



County of Sonoma
State of California

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ATTEST: MAR 25 2014

VERONICA A. FERGUSON, Clerk/Secretary
BY C. Woodson
DEPUTY CLERK/ASST SECRETARY

Date: March 25, 2014

Item Number: 8

Resolution Number: 14-0103

4/5 Vote Required

**Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,
Regarding Ecosystem Health and the Need for Fresh Water for the
San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary**

Whereas, Sonoma County is known for its rich environmental resources and agricultural heritage, encompassing several watersheds and rivers, and connecting to the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary, and has a Strategic Goal of Economic and Environmental Stewardship; and

Whereas, at 75,000 square miles, the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary watershed 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; and

Whereas, the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary 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; 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-Delta Estuary provides a scenic and recreational gateway that supports Sonoma County's reputation as a world-class tourist and recreation destination; 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, including 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, and changes to land use authority within the Delta; and

Whereas, Bay-Delta counties, local agencies, and other impacted entities need a meaningful decision-making role in these proposed changes; and

Whereas, the Association of Bay Area Government/San Francisco Estuary Partnership's 2011 State of the Bay report also indicates that limited freshwater inflows are having a negative impact on the greater San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary, and finds that fish abundance and diversity are declining in all regions of the Bay except near the Golden Gate; and

Whereas, Sonoma County recognizes the need for joint action and advocacy on Bay-Delta Estuary related issues.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County hereby expresses its interest in the on-going Bay-Delta planning processes of the Delta Stewardship Council, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the State Water Board's Delta planning and regulatory efforts, and urges that the following principles be applied in any solution or conclusions reached in these critical planning and regulatory processes:

- 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.
- San Francisco Bay Inflows/ 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 flows 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.
- Bay and Delta Communities. Protect the viability of industry, recreation, tourism, fisheries, and agriculture, and the ongoing vitality of communities throughout 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.
- Fair Representation. Include representation of Bay and Delta governments in any planning processes for the Bay-Delta Estuary.
- Flood Protection. Support funding and implementation of urban and non-urban flood protection through rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands wherever feasible

Supervisors:

Gorin: Aye Zane: Aye McGuire: Aye Carrillo: Aye Rabbitt: Aye

Ayes: 5 Noes: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0

So Ordered.