Resolution No. 14-23

Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Emeryville In Support Of Maintaining And Setting Guiding Principles For The Ecosystem Health Of The San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary

WHEREAS, the City of Emeryville enjoys a unique location at the heart of San Francisco Bay as the gateway to the East Bay; and

WHEREAS, Emeryville is the site of the Emeryville Crescent, a 30-acre designated Conservation Area of tidal marsh and home to endangered species such as the California clapper rail, the California black rail, the salt marsh harvest mouse, and other listed plants and animals; and

WHEREAS, preserving the natural habitat of the Emeryville Crescent is an integral part of the City's commitment to the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Emeryville Crescent is part of San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary which is the largest estuary on the West Coast and in addition to supporting hundreds of fish, wildlife and plant species, many of which are not found anywhere else on Earth, 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, in a 2010 survey, 92% of San Francisco Bay Area voters agreed that "It is important for the region's economy to have a clean, healthy and vibrant San Francisco Bay"; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta are at risk from many factors; and

WHEREAS, 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; changes to land use authority within the Delta; and changes to water allocations and management; 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 compared to the average of only 45 percent of unpaired flow that occurred from 2000 to 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Bay Area Government/San Francisco Estuary Partnership's *2011 State of the Bay* report 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 that the fish community is in poor condition in Suisun Bay; and

WHEREAS, Emeryville's goals of improved water conservation, increased use of recycled water, and reduced per capita water consumption are an example of sustainable approaches to reducing reliance on exports from the Delta; and

WHEREAS, Emeryville may be impacted by planned actions in the Delta through potential changes in water quality and health of the San Francisco Bay.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Emeryville 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:

- Recognition that the San Francisco Bay-Delta ecosystem has been in a state of "chronic drought" due to current water management practices, and that adequate Delta outflows to San Francisco Bay to support fisheries, wildlife, habitat, water quality and other beneficial uses are critical to the Bay-Delta's long term ecological sustainability.

- Incorporation of 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.

- Protection of 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 public disclosure of the multi-decade costs of restoring habitat and establishing new or modified water management facilities in the Bay-Delta that includes a full cost-benefit analysis of any proposed project that covers all affected geographic areas, and minimizes and mitigates any adverse socioeconomic impacts proposed projects.

- Representation of local governments in any new governance structures for the Delta.

- Funding support 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.

ADOPTED, by the City Council of the City of Emeryville at a regular meeting held Tuesday, March 4, 2014.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY ATTORNEY