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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SOLANO

JOHN D. SWEENEY and POINT BUCKLER
CLUB, LLC,

Petitioners and Plaintiffs,

v.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION;
LAWRENCE J. GOLDZBAND, Executive
Director of the San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission; CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL
BOARD, SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION;
BRUCE H. WOLFE, Executive Officer of the
California Regional Water Quality Control Board,
San Francisco Bay Region; and DOES 1 through
20;

Respondents and Defendants.

And related cross-claim.

No. FCS048136

~~PROPOSED~~ STATEMENT OF DECISION
ON CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT
ORDER

Petitioner and plaintiffs John D. Sweeney and Point Buckler Club, LLC ("Plaintiffs") filed this suit challenging Commission Cease And Desist And Civil Penalty Order No. CDO 2016.02 (the "BCDC Order") issued by respondents and defendants San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission and Lawrence J. Goldzband, its Executive Director (jointly "BCDC") and Cleanup and Abatement Order No. R2-2016-0038 (the "CAO") issued by respondents and

1 defendants California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region and Bruce
2 H. Wolfe, its Executive Officer (jointly the "Regional Board"). Plaintiffs have also filed case no.
3 FCS048861 challenging an administrative civil liability order (the "ACL Order") issued by the
4 Regional Board.

5 Plaintiffs have moved for a writ of mandate on all three orders. The parties have requested
6 separate statements of decision. This statement covers Plaintiffs' motion for a writ of mandate
7 setting aside the CAO. For the following reasons, the motion is GRANTED.

8 BACKGROUND

9 All three orders relate to Point Buckler Island, which is about 39 acres and located in Suisun
10 Marsh. There has been a levee around the island since the 1920s. The island was operated as a duck
11 club, and the levee was used to maintain a relatively constant water level in duck ponds. The Suisun
12 Marsh Preservation Act (the "Preservation Act") requires that an "individual management plan" be
13 prepared for each "managed wetland" (i.e. duck club), and in 1984 BCDC certified an individual
14 management plan for the island. By 2011, however, when John Sweeney purchased the island, the
15 levee had fallen into disrepair and was breached in several places. Three years later, in 2014,
16 Sweeney repaired or reconstructed the levee. Dirt was excavated from an interior "borrow ditch"
17 and placed on the existing levee or inland of it. In late 2014, Sweeney sold the island to Point
18 Buckler Club, LLC, which now owns the island.

19 In March 2014, shortly after work began on the levee repair, BCDC staff observed the work.
20 BCDC staff knew that the work was being done by Sweeney, and knew Sweeney from conversations
21 related to another island, but made no immediate effort to contact Sweeney or to get him to stop the
22 work. BCDC staff first contacted Sweeney about the work seven months later. In November 2014,
23 BCDC toured the island, gave Sweeney a copy of the individual management plan for the island, and
24 told him that if the repair was consistent with the plan, then no permit was needed for the work. This
25 statement was consistent with the Preservation Act, which provides that no BCDC permit is required
26 for work specified in an individual management plan. (Public Resources Code ("PRC") § 29501.5.)

27 In January 2015, however, BCDC changed its mind and sent a letter asserting that the
28 individual management plan had expired, and that the levee repair and other activities in the island

1 violated the Preservation Act because they were implemented without a permit. Although there
2 were discussions and additional correspondence, BCDC took no formal action in 2015.

3 In September 2015, the Regional Board issued a cleanup and abatement order requiring the
4 restoration of Point Buckler Island. Penalties were not imposed. In December 2015, plaintiff Point
5 Buckler Club, LLC filed case no. FCS046410 in this Court alleging that the Regional Board's order
6 violated due process, and applied for a stay of that order. This Court granted the stay on December
7 29, 2015. In early January 2016, the Regional Board rescinded the September 2015 order.

8 Two days later, the Regional Board met with BCDC, spoke with consultants, began the
9 process of re-issuing the September 2015 order, and for the first time began imposing penalties. On
10 May 12, 2016, the Regional Board's consultants issued a Technical Assessment. Within a few days
11 after that, Regional Board issued a proposed cleanup and abatement order and penalty complaint that
12 would have imposed \$4.6 million in penalties. BCDC issued a cease and desist order in April 2016
13 and, in May 2016, a proposed penalty order that would have imposed \$952,000 in penalties.
14 Together the proposed penalties amounted to \$5.552 million.

15 In August 2016 the Regional Board held a hearing and issued the CAO, which imposed
16 restoration, mitigation, and monitoring requirements on Plaintiffs.

17 In October 2016, BCDC's enforcement committee held a hearing on the proposed penalty
18 order and recommended that the penalty should be reduced from \$992,000 to \$752,000. The
19 Commission held a hearing in November 2016 and issued the BCDC Order, which imposed the
20 penalty of \$752,000 and included restoration, mitigation, and monitoring requirements almost
21 identical to the CAO.

22 In December 2016, the Regional Board held a hearing and issued the ACL Order, which
23 imposed a penalty of \$2.828 million on Plaintiffs. The combined penalty imposed by BCDC and the
24 Regional Board is \$3.6 million.

25 In December 2016, Plaintiffs filed case no. FCS048136 challenging the CAO and the BCDC
26 Order. In May 2017, Plaintiffs filed case no. FCS048861 challenging the ACL Order. Plaintiffs
27 argue that each of these orders is invalid and must be set aside in accordance with Code of Civil
28 Procedure ("CCP") § 1094.5.

1 Plaintiffs' motions for a writ of mandate in case no. FCS048136 were heard on Friday,
2 October 27, 2017. The motion for a writ of mandate in case no. FCS048861 was heard the following
3 Monday, October 30, 2017. The parties filed additional motions, requests, and objections, which
4 were also heard at those times.

5 SUISUN MARSH PRESERVATION ACT

6 As its name suggests, the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act was enacted to preserve Suisun
7 Marsh. More than 90% of the marshland—51,700 acres of 55,000 acres— is in duck clubs, which
8 the Preservation Act refers to as “managed wetlands”. Duck clubs use levees and tide gates to
9 maintain duck ponds, and they plant vegetation that provides food for ducks and other waterfowl.
10 Ducks prefer artificial duck ponds to natural tidal marsh.

11 Plaintiffs argue that the Regional Board violated the Preservation Act, and thereby acted in
12 excess of jurisdiction and did not proceed in the manner required by law as required by CCP
13 § 1094.5. This Court agrees.

14 PRC § 29302(a) imposes “a judicially enforceable duty on state agencies to comply with, and
15 to carry out their duties and responsibilities in conformity with, this division and the policies of the
16 protection plan.” The “protection plan” is the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan (the “Protection Plan”),
17 which was prepared in 1976 and continues to provide a blueprint for the preservation of the marsh.

18 Plaintiffs argue that the CAO violates the policy of the Preservation Act, which is to
19 “preserve and protect” resources such as duck clubs, which exercise “control over the widespread
20 presence of water and the abundant source of waterfowl foods” (PRC § 29002). Plaintiffs also argue
21 that the CAO violates several policies of the Protection Plan, which specify that “recreational use of
22 privately-owned managed wetlands should be encouraged”, and that “land and water areas should be
23 managed to achieve...habitat attractive to waterfowl” and “[i]mprovement of...levee systems”.
24 (Protection Plan at 29, 30 (amended 2007).) Plaintiffs argue that the CAO would destroy the duck
25 club at Point Buckler, and the Regional Board is hostile to duck clubs and the protection of
26 waterfowl. The Regional Board does not dispute these assertions.

27 Instead, the Regional Board argues that the Preservation Act does not apply to the CAO. It
28 cites PRC § 29006 for the proposition that the Preservation Act does not limit the power of a state

1 agency to “enjoin waste or pollution of the marsh or any nuisance”. The Regional Board misreads
2 that section, which applies to “the power of the Attorney General to bring an action”, but says
3 nothing about administrative orders issued by state agencies. (PRC § 29006(c).) The Regional
4 Board argues that Plaintiffs must comply with both the Preservation Act and the Porter-Cologne Act,
5 which regulates waste discharges. But so must the Regional Board. Because the Regional Board is
6 a state agency, it must comply with the “judicially enforceable duty” imposed on state agencies by
7 PRC § 29302. The Court finds that the levee and excavation work was done to restore the duck
8 ponds at Point Buckler and provide waterfowl with food and habitat, and that the CAO harms
9 waterfowl and their food supply and habitat by prohibiting Plaintiffs from repairing the levee,
10 establishing duck ponds, and planting duck food. The Court finds that the Regional Board can
11 comply with the requirements of the Preservation Act without violating the Porter-Cologne Act, and
12 that the two statutes are not in conflict here. The Regional Board has therefore not acted in
13 conformity with the Preservation Act and the policies of the Protection Plan. The CAO should be set
14 aside on this ground.

15 CONDITION OF POLLUTION

16 The Porter-Cologne Act authorizes a regional board to issue a cleanup and abatement order if
17 specified conditions are met. (Water Code § 13304.) Here, the CAO asserts that those conditions
18 are met because there was a “discharge of waste” into “waters of the state” that “created a condition
19 of pollution”. Plaintiffs argue that none of these elements was met, and therefore that the Regional
20 Board acted in excess of jurisdiction and did not proceed in the manner required by law in violation
21 of CCP § 1094.5.

22 Plaintiffs begin with the last of the elements, the “condition of pollution”. A “condition of
23 pollution” is different from a nuisance, and the Regional Board concedes that the levee work was not
24 a nuisance. The Porter-Cologne Act defines “condition of pollution” as an “alteration of the quality
25 of the waters of the state by waste” that “unreasonably affects” either the “waters for beneficial uses”
26 or the facilities that serve those uses. (Water Code § 13050(l)(1).) Plaintiffs argue that, for several
27 reasons, the levee work did not “unreasonably” affect the beneficial uses. This Court agrees.

28 The Legislature determined that duck clubs do not unreasonably affect beneficial uses when

1 it enacted the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act, which requires the protection and preservation of duck
2 clubs. Plaintiffs analogize to those cases holding that an activity cannot be considered a nuisance
3 when it is specifically authorized by statute. Although activities authorized by statute can be a
4 nuisance if they are conducted in an improper manner, the manner in which the work was conducted
5 is not at issue here. The Regional Board asserts harm from closing the breaches in the levee. It does
6 not assert that the harm could have been avoided if the breaches were closed in some other manner.

7 In addition, the Court finds that the levee work did not unreasonably affect beneficial uses.
8 The Porter-Cologne Act specifies that the independent judgment standard shall apply to judicial
9 review of cleanup and abatement orders (Water Code § 13330(e).) Although the CAO finds that the
10 levee work unreasonably affected beneficial uses, that finding was not supported by the weight of
11 the evidence. The Porter-Cologne Act defines “beneficial uses” to include “recreation” and
12 “preservation and enhancement of...wildlife”. (Water Code § 13050(f).) The levee work promoted
13 those beneficial uses by taking a necessary step in the restoration of functioning duck ponds.
14 Promoting a beneficial use is not unreasonably affecting it. The Regional Board asserts that the
15 levee work caused harm to other beneficial uses mostly related to fish, but the evidence was highly
16 speculative. There was no direct evidence that fish used the small channels that were closed by the
17 levee repair, and there was no evidence that the levee repair significantly reduced the amount of
18 organic material that was available to fish in the waters around the island. There was conflicting
19 expert testimony on whether the small channels on the island tended to shelter fish from predators,
20 or on the contrary harmed fish by attracting predators. Because the benefits of the levee are clear
21 and certain, and the asserted harm to fish was unquantified and uncertain, the Court finds that any
22 harm the levee work may have caused to beneficial uses did not unreasonably affect those uses.¹

23
24 ¹ Water Code § 13304 authorizes the issuance of a cleanup and abatement order when a person
25 “discharges waste into the waters of this state in violation of any...prohibition issued by a regional
26 board”. Although the CAO did not assert that it was being issued on this ground, the Regional
27 Board now argues that the levee work violated a prohibition, contained in the “basin plan”, on the
28 discharge of “earthen material... in quantities sufficient to cause deleterious bottom deposits,
turbidity, or discoloration in surface waters or to unreasonably affect... beneficial uses.” Although
the CAO included a finding to this effect, the finding was not supported by the weight of the
evidence. As discussed in the text, the levee work did not unreasonably affect beneficial uses. The
Court finds that the actions of Plaintiffs at issue did not cause deleterious bottom deposits, turbidity,
or discoloration in surface waters.

1 The Regional Board therefore lacked authority to issue the CAO. The CAO should be set
2 aside on this ground.

3 WASTE

4 Plaintiffs argue that the dirt used to repair the levee was not “waste”. This Court agrees. The
5 Porter-Cologne Act defines “waste” to include “sewage and any and all other waste substances”
6 from a broad range of human sources, but does not define what a waste is. In this situation, a court
7 applies the commonly understood meaning of “waste”, which is something discarded as worthless or
8 useless. (*Waste Management of the Desert v. Palm Springs Recycling Center, Inc.* (1994) 7 Cal.4th
9 478, 485.) Here, the dirt used for the levee work was a valuable building material, not something
10 discarded as worthless or useless.

11 The Regional Board argues that dirt is always a waste, regardless of whether it is discarded.
12 For this proposition, it cites *Lake Madrone Water Dist. v. State Water Resources Control Bd.* (1989)
13 209 Cal.App.3d 163. *Lake Madrone* held that concentrated sediment flushed from a dam was
14 “waste” regulated by the Porter-Cologne Act. (*Id.* at 171.) Because the flushed sediment was being
15 discarded as something worthless or useless, *Lake Madrone* does not support the Regional Board’s
16 argument that dirt is “waste” even when it is not discarded as useless.

17 In circumstances closer to those here, a federal court has distinguished *Lake Madrone* and
18 held that “building a house” is not a discharge of waste, even though the house might generate
19 stormwater runoff into Lake Tahoe. (*Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council, Inc. v. Tahoe Regional*
20 *Planning Agency* (D.Nev. 1999) 34 F.Supp.2d 1226, 1254, overruled on other grounds (9th Cir.
21 2000) 216 F.3d 764, 771, affirmed (2002) 535 U.S. 302, 312.) Here, the Regional Board does not
22 assert that the levee work will cause runoff or anything else that might be considered a discharge of
23 waste. The only question is whether the dirt placed to construct a valuable improvement is a waste.

24 The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which administers the permitting program for dredge
25 and fill material under the federal Clean Water Act, has taken the same position that Plaintiffs assert
26 here. The Corps, in a letter to the State Water Resources Control Board, has asserted that the
27 definition of “waste” under the Porter-Cologne Act does not include discharge of dredge or fill
28 materials, and that the Porter-Cologne Act does not authorize state agencies to reregulated dredge

1 and fill operations.

2 The Court finds that Plaintiffs' placement of dirt to repair or reconstruct the levee was not the
3 discarding of a material as valueless or useless. The dirt was not a waste, and the Regional Board
4 lacked authority to issue the CAO. The CAO should be set aside on this ground.

5 DISCHARGE

6 Among the unauthorized activities the CAO identifies are the excavation of ditches and the
7 removal of vegetation. The Regional Board also objected to the keeping of pet goats on the island,
8 on the grounds that the goats might eat the vegetation. Plaintiffs argue that a "discharge" under the
9 Porter-Cologne Act does not include the removal of material, and is therefore not subject to a
10 cleanup and abatement order. This Court agrees.

11 The Porter-Cologne Act does not define "discharge". Google defines "discharge" as to
12 "allow (a liquid, gas, or other substance) to flow out from where it has been confined". Merriam-
13 Webster's online dictionary defines the word as "to give outlet or vent to" and "emit". The ordinary
14 meaning of "discharge", therefore, does not include a removal. Federal cases have reached the same
15 conclusion for the word "discharge" in the Clean Water Act. (*E.g. National Mining Association v.*
16 *United States Army Corps of Engineers* (1998) 145 F.3d 1399, 1404.) Under both the ordinary
17 definition and federal law, therefore, the removal of material is not a "discharge". The Regional
18 Board lacked authority to issue a CAO regulating activities that are not discharges. The CAO should
19 be set aside on this ground.

20 WATERS OF THE STATE

21 The Porter-Cologne Act defines "waters of the state" as "any surface water or groundwater,
22 including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state." (Water Code § 13050(e).) But it does
23 not define where a surface water ends and dry land begins. Plaintiffs argue that no matter how the
24 phrase is defined, it does not apply to dry land, and that most of the work was done on dry land.
25 This Court agrees.

26 The Regional Board's consultants initially opined that the interior of the island was
27 inundated by the tides every day. This conclusion was based on their calculations about how high
28 the tides were at the island. Sweeney then testified that in the many months he had been on the

1 island he had never seen the interior inundated (although he had seen water in the small channels and
2 ditches). In response, the Regional Board's consultants changed position and opined that the interior
3 was rarely inundated by the tides. But they did not admit that they changed their opinion, they did
4 not explain why their initial calculations had been wrong, and they did not make any corrections to
5 their calculations. The Court finds that the Regional Board's consultants lack credibility, that their
6 opinions on this issue should be given no weight, and that the interior of the island (except for the
7 channels and ditches) was dry land rather than waters of the state. Water Code § 13304 does not
8 give the Regional Board authority to issue a cleanup and abatement order for the placement of dirt in
9 areas that are not waters of the state. Except for those areas in which dirt was placed in channels or
10 ditches, the dirt was placed on dry land, not waters of the state. The CAO should be set aside on this
11 ground.

12 WATER CODE § 13267

13 The CAO requires Plaintiffs to submit technical reports in accordance with Water Code
14 § 13267. That section provides that "[t]he burden, including costs, of these reports shall be a
15 reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtain", and specifies that the
16 "regional board shall provide the person with a written explanation". (Water Code § 13267(b)(1).)
17 The CAO includes a conclusory statement asserting that it complies with § 13267, but does not
18 include the written explanation or otherwise explain why the burden bears a reasonable relationship
19 to the need. Plaintiffs argue that the CAO's conclusory statement does not comply with the
20 requirements of § 13267. This Court agrees.

21 In the case most closely on point, the California Supreme Court concluded that a conclusory
22 finding was not sufficient. (*Voices of the Wetlands v. State Water Resources Control Board* (2011)
23 52 Cal.4th 499, 511-513 (interpreting cost-benefit analysis required by § 316(b) of the federal Clean
24 Water Act).) By requiring technical reports without meeting the requirements of Water Code
25 § 13267, the Regional Board exceeded its jurisdiction and did not proceed in the manner required by
26 law. The CAO should be set aside on this ground.

27 FAIR TRIAL

28 A party can establish that an agency has violated that party's "constitutional due process right

1 to an impartial tribunal” by establishing that “rules mandating an agency’s internal separation of
2 functions and prohibiting ex parte communications” have not been observed, or by showing that a
3 particular combination of circumstances (sometimes referred to as the “totality of the
4 circumstances”) creates an unacceptable risk of bias. (*Morongo Band of Mission Indians v. State*
5 *Water Resources Control Bd.* (2009) 45 Cal.4th 731, 741.) Plaintiffs argue that the Regional Board
6 did not separate functions, and that the totality of the circumstances created an unacceptable risk of
7 bias. This Court agrees.

8 The Regional Board admits that, when the first cleanup and abatement order was issued in
9 September 2015, functions had not yet been separated. By mid-2016, however, when proceedings
10 on the CAO were underway, the Regional Board had identified a prosecution team and an advisory
11 team. For the preliminary procedural issues, such as when the hearing would take place, Plaintiffs
12 and the prosecution team submitted their arguments to the advisory team, and the advisory team
13 ruled on them. But neither the advisory team nor the Regional Board ruled on the principal factual
14 and legal issues in the case. The California Administrative Procedure Act (“APA”) specifies that
15 “[t]he decision shall be in writing and shall include a statement of the factual and legal basis for the
16 decision.” (Gov. Code § 11425.50(a).) Here the only writing is the CAO, and the CAO was drafted
17 by the prosecution team rather than the advisory team. Although some minor modifications were
18 made to the CAO at the hearing, they were made only with the approval of the prosecution team.
19 The Court finds that the Regional Board appeared to be biased in favor of the prosecution team, and
20 against Plaintiffs. The factual and legal issues raised by Plaintiffs deserved to be taken seriously, but
21 they were not evaluated and ruled on. The advisory team, which included two lawyers, could have
22 prepared an analysis and recommended decision on the legal issues that could have been adopted by
23 the Regional Board. Technical staff on the advisory team could have prepared an analysis of the
24 factual issues. By not ruling on the issues raised by Plaintiffs, the Regional Board gave the
25 impression that it did not have to comply with the law, and that the result was a foregone conclusion.

26 Plaintiffs also argue that the Regional Board did not allow sufficient time for the trial. This
27 Court agrees. Although Plaintiffs requested a full hearing similar to one held by the State Water
28 Resources Control Board, the advisory team initially concluded that a half hour was sufficient for

1 Plaintiffs to try their case. When Plaintiffs repeated their request and asked for 7 hours, the advisory
2 team increased Plaintiffs' allotted time to 1 hour, which the advisory team deemed enough to
3 examine witnesses, introduce exhibits, cross-examine opposing witnesses, and rebut the evidence
4 against Plaintiffs. The Court finds that 1 hour is not enough to try a case as complex as this one, and
5 that the allotted time was not enough to give Plaintiffs a fair opportunity to present their opening
6 statement, examine their percipient and expert witnesses, cross-examine the prosecution team's
7 witnesses, and make their closing argument. The Court also finds that the short time gave the
8 appearance that the Regional Board was not interested in determining the truth, but rather than it
9 intended and expected to rely on staff, as it usually did, to provide the facts and law. The Regional
10 Board has the responsibility of deciding all issues needed to resolve the dispute, and it should take
11 the time required to understand the issues and make the decisions, rather than delegating those tasks
12 to staff. Because the advisory team did not take an active role in the judicial decision-making
13 function on the substantive legal and factual issues in dispute, the Regional Board relied on the
14 prosecution team, which was biased in favor of its own position.

15 When an agency is called on to conduct an adjudicatory hearing, it should fairly adjudicate
16 the legal and factual issues. Here Plaintiffs made strong legal and factual arguments that were not
17 seriously considered by the decision-makers, who refused to rule on them. Instead, the findings and
18 decision were principally determined by the prosecution team, which expressed only its own position
19 in the CAO. Under the totality of the circumstances, Plaintiffs did not receive a fair trial. The CAO
20 should be set aside on this ground.

21 FINDINGS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE EVIDENCE

22 Plaintiffs argue that at least five key findings were not supported by the weight of the
23 evidence. Four of the five have been discussed in the sections in which they were relevant. The
24 Court agrees that those four findings were not supported by the weight of the evidence. The CAO
25 should be set aside on this ground.

26 OTHER ISSUES

27 The Regional Board submitted an administrative record of about 17,000 pages. Plaintiffs
28 object to about 14,400 of those pages on the ground that they were not submitted as part of the CAO

1 proceeding. Plaintiffs analogize to the record on appeal, and argue that the administrative record
2 should consist of the documents included in a clerk's transcript (the written documents submitted by
3 the parties and the decision-maker) and the reporter's transcript. The 14,400 pages at issue consist
4 mostly of technical reports that were cited in the Technical Assessment, but not submitted to the
5 Regional Board. The Court agrees that these documents are not properly part of the administrative
6 record. Plaintiffs' objections are SUSTAINED.

7 The Regional Board moves to strike Plaintiffs' opening brief on the ground that it
8 incorporated material from another brief and exceeded the page limits. The Regional Board's
9 motion is DENIED.

10 On July 20, 2017, the Regional Board filed an ex parte application for a mandatory
11 temporary restraining order and order to show cause to enforce the CAO and require Plaintiffs to
12 implement an "interim corrective action plan". On July 26, this Court issued an Order After Hearing
13 that denied the application and set a hearing on the order to show cause. That hearing was continued
14 to October 27, 2017. Because the Court has determined that the CAO should be set aside, the
15 Regional Board's motion to enforce the CAO is now DENIED.

16 The parties make several requests for judicial notice, to augment the record, and to correct
17 the record. None of these requests appears necessary for resolving the principal issues in this case,
18 and there is no need to rule on them.

19 This statement of decision resolves the first cause of action in Plaintiffs' amended complaint.
20 The second cause of action, asserting a CEQA cause of action, was resolved by demurrer. Plaintiffs'
21 third cause of action alleges a violation of the Bagley-Keene Act, and has been withdrawn.
22 Plaintiffs' fourth cause of action is for inverse condemnation. The count is based on the concept that
23 the CAO took a valuable property right from Plaintiffs for public use. Because the Court is granting
24 Plaintiffs' motion for a writ to set aside the CAO, the inverse condemnation count is now moot.
25 Plaintiffs' fifth cause of action alleges a violation of the Public Records Act. However, Plaintiffs are
26 willing to waive this argument if the Court rules in their favor on the writ. This issue is therefore
27 waived. All causes of action in Plaintiffs' amended complaint are now fully resolved.

28 The Regional Board has filed a cross-claim alleging that Plaintiffs have violated the CAO.

1 Because the CAO should be set aside, the cross-claim is now moot.

2 CCP § 1094.5(f) specifies that “[t]he court shall enter judgment either commanding
3 respondent to set aside the order or decision, or denying the writ.” Judgment should be entered in
4 favor of Plaintiffs. A writ of mandate should issue commanding the Regional Board to set aside the
5 CAO.

6 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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8 Date: DEC 26 2017

HARRY S. KINNICUTT

Judge of the Superior Court

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PROOF OF SERVICE

I declare that I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to this action. I am employed in the City and County of San Francisco, and my business address is 155 Sansome Street, Suite 700, San Francisco, California 94104.

On November 14, 2017, at San Francisco, California, I served the attached document(s):

[PROPOSED] STATEMENT OF DECISION ON CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER

On the following parties:

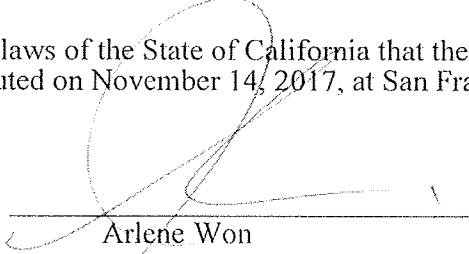
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☒ **BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:** On the date written above, I e-mailed the documents to the persons on the service list at the e-mail addresses listed above. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after transmission, any electronic message or other indication that transmission was unsuccessful.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that this document was executed on November 14, 2017, at San Francisco, California.


Arlene Won