de.		\frown		
\$2				
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	JENNIFER T. BUCKMAN, State Bar No. 179 ANDREW J. RAMOS, State Bar No. 267313 BARTKIEWICZ, KRONICK & SHANAHAN A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 1011 Twenty-Second Street Sacramento, California 95816-4907 Telephone: (916) 446-4254 Facsimile: (916) 446-4018 E-Mail: jtb@bkslawfirm.com ADAM U. LINDGREN, City Attorney, State GREGORY J. NEWMARK, State Bar No. 19 MEYERS NAVE RIBACK SILVER & WILS 707 Wilshire Blvd., Fl 24, Los Angeles, CA 90017 Telephone: (213) 626-2906 Facsimile: (213) 626-0215 E-Mail: gnewmark@meyersnave.com	N Sacramento 01/10/2019 kfay By Deputy Case Number: 34-2019-80003051 Bar No. 177476	
	11 12 13	Attorneys for Petitioner CITY OF MODESTO	Exempt from Filing Fees Per Government Code § 6103	
	14 15 16	SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO		
	17 18	CITY OF MODESTO,	Case No.	
	10	Petitioners,	PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE	
	20 21	v. CALIFORNIA STATE WATER	(Code Civ. Proc., §§ 526, 1085, 1094.5; Pub. Res. Code, §§ 21167, 21168 and 21168.5.)	
	22	RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD and DOES 1 TO 100, INCLUSIVE,	[Deemed verified pursuant to Code Civ. Proc.,	
	23	Respondents.	§ 446.]	
	24			
	25			
	26			
	27			
	28			
{00120917.!} PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANE		{00120917.1} PETITION FOR W	WRIT OF MANDATE	

1 2 Petitioner City of Modesto alleges as follows:

This petition challenges the December 12, 2018 decision of respondent 1. 3 California State Water Resources Control Board ("State Water Board") to adopt Resolution No. 2018-0059, by which the State Water Board adopted certain amendments ("Plan 4 5 Amendments") to the 2006 Water Quality Control Plan ("Bay-Delta Plan") for the San 6 Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary and to adopt the related Substitute 7 Environmental Document ("SED") for the Plan Amendments.

8 2. Petitioner City of Modesto is the 18th largest City in the State of California and 9 is home to over 210,000 people. Due to its location on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley, the 10 City has only two sources of water supply physically available to serve its customers: surface 11 water from the Tuolumne River, which runs through the City, and groundwater. If 12 implemented, the Plan Amendments will severely reduce the amount of Tuolumne River 13 surface water available for people, and they will significantly increase the strain on the latter, 14 which will already be reduced due to the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and anticipated future drought conditions. 15

16 3. The Plan Amendments are adopting the Bay-Delta Plan, which the State Water 17 Board approved in 2006, pursuant to its authority under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality 18 Control Act (Water Code sections 13000, et seq.). The Bay-Delta Plan accomplishes three 19 purposes: it (a) identifies and designates the beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta, 20 (b) establishes water quality objectives to protect the designated beneficial uses, and 21 (c) institutes a "program of implementation" that is intended to achieve the specified water quality objectives. (Water Code, §§ 13050, subd. (j); 13170.) 22

23

4. The Bay-Delta Plan, and the water quality objectives it established, apply to the 24 waters of the San Francisco Bay system and the legal Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. 25 Likewise, all of the beneficial uses designated within the Bay-Delta Plan, which serve as the basis for establishing the appropriate water quality objectives for the Bay-Delta, relate to uses 26 27 of water within the "legal Delta." The scope of the Delta is legally defined in Water Code 28 section 12220, and these waters are known as the "legal Delta." A true and correct copy of a

map produced by the Department of Water Resources depicting the legal Delta is attached as Exhibit A.

5. The waters of the Merced, Tuolumne, and Stanislaus Rivers upstream of the confluence of the Stanislaus with the San Joaquin River are not within the legal Delta. To the extent the Bay-Delta Plan protects municipal and industrial uses of water, those uses are ones that occur within the legal Delta by users such as the City of Antioch.

6. In 2009, the State Water Board determined it would update the Bay-Delta Plan
for different parts of the State in separate phases. The first phase included three of the
tributaries to the San Joaquin River, the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers (collectively,
the "Three Tributaries"). Other tributaries and an upstream reach of the San Joaquin River
itself were excluded.

12 7. The Bay-Delta Plan did not establish the water quality protections that apply to 13 the waters of the Three Tributaries, since these reaches of each of these streams are upstream, and outside, of the legal Delta. Rather, these reaches of these streams are subject to the water 14 quality protections established in the Water Quality Control Plan for the California Regional 15 Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (5th ed., May 2018) ("Central Valley 16 Basin Plan") adopted by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and 17 approved by the State Water Board last year. The beneficial uses and the water quality 18 19 objectives applicable to these reaches of these streams are set forth in the Central Valley Basin 20 Plan.

8. 21 Even though these reaches of Three Tributaries are outside the geographic scope 22 of the 2006 Bay-Delta Plan, the Plan Amendments seek to impose minimum flow requirements 23 within the Three Tributaries upstream of the Delta. Specifically, the Plan Amendments require certain - but not all - water users in the Three Tributaries, in each month from February 24 25 through June, to release sufficient water so that an average of 40% of the "unimpaired flow" of 26 each river will reach the San Joaquin River at Vernalis. To meet this requirement, the targeted 27 water uses may release between 30% and 50% – that is, one half – of the unimpaired flow of 28 the stream, as long as the total amount released, when averaged, is equivalent to 40%.

{00120917.1}

1

2

3

4

5

6

2

9. For the State Water Board to impose minimum streamflow requirements as a water quality objective is unprecedented, and the magnitude of water reallocated by these streamflow requirements on the Three Tributaries is so extensive that it will cause severe water shortages for the affected water users, including the City and its customers.

5

6

7

8

1

2

3

4

10. The City of Modesto currently receives approximately half of its annual drinking water supply from Tuolumne River surface water through a contract it has with the Modesto Irrigation District. The City uses this Tuolumne River water to diversify its water portfolio and to help protect local groundwater supplies.

9 The City does not have any water right to divert water from the Tuolumne 11. River. Before it entered into its water supply contract with Modesto Irrigation District for the 10 delivery of Tuolumne River water, the City's water supplies were entirely dependent on 11 groundwater, and the groundwater basin was being overdrafted. As a result of the City 12 diversifying its water supplies by obtaining water from the Tuolumne River, the groundwater 13 levels in the City of Modesto's contiguous system have been stable since 1995. 14

The City is currently investing over \$300 million in water infrastructure with the 12. 15 intent of securing long-term water supply reliability for residents, business, and major industry. 16 These investments were based on extensive analysis and planning that included anticipated 17 future use of current surface water supplies. However, if the Plan Amendments are 18 implemented, surface water deliveries will be cut by an average of 38% in critically dry years. 19 20 These severe reductions in surface water deliveries threaten all of the City's long-term water 21 planning efforts and investments and will have far-reaching impacts on the City, the health and well-being of its residents and customers, the regional economy, and the environment. 22

23

13. The stated purpose of the new minimum flow requirements is to facilitate the migration of Central Valley fall-run Chinook salmon through the Bay-Delta. Central Valley 24 fall-run Chinook salmon spawn on each of the Three Tributaries. 25

The Central Valley fall-run Chinook salmon is a cold-water fish species, and 14. 26 27 temperatures that are too warm can be lethal to this species. In other words, when stream temperatures are too high, these fish and their eggs can be damaged or killed. 28

{00120917.1}

15. Each of the Three Tributaries has at least one dam that was constructed for the purposes of storing fall, winter, and spring storms and snowmelt for beneficial use at other times of the year. These dams have been in existence for decades. Each of the reservoirs created by these dams develops a "cold water pool" of cooler water that can be released downstream, but the volume of these cold water pools is limited by the size of the reservoir and the water and weather conditions each year. Releases of warm water when cold-water species are inhabiting the streams can cause injury to or death of the fish. To avoid releases of water at temperatures that are harmful to cold-water fish downstream, the cold-water pools in the reservoirs, and releases from the reservoirs, must be carefully timed and managed.

10 16. Water operators on the Three Tributaries have been striking this balance in their
11 operations for decades. To date, the Central Valley fall-fun Chinook salmon has not been listed
12 as threatened or endangered under either the California or Federal Endangered Species Act.

13 17. When establishing a new or revised water quality objective for a stream, Water 14 Code section 13241 requires the State Water Board to strike a similar balance. Under this 15 statutory mandate, the board must consider past, present, and probable future beneficial uses of 16 the water; conditions that could reasonably be achieved through the coordinated control of all 17 factors which affect water quality in the area; economic considerations; and the need for 18 developing housing within the region, among other factors.

The State Water Board never considered the Plan Amendments in the proper 19 18. context of the beneficial uses for the Three Tributaries as designated in the Central Valley 20 Basin Plan. The State Water Board's Resolution approving the Plan Amendments conclusorily 21 states that the State Water Board has considered the factors required by Water Code section 22 13241 and refers to the Final SED for the supporting evidence. The State Water Board's 23 process is detailed in Master Response 1.2 of the SED – but nowhere in this text is the Central 24 Valley Basin Plan even mentioned. Thus, the record contains no evidence that the State Water 25 Board considered the designated beneficial uses of the Three Tributaries, as established in the 26 Central Valley Basin Plan, before adopting the Plan Amendments. 27

28

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

1 19. Although the State Water Board did prepare an SED, this document fails to 2 evaluate fully the environmental impacts of the Plan Amendments. The SED contains faulty 3 assumptions about the City's ability to continue receiving surface water, the City's use of 4 groundwater, and the City's current and future water demands. These faulty assumptions infect 5 the entirety of the SED's analysis. As a result of these and other errors, the SED fails to 6 adequately analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the Plan Amendments on the 7 City of Modesto.

20. 8 The State Water Board conducted an administrative process to consider the Plan 9 Amendments, and the City participated at every opportunity it was afforded. The City has repeatedly brought its concerns about the defects in the Plan Amendments and the SED to the 10 State Water Board's attention, but the State Water Board ignored the substance of the City's 11 concerns and proceeded to adopt these documents. 12

13

In adopting the Plan Amendments, and throughout the administrative process, 21. the State Water Board failed to comply with its obligations under CEQA and under the Porter-14 15 Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code sections 13000, et seq.).

22. The Plan Amendments violate the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act 16 because the State Water Board adopted them without considering the factors it was required to 17 consider, including the beneficial uses of the waters of the Three Tributaries, as designated in 18 19 the Central Valley Basin Plan, economic and housing considerations, and the conflict between the proposed unimpaired flow objectives for the Three Tributaries and their resulting impacts 20 on the cold water pool available for releases to sustain downstream cold-water fish. 21

The SED also fails to comply with CEQA because it: (a) fails to analyze the 22 23. Plan Amendments' impacts on the City's surface water supplies, (b) fails to analyze the Plan 23 24 Amendments' impacts on the City's groundwater supplies, (c) fails to analyze the Plan 25 Amendment's incremental contribution to cumulative impacts to water supplies, (d) fails to 26 analyze urban blight that is a reasonably foreseeable result of the water supply reductions the 27 Plan Amendments will cause, and (e) fails to provide good faith, reasoned responses to the significant environmental issues raised in the City's comments. The State Water Board also 28

violated CEQA by refusing to accept comments on all aspects of the CEQA approvals, which prematurely and artificially closed the record of proceedings on some issues.

Because of these fatal flaws, the State Water Board prejudicially abused its 24. discretion and violated the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and CEQA when it 4 approved the SED and the Plan Amendments. Petitioner therefore asks this Court to: (a) issue a peremptory writ of mandate directing the State Water Board to set aside its approval of the SED and the Plan Amendments, and (b) provide related declaratory and injunctive relief.

8

1

2

3

5

6

7

PARTIES

9 25. Petitioner City of Modesto is a municipal corporation formed and existing under 10 the laws of the State of California.

11 Respondent California State Water Resources Control Board ("State Water 26. 12 Board") is a state agency existing under the laws of the State of California. The State Water 13 Board is the lead agency for the Plan Amendments with responsibility for complying with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"). The State Water Board's adoption of Water 14 Quality Control Plan amendments such as the Plan Amendments has been qualified as a 15 certified regulatory program under CEQA, and, as such, the Substitute Environmental 16 17 Document was exempt from certain designated CEQA requirements.

18 Does 1 to 100, inclusive, are also responsible, in whole or in part, for the invalid 27. and unlawful approval of the Substitute Environmental Document and the Plan Amendments, 19 though the exact nature of their responsibility and actions is presently unknown to Petitioner. 20 The true names or capacities of Does 1 to 100, inclusive, are unknown to Petitioners, who 21 therefore sues these real parties in interest by fictitious names. When the true identities and 22 capacities of these Respondents have been determined, Petitioner will, with leave of the Court 23 if necessary, amend this Petition to insert such identities and capacities. 24

25

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

This Court has jurisdiction over this action, which is brought pursuant to Code 26 28. of Civil Procedure sections 526, 1085 and 1094.5, and Public Resources Code sections 21167, 27 28 21168 and 21168.5.

{00120917.1}

1 29. Venue in Sacramento County is proper under Code of Civil Procedure section 2 401, subdivision 1, which provides that actions against the State or an agency thereof may be commenced and tried in the County of Sacramento, and under Code of Civil Procedure section 3 395, subdivision (a), because respondent State Water Board is domiciled in Sacramento 4 5 County.

6

30. Consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21167.5, on January 9, 2019, 7 Petitioner served, by mail, the State Water Board with a notice informing it of Petitioner's intent to file this petition for writ of mandate challenging the State Water Board's December 12, 8 2018 decisions. A copy of Petitioner's notice and associated proof of service is attached as 9 10 Exhibit B and incorporated by reference.

11 Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 388, Petitioners/Plaintiffs are 31. serving the California Attorney General with a copy of this Petition. 12

13

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

14 32. Petitioner has performed all conditions precedent to filing the instant action. To the extent Petitioner was required to exhaust its administrative remedies, it has done so by 15 submitting comments on the SED whenever the State Water Board afforded it an opportunity to 16 do so. The State Water Board issued improper and misleading notices stating that it would not 17 accept comments on some aspects of the SED, such as the statement of overriding 18 considerations, and Plan Amendments. In doing so, the State Water Board frustrated 19 Petitioner's ability to provide comments. Had the notices not stated that the State Water Board 20 was refusing to accept comments, Petitioner would have provided comments and testimony in 21 22 opposition to those aspects of the SED and Plan Amendments. To the extent Petitioner did not exhaust its administrative remedies prior to challenging those aspects of the approvals, 23 Petitioner is excused from doing so by the State Water Board's improper and premature closing 24 25 of the record in violation of CEQA.

26

27

28

The City operates a municipal utility that manages water supply resources and 33. delivers water to its customers. As noted above, one of the City's two sources of water supply

STANDING

{00120917.1}

1 is water diverted from the Tuolumne River and delivered to the City under its contract with 2 Modesto Irrigation District. As such, Petitioner has significant, beneficial interests in the 3 matters addressed by this Petition. The Plan Amendments analyzed in the SED, if implemented, would significantly hinder Petitioner's ability to deliver safe, reliable water 4 5 supplies to the more than 200,000 people it serves and would cause direct, indirect and 6 cumulative environmental impacts in the City and its environs. Thus, the City has standing to 7 assert the claims raised in this Petition because its beneficial and environmental interests are 8 directly and adversely affected by the State Water Board's approval of the SED and Plan 9 Amendments.

10

ATTORNEYS' FEES

34. This action involves the enforcement of important rights affecting the public 11 12 interest. In pursuing it, Petitioner will confer a substantial benefit on the public, including all 13 persons who rely on resources affected by the SED and the Plan Amendments. Therefore, 14 when Petitioner prevails in this action, it will be entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' 15 fees under Code of Civil procedure section 1021.5.

16

INADEQUATE REMEDY AT LAW – STAY AND INJUNCTION

17 35. Under Code of Civil Procedure sections 526, 1085 and 1094.5, and Public 18 Resources Code sections 21168 and 21168.5, the Court may stay or enjoin the operation of any 19 administrative decision or order involved in this proceeding.

20 36. Because the State Water Board has approved the Plan Amendments and 21 submitted them to the Office of Administrative Law, there is a real threat that the State Water Board will proceed to implement the Plan Amendments despite the inadequate environmental 22 23 review of their impacts. Given the State Water Board's violations of CEQA in approving the SED and the Plan Amendments, any action to implement the Plan Amendments is null and 24 25 void. Petitioners have no plain, speedy or adequate remedy at law for this irreparable harm. 26 Therefore, a stay or preliminary and permanent injunction should issue restraining the State 27 Water Board from taking any additional actions to implement the Plan Amendments until the 28 State Water Board has complied with CEQA.

1 2

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Writ of Mandate - Violations of Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act)

3 37. Petitioners re-allege and incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 30, above. 4

38. 5 When the State Water Board is setting water quality objectives, Water Code 6 section 13000 requires it to consider "all demands being made and to be made on those waters," 7 and Water Code section 13241 compels it to weigh the following factors: (a) Past, present, and probable future beneficial uses of water that would be subject to the objective, 8 9 (b) Environmental characteristics of the hydrographic unit under consideration, including the 10 quality of water available thereto, (c) Water quality conditions that could reasonably be 11 achieved through the coordinated control of all factors which affect water quality in the area, 12 (d) Economic considerations, (e) The need for developing housing within the region, and 13 (f) The need to develop and use recycled water.

14

39. The Central Valley Basin Plan establishes the designated beneficial uses of the waters of the Three Tributaries. 15

16 40. When it adopted the Plan Amendments, the State Water Board imposed new 17 water quality objectives on the Three Tributaries outside the legal Delta. The Final SED 18 indicated that it was extending the scope of the Bay-Delta Plan to include the waters of the 19 Three Tributaries, but the SED ignored the designated beneficial uses of these waters. Thus, 20 the State Water Board violated Water Code sections 13000 and 13241 by failing to consider 21 "all demands being made and to be made on those waters" and the "past, present, and probable future beneficial uses of water" that would be subject to the objective. 22

23

In adopting the Plan Amendments, the State Water Board also violated Water 41. 24 Code section 13241 by failing to consider how the massive reallocation of surface water 25 imposed under the Plan Amendments would impact the local economy and the need for 26 developing housing within the region. Local governments are prohibited from approving housing projects for 500 units or more unless there is an adequate, reliable water supply 27 28 available to serve the new housing. (See Water Code § 10910.) Although the City submitted

evidence that the Plan Amendments would significantly affect the local economy and would
 threaten the City's ability to serve its existing customers and approve new housing
 developments, the State Water Board dismissed those concerns without setting forth any
 contrary evidence.

42. Finally, the State Water Board violated Water Code section 13241 by failing to 5 consider what water quality conditions "could reasonably be achieved through the coordinated 6 7 control of all factors which affect water quality in the area." The Plan Amendments require 8 releases in such massive volumes from February to June that they will eliminate much of the 9 cold-water pool in the reservoirs on the Three Tributaries. Thus, it will not be possible for the 10 water users to release water as required by the unimpaired flow regime established in the Plan 11 Amendments and have sufficient cold water available in storage in the reservoirs to make 12 releases at suitable temperatures to support Central Valley fall-run Chinook salmon during their 13 breeding season. The State Water Board made no attempt to reconcile the conflicts between 14 the Plan Amendments, the factors that limit the availability of cold water pool in the reservoirs, how the Plan Amendments will interfere with the ability to develop and manage the cold water 15 16 pools, and their significant potential to cause temperature harm to the very fish species they are 17 intended to protect. Because the State Water Board did not consider these factors, its adoption 18 of the Plan Amendments violates the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Plan.

- 19
- 20

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Writ of Mandate – Violation of CEQA)

43. Petitioners re-allege and incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 42,
above.

44. The State Water Board's actions in approving the SED and the Plan
Amendments constitute a prejudicial abuse of discretion because the State Water Board failed
to proceed in the manner required by law under Public Resources Code section 21166 and the
California Code of Regulations, title 14, sections 15162 to 15164, and its decision is not
supported by substantial evidence. Specifically:

28

{00120917.1}

1 The SED fails to analyze the environmental impacts changes related to a. 2 the change in available water supplies to the City and other users that will result from the 3 implementation of the Plan Amendments. Specifically, the SED does not accurately model, 4 and therefore fails to quantify or analyze, the water supply impacts to the City of Modesto. 5 First, the model used in the SED erroneously assumes that the City will be able to receive the same amount of surface water from the Tuolumne River even if the Plan Amendments are 6 7 implemented and the amount of Tuolumne River water available for diversion is reduced. As a 8 result, the model ignores the impact that the Plan Amendments will have on the City's 9 groundwater supplies. Second, the model used in the SED erroneously assumes that the City's 10 demand for surface water will remain at the 2009 baseline level throughout the time that the Plan Amendments are in effect. There is no substantial evidence to support either one of these 11 12 assumptions. These faulty assumptions cause the modeling, and the SED which relied on the 13 modeling, to understate the water supply impacts of the Plan Amendments on the City's water 14 supply.

15 b. The SED also fails to analyze the foreseeable changes that the Plan 16 Amendments will cause in local groundwater conditions for the City and other users. The 17 groundwater modeling used in the SED falsely assumes that all future municipal demands can 18 be met with increased groundwater pumping and that the future municipal demands will not 19 exceed 2009 pumping levels. There is no substantial evidence to support either one of these The model also neglected to account for the City of Modesto's existing 20 assumptions. 21 groundwater use. The SED's groundwater modeling of the Turlock subbasin failed to even 22 identify the City of Modesto as one of the users of that groundwater, when publicly available data confirm that the City withdraws about 5000 acre-feet per year from that subbasin. 23

c. The SED also fails to evaluate the Plan Amendments' cumulative impacts on the City's groundwater supplies. Future conditions that will constrain groundwater supplies include implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, multi-year droughts, and more stringent drinking water standards. All of these conditions are reasonably foreseeable – particularly to the State Water Board, which is charged with implementing the

laws and standards and planning for droughts. The SED violates CEQA by failing to determine 2 whether: the effects of the Plan Amendments, in combination with these other foreseeable conditions, would be cumulatively considerable; and if so, whether the incremental 3 4 contribution of the Plan Amendments is cumulatively considerable.

5 d. The SED further violates CEQA because it fails to analyze the physical 6 impacts - urban blight - that will directly or indirectly result from the forecasted economic or 7 social effects of the Plan Amendments. The SED does not identify any sources of replacement water for the supplies that will be lost to the City, nor does the SED undertake any study of the 8 9 economic effects of the proposal on the City of Modesto's urban economy, even though the 10 City submitted evidence that approximately one out of every five jobs in the local economy 11 derives from agricultural production, which will experience a drastic hit due to the Plan 12 Amendments. Although the SED acknowledges that thousands of acres of land will be taken 13 out of production, resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs will be lost, the SED simply did not 14 evaluate whether these impacts would result in urban blight in the City. By dismissing these 15 reasonably foreseeable impacts without evaluating them, the State Water Board violated 16 CEQA.

17 e. The State Water Board also violated CEQA by failing to respond to the significant environmental issues raised by the City. The SED's written responses to the City's 18 19 comments do not provide a good faith, reasoned analysis of the significant environmental 20 issues the City raised. Rather, the responses consist of conclusory statements unsupported by 21 factual information, in violation of CEQA.

22 f. Finally, the State Water Board also violated CEQA's procedural requirements by issuing notices purporting to limit the scope of comments that could be made. 23 24 As a result of these notices, the State Water Board never took comments on some portions of 25 the CEQA documents, such as the statement of overriding considerations. The State Water 26 Board's certified regulatory exemption from CEQA does not allow it to refuse to accept 27 comments on portions of its CEQA documents. By artificially narrowing and prematurely

28

1

{00120917.1}

PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE

12

1	closing the administrative record on some CEQA issues, the State Water Board violated				
2	CEQA.				
3	45. The State Water Board therefore approved the SED and the Plan Amendments				
4	without complying with all applicable requirements of CEQA. Consequently, the State Water				
5	Board's approval of the SED and Plan Amendments was improper and must be set aside.				
6	PRAYER FOR RELIEF				
7	Petitioner prays for the following relief on all causes of action:				
8	1. For a peremptory writ of mandate directing the State Water Board to vacate and				
9	set aside its approval of the SED and the Plan Amendments.				
10	2. For an order staying the effects of the State Water Board's approval of the SED				
11	and the Plan Amendments.				
12	3. For issuance of a temporary restraining order, and a preliminary and permanent				
13	injunction, restraining and prohibiting the State Water Board from carrying out or engaging in				
14	any action related to the Plan Amendments that could cause any change or alteration in the				
15	physical environment until the State Water Board has complied with CEQA, the Porter-				
16	Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and all other applicable laws.				
17	4. For an order directing the State Water Board to pay Petitioner's reasonable costs				
18	of suit.				
19					
20	//				
21					
22					
23	//				
24	//				
25	//				
26	//				
27	//				
28					
	{00120917.1} 13				
	PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE				

.

	\frown			
1	5. For an order directing the St	ate Water Board to pay Petitioner's reasonable		
2	attorneys' fees.	attorneys' fees.		
3	6. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.			
4	×			
5	Dated: January 10, 2019	Respectfully submitted,		
6		BARTKIEWICZ, KRONICK & SHANAHAN A Professional Corporation		
7		A Professional Corporation		
8		By: Jennifer G. Buckman		
10		Attorneys for Petitioner CITY OF MODESTO		
11		CITY OF MODESTO		
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
	{00120917.1} PETITION FOR W	14 /RIT OF MANDATE		

¢