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

18 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

19 **STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

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

26 **WRITTEN SUMMARY OF WILLIAM “CHIP”**
27 **SALMON’S TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF**
28 **THE SOUTH DELTA WATER AGENCY**
PARTIES’ REBUTTAL FOR PART 1 OF THE
CALIFORNIA WATERFIX CHANGE
PETITION

29 I, William “Chip” Salmon, do hereby declare that I have personal knowledge of the
30 following:

31 My name is William Salmon and I reside at 7749 West Undine Road, Stockton.
32 California. For the past 25 years I have been manager of ABF Services, Inc., Union Island
33 Farms (“ABF”) and I also own and lease other property in the South Delta which I farm
34 separately. In the past year, the ABF lands were sold to Captial Bixler Ranch. I now am

1 employed by Capital Bixler Ranch and continue to the farm the approximate 1,300 acres which
2 comprise the Capital Bixler Ranch., the (“Property.”)

3 I previously testified in part 1B of the CWF proceedings on behalf of the South Delta
4 Water Agency Parties, et.al. and in that testimony I identified the two licenses under which the
5 Capital Bixler Ranch diverts water from Grant Line Canal and Middle River, and also the
6 claimed riparian and pre-1914 rights associated with the Property.

7 The diversions we take for the Property are from Middle River near the Undine Road
8 Bridge crossing. I attach hereto as **Exhibit “A”** is a map depicting the location of the point of
9 diversion. This location regularly experiences low water levels to the point where diversions
10 are adversely impacted or prevented. Attached hereto as **Exhibit “B”** are photos near the
11 Undine Road Bridge I took on April 1, 2007, November 29, 2007, and November 30, 2007,
12 which show the extremely low water levels. I estimate that at some times the water is less than
13 two inches deep in this channel. In this tidal zone, the water should never be less than a few
14 feet deep.

15 In a typical summer diversions for the Property are limited to the times surrounding the
16 two high tides which occur every day. Diversions during the lower tides are typically not
17 possible. This occurs even when the three rock/agricultural barriers are installed and
18 operating. The rock/agricultural barriers are supposed to mitigate the effects of the CVP and
19 SWP export pumps on water levels by capturing the incoming high tide and preventing it (or
20 most of it) from flowing out on the next ebb tide.

21 Although I have done no technical analysis of the causes for the low water levels when
22 the rock/agricultural barriers are installed and operating, it is clear that there is significant
23 siltation in Middle River. Siltation increases the elevation of the channel bottom and thus
24 decreases the volume of water the channel holds.

25 Our farming operation of course changes over time. In addition to other crops, we are
26 in the process of moving from grapes and walnut trees to more blueberries and adding almonds
27 and apples. This is important with respect to irrigation needs. Blueberries are generally
28 irrigated all year, whether for plant “consumption” or to facilitate the addition of soil

1 amendments to maintain the proper soil pH. Almonds generally require irrigations through
2 November, depending of course on the rainfall of the particular year. It is not just me who
3 must irrigate in potentially all months. Other crops like asparagus, wheat, alfalfa, trees, etc.
4 may require irrigation in any month of the year if rainfall is minimal or we are in a drought.
5 There is also a need for winter irrigation sometimes to leach salts out of the soil profile in order
6 to maintain crop yields at acceptable levels.

7 I am informed that the WaterFix anticipates installing the Head of Old River barrier as
8 a permanent structure, without installing permanent agricultural barriers. I am also informed
9 that Head of Old River barrier could be operated from approximately February 1 through the
10 end of June, and also in the fall with there being two weeks of full closure of Head of Old
11 River barrier in November. Given the current situation of low water levels in Middle River,
12 operating the Head of Old River barrier during the times specified above could cause
13 catastrophic impacts to my, and other south Delta diverters' ability to irrigate when needed. A
14 permanent Head of Old River Barrier could completely block off flow into the southern Delta,
15 and when the tide ebbs, levels drop more quickly and lower when the barrier cuts off flow from
16 one direction.

17 From my personal experience, it is not commonly appreciated how small changes in the
18 depth or height of water in a delta channel can affect diversions. Given that our channels are
19 not very deep, there is only a small zone in which a pump can operate where it is above the
20 channel bottom, yet far enough below the water to not cause cavitation. Cavitation results
21 when the water above the intake is not sufficiently high such that a whirlpool develops and air
22 is sucked into the pump. The pumps I use on Middle River have needed repair and
23 replacement from such cavitation and from taking in too much sand from the bottom of the
24 channel. Because of the lack of depth on Middle River, these pumps are always at risk from
25 these two adverse effects. Inches can make the difference between a pump that works or one
26 that does not work, or a pump that has a normal operating life and one that quickly wears out.

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1 I have also used siphons for irrigation in the southern Delta. Of course, a lowering
2 water level will eventually prevent a siphon from operating once the supply water level is at or
3 below the land level.

4 I am informed that the Petitioners modeled the effects of a permanent Head of Old
5 River Barrier assuming that it would always allow half of the flow of the river to pass through.
6 I am greatly concerned about this because the current barrier operations do not protect my
7 ability to divert when needed. I am also concerned that a permanent Head of Old River barrier
8 will not be operated in such a way that prevents harm to me and other local diverters.

9 At present I am out of state and do not have the ability to email my signed declaration.
10 However, I directed attorneys for the SDWA Parties to include the information contained
11 herein and have approved the specific content of this declaration and have directed attorney S.
12 Dean Ruiz to sign the declaration on my behalf.

13 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of California that the
14 above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and when called as a witness
15 will testify competently thereto.

16 Date: March 23, 2017

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19 _____
20 **S. DEAN RUIZ, ESQ.**
21 on behalf of **CHIP SALMON**

Exhibit “A”



Google Earth



Exhibit “B”



Middle River Undine Bridge
4/1/07 4:00 p.m.



Taken 11-29-2007



Taken 11-30-2007