

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

RESOLUTION NO. 17 -

CONDITIONAL SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA WATERFIX

WHEREAS, Santa Clara County relies on State Water Project (SWP) and Central Valley Project (CVP) water conveyed through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta (Delta) for 40 percent of its water supply on average; and

WHEREAS, imported water from the Delta and its watershed has played a significant role in meeting the County's water supply demands and allows for the recharging of 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 (District) has long been committed to sustained reliable water supplies as well as environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, if no action is taken, the District's SWP and CVP supplies will be vulnerable to risks from declining ecosystem conditions, increasing regulatory restrictions, seismic risks, climate change and sea level rise, resulting in reduced water supply reliability for Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) proposes to construct the California WaterFix, which consists of three new intakes on the east bank of the Sacramento River in the northern Sacramento San Joaquin Delta, tunnels connecting these intakes to a new, 30-acre intermediate forebay, and two 30-mile long tunnels carrying water from this forebay to a new pumping plant connected to an expanded and modified Clifton Court Forebay; and

WHEREAS, the California WaterFix is a critical component of the California Water Action Plan, the State of California's blueprint for a "sustainable and resilient future"; and

WHEREAS, the California WaterFix has the potential to protect the Santa Clara Valley Water District's water supply reliability by upgrading aging infrastructure, thereby reducing the vulnerability of SWP and CVP water supplies to seismic events in the Delta and climate change impacts; and

WHEREAS, the California WaterFix has the potential to improve access to transfer supplies and increase storage project yield while conveying water across the Delta in a way that is safer for the environment; and

WHEREAS, the SWP component of the WaterFix is defined such that benefits of the project would accrue to SWP participants, while the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's currently proposed CVP participation approach does not provide sufficient assurances that WaterFix benefits will be realized by CVP participants; and

WHEREAS, CVP supplies comprise roughly 65% on average of the District's supplies imported from the Delta; and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2017, DWR certified the final environmental analysis for the California WaterFix and signed the Notice of Determination thereby approving California WaterFix as the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District does hereby find, determine, and order as follows:

1. The District supports the State Water Project participation approach, which would allocate the benefits and costs of the WaterFix to the District in proportion to its current 2.5% level of participation in the State Water Project, or 1.4% of the WaterFix project, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Participation in the WaterFix sustains the District’s existing SWP and CVP deliveries and provides insurance against future uncertainties; and
 - b. The District’s Central Valley Project water supplies as well as its State Water Project water supplies are protected; and
 - c. The cost per acre-foot remains similar to the current estimate.
2. District staff shall continue participating in California WaterFix planning discussions with State and federal agencies as well as other prospective WaterFix participants, to further define the project, and to develop agreements to secure the conditions needed for the District’s support.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on October 17, 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