

RESOLUTION NO. 34045-15

PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY-DELTA ESTUARY

Introduced by Director **Coleman** ; Seconded by Director **Linney**

WHEREAS, the East Bay Municipal Utility District serves nearly 1.4 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties with safe and reliable drinking water, conveys 90 percent of its water supply for customers through its Mokelumne Aqueducts that cross the Delta, and the District has stewardship responsibilities in watersheds tributary to the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary; and

WHEREAS, EBMUD's strategic plan specifically identifies protection and stewardship of San Francisco Bay as an organizational priority and EBMUD continues to make substantial investments in Bay protection at its wastewater treatment facilities and through stewardship activities that include pollution prevention programs and resource recovery programs; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary is the largest on the west coast and supports hundreds of fish, wildlife, and plant species, many found nowhere else on earth, and provides critical habitat to many species; and

WHEREAS, the state and federal governments are considering large-scale changes to water conveyance facilities through and around the Delta, to the Bay-Delta ecosystem and to water allocations and management that would impact the long-term health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Bay Area Governments/San Francisco Estuary Partnership's 2011 State of the Bay report, among other studies, indicates that fish abundance and diversity are declining in all regions of the Bay except near the Golden Gate; and

WHEREAS, a 2015 Bay Area Council poll found that the number one item of concern among Bay Area residents is water supply; and

WHEREAS, EBMUD's customers may be impacted by actions in the Delta that could affect the health of the San Francisco Bay;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the East Bay Municipal Utility District Board of Directors hereby expresses its interest in the ongoing Bay-Delta activities of the Delta Stewardship Council, the Governor's California Water Action Plan, and the State Water Board's Delta planning and regulatory efforts, and urges that as part of any actions taken or solutions or conclusions reached in these critical planning and regulatory processes, the following principles be applied:

Protect and restore the Bay-Delta ecosystem. Changes to protect and restore a healthy sustainable Bay-Delta ecosystem must include improvements in water quality, flows and flow patterns, and habitat to support fisheries and wildlife.

Protect the reliability of urban water supplies. The Bay-Delta watershed is a critical source of water supplies and the reliability of the water supply is critical to the health and quality of life of all Californians.

Acknowledge the criticality of Delta outflows. Acknowledge the criticality of Delta outflows to San Francisco Bay to support fisheries, wildlife, habitat, water quality and other beneficial uses without compromising the health and safety of public drinking water supplies.

Promote regional self-sufficiency. To the extent feasible, incorporate sustainable approaches for improved water supply, water quality and reliability to increase regional self-sufficiency, linked specifically to reducing future reliance on increased exports from the Delta and reducing the current impacts on the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

Protect the quality of life in Bay Area communities. Protect the economic viability of industry, recreation, tourism, fisheries, and agriculture, and the ongoing vitality of communities throughout the East Bay.

Ensure fair representation of stakeholders in decision-making. Represent and include local governments in any new governance structures for the Delta.

Address 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.

Foster coordinated emergency response planning for the Delta. Emergency response plans should be developed for the Delta. The restoration of public water service, which is vital for public health and safety, should be prioritized in such plans. The state should encourage all water purveyors reliant on the Delta to develop contingency plans for continued water service in the event of catastrophic failure of the Delta levee system.

Fair and equitable financing plans. Assurances and safeguards must be provided in financing mechanisms to avoid any broad-based state water tax or fee on local communities. Local communities should only be requested to finance project(s), if any, in proportion to the benefit they receive from a project and should not be requested to bear costs for actions that benefit

others. Parties that propose new facilities in the Delta must be responsible for financing such projects, including mitigation of existing or future environmental impacts.

ADOPTED this 28th day of July, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES: **Coleman, Katz, Limney, McIntosh, Patterson, Young, and President Mellon.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**




President

ATTEST:


Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND PROCEDURE:


General Counsel