

## EXHIBIT “scwa-1”

### TESTIMONY OF PAMELA JEANE

1. I am a registered civil engineer in the State of California and the Assistant General Manager for water and wastewater operations for the Sonoma County Water Agency (“SCWA”). I have worked as a civil engineer in various positions for SCWA continuously since 1994. A copy of my resume, which accurately describes my education, professional registration and work experience, is exhibit SCWA-2.

#### **Background**

##### SCWA’s Water-Right Permits

2. SCWA is authorized to divert and re-divert Russian River water under four water-right permits. Permit 12947A (Application 12919A) authorizes diversions to storage of up to 122,500 acre-feet per year (“af/yr”) in Lake Mendocino and diversions and re-diversions of stored water of up to 92 cubic-feet per second (“cfs”) and 37,544 af/yr. Permit 12949 (Application 15736) authorizes direct diversions of up to 20 cfs. Permit 12950 (Application 15737) authorizes direct diversions of up to 60 cfs from April 1 through September 30. Permit 16596 (Application 19351) authorizes diversions to storage of up to 245,000 af/yr from October 1 through May 1 in Lake Sonoma and diversions and re-diversions of stored water of up to 180 cfs.

3. SCWA diverts and re-diverts water under these permits into SCWA’s Transmission System, and conveys this water to SCWA’s water contractors, which then convey this water through their delivery systems to their customers. Over 600,000 people in Sonoma and Marin Counties receive and use water that is conveyed through SCWA’s Transmission System.

4. SCWA also has contracts with the City of Healdsburg, the Town of Windsor, Russian River County Water District, Camp Meeker Parks and Recreation District and Occidental Community Services District, which authorize these entities to divert and re-divert water from the Russian River under SCWA’s water-right permits.

##### Other Water-Rights on the Russian River

5. Water that is stored in Lake Mendocino during periods of excess flows is later released into the Russian River to support diversions under SCWA’s water rights and other water rights. Diversions under these other water rights include diversions in Mendocino County of up to 8,000 acre-feet per year (“af/yr”) under water-right Permit 12947B (Application 12919B), which is administered by the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation

Improvement District, and diversions in Sonoma County of up to 10,000 af/yr under the reservation for Russian River diversions in Sonoma County that was created by water-rights Decision 1030. Additionally, Lake Mendocino operations must pass through enough Lake Mendocino inflow (when available) to satisfy pre-1949 appropriative water-rights on the Russian River and inflows of water originating in the Lake Mendocino watershed (when available) that are necessary to satisfy downstream riparian rights.

### Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma Operations

6. Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma are U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) projects that provide both flood protection and water supply benefits. SCWA is the local sponsor of these projects and shares operations of these facilities with the USACE. When lake levels rise above the water supply pool, water storage encroaches into the flood control pool and the USACE operates the reservoir. The USACE maintains control and determines the amounts of releases while reservoir storage is within the flood control pool. When reservoir storage levels are below the flood control pool, SCWA operates the reservoir and determines the amounts of water to be released. The flood control and water supply pool elevations for these reservoirs are documented in the USACE water control manuals.

### **SCWA’s Obligations to Implement Instream-Flow Requirements**

7. The Russian River is a managed river system with releases of water from reservoir storage often controlling river flows, especially throughout most of the summer and fall. When tributary stream flows are low, SCWA releases water that previously was stored in Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma to supplement the natural flows in the Russian River and to provide flows for water supply, recreation and aquatic habitat.

8. SCWA controls and coordinates water supply releases from Lakes Mendocino and Sonoma as necessary to implement the minimum instream-flow requirements that are specified in water-rights Decision 1610 (“D-1610”), which the SWRCB adopted on April 17, 1986. D-1610 added terms to SCWA’s water-right permits that specify the minimum flows that SCWA must maintain in the Russian River and Dry Creek.

9. Exhibit SCWA-3 depicts the Russian River system, Lakes Mendocino and Sonoma and a portion of the Eel River system and the primary components of Pacific Gas & Electric Company’s Potter Valley Project (Lake Pillsbury, Scott Dam, Cape Horn Dam and the tunnel that conveys water from Cape Horn Dam to the East Fork of the Russian River). Exhibit SCWA-3 also describes the D-1610 minimum instream-flow requirements that apply to: (a) the East Branch of the Russian River downstream of Lake Mendocino and Coyote Valley Dam (referred to in exhibit SCWA-3 as the “East Fork Russian River”); (b) the Russian

River from the confluence of the East Branch and West Fork of the Russian River to the river's confluence with Dry Creek (referred to in this testimony as the "upper Russian River"); (c) the Russian River downstream of its confluence with Dry Creek (referred to in this testimony as the "lower Russian River"); and (d) Dry Creek downstream of Lake Sonoma.

10. Compliance with the D-1610 minimum in-stream flow requirements for the East Branch of the Russian River is measured at a U. S. Geological Survey ("USGS") gauging station located at Ukiah (Station No. 11462000), and compliance with the requirements for the upper Russian River is measured at USGS gauging stations located at Talmage (Station No. 11462080, Hopland (Station No. 11462500), Cloverdale (Station No. 11463000), Jimtown (Station No. 11463682, Digger Bend (Station No. 11463980) and Healdsburg (Station No. 11464000). The locations of these gaging stations are depicted on exhibit SCWA-3. (The Ukiah gage is depicted as "East Fork" in exhibit SCWA-3.) As required by D-1610 and SCWA's water-right permits, SCWA sets the rate at which water is released from Lake Mendocino each day to a rate that is sufficient to maintain the Russian River flow at each of these gages at a level that always is greater than or equal to the applicable D-1610 minimum instream-flow requirement. SCWA sets these release rates based on continuous review of real-time monitoring of Russian River flow data for each of these gaging stations. Because river flows at these gages can change rapidly from non-coordinated diversions of Russian River water by others, SCWA operators include operational buffers above the applicable minimum in-stream flow requirements when they are calculating the required release rates.

11. SCWA sets the releases of water from Lake Sonoma as necessary to maintain instream flows in Dry Creek and the lower Russian River at levels that equal or exceed the applicable D-1610 minimum instream-flow requirements.

### **Potential Impacts of New Diversions Under Water Right License 5763**

12. The notice of proposed revocation that was attached to the SWRCB's hearing notice for this matter indicates that no diversions of water have occurred under water right License 5763 since 2001. If the SWRCB revokes License 5753, then no diversions will occur under this license in the future, and there obviously will be no new impacts associated with diversions under this license.

13. On the other hand, if the SWRCB does not revoke License 5763, then diversions of up to 5.9 cubic-feet per second may occur in the future under this license. Because License 5763 has a year-round diversion season, such diversions could occur during any month of the year.

14. SCWA must maintain instream flows in the upper Russian River at or above the applicable D-1610 instream-flow requirements regardless of the amounts of diversions of water from the upper Russian River or any of its

tributaries by other people or entities. Accordingly, if new diversions were to begin under water right License 5763 during any time when SCWA controls the amounts of water that are being released from Lake Mendocino, then SCWA will have to increase the rates at which water is released from Lake Mendocino by the amount of the new diversion, so that the instream flows in the upper Russian River are maintained at the levels that would have occurred in the absence of the new diversion.

15. The additional releases of water from Lake Mendocino that are described in the preceding paragraph normally will reduce by the amounts of the additional releases the amounts of water that remain in storage in Lake Mendocino. Such reductions in Lake Mendocino storage often will have significant impacts later in the season. Storage in Lake Mendocino declined to seriously low levels in 2002, 2004, 2007, 2008 and 2009. Exhibit SCWA-4 shows the historical amounts of Lake Mendocino storage during these years. In response to low Lake Mendocino storage levels, SCWA filed, and the SWRCB approved, temporary urgency change petitions to temporarily reduce the D-1610 minimum instream-flow requirements during 2004, 2007 and 2009.

16. Even with the reduced minimum in-stream flow requirements that were authorized by the SWRCB orders approving these petitions, and even with very significant water-conservation efforts by users of Russian River water, storage in Lake Mendocino declined to very low levels by December of each of these years. Such low Lake Mendocino storage levels during the late fall are severe threats to the Russian River fisheries that depend on releases from Lake Mendocino for their upstream migrations. These low storage levels also threaten the water supplies of SCWA and other water users that rely on the upper Russian River.