Flyfishers,

Proposed Intervenors/Defendants

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

When the first water quality plan was created for the Bay-Delta Estuary in 1978, the striped bass fishery had existed in the estuary for 125 years. For the first 100 years after their introduction into the San Francisco Bay/Delta estuary, the striped bass, the Delta smelt and the Central Valley salmon coexisted and thrived. Management of the three species realized the mission of the Department of Fish and Game (hereinafter "DFG") to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

In the summer of 1959 DFG began monitoring the abundance of fish and zooplankton invertebrates in Suisun Bay and the Delta. From the survey data DFG developed an index of abundance of young striped bass, which is the most important sport fish in the Bay-Delta to this day. Though the index and the supporting surveys were relatively crude and simple compared with the technology available today, they proved to be an effective measure for the ecological health of the estuary. Much like the proverbial canary in the coal mine the striped bass indicate the health and vitality of the Delta. We believe that this lawsuit is designed to eliminate the canary before anyone sees it die and realizes that the export pumps are the primary cause of death in the estuary.

DFG's top experts on the Bay-Delta estuary, Turner and Chadwick (1972), wrote a fourpage paper, published in the Journal of the American Fisheries Society, that turned out to be a
classic in estuary science. In their paper, the authors were able to directly relate the summer
abundance of young striped bass to the increased water flowers in late spring and early summer
through the estuary. They found that populations of striped bass in major coastal estuaries
where adult fish grew to over 50 lbs and 15 years or older were directly dependent on the
survival of the ¼ inch larvae living in a small portion of river estuaries for a short period of the
late spring and early summer. Many of the surveys conducted by DFG in the Bay-Delta became
the norm on east coast estuaries including the Hudson River

It did not take long after the approval of the State Water Project, and the beginning of water deliveries to Plaintiffs herein, for the striped bass fishery decline to begin. A serious

Points and Authorities in Support of Motion to Intervene - 2

1 decline in the striped bass population became apparent by the end of the 1970's soon after the 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

14 15

13

17 18

16

20 21

19

22 23

24

25 26

27

28

Banks Pumping Plant of the State Water Project came on line in 1968. The Bay-Delta striped bass population was in period of sharp decline that appeared to begin in 1977. It is believed by many scientists that the naturally produced striped bass, Delta smelt, and salmonids of the Central Valley tributaries to the Delta have declined as a consequence of spring and summer water exports from the south Delta by State Water Project and Central Valley Project pumping plants. Evidence presented over the past 30 plus years by the California DFG and other federal and state resource agencies indicates that historical water quality standards (D-1485 and D-1641) for the Bay-Delta have not provided adequate protection for Delta fish populations. The California Bay Delta Authority (formerly CALFED) and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (hereinafter "CVPIA") programs also have not provided sufficient protection for these fish populations. Biological opinions for pumping plant operations for the Delta smelt and salmon also have not afforded adequate protection and, in the case of the Delta smelt, have recently been found to be legally insufficient.

These species are in collapse (Delta smelt) and the Central valley fall run salmon situation is so dire that the Pacific Management Council has stated that their populations are in "unprecedented collapse." The similarly declining long-fin smelt has recently been listed by the California Fish & Game Commission as a candidate species for protection under the California Endangered Species Act. Emergency export curtailments have been ordered for June, July, and November of 2008. Export losses of striped bass, Delta smelt, and Central Valley salmon have severely depressed annual young production and recruitment into their adult populations, which has further damaged the already low adult population and further lowers subsequent young species production.

Annual exports have increased from 2 million acre-ft of water in the 1960's, to 4 million acre-ft in the 1970's, and to 6 million acre-ft in the 1980's. In 2001 and 2003 annual exports reached record annual levels of 6.3 million acre-ft, or roughly half of the Delta's fresh water inflow. In 2003, June to July exports reached a record 1.3 million acre-ft. Standard summer exports from the south Delta are now 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) – the full capacity of the

federal and state pumping plants. High spring to summer water exports create reverse flows in the lower San Joaquin River, causing the river to literally run backwards. The Striped Bass Working Group, hired by the State Water Resources Control Board in 1982 to study the striped bass decline, found that the flow reversal produced by export pumping caused over 50 % of larval and juvenile striped bass to be exported from the Delta and/or killed. These losses directly affect recruitment of 3 yr-olds into the adult population and thus reduce subsequent adult spawning populations. Reductions in the spawning population directly translate into fewer young produced. Export losses continue to compound almost exactly as predicted by the Striped Bass Working Group over 25 years ago.

New water quality standards were adopted in 1978 to protect striped bass and other beneficial uses. The striped bass criteria in that plan were primarily minimum monthly-averages for Delta outflow and average monthly export limitations in spring and early summer. In addition there were standards for April Delta salinity and outflow to protect striped bass spawning. With a continuing decline of the striped bass adult population and young production indices, and the obvious lack of protection provided by the D-1485 standards, the SWRCB opened hearings on the Bay-Delta standards again in 1986. Considerable testimony was prepared and taken by the Board over the one-year period that provided further insights into water exports effect on the estuary and the striped bass indicator species. Additional hearings confirming these facts before the Board accompanied the 1995 Bay/Delta Water Quality Plan and Board Decision 1641 implementing the 1995 Plan. Again, water exports and pump induced hydrodynamic changes in flows were identified as a major stressor on the striped bass, the Delta smelt, and the Central Valley salmon.

Numerous scientific studies over 30 years have found that, due to the extreme damage caused by reverse flows in the lower San Joaquin River, pumping that causes reverse flows should not be allowed in spring and early summer. New state-of-the-art fish screens and improved salvage systems should be implemented at the south Delta pumping plants to reduce the loss of fish to entrainment and to associated losses due to salvage and handling. Fish restoration funds should be more focused toward improving survival of Delta fishes. Finally,

project operations and protection facilities once directed toward protecting striped bass (which over the past decade have been redirected toward other fish and increased water export) should be redirected back to the estuary to provide guaranteed protections for striped bass in accordance with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) and state laws. Protection of striped bass also benefits Delta smelt and San Joaquin salmon populations, and is vital in improving their healthy recovery.

From the beginning of March through mid April 2003, the period when larval Delta smelt were highly vulnerable to export, Delta smelt are theoretically protected by the 35% export/inflow criteria of the 1995 Standards. In reality, the export/inflow ration average was 40%, not 35%, and reached a maximum daily rate of 54%. Exports in March alone averaged 11,000 cfs and was only slightly less in early April. Except for the storm period in the third week of March, about half the inflow of fresh water entering the Delta was being exported during the period, in direct violation of the 1995 standard. Data recovered through the 20-mm survey catch and length-frequency recording of larval smelt show that during the late spring and early summer, larval smelt concentrated in the San Joaquin portion of the Delta are highly susceptible to being drawn into the export pumps and killed. Larval stage striped bass have fared equally poorly. High exports continued in 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2007. While exports will be lower in 2008, the reason is not due to realization by the Plaintiffs of the damage their actions are causing. The smaller exports in 2008 are the result of a hard-fought legal victory in N.R.D.C v. Kempthorne, in which Judge Oliver Wanger correctly found the export pumps to be a cause of the smelt decline and issued an interim order reducing pumping for 2008.

CSPA contacted the lawyer for the Coalition and told him of our desire to intervene as required by the federal rules. He told us that his clients would take no position on the intervention request until he saw our moving papers. We contacted the defendant's attorney and he indicated that he would contact his clients and get back to us about their position. It has been approximately one week and we have not yet heard whether they agree to our intervention.

STATEMENT OF INTEREST

The CSPA and its members and its affiliate sport fishing organizations (California Striped Bass Association and the Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers), and members of its allied groups, including the thousands of members of all of these organizations, regularly use and enjoy the Bay/Delta's rivers, streams, wildlife, and other natural areas for a variety of recreational, aesthetic, educational, and scientific purposes, including, but not limited to, hiking, fishing, swimming, boating, wildlife observation, scientific research, photography, nature study, and aesthetic appreciation. Individual members of the CSPA can be found in the Bay/Delta year-round, watching birds, boating the rivers and sloughs, fishing the waters, guiding scientific groups, working, hunting, and recreating with their families and friends in this outstanding recreational setting. CSPA members frequently visit and/or travel through the Bay/Delta. Some members of the CSPA have businesses and livelihoods in the agriculture and recreational fishing and boating industries, which are directly affected by Bay/Delta water management programs and this lawsuit.

CSPA and its members and members of affiliate groups intend to do all of the foregoing on an ongoing basis in the future and thereby do and will continue to derive recreational, aesthetic, scientific, educational, conservational, and economic benefit from the native habitats of the Bay/Delta. Members representing the CSPA have attended dozens of State Water Board hearings on Delta water quality and fisheries issues, Congressional meetings and hearings concerning Delta water quality and fisheries management, the CALFED program science and management meetings, and has been a party in many administrative hearings held in regard to the striped bass in the estuary. Several CSPA members have provided extensive testimony and evidence to Congress, the California state legislature, and the State Board because of their extensive knowledge about the Bay/Delta, which is a unique and irreplaceable resource for California, the United States, and the world. Members commit their many hours and efforts to the CSPA out of a sense of citizenship, environmental stewardship, and loyalty to the Bay/Delta resource. Members of CSPA regularly exercise their rights to fish under the California Constitution, Section 25.

Points and Authorities in Support of Motion to Intervene - 6

I. INTERVENORS SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERVENTION AS A MATTER OF RIGHT

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 24(a)(2) provides:

Upon timely application anyone shall be permitted to intervene in an action...(2) when the applicant claims an interest relating to the property or transaction which is the subject of the action and the applicant is so situated that the disposition of the action may as a practical matter impair or impede the applicant's ability to protect that interest, unless the applicant's interest is adequately represented by existing parties.

The Ninth Circuit uses a four-prong test in applying Rule 24:

(1) the application for intervention must be timely; (2) the applicant must have a 'significantly protectable' interest relating to the property or transaction that is the subject of the action; (3) the applicant must be so situated that the disposition of the action may, as a practical matter, impair or impede the applicant's ability to protect that interest; and (4) the applicant's interest must not be adequately represented by the existing parties in the lawsuit.

Southwest Center for Biological Diversity v. Berg, 268 F.3d 810, 817-818 (9th Cir. 2001). In United States v. City of Los Angeles, 288 F.3d 391, 397-398 (9th Cir. 2002) the Ninth Circuit provided the following guidance for applying the four-prong test:

In evaluating whether these requirements are met, courts 'are guided primarily by practical and equitable considerations.' Further, courts generally 'construe [the Rule] broadly in favor of proposed intervenors.' A liberal policy in favor of intervention serves both efficient resolution of issues and broadened access to the courts. By allowing parties with a practical interest in the outcome of a particular case to intervene, we often prevent or simplify future litigation involving related issues; at the same time, we allow an additional interested party to express its views before the court.'

Courts also should "take all well-pleaded, non-conclusory allegations in the motion to intervene, the proposed complaint or answer in intervention, and declarations supporting the motion as true absent sham, frivolity or other objections." <u>Southwestern Center for Biological Diversity</u>, *supra*, 268 F.3d at 820. All of the requirements for intervention as a matter of right under Rule 24(a)(2) are satisfied here.

A. Intervenor's Motion to Intervene is Timely

The three factors used to determine timeliness are "(1) the stage of the proceeding at which an applicant seeks to intervene; (2) the prejudice to other parties; and (3) the reason for the length of the delay." <u>United States v. Carpenter</u>, 298 F.3d 1122, 1125 (9th Cir. 2002) (quoting <u>County of Orange v. Air Calif.</u>, 799 F.2d 535, 537 (9th Cir. 1986), *cert denied*, 480 U.S. 946 (1987).

Due to the nature of the Plaintiffs' assertions and prayer for relief, no accommodation short of filing this motion would be possible for Intervenors to maintain the protection of their interests. The CSPA, since 1983, has represented the interests of fisheries organizations and individual angler members in administrative and legal action in Central Valley rivers and the Bay/Delta relating to the striped bass and other fisheries. The California Striped Bass Association has as its main purpose the conservation and management of the striped bass in the estuary. Plaintiffs cannot complain of prejudice. The Plaintiffs are clearly trying to eliminate the striped bass from the estuary and with it the recreational, environmental, and economic interests that the striped bass fishery support. They are asking this court to find that the program to maintain the survival of these fish is unlawful. The CSPA members and the anglers they represent are certainly "other interested parties" even though they were not directly named by the Plaintiffs when they challenged the DFG striped bass management program and the California Fish and Game Commisson's authority to regulate sport fishing in this action.

B. Intervenors Have Significantly Protectable Interests At Stake

An Intervenor has a "significantly protectable interest" at stake if "(1) it asserts an interest that is protected under some law, and (2) there is a 'relationship' between its legally protected interest and the [already existing] claims." <u>United States v. City of Los Angeles, supra,</u> 288 F.3d at 398 (quoting <u>Donnelly v. Glickman,</u> 159 F.3d 405, 409 (9th Cir. 1998). "The 'interest' test is not a clear-cut or bright line rule, because 'no specific legal or equitable interest need be established." *Id.* (quoting <u>Greene v. United States,</u> 996 F.2d 973, 976 (9th Cir. 1993) (Reinhardt, J., dissenting). Instead, the "interest" test is primarily "a practical guide to disposing of lawsuits by involving as many apparently concerned persons as is compatible with efficiency

3

1

4 5 6

7 8

9 10

11

12 13

14

15 16

17

18 19

20

21 22

23

25 26

24 27 28

and due process." Id. (quoting County of Fresno v. Andrus, 622 F.2d 436, 438 (9th Cir. 1980) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

If the Plaintiffs prevail in this lawsuit and the striped bass fishery is eliminated from the Bay/Delta estuary, the anglers represented by the CSPA will lose the recreational sport fishery that the DFG has provided for California citizens; the local Bay/Delta economy will lose the jobs and the commercial value from the fishery; the people of the United States will lose the fishery whose protection the CVPIA was intended to reserve, and the Bay/Delta estuary will suffer under the loss of further habitat that is vital to hundreds of native species. The DFG program at issue herein was carefully planned pursuant to all environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Acts, and the dictates of the CVPIA and will not only help protect the Bay/Delta estuary from loss of its long time indicator species, but will preserve the substantial economic value the striped bass fishery generates to the Bay/Delta communities – economic interests not unlike those represented by Plaintiffs herein. Therefore, Intervenors' rights under the Act are clearly "significantly protectable interests" for purposes of intervention.

C. Disposition of this Action without Intervenors Would Impair or Impede Intervenors' Ability to Protect Its Interests.

Intervenors' interests would be substantially impaired if this suit proceeds without them. If the Plaintiffs prevail in the litigation, the DFG would be enjoined from proceeding with its program to arrest the decline of the Striped Bass in the Bay/Delta estuary. The Plaintiffs are asking this court to require the DFG to prove the efficacy of a program that is operating as a last ditch attempt to maintain an important fishery in the face of over-pumping of export water from the Bay/Delta.

The striped bass management program has been recommended and approved by state and federal fishery agency scientists and granted permits under the Federal ESA as a program for balancing striped bass management with other lawful uses in both the Bay/Delta and its watershed rivers as a public resource. Even though Intervenors could bring suits to protect other beneficial uses of the Bay/Delta estuary affected by project over-appropriation of water, the stare decisis effect of a prior decision regarding the DFGs striped bass management program and the sport fishing status and regulations promulgated by the California Fish and Game Commission

without Intervenors would be prejudicial to their interests. See <u>Sierra Club v. U.S.</u> <u>Environmental Protection Agency, supra</u>, 995 F.2d at 1486 ("Although the [Intervenor] might challenge various determinations in separate proceedings, those proceedings would be constrained by the *stare decisis* effect of the lawsuit from which it had been excluded."

Amicus status is not an adequate substitute that would protect Intervenors' interests in this case. As the Ninth Circuit pointed out in <u>United States v. City of Los Angeles, supra</u>, 288 F.3d at 400: "amicus status is insufficient to protect the [Intervenor's] rights because such status does not allow the [Intervenor] to raise issues or arguments formally and gives it no right of appeal."

D. Intervenors' Interests Are Not Adequately Represented By the Existing Parties.

Intervenors' burden of showing that their interests are not adequately represented is "minimal," and is satisfied merely by showing that representation by existing parties "may be" inadequate. <u>Trbovich v. United Mine Workers</u>, 404 U.S. 528, 538 N. 10 (1972); <u>Southwest Center for Biological Diversity</u>, *supra*, 268 F.3d at 823. In evaluating adequacy of representation a court should look to:

(1) whether the interest of a present party is such that it will undoubtedly make all the Intervenor's arguments; (2) whether the present party is capable and willing to make such arguments; and (3) whether the would-be Intervenor would offer any necessary elements to the proceedings that other parties would neglect.

Id. at 822.

A review of the Kern complaint makes it immediately clear why the Plaintiffs could not possibly represent Intervenors interests. Our view is that the Kern parties are attempting to deprive the Bay/Delta estuary of both additional water resources and the striped bass fishery. We believe, based on our reading of their complaint, that the Kern parties are willing to destroy the striped bass fishery in the Bay/Delta and do billions of dollars of damage to the recreational economy of Northern California for their own private economic gain. The Plaintiffs and the proposed Intervenors have directly inconsistent views.

The DFG cannot adequately represent the interests of Intervenors in this litigation. First and foremost, Intervenors are in a somewhat adversarial position with the DFG over their neglect

1 of fisheries in the Bay/Delta. We believe that the DFG has failed to protect the aquatic 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

10 11

9

12 13

14

15 16

18 19

17

20

21 22

23 24

25 26

27

28

environment of California as required by law. In regard to Delta smelt, Central Valley salmon, Steelhead, and striped bass, proposed Intervenors believe that DFG has yielded to political pressure from the Kern parties and others. Both Plaintiffs and Intervenors have litigated against the DFG for these perceived failures, but for different and opposing reasons. The DFG is presently appealing a decision of the Alameda County Superior Court that found that the Department has failed to follow state endangered species law regarding the Delta smelt. Intervenors plan to sue on endangered species grounds if the Department fails to give our requested relief in that case.

Finally, Intervenors will offer a necessary perspective on the issues that other parties will undoubtedly neglect. Intervenors and the California anglers represented by them will bear the brunt of the decision. In <u>Turn Key Gaming v. Oglala Sioux Tribe</u>, 164 F.3d 1080 (8th Cir. 1999), the Eighth Circuit found that even when the Intervenors had some level of common interests, the inquiry was whether the level of protection by the already existing party would be adequate. It found, for example, that even a difference in litigation strategy was reason for finding intervention appropriate.

In sum, all of the requirements for intervention as a matter of right have been satisfied, and Intervenors should be permitted to intervene under Fed. R. Civ. P. 24. If Intervenors are not allowed to intervene, their 25 years of work in the CSPA in regard to the striped bass fishery could be wiped out, the Bay/Delta could decline, our recreational fishery will be depleted, and the local fishing economy would go into a depression. Beyond that, this court could be gravely misled about the real condition of the Bay/Delta and the species that are dependent upon it.

II. In The Alternative, CSPA Should Be Permitted To Intervene Pursuant to F.R.C.P. 24(b).

If the Court determines that CSPA is not entitled to intervene as a matter of right, the Court should nonetheless exercise its discretion to allow CSPA to intervene under Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 24(b). That rule provides in relevant part:

> Upon timely application anyone may be permitted to intervene in an action . . . when an applicant's claim or defense and the main action have a

question of law or fact in common. . . . In exercising its discretion the court shall consider whether the intervention will unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication of the rights of the original parties.

Courts in the Ninth Circuit have recognized that permissive intervention may be granted in the court's discretion if: (1) the motion is timely; (2) CSPA's claim or defense has a question of law or fact in common with the existing action; and (3) intervention will not delay or prejudice the adjudication of the rights of the original parties. Bossier Parish School Bd. v. Reno, 157 F.R.D. 133 (D.D.C. 1994). This is a substantially lower burden than the test for intervention of right under Rule 24(a), but like intervention of right, permissive intervention is to be granted liberally. See 7C Charles Alan Wright & Arthur R. Miller, Federal Practice And Procedure § 1904 (1986).

CSPA meets all the prerequisites for permissive intervention. First, CSPA's motion is timely. *See* Part 1-A, *supra*. Second, because CSPA will present procedural and substantive arguments in defense of the Striped Bass Management Plan, its defenses will share substantial questions of law and fact with the main action. Third, as discussed above, intervention will not delay or prejudice the existing parties. Thus, even if this Court denies CSPA's intervention as a matter of right, it should grant their request for permissive intervention.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, Intervenors' motion for leave to intervene should be granted.

Dated: May 19, 2008

/s/ MICHAEL B. JACKSON

MICHAEL B. JACKSON Attorney for Proposed Intervenor/Defendant