

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

* * * * *

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

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, at 1,600 square miles, the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary is the largest on the West Coast and drains nearly 40 percent of California's land area, provides drinking water to nearly two-thirds of the state's population, and supplies irrigation water to four million acres of farmland. Although significantly altered since 1850, the Estuary still supports hundreds of fish, wildlife, and plant species, many found nowhere else on Earth: Almost two-thirds of the state's salmon travel through the Estuary as young fish and return to spawn as adults; and almost half of the migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway pass by the Golden Gate or stop in San Francisco Bay's remaining wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay Area is the United States' fourth largest exporting region, accounting for 36 percent of California's exports. In 2009, the San Francisco Bay Area hosted over 15 million visitors, adding some \$8 billion to the Bay Area economy. The San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary helps to power this economic engine, and the health of the ecosystem is vital to maintaining a healthy regional

economy; and

WHEREAS, in a 2010 survey, 92% of Bay Area voters agreed that “It is important for the region’s economy to have a clean, healthy and vibrant San Francisco Bay.” The Bay is the globally recognized symbol of our region, and its health reflects on our region’s capacities, values, and vibrancy; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta are at risk from many factors, and the State and Federal governments are proposing large-scale changes to address these factors. These include new water conveyance through and around the Delta to address state-wide water supply needs; changes to the Bay-Delta ecosystem to address declining ecosystem health and fish populations; changes to land use authority within the Delta; and changes to water allocations and management. These changes will impact the long-term health of the San Francisco Bay Estuary; and

WHEREAS, the California’s State Water Resources Control Board determined in 2010 that, in order to protect public trust resources in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay - Delta ecosystem, 75 percent of unimpaired runoff from the Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed should flow out of the Delta and into the Estuary during the critical winter and spring periods. From 2000 to 2009, in contrast, on average only 45 percent of estimated unimpaired inflow was actually received into the estuary during these seasons; and

WHEREAS, each city, town, and county, including San Mateo County, in the Bay Area may be impacted by planned actions in the Bay-Delta through potential changes in water quality and quantity and the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County hereby expresses its interest in the on-going Bay-Delta planning process of the Delta Stewardship Council, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the State Water Board's Delta planning and regulatory efforts, and urges that as part of any solution or conclusions reached in these critical planning and regulatory processes, the following principles be applied:

Bay-Delta Ecosystem. Recognize that protection and restoration of a healthy sustainable Bay-Delta ecosystem includes adequate water quality, outflow, and water supply, to support fisheries, wildlife and habitat in perpetuity.

Delta Outflows. Recognize that the Bay-Delta ecosystem has been in a state of "chronic drought" due to current water management practices, and ensure adequate Delta outflows to San Francisco Bay to support fisheries, wildlife, habitat, water quality and other beneficial uses.

Regional Self-Sufficiency. Incorporate sustainable approaches for improved water supply, water quality and reliability through the overarching principle of regional self-sufficiency, linked specifically to reducing reliance on exports from the Delta and reducing the current impacts on the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Bay Area Communities. Protect the economic viability of industry, recreation, tourism, fisheries, and agriculture, and the ongoing vitality of communities throughout and along the shoreline of the greater San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Full Financial Disclosure. The multi-decade costs of restoring habitat in the Bay and the Delta are expected to be significant as would be the full costs associated with any new or modified water management facilities. Realistic cost estimates must be calculated and made clear to both taxpayers and

ratepayers throughout California before any final decisions are made. A full cost-benefit analysis of any proposed project must cover all affected geographic areas, and adverse socio-economic impacts need to be minimized and fully mitigated by the beneficiaries of the project.

Fair Representation. Represent and include local governments in any new governance structures for the Delta.

Flood Protection. Support funding and implementation of urban and non-urban flood protection, at the appropriate level of protection, through rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands wherever feasible, and improvement and maintenance of flood control levees and structures where necessary.

* * * * *