

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-127

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELK GROVE IN SUPPORT OF ENSURING THE HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast of the United States and includes major eastside tributaries that account for nearly half the snowmelt and runoff of the entire state. Located east of the San Francisco Bay and Suisun Marsh at the confluence of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers, the Delta stretches inland to encompass an area of over 730,000 acres with islands and tracts of rich fertile soil surrounded by miles of sloughs and winding channels protected by levees creating one of the country's most productive agricultural regions; and

WHEREAS, the Delta is also habitat for hundreds of plant and animal species providing crucial habitat for fish and wildlife. In addition, the Delta with its legacy communities is a popular boating and recreation area which supports a fishery for both recreational and commercial purposes. Eight percent of the State's commercial fishery species either live in or migrate through the Delta; and

WHEREAS, the Delta is also the hub of California's State and Federal water storage and delivery system with water exports made to agricultural and urban users in the Bay Area, Silicon Valley, San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and Southern California. Two-thirds of California's population rely on the Delta for all or some of their drinking water. Additionally, over 7 million acres of farmland in the San Joaquin Valley are irrigated in part by water conveyed through the Delta, contributing to California's multi-billion dollar agriculture industry which produces half the nation's fruits, nuts, and vegetables, and twenty percent of the nation's dairy products; and

WHEREAS, many people living in the California Delta depend on the Delta for drinking water; water for irrigation and livestock; industrial uses, habitat and recreation. The Delta is also essential to the shipment of goods from inland ports over highways and railways crisscrossing the Delta. The Delta also contains natural gas fields, electrical transmission and conveyance facilities; and

WHEREAS, the state has, among other things, proposed large-scale changes to the Delta's water conveyance system; and

WHEREAS, there are many parties making policy in and around the Delta including the State of California and United States Federal Government, making the need for a local voice in the Delta essential; and

WHEREAS, individual DCC counties have raised significant concerns with large-scale isolated conveyance projects proposed by Federal and State entities that could have far reaching impacts to the Delta; and

WHEREAS, large portions of the Delta Primary Zone and Delta Secondary Zone (per the Delta Protection Act) are adjacent to the City of Elk Grove; and

WHEREAS, the Counties of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo have joined together in a coalition, identified as the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), to collectively articulate their mutual interests on issues concerning the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta from the perspective of the Delta region itself, from the people who call the Delta home and perhaps best understand the tremendous resources the Delta represents; and

WHEREAS, the DCC has identified a need for joint action and advocacy in various areas of mutual interest on Delta related issues; and

WHEREAS, since 2008 the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) has given a strong local voice to the Delta pursuing three goals:

1. Protect and enhance Delta communities
2. Improve water quality and the Delta ecosystem
3. Provide a more reliable water supply for the state through reducing reliance on the delta

WHEREAS, in pursuit of the three goals, the DCC advocates for a statewide water solution that includes water system operation improvements, regional self-reliance, levee improvements, storage, and restoration to the Delta; and

WHEREAS, the DCC has advocated for and advanced initiatives in pursuit of its goals including pursuing funding for commercial abandoned and derelict vessel removal, invasive species control, levee improvements, and water supply regional self-sufficiency, all of which are seen as positive ways to spend limited resources; and

WHEREAS, the State of California has been pursuing an isolated Delta conveyance since the 1940s under many titles including the Peripheral Canal, Bay Delta Conservation Plan, California WaterFix, and Delta Conveyance; and

WHEREAS, an isolated delta conveyance (water conveyance that involves intakes on the Sacramento River and pipelines or canals to take that water to the South Delta or beyond), including the state's proposed Delta Conveyance Project, effectively bypasses sections of, if not the entire Delta, below any water intake facilities. Construction and operation of any isolated Delta conveyance project is not consistent with DCC principles; and

WHEREAS, an isolated Delta conveyance has potential adverse impacts on the Delta and its legacy communities, without offsetting benefits, including, but not limited to, construction related impacts (traffic, road degradation, noise, water availability, and air quality) over an estimated 14-year construction period, land use and agricultural impacts, economic impacts, water quality impacts, biological impacts and cultural and historical site impacts; and

WHEREAS, an isolated Delta conveyance has a high cost compared to other alternatives and will use many resources that could be better spent on other projects that would bolster levee improvements, storage, and regional water self-sufficiency. An isolated Delta conveyance has the potential to cause negative impacts to all users north of the Delta while benefiting only those water users south of the Delta by increasing export pumping capacity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Elk Grove hereby supports the DCC goals as stated herein. This includes opposing an isolated Delta conveyance in any form including under the current title of the Delta Conveyance Project.

Additionally, the City of Elk Grove supports the DCC position that the management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and greater Bay Delta Estuary must:

1. Protect and improve water quality and water quantity in the Delta region and maintain appropriate Delta outflow for a healthy estuary;
2. Protect the existing water right priority system and legislative protections established for the Delta;
3. Respect and safeguard Delta counties' responsibilities related to land use, water resources, flood management, tax revenues, public health and safety, economic development, agricultural stability, recreation, and environmental protection in any projects, policies, or operations;
4. Represent and include local government in any governance structures for the Delta;
5. Protect, enhance, and preserve the Delta's agricultural economic viability, the ongoing vitality of its communities, and its historical significance;
6. Support rehabilitation, improvement, and maintenance of levees throughout;
7. Support the Delta pool concept, in which the common resource provides quality freshwater supply to all Delta users, requiring mutual responsibility to maintain, restore, and protect the common resource;
8. Support immediate improvements to through-Delta conveyance;
9. Require that any water conveyance plan for the Delta is aligned with these principles and supported by clearly demonstrated improvement to the entire state's water management;
10. Protect and restore the Delta ecosystem and provide for a healthy estuary in perpetuity by ensuring adequate water supply and quality, enhancing Delta fisheries, and managing or eradicating invasive species;
11. Include the study and implementation of storage options, sustainable groundwater management and conjunctive use, conservation, recycling, reuse, and regional self-sufficiency as part of an improved statewide flood management and water supply system, which will reduce reliance on the Delta as called for in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009;
12. Support conservation actions aligned with these principles and the habitat plans and programs of each Delta County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Elk Grove this 25th day of May 2022



BOBBIE SINGH-ALLEN, MAYOR of the
CITY OF ELK GROVE

ATTEST:



JASON LINDGREN, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



JONATHAN P. HOBBS,
CITY ATTORNEY

CERTIFICATION
ELK GROVE CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2022-127

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO) ss
CITY OF ELK GROVE)

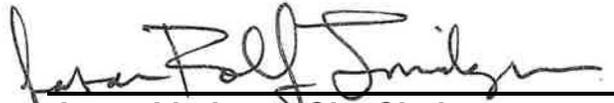
I, Jason Lindgren, City Clerk of the City of Elk Grove, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, approved, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Elk Grove at a regular meeting of said Council held on May 25, 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: **COUNCILMEMBERS:** *Singh-Allen, Hume, Spease, Nguyen*

NOES: **COUNCILMEMBERS:** *None*

ABSTAIN: **COUNCILMEMBERS:** *Suen*

ABSENT: **COUNCILMEMBERS:** *None*



Jason Lindgren, City Clerk
City of Elk Grove, California