

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. 17 -

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES'
POLICY STATEMENT ON BAY-DELTA FLOW REQUIREMENTS.**

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County relies on water from the Delta watershed for 55 percent of its water supply on average. Forty percent is conveyed through the Delta to the Santa Clara Valley Water District by the State Water Project and Central Valley Project and 15 percent, or about 60 thousand acre-feet per year, comes from San Francisco's Regional Water System to cities in the northern part of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Delta and its watershed has played a significant role in recharging the County's groundwater basin, protecting against further land subsidence, and providing for the well-being of the citizens of Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, substantial local investments in water use efficiency and conservation, recycled water and groundwater management are essential but cannot cost-effectively replace imported water; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara Valley Water District has long been committed to sustained reliable water supplies as well as environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the long-term Delta solution should promote a resilient Delta ecosystem by basing all actions on sound science and addressing the full range of environmental stressors, including toxics, invasive species, and all watershed diverters; and

WHEREAS, California is facing a defining moment in water policy that will be substantially impacted by the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) approach to water quality objectives under the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Bay-Delta Plan); and

WHEREAS, the State Water Board has the responsibility for updating the Bay-Delta Plan in a manner that establishes water quality objectives that ensure the reasonable protection of all beneficial uses of water in a way that is consistent with the coequals goals of improving water supply reliability and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem and with respect to the commitments made in the California Water Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Project and Central Valley Project are responsible for meeting many of the flow and water quality objectives in the current Bay-Delta Plan; therefore, any changes to the plan could have significant impacts on the District's imported water supplies and may also affect a broad suite of other water users, including senior water rights holders such as the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which supplies water to regions of Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, unimpaired flows do not have the same form and function as natural flows in the highly-altered Bay-Delta; native fish evolved under natural flow conditions, not unimpaired flow conditions; the State Water Board must consider the importance of timing, quantity, location, and quality of water releases in the context of all the stressors on the species in order to identify effective solutions; and

Resolution in Support of the Association of California Water Agencies' Policy Statement on Bay-Delta Flow Requirements.

Resolution No. 17-XX

WHEREAS, the ACWA Board of Directors has unanimously adopted a strong policy statement that calls for a better approach to more effectively achieve ecological objectives while maintaining water supply reliability; and

WHEREAS, the ACWA statement calls on the State Water Board to set aside its "unimpaired flow" approach and heed Governor Jerry Brown's call for negotiated agreements, which have been successful on many rivers and tributaries in California; and

WHEREAS, the ACWA statement declares that to be successful, the state's flow policy must be consistent with the principles of collaboration, comprehensive solutions, science, functional flows, economic considerations, consistency with state policy, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, the ACWA statement notes that California's local urban and agricultural water managers are united in their vision for a future that includes a vibrant California economy as well as healthy ecosystems and fish populations, and believe that vision is best achieved through comprehensive, collaborative approaches;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District does hereby support ACWA's Policy Statement on Bay-Delta Flows and encourages the State Water Resources Control Board to embrace the approach articulated in ACWA's policy statement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on May 9, 2017:

AYES: Directors

NOES: Directors

ABSENT: Directors

ABSTAIN: Directors

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

By: _____
JOHN L. VARELA
Chair/Board of Directors

ATTEST: MICHELE L. KING, CMC

Clerk/Board of Directors