

1 **BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
2 COUNTY OF FRESNO  
3 STATE OF CALIFORNIA

4 **IN THE MATTER OF OPPOSITION TO THE ) RESOLUTION NO. 17-404**  
5 **SEMITROPIC WATER STORAGE DISTRICT'S )**  
6 **PETITION AND APPLICATION TO THE CALIFORNIA )**  
7 **STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD )**

8 **WHEREAS**, on May 25, 2017, Semitropic Water Storage District (Semitropic) filed with the  
9 California State Water Resources Control Board a petition to revise the fully appropriated stream  
10 status of the Kings River (Petition) and accompanying water right application (Application); and

11 **WHEREAS**, Semitropic's Petition and Application are in support of a project that would  
12 export Kings River waters to Kern County and southward, via the California Aqueduct; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Kings River has been declared fully appropriated since 1967 when the State  
14 Water Resources Control Board issued Decision 1290; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Fresno County and the other counties in the Kings River watershed are just  
16 beginning the process of complying with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Section  
17 10720.9: *All relevant state agencies, including, but not limited to, the board, the regional water  
18 quality control boards, the department, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall consider  
19 the policies of this part, and any groundwater sustainability plans adopted pursuant to this part,  
20 when revising or adopting policies, regulations, or criteria, or when issuing orders or  
21 determinations, where pertinent*) – the County interprets this as a mandate for all agencies to  
22 develop a process that will entail addressing historic groundwater deficits via water recharge  
23 projects; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Kings River water that is the subject of the Semitropic Petition and  
25 Application is necessary to meeting the beneficial needs of the watershed of origin (Fresno,  
26 Kings, and Tulare Counties), and exporting those waters via the California Aqueduct would  
27 deprive water users within the Kings River watershed of waters necessary to meet those needs;

28 **WHEREAS**, the full yield of the Kings River is necessary to sustaining the productive  
agricultural counties of Fresno, Kings, and Tulare, and depriving these counties of Kings River  
waters will negatively impact the regional economy and unfairly impact the region's 93  
disadvantaged communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
opposes the Semitropic Project, Petition and Application;

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that Fresno County will join its sister Counties of Kings and  
Tulare, as well as the Alta Irrigation District, Consolidated Irrigation District, and Fresno  
Irrigation District, in asserting that the California Aqueduct shall not be used to export water  
necessary for the beneficial needs of the users within the Kings River watershed of origin, and  
County Counsel shall cooperate in advocating on this issue with the State Water Resources  
Control Board and the courts, if necessary;

