14 cold tributaries including the alluvial deltas and confluences such as Stanshaw Creek.  
15 Tributaries like Stanshaw Creek are absolutely critical for the survival of juvenile salmon  
16 during the dry hot summer months. This is particularly true for salmon species such as  
17 Steelhead, Spring Chinook and Coho, which spend an entire year rearing in fresh water.  
18 (Ex. KT-8, p. 3)

17 NMFS fisheries biologist and witness Shari Witmore, in her Master's thesis submitted as  
18 Exhibit NMFS-9, makes similar observations about Klamath River coho salmon in particular  
19 (Ex. NMFS-9, pp. 2-4).

20 Exhibit KT-9, *The Role Of The Klamath River Mainstem Corridor In The Life History And*  
21 *Performance Of Juvenile Coho Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch)* (Soto *et al.*, 2016) describes  
22 the limited availability of high quality summer and winter rearing habitat in the Klamath River  
23 corridor for coho salmon in particular.

24 The Klamath River mainstem corridor contains a very limited number of high quality  
25 summer and/or overwintering habitats (generally small in size with sparse distribution).  
26 This is also true of most of the spawning tributaries in the river basin. These conditions  
27 are at least partly (varies by subbasin) the result of past and/or current land use  
28 practices (e.g., mining, road building, logging, agriculture) (NMFS 2014). Despite limited  
availability of high quality habitats in summer and winter within the river corridor, the  
importance of the role of the corridor to juvenile coho may be much greater today than  
its historic role.

1 (Ex. KT-9, pp. ii-iii)

2 Witness for the Karuk Tribe Toz Soto stated in direct testimony that there are three main  
3 types of thermal refugia provided by Klamath River tributaries:

4 There's the cold-water plume at the confluence of the tributary. There's the floodplain  
5 habitat, such as the off-channel pond at Stanshaw Creek. Those are usually flood  
6 channels that are fed by cold-water tributaries. And then the lower reaches of cold-water  
7 tributaries are thermal refugia, as well.  
8 (HT, 11/16/17, p. 17, ll. 17-24)

9 Stanshaw Creek provides all three of these types of habitat, provided that flow is  
10 sufficient to maintain connectivity between Stanshaw Creek and the Klamath River. Mr. Soto  
11 stated that coho salmon prefer the off-channel habitat. (*Id.*, p. 18, ll. 5-7)

12 Information in the record shows that coho salmon, Chinook salmon and steelhead used  
13 the off-channel pond at the mouth of Stanshaw Creek for non-natal rearing in the years 2002-  
14 2011. (Ex. KT-6, pdf p. 11) Steelhead and salmon were also detected in the plume from  
15 Stanshaw Creek in the Klamath River in some of those years, primarily in July as opposed to  
16 August. (*Id.*) The survey report (Ex. KT-6) sometimes does not distinguish between the pond  
17 and the lower reach of Stanshaw Creek itself, so it is unclear whether fish were detected in the  
18 stream as opposed to the pond.

19 Salmonids also use the off-channel pond near the mouth of Stanshaw Creek in the  
20 winter as a velocity refuge. Exhibit NMFS-9, notes that winter growth rates of coho are very  
21 rapid in the Stanshaw Creek off-channel pond compared to other tributary sites the author  
22 sampled (p. 46) and to summer growth rates in the Stanshaw Creek off-channel pond (p.61).  
23 This suggests both the high value of the off-channel pond near the mouth of Stanshaw Creek  
24 and the impairment of that value during the summer.

25 **F. MMR's diversion of water from Stanshaw Creek to Irving Creek harms public trust**  
26 **resources in the off-channel pond near the mouth of Stanshaw Creek, and**  
27 **indirectly in the Klamath River.**

28 Witness Toz Soto, fisheries biologist for the Karuk tribe, describes in his testimony that  
he personally witnessed the mortality of juvenile salmonids in the off-channel pond near the

1 mouth of Stanshaw Creek in the summer of 2009. (Ex. KT-4, pp. 5-6). On cross-examination,  
2 Mr. Soto stated the likely cause of this mortality was water temperature. (HT, 11/16/17, p. 70,  
3 ll. 12-17) Mr. Soto also testified that during the 2015-2016 drought, when MMR was not  
4 diverting for hydropower generation, he “did not observe fish kills or harmful habitat conditions  
5 at the site.” (Ex. KT-4, p. 7)

6 On cross-examination, Mr. Soto testified that ambient air temperatures in the Somes  
7 Bar area (Somes Bar is located several miles downstream of Stanshaw Creek) often reach  
8 100°F in September and 90°F in October. (HT 11/17/17, p. 102, l. 15 to P. 103, l. 4)  
9 Combined with flow data in KT-8, pp. 29-31, this suggests that when MMR is diverting for  
10 hydropower, there is a direct thermal impairment of the habitat value of the off-stream pond  
11 near the mouth of Stanshaw Creek in the months of September and October. As noted *supra*,  
12 Mr. Cole indicated that MMR would voluntarily forego diversions for hydropower in the months  
13 of June, July and August, but not in September and October.

14 In oral testimony, Mr. Konrad Fisher, witness for Old Man River Trust and owner of land  
15 adjacent to the mouth of Stanshaw Creek and the Stanshaw Creek off-channel pond, stated  
16 that he has seen stranded fish in the off-channel pond in the majority of years since his family  
17 purchased the property in 1994. He attributed these stranding events to a rapid decline in the  
18 stage height of the pond, usually occurring in early summer. (HT 11/16/17, p. 191. ll. 10-18).

19 Exhibit KT-8, page 30, shows that the Karuk Tribe measured flow in Stanshaw Creek  
20 above the MMR diversion on July 28, 2009 at 1.7 cfs, and that it measured flow in Stanshaw  
21 Creek just downstream of the MMR diversion on the same date at 0.1 cfs and flow upstream of  
22 Highway 96 at 0.5 cfs. Exhibit KT-8, pages 29-31 demonstrates similar patterns over multiple  
23 years. Even in 2011, which Mr. Soto confirmed on cross-examination (HT 11/16/17, p. 107, ll.  
24 11-13) was a wet water year in the Klamath Basin, flow on September 13 was measured at 3.2  
25 cfs upstream of the MMR diversion but was measured at between 0.5 and 0.7 cfs downstream  
26 of the diversion above Highway 96. (Ex. KT-8, p. 30). The MMR diversions deprive the pond  
27 near the mouth of Stanshaw Creek of sufficient flow for habitat function in June-September,  
28 and likely through October, even in wet years.

1 More generally, Mr. Soto described in direct oral testimony some of the types of harms  
2 to habitat in Stanshaw Creek that he has observed: “Well, when fish can’t access the refugia,  
3 they’re exposed to lethal water temperatures in the mainstem. If fish become trapped in the  
4 refugia, then they’re unable to move, so they’re basically stuck there. And if water quality  
5 degrades, they could be harmed.” (HT 11/16/17, p. 24, ll. 11-16)

6 As noted *supra*, Mr. Soto’s testimony describes the benefits to fish in the Klamath River  
7 of the “cold water plume” from tributaries to the Klamath River, including Stanshaw Creek.  
8 Also as noted *supra*, evidence in the record shows use of this plume by salmonids. (Ex. KT-6,  
9 pdf p. 11) If, as Mr. Soto testified, reductions in flow in Stanshaw Creek increase water  
10 temperature in Stanshaw Creek and the off-channel pond, it is reasonable to assume that  
11 reductions in the volume of the plume that enters the Klamath River and increases in the water  
12 temperature of the plume reduce the value of the plume as a thermal refuge.

13 Mr. Steven Cramer, witness for MMR, stated that 1 cfs of flow into the off-channel pond  
14 was necessary to maintain water quality in the off-channel pond. (HT 11/13/17, p. 101, ll. 2-  
15 10)

16 A 2015 report by Ross Taylor and Associates stated that between 2 and 2.5 cfs was  
17 necessary to maintain connectivity between Stanshaw Creek and/or the off-channel pond and  
18 the Klamath River. (Ex. KT-7 and also CDFW-7, p. 6) Mr. Soto concurred with this  
19 assessment. (HT 11/16/17, p. 96, ll. 2-3)

20 Mr. Cramer testified on the value of the off-channel pond based on one visit to the off-  
21 channel pond at the mouth of Stanshaw Creek in October 2017, at a time when MMR was not  
22 diverting for hydropower. Mr. Cramer stated: “The floodplain pond has value and those  
23 numbers show it. It’s just what they’ve done to it now, it’s not performing.” Mr. Cramer opined  
24 that the pond was “not performing” because fish could not get to it. (HT, 11/13/17, p. 97, ll.8-  
25 11) Mr. Cramer attributed lack of connectivity between the pond and the Klamath River to  
26 man-placed rocks in the Stanshaw Creek stream channel.

27 Mr. Cramer stated that the pond had served as a thermal refuge in previous years, but  
28 that since a restoration project in 2013, the pond did not seem to be functioning as well as



1 previously. He further testified that more than 5 cfs was necessary to maintain connectivity  
2 between Stanshaw Creek, including the off-channel pond, and the Klamath River, under the  
3 October 2017 configuration of the off-channel pond and the adjacent section of Stanshaw  
4 Creek. Mr. Cramer attributed the magnitude of this volume most immediately to human  
5 manipulation of the stream channel to direct water from Stanshaw Creek into the pond. He  
6 further stated that the amount of flow needed to maintain connectivity between the off-channel  
7 pond and the Klamath River was “circumstantial.” (HT, 11/13/17, p. 143, l.14 to p. 144, l. 15)

8 At hearing, witness Mr. Fisher read from the project description of the 2013 Restoration  
9 Project. This description ascribed sediment infill of the pond in substantial part to overtopping  
10 of the MMR ditch in 2005-2006. Mr. Fisher stated that he had witnessed the erosion that  
11 resulted from this event, which he characterized as a mudslide. (HT 11/16/17, p. 181, l. 3 to p.  
12 182, l. 13) On rebuttal, Mr. Cole stated that “sedimentation is consistently a part of the  
13 Stanshaw system” (Ex. MMR-27, p. 6), and that wildfire in the summer of 2017 had  
14 “nuclearized” the corridor of Stanshaw Creek. (HT, 11/16/17, p. 275, ll. 18-20)

15 Witness Mr. Soto explained on cross-examination by counsel for MMR that the human-  
16 placed rocks near the mouth of Stanshaw Creek were placed to direct water from Stanshaw  
17 Creek into the off-channel pond. He further opined that it did not appear to him that these  
18 rocks blocked connectivity between the off-channel pond and Stanshaw Creek at the flow  
19 shown in a photograph taken in October 2017 by Mr. Cramer [approximately 5 cfs], and that  
20 connectivity between the pond and the Klamath River was maintained at the time via  
21 Stanshaw Creek. (HT 11/16/17, p. 65, l. 25 to p. 68, l. 4)

22 There is clearly intensive and extensive interest in the off-channel pond near the mouth  
23 of Stanshaw Creek. This interest includes, but is not limited to, the importance of the pond as  
24 a thermal refuge for fish. Witness Philip Albers, a member of the Karuk Tribe, testified about  
25 its significance to him as a place he has visited with his family since early childhood. Witness  
26 Leaf Hillman, Chairman of the Karuk Tribe, testified that the tribe had spent twelve years trying  
27 to reach a collaborative solution with the owners of MMR. (Ex. KT-1, pp. 3-4) Witness Konrad  
28 Fisher testified that he signed off on the 2013 restoration project to improve the condition of the

1 off-channel pond and had allowed prolonged heavy equipment traffic across his land during  
2 the implementation of the project. (HT 11/16/17, p. 180, l. 22 to p.181, l. 3) Mr. Fisher also  
3 testified about the importance of the off-channel pond for swimming. (HT 11/16/17, p. 136, ll.  
4 12-16) The Karuk Tribe, Mr. Fisher, NMFS, DFW, the State Board, and the North Coast  
5 Regional Board have all spent extensive time and resources to improve the condition of the  
6 off-channel pond. The National Fish and Wildlife Fund was willing to expend grant money on  
7 projects whose resource goal was to improve the off-channel pond's condition.

8 There is agreement that the particular configuration of the off-channel pond in relation to  
9 the mouth is variable. The present configuration is a result of natural events, such as the  
10 flooding of the Klamath River in the winter of 2017 and wildfire in the summer of 2017, and of  
11 various direct and indirect human activities. There is abundant evidence in the record of  
12 willingness and intent by multiple parties to mitigate negative impacts to fisheries of any past or  
13 future natural or human actions that change the configuration of the off-channel pond and  
14 Stanshaw Creek adjacent to it.

15 The short-term condition of the off-channel pond near the mouth of Stanshaw Creek,  
16 whatever it may be (and whose degree of recent impairment is disputed), does not relieve the  
17 State Board from its obligation to find MMR's longstanding, unquantified out-of-basin diversion  
18 of water using antiquated diversion and conveyance works an unreasonable method of  
19 diversion. In addition, the State Board has the responsibility to require necessary flow in  
20 Stanshaw Creek year-round to enable Stanshaw Creek to heal itself, with or without human  
21 intervention.

22  
23 **IV. MARBLE MOUNTAIN RANCH'S DIVERSIONS FOR HYDRPOWER ARE AN**  
24 **UNREASONABLE USE OF WATER.**

25 In Water Rights Order 2012-0004, the Board described a "series of factors to consider  
26 in allegations that water use is wasteful or unreasonable." It listed those as:

- 27 1) Other potential beneficial uses for conserved water; 2) whether the excess water  
28 serves a reasonable and beneficial purpose; 3) probable benefits of water savings; 4)

1 the amount of water reasonably required for current use; 5) amount and  
2 reasonableness of the cost of saving water; 6) whether the required methods of saving  
3 water are conventional and reasonable rather than extraordinary; 7) availability of a  
4 physical plan or solution.

5 1) There is analysis, *supra*, of the extensive potential of beneficial uses of water that  
6 would be conserved if MMR did not use it to generate hydropower or if MMR  
7 returned it to Stanshaw Creek following hydropower generation.

8 2) Regarding the beneficial use of water that MMR now diverts, the record is mixed.  
9 MMR does not measure its electrical use. (Ex. WR-82, CSS Report, p. 6). There  
10 are carriage losses in the MMR ditch of .4 cfs measured by CSS on August 23,  
11 2013. Estimates are between .4 cfs and 1 cfs of ditch losses. (Ex. WR-82, p. 11)  
12 Witness Joey Howard, principal of Cascade Stream Solutions, testified that MMR  
13 does not reduce its diversion to meet reduced electrical demand:

14 Mr. Petruzzelli: Okay. And when they have lower power demands do they, say  
15 restrict their diversion to limit generation to what they actually need at that time?

16 Witness Howard: It's my understanding that when they have a lower -- when they  
17 have a lower demand they burn the -- they generate heat with the water to burn off  
18 that extra energy.  
19 (HT 11/13/17, p. 47, ll. 4-11)

20 Mr. Howard also stated that he had observed MMR diverting less water than it  
21 needed to operate its hydropower unit but more water than it was using for other  
22 purposes. (*Id.*, ll. 17-23)

23 3) As stated in bullet #1 *supra*, the probable benefits of water savings are encapsulated  
24 in the beneficial uses of water available if water is conserved by eliminating the  
25 diversion or by returning water used for power generation to Stanshaw Creek.

26 4) The amount of water required for beneficial use is variable. MMR has not refined its  
27 hydropower system to match diversions to need.

28 5) The cost of water savings has changed over time, no doubt increasing since a grant  
was initially contemplated in 2004 to support moving the discharge from MMR's  
hydropower operation from Irving Creek back to Stanshaw Creek. While part of the

1 delay is attributable to regulatory uncertainty regarding the water right of MMR, part  
2 of the delay must also be laid at the feet of MMR in waiting for a better deal following  
3 the release of the Lennihan Report. If the effort was to preserve the hydropower  
4 generation, September 2014 to August 2016 was the time period in which MMR  
5 could have advanced a plan for returning the discharge to Stanshaw Creek. An  
6 affirmative effort in this vein may or may not have received support for additional  
7 grant funding. However, the ultimate choice of MMR in this time period was to  
8 double down on the existing configuration of its hydropower project rather than risk  
9 either paying full freight for re-rerouting its discharge or abandoning its hydropower  
10 operations for other options. The clock ran out, and the CAO has foreclosed any  
11 opportunity for assistance with this option.

12 6) There are reasonable options for power supply to MMR. These include going on the  
13 grid, using diesel generators exclusively, paying the cost of rerouting hydropower  
14 discharge to Stanshaw Creek, or a host of hybrid options. Diverse parties have  
15 entered some of these options into the record. These options are relatively but not  
16 prohibitively expensive. They are also not outside the realm of normal options for  
17 similar operations. Mr. Cole, on rebuttal, when asked by counsel if it was “common  
18 to run a diesel generator 24/7,” replied: “Not for extended periods. We're putting a  
19 heavy load on the equipment we have. (HT 11/16/17, p. 279, ll. 3-7) However, Mr.  
20 Cole provided no supporting evidence for this assertion. It is, rather, MMR’s existing  
21 power use and the means of supplying it that is extraordinary. Witness Mr. Tucker  
22 stated that no one else in his extensive knowledge of the mid-Klamath region uses 3  
23 cfs to generate power. (HT 11/16/17, p. 131, ll. 1-13)

24 7) There are a number of physical plans or solutions available. However, having run  
25 out the string on regulatory indulgence, MMR will have to fund them completely.

26 In sum, the Board must find that MMR’s use of water is unreasonable.  
27  
28

1 **V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDED REMEDY**

2 In moving to a regulatory resolution, options that may appear or may have once  
3 appeared to be the most reasonable or rational solutions are no longer available. This is  
4 regrettable but no longer avoidable.

5 CSPA agrees with the findings in Table 2 of the Draft Order (Ex. WR-1) that are shown  
6 as being under the jurisdiction of the State Water Board. CSPA also agrees with the legal  
7 basis for the Draft Order as delineated therein.

8 CSPA recommends that the Board adopt the requirements in Table 4 of the Draft Order.  
9 CSPA recommends that timetable in Table 4 of the Draft Order be set back by two years so  
10 that MMR has the opportunity to comply.

11 CSPA recommends that MMR not be allowed to generate hydropower until it has  
12 completed the tasks in Table 4 of the Draft Order.

13 CSPA recommends that the proposed new October 15, 2018 deadline also require a  
14 determination by MMR on that date whether or not it will re-route its water discharges from  
15 Irving Creek to Stanshaw Creek. The order should include a provision that, in the event that  
16 MMR declines to do re-route its discharges from Irving Creek to Stanshaw Creek, MMR must  
17 permanently cease diversions for hydropower generation on October 15, 2018, and must  
18 commence dismantling its power generation facilities on that date.

19  
20 Executed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

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23 Chris Shutes  
24 Water Rights Advocate  
25 California Sportfishing Protection Alliance  
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**STATEMENT OF SERVICE**


**HEARING IN THE MATTER OF DOUGLASCOLE AND HEIDI COLE AND MARBLE  
MOUNTAIN RANCH, DRAFT ORDER NO. 2018-00XX**

I hereby certify that I have this day submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board and caused a true and correct copy of the following document(s):

**CLOSING BRIEF OF CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE**

to be served **by Electronic Mail** (email) upon the parties on the service list for the above-referenced proceeding.

I certify that the foregoing is true and correct and that this document was executed on March 29, 2018 at Berkeley, CA.

Signature: 

Chris Shutes  
Water Rights Advocate  
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance  
1608 Francisco St.  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
[blancapaloma@msn.com](mailto:blancapaloma@msn.com)