



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Board of Supervisors



**Date:** April 29, 2014  
**Board Meeting Date:** May 20, 2014  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Dave Pine, Supervisor

**Subject:** Health of the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary System

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution indicating that the health of the San Francisco Bay Delta system be adequately considered in connection with the work of the Delta Stewardship Council, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, the State Water Board's Delta planning and regulatory efforts, and other Bay-Delta planning programs.

**BACKGROUND:**

The San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary is a tidal system that needs both salt water and fresh water. Recent science has concluded that fresh water diversions from the Estuary have caused a chronic freshwater shortage, contributing to the decline of endangered species, food webs, and the ecosystems of the Bay and Delta. Current planning efforts underway, including the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the State Water Resource Control Board's updates to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, will play a significant role in the amount of freshwater flow that reaches the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary.

**DISCUSSION:**

Adequate freshwater inflows into the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary are a critical part of any long - term solution to the issues facing the Delta that are now under consideration by the Delta Stewardship Council, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the State Water Board's Delta planning and regulatory efforts.

The proposed resolution emphasizes the importance of adequate freshwater inflows and underscores that the Bay Area's ecology and economy depend on a healthy San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary. The resolution does not call for specific outcomes from the various Delta planning processes underway, but instead calls for freshwater inflow improvements to be part of whatever set of solutions is agreed upon. The resolution

also calls for a full cost-benefit analysis of any proposed Delta project and that local governments be included in any new governance structures for the Delta.

Marin, Napa and Contra Costa counties have adopted similar resolutions to the one proposed as has the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

Approval of this Resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community by supporting efforts to improve the health of the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.