

## **RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-23**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF DIABLO WATER DISTRICT 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 relies on the Delta for some portion 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, recreation, and habitat. 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, water rights and water management statewide, and many other aspects related to the Delta; 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 local voices in the Delta essential; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), Counties, and other local agencies in and around the Delta, have raised significant concerns with large-scale isolated conveyance projects proposed by Federal and State entities that could have far-reaching negative impacts to the Delta; and

WHEREAS, large portions of the Delta Primary Zone and portions of the Delta Secondary Zone (per the Delta Protection Act) are located in or are near Diablo Water District; and

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

1. Protect and enhance Delta Communities
2. Improve water quality and Delta ecosystem

3. Provide a more reliable water supply for the state to increase water supply through sustainable approaches and reduce reliance on the Delta; and

WHEREAS, in pursuit of these three goals, the DCC and its partners advocate for statewide water solutions that includes water system operation improvements, increased regional self-reliance, adequate levee maintenance and improvements, increased water storage, water reuse and recycling, stormwater capture, and restoration that includes good neighbor policies in 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 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 Project; 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 currently proposed Delta Conveyance Project, removes freshwater flow through the Delta that is needed to maintain the many beneficial uses of water within and near the Delta. 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 any offsetting benefits, including, but not limited to, construction related impacts (traffic, road degradation, noise, water availability, recreation and air quality) over an estimated 14-year construction period, as well as permanent 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 available alternatives to improve statewide water supplies and would use limited resources that could be better spent on other projects that would improve levees, increase water storage, water reuse and recycling and stormwater capture and other means to increase regional water self-sufficiency, among other possible projects. An isolated Delta conveyance would cause negative impacts to users within and north of the Delta, while benefiting only those water users outside the Delta by increasing export pumping capacity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Diablo Water District supports the DCC goals as stated herein. To ensure the health and sustainability of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, this includes opposing an isolated Delta conveyance in any form including under the current title of the Delta Conveyance Project.

Additionally, Diablo Water District 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.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of Diablo Water District at a meeting thereof held on September 28, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Tiernan, Kovalick, Crockett, Pastor, Seger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

DATED: September 28, 2022

  
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Kait Knight, Secretary