

**RESOLUTION NO. 2013-117**  
**RESOLUTION OF THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**REGARDING ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND THE NEED FOR FRESH WATER**  
**FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY-DELTA ESTUARY**

**WHEREAS**, Marin County is known for its rich environmental resources and agricultural heritage. Protecting natural resources reduces flooding, water pollution, draws visitors and supports recreation uses. Surrounded on two sides by the San Francisco Bay, Marin County has a critical interest in the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary; and

**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; 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**, Marin County baylands consist of more than 10,000 acres along the shoreline of San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. They provide crucial habitat for many species of plants and animals, including the endangered California Clapper Rail, the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse, and other species. These baylands are habitat for overwintering and migratory habitat and movement corridors for wildlife. Preservation and enhancement of the diversity of the baylands ecosystem is a goal of the 2007 Marin Countywide Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the San Francisco Bay Area hosted over 15 million visitors, in 2009, adding some \$8 billion to the Bay Area economy and many more billions of dollars to our nation's wealth. Marin County destinations are an essential part of the attraction of the Bay Area, and generated over \$620 million in tourism-related income in 2011 for Marin County. The health of the ecosystem is vital to maintaining a healthy regional economy; 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, and

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

**WHEREAS**, 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. In contrast, from 2000 to 2009 on average only 45 percent of estimated unimpaired inflow was actually received into the estuary during these seasons; 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**, Marin 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 Marin 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 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.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin held on this 17th day of December, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS Kathrin Sears, Susan L. Adams, Steve Kinsey, Katie Rice,  
Judy Arnold

NOES: NONE  
ABSENT: NONE

  
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PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

  
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DEPUTY CLERK