1 2 3 4 5 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 7 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 8 9 COALITION FOR A SUSTAINABLE 1:08-cv-0397 OWW GSA DELTA, BELRIDGE WATER STORAGE (Related to Case Numbers 10 DISTRICT, BERRENDA MESA WATER 1:05-cv-1207 OWW GSA and DISTRICT, LOST HILLS WATER 1:06-cv-0245 OWW GSA DISTRICT, WHEELER RIDGE-MARICOPA) 11 SCHEDULING CONFERENCE ORDER WATER STORAGE DISTRICT, and DEE 12 DILLON, Discovery Cut-Off: 5/15/09 13 Plaintiffs, Non-Dispositive Motion 14 Filing Deadline: 5/29/09 **v** . DONALD KOCH, in his official 15 Dispositive Motion Filing capacity as Director of the Deadline: 6/15/09 California Department of Fish 16 and Game, Settlement Conference Date: 17 5/27/09 10:00 Ctrm. 10 Defendants. 18 Pre-Trial Conference Date: 8/31/09 11:00 Ctrm. 3 CENTRAL DELTA WATER AGENCY, et 19 al., Trial Date: 10/14/09 9:00 20 Defendant-Intervenors, Ctrm. 3 (CT-8 days) 21 CALIFORNIA SPORTFISHING PROTECTION ALLIANCE, et al., 22 Defendant-Intervenors, 23 24 25 26 I. Date of Scheduling Conference. 27 November 4, 2008.

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II. Appearances Of Counsel.

Nossaman LLP by Paul S. Weiland, Esq., appeared on behalf of Plaintiffs.

Clifford T. Lee, Esq., and Deborah A. Wordham, Esq., appeared on behalf of Defendant Donald Koch, Director of the California Department of Fish and Game.

Michael B. Jackson, Esq., appeared on behalf of Defendant-Intervenors California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, California Striped Bass Association and Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers.

Nomellini, Grilli & McDaniel by Daniel A. McDaniel, Esq., appeared on behalf of Defendant-Intervenors Central Delta Water Agency, South Delta Water Agency, Honker Cut Marine, Inc., Rudy Mussi, and Robert Souza.

- III. Summary of Pleadings.
- 1. The striped bass was introduced into the Delta more than 100 years ago and is alleged by Plaintiffs to prey on a number of the native fish species including the endangered Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon, the threatened Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, the threatened Central Valley steelhead, and the threatened delta smelt (collectively the "Listed Species"). In 1999 the California Department of Fish and Game estimated that the striped bass consume approximately 6 percent of the Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon population, 3 percent of the Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon population, and 5.3 percent of the delta smelt population. Plaintiffs believe that these estimates understate the actual impact of striped bass predation. While Defendants believe that

these estimates are inaccurate, they also believe that there is not enough information to determine whether the estimates overstate or understate the impact of striped bass predation.

Defendant Donald Koch, the Director of the California Department of Fish and Game, enforces striped bass sport-fishing regulations that limit the take of striped bass. The striped bass sport-fishing regulations at issue prohibit sports anglers from taking striped bass less than 18 inches in length or taking more than two striped bass in excess of 18 inches in length ("striped bass sport-fishing regulations").

- 2. Plaintiffs allege that Defendant Donald Koch's enforcement of the striped bass sport-fishing regulations result in the unlawful take of the endangered Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon, threatened Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, threatened Central Valley steelhead, and threatened delta smelt, violating Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act.
- 3. Plaintiffs pray for a declaration that the striped bass sport-fishing regulations violate Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act; that Defendant Donald Koch be enjoined from enforcing the striped bass sport-fishing regulations; and that the Court award such other relief as it deems just and proper. Defendants pray that Plaintiffs' complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief be dismissed; that Plaintiffs take nothing; that judgment be awarded against Plaintiffs and in favor of Defendants; and that the Court award such other relief as may be deemed just and proper.
- 4. Certain Defendants allege the following affirmative defenses:

The provisions of the Central Valley Project

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a.

Delta Defendants).

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- Improvement Act ("CVPIA") pertaining to anadromous fish, which are defined in the Act to include striped bass, are a bar to the invalidation of regulatory provisions protecting striped bass populations based on the Endangered Species Act. (Only the
- populations based on the Endangered Species Act. (Only the Central Delta Defendants.)
- b. The Plaintiffs failed to join the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an indispensable party. (Only the Central
- c. The Plaintiffs lack constitutional standing.

 (Both Defendant Donald Koch and the Central Delta Defendants.)
- d. The Plaintiffs lack prudential standing. (Only the Central Delta Defendants.)
- e. Defendant Donald Koch is entitled to absolute immunity under the doctrine of legislative immunity. (Only the Central Delta Defendants.)
- f. The Plaintiffs' claims are barred by the Tenth

 Amendment to the Constitution. (Both Defendant Donald Koch and
 the Central Delta Defendants.)
- g. The Plaintiffs' claims fail to state sufficient facts to state a claim for relief. (Both Defendant Donald Koch and the Central Delta Defendants.)
- 5. The Sportfishing Defendants have not asserted any affirmative defenses.
- IV. Orders Re Amendments To Pleadings.
- 1. The parties do not presently contemplate amending the pleadings.

V. Factual Summary.

- A. Admitted Facts Which Are Deemed Proven Without Further Proceedings.
- 1. Coalition for a Sustainable Delta is an association.
- 2. Belridge Water Storage District, Berrenda Mesa Water District, Lost Hills Water District, Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District are California public entities authorized under the Water Code of the State of California.
- 3. Dee Dillon is an individual, a water user, and resident of the San Joaquin/Sacramento Delta.
- 4. Donald Koch is the Director of the California Department of Fish and Game.
- 5. California Sportfishing Protection Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit association. Fishery protection environmental Intervenors are also 501(c)(3) non-profit associations.
- 6. The two water agency intervenors are California public entities.
 - 7. Honker Cut Marine is a California corporation.
- 8. Rudy Mussi and Robert Souza are individuals who reside in and use the Delta.
- 9. The Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, and delta smelt are all listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.
- 10. The Central Valley Project Improvement Act states that "[t]he Secretary, immediately upon the enactment of this

title, shall operate the Central Valley Project to meet all obligations under the state and federal law, including but not limited to the federal Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1531, et seq., and all decisions of the California State Water Resources Control Board establishing conditions on applicable licenses and permits for the project. The Secretary, in consultation with other State and Federal agencies, Indian tribes, and affected interests, is further authorized and directed to: (1) develop within three years of enactment and implement a program which makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that, by the year 2002, natural production of anadromous fish in Central Valley rivers and streams will be sustainable, on a long-term basis, at levels not less than twice the average levels attained during the period of 1967-1999 ..."

B. Contested Facts.

- Striped bass prey on Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, and delta smelt.
- 2. As a result of the striped bass sport-fishing regulations, there are more striped bass in the Delta than if the striped bass sport-fishing regulations had never been adopted and implemented.
- 3. The striped bass sport-fishing regulations protect and promote the striped bass population in the Delta.
- 4. If the striped bass population in the Delta increases, striped bass consumption of the Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, and/or delta smelt will

fact.

- 5. None of the Plaintiffs, separately or
- conjunctively, has suffered any actual or imminent injury in
- 6. The Plaintiffs' claimed injuries, separately or conjunctively, are not causally connected to Defendant Donald Koch's enforcement of the striped bass sport-fishing regulations.
- 7. Invalidation of the striped bass sport-fishing regulations will not redress any or all of the Plaintiffs' claimed injuries.
- 8. Striped bass are the most significant predator of chinook salmon and delta smelt.
- 9. Striped bass predation of the Listed Species has a significant, adverse population-level effect on the survival and recovery of the Listed Species.
- 10. The enforcement of the striped bass sport-fishing regulations maintains an artificially high population level of striped bass in the Delta.
- 11. The enforcement of the striped bass sport-fishing regulations artificially increase striped bass predation of the Listed Species.
- 12. The enforcement of the striped bass sport-fishing regulations harm the population of the Listed Species and the Delta ecosystem.
- 13. The striped bass sport-fishing regulations have reduced State Water Project water that is available and delivered from the Delta to the Coalition and water district Plaintiffs.
 - 14. Reduced predation by striped bass on Listed

Species will result in an improved Delta ecosystem.

- 15. Self-sustaining populations of the Listed Species coexisted with striped bass for decades.
- 16. Export pumping has a negative effect on fish populations in the Delta.
- 17. Reduced Delta outflows have a negative effect on fish populations in the Delta.
- 18. The 1967 through 1991 average annual population of striped bass in the Delta was 1,252,259.
- 19. The 1992 through 2005 average annual population of striped bass in the Delta was 969,262.
- 20. The 1967 through 1991 average annual population of Central Valley chinook salmon was 497,240.
- 21. The 1992 through 2005 average annual population of Central Valley chinook salmon was 477,312.
- 22. The 1967 through 1991 average annual population of winter-run chinook salmon was 54,417.
- 23. The 1992 through 2005 average annual population of winter-run chinook salmon was 88,086.
- 24. The 1967 through 1991 average annual population of spring-run chinook salmon was 34,425.
- 25. The 1992 through 2005 average annual population of spring-run chinook salmon was 16,350.
- 26. The 1967 through 1991 average annual population of fall-run chinook salmon was 374,217.
- 27. The 1992 through 2005 average annual population of fall-run chinook salmon was 432,103.
 - 28. The 1967 through 1991 average annual population of

late fall-run chinook salmon was 34,182.

- 29. The 1992 through 2005 average annual population of late fall-run chinook salmon was 20,772.
- 30. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established a doubling goal pursuant to the CVPIA of 2,500,000 for striped bass in the Delta.
- 31. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established a doubling goal pursuant to the CVPIA of 990,000 for all races of Central Valley chinook salmon.
- 32. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established a doubling goal pursuant to the CVPIA of 110,000 for winter-run chinook salmon.
- 33. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established a doubling goal pursuant to the CVPIA of 68,000 for spring-run chinook salmon.
- 34. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established a doubling goal pursuant to the CVPIA of 750,000 for fall-run chinook salmon.
- 35. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established a doubling goal pursuant to the CVPIA of 68,000 for late fall-run chinook salmon.
- 22 VI. Legal Issues.
 - A. Uncontested.
 - Jurisdiction exists under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 16
 U.S.C. § 1540(c)(g).
- 26 2. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and 16 U.S.C. § 1540(q)(3)(A).
 - Applicable Federal or State Law: Plaintiffs,

Defendant Donald Koch, and the Sportfishing Defendants agree that Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act, which prohibits the taking of endangered or threatened species, and Section 5.75 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, which prohibits sports anglers from taking striped bass less than 18 inches in length or more than two striped bass in excess of 18 inches in length, with certain geographic exceptions not applicable here, are the core federal and state laws at issue in this matter. While the Central Delta Defendants agree that the provisions of the Endangered Species Act and California Code of Regulations are at issue in this matter, they also assert that various provisions of the federal Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Pub. L. 102-575 106 Stat. 4600, Title 34, 106 Stat. 4706-31 (1992), are at issue in this matter.

- 4. Take: Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act prohibits unauthorized take (which means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture or collect, or to attempt to engage in such conduct) of an endangered or threatened species.
- 5. Because the Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon is listed as an endangered species, the prohibition on unauthorized take in Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act applies to the Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon.
- 6. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service have extended the take prohibition from Section 9 to the threatened Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, the threatened Central Valley steelhead, and the threatened delta smelt.
 - 7. Regulations: Striped bass sport-fishing regulations

- 8. Legislative Immunity: To the extent that Donald Koch is responsible for the enforcement of the striped bass sportfishing regulations, he is not entitled to legislative immunity.
- 9. Enforcement: The California Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the enforcement of the striped bass sport-fishing regulations.
 - B. Contested.

- 1. All affirmative defenses and remaining legal issues are disputed.
- 2. Single Take Prohibited: It is a violation of the Endangered Species Act to take a single endangered Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon, threatened Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, threatened Central Valley steelhead, or threatened delta smelt without prior take authorization from the National Marine Fisheries Service (for the Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, or Central Valley steelhead) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (for the delta smelt). (Disputed by all Defendants.)
- 3. Regulatory Take: It is a violation of the Endangered Species Act for a government or government agency or entity to take a federally listed species through the exercise of its regulatory authority without first receiving take authorization from either the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (for the delta smelt) or National Marine Fisheries Service (for the Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon, Central Valley

spring-run chinook salmon, or Central Valley steelhead).

(Disputed by Defendant Donald Koch and the Central Delta Defendants.)

- 4. Increasing Predator Population: It is a violation of the Endangered Species Act for a government or government agency or entity to exercise its regulatory authority in a manner that increases the population of a species that preys on listed species without first receiving take authorization from either the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (for the delta smelt) or National Marine Fisheries Service (for the Sacramento River winter-run chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, or Central Valley steelhead).
- 5. Intent of Regulations: The striped bass sport-fishing regulations are intended to limit the take of striped bass in order to protect the striped bass population.
- 6. CVPIA: The CVPIA defines "anadromous fish" to include striped bass in Section 3403(a), and Section 3406(b)(1) of the CVPIA requires the Secretary of the Interior, to "develop within three years of enactment and implement a program which makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that, by the year 2002, natural production of anadromous fish in Central Valley rivers and streams will be sustainable, on a long-term basis, at levels not less than twice the average levels attained during the period of 1967-1991." There are many other requirements of the CVPIA applicable to striped bass as anadromous fish.
- VII. Consent to Magistrate Judge Jurisdiction.
- The parties have not consented to transfer the
 case to the Magistrate Judge for all purposes, including trial.

VIII. Corporate Identification Statement.

- 1. Any nongovernmental corporate party to any action in this court shall file a statement identifying all its parent corporations and listing any entity that owns 10% or more of the party's equity securities. A party shall file the statement with its initial pleading filed in this court and shall supplement the statement within a reasonable time of any change in the information.
- IX. Discovery Plan and Cut-Off Date.
- 1. All parties agree that the Rule 26(a)(1)(c) initial disclosures shall be made on or before November 18, 2008.
- 2. The parties are ordered to complete all discovery on or before May 15, 2009.
- 3. The parties are directed to disclose all expert witnesses, in writing, on or before March 19, 2009. Any rebuttal or supplemental expert disclosures will be made on or before April 20, 2009. The parties will comply with the provisions of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2) regarding their expert designations. Local Rule 16-240(a) notwithstanding, the written designation of experts shall be made pursuant to F. R. Civ. P. Rule 26(a)(2), (A) and (B) and shall include all information required thereunder. Failure to designate experts in compliance with this order may result in the Court excluding the testimony or other evidence offered through such experts that are not disclosed pursuant to this order.
- 4. The provisions of F. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(4) shall apply to all discovery relating to experts and their opinions. Experts may be fully prepared to be examined on all subjects and

- 5. Proposed changes in the timing, form, or requirement for disclosures required under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 26(a): The parties stipulate to provide initial disclosures by November 18, 2008, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(C). While the parties do anticipate calling expert witnesses at trial, as well as possibly submitting expert declarations in support of dispositive motions, they do not anticipate modifying the content of the written report that is required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B). As for the timing of expert disclosures, the parties agree to provide expert disclosures by March 19, 2009.
- 6. Changes which should be made in the limitations on discovery imposed under Fed. R. Civ. P. 30, 31, and/or 35: None anticipated.
- 7. Outline of the subjects on which discovery may be needed: The parties plan to propound written interrogatories, requests for admissions, and requests for production within the next 10 to 20 days. Plaintiffs' written discovery will focus on the affirmative defenses and denials asserted in Defendants' Answers. Defendants' written discovery will focus on the allegations of the First Amended Complaint. The parties anticipate the need to take expert and percipient depositions.
- 8. Conducting discovery in phases: Other than setting March 19, 2009, as the deadline for expert disclosures, the parties do not believe that discovery should be conducted in phases. The parties agree to a discovery cutoff of May 15, 2009.

As such, all responses to discovery and expert and percipient depositions must be completed by May 15, 2009. All hearings on a discovery motion must be completed by June 15, 2009.

X. Pre-Trial Motion Schedule.

- 1. All Non-Dispositive Pre-Trial Motions, including any discovery motions, will be filed on or before May 29, 2009, and heard on July 10, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. before Magistrate Judge Gary S. Austin in Courtroom 10.
- 2. In scheduling such motions, the Magistrate

 Judge may grant applications for an order shortening time

 pursuant to Local Rule 142(d). However, if counsel does not

 obtain an order shortening time, the notice of motion must comply

 with Local Rule 251.
- 3. All Dispositive Pre-Trial Motions are to be filed no later than June 15, 2009, and will be heard on July 27, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. before the Honorable Oliver W. Wanger, United States District Judge, in Courtroom 3, 7th Floor. In scheduling such motions, counsel shall comply with Local Rule 230.
- 19 XI. Pre-Trial Conference Date.
 - August 31, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. in Courtroom 3, 7th
 Floor, before the Honorable Oliver W. Wanger, United States
 District Judge.
 - 2. The parties are ordered to file a Joint Pre-Trial Statement pursuant to Local Rule 281(a)(2).
 - 3. Counsel's attention is directed to Rules 281 and 282 of the Local Rules of Practice for the Eastern District of California, as to the obligations of counsel in preparing for the pre-trial conference. The Court will insist upon strict

compliance with those rules.

XII. Motions - Hard Copy.

- 1. The parties shall submit one (1) courtesy paper copy to the Court of any motions filed that exceed ten pages and any motions that have exhibits attached. Exhibits shall be marked with <u>protruding numbered or lettered tabs</u> so that the Court can easily identify such exhibits.
- XIII. Trial Date.

- October 14, 2009, at the hour of 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom
 7th Floor, before the Honorable Oliver W. Wanger, United
 States District Judge.
 - 2. This is a non-jury trial.
 - 3. Counsels' Estimate Of Trial Time:
 - a. 8 days.
- 4. Counsels' attention is directed to Local Rules of Practice for the Eastern District of California, Rule 285. XIV. Settlement Conference.
- A Settlement Conference is scheduled for May 27, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 10 before the Honorable Gary S.
 Austin, United States Magistrate Judge.
- 2. Unless otherwise permitted in advance by the Court, the attorneys who will try the case shall appear at the Settlement Conference with the parties and the person or persons having full authority to negotiate and settle the case on any terms at the conference.
- 3. Permission for a party [not attorney] to attend by telephone may be granted upon request, by letter, with a copy to the other parties, if the party [not attorney] lives and works

- 4. Confidential Settlement Conference Statement.

 At least five (5) days prior to the Settlement Conference the parties shall submit, directly to the Magistrate Judge's chambers, a confidential settlement conference statement. The statement should not be filed with the Clerk of the Court nor served on any other party. Each statement shall be clearly marked "confidential" with the date and time of the Settlement Conference indicated prominently thereon. Counsel are urged to request the return of their statements if settlement is not achieved and if such a request is not made the Court will dispose of the statement.
- 5. The Confidential Settlement Conference Statement shall include the following:
- a. A brief statement of the facts of the case.
- b. A brief statement of the claims and defenses, i.e., statutory or other grounds upon which the claims are founded; a forthright evaluation of the parties' likelihood of prevailing on the claims and defenses; and a description of the major issues in dispute.
 - A summary of the proceedings to date.

- d. An estimate of the cost and time to be expended for further discovery, pre-trial and trial.
 - e. The relief sought.
- f. The parties' position on settlement, including present demands and offers and a history of past settlement discussions, offers and demands.
- XV. Request For Bifurcation, Appointment Of Special Master,
 Or Other Techniques To Shorten Trial.
 - 1. None.

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- XVI. Related Matters Pending.
- The Court previously determined that the following cases are related: NRDC v. Kempthorne, 1:05-v-1207 OWW GSA, and PCFFA v. Gutierrez, 1:06-cv-0245 OWW GSA.
- 14 XVII. Compliance With Federal Procedure.
 - 1. The Court requires compliance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of Practice for the Eastern District of California. To aid the court in the efficient administration of this case, all counsel are directed to familiarize themselves with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of Practice of the Eastern District of California, and keep abreast of any amendments thereto.
- 22 XVIII. Effect Of This Order.
 - 1. The foregoing order represents the best estimate of the court and counsel as to the agenda most suitable to bring this case to resolution. The trial date reserved is specifically reserved for this case. If the parties determine at any time that the schedule outlined in this order cannot be met, counsel are ordered to notify the court immediately of that fact

so that adjustments may be made, either by stipulation or by subsequent scheduling conference.

- 2. Stipulations extending the deadlines contained herein will not be considered unless they are accompanied by affidavits or declarations, and where appropriate attached exhibits, which establish good cause for granting the relief requested.
- 3. Failure to comply with this order may result in the imposition of sanctions.

11 IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: November 5, 2008 /s/ Oliver W. Wanger
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE