

RESOLUTION NO. 9611

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY SUPPORTING THE CALIFORNIA WATERFIX AND CALIFORNIA ECORESTORE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (NO. 4A)

WHEREAS, the City of Fountain Valley provides a reliable water supply for the beneficial use, health, safety and welfare of its customers; and

WHEREAS, while Fountain Valley is 100 percent reliable on local water supply sources, those sources depend on Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta water via Fountain Valley's imported water supplier, the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD); and

WHEREAS, the Delta, formed by the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers as they come together and flow into San Francisco Bay, is a major water hub for California's water supply system for the majority of the State, including 30 percent of the supplies for Southern California, and therefore underpins the overall economy of California, which stands equivalent to the 6th largest country in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Delta historically was a complex and dynamic natural system driven by tidal fluctuations and natural marsh flooding that has been highly altered over the last 100 years, with many of the levees and islands reclaimed from former marshlands for development or farming. The Delta was never intended to be a water conveyance facility. The scientific consensus is that the Delta is not sustainable as it exists today and that changes must be made to stabilize conditions; and

WHEREAS, from a fisheries, farming and water-management perspective, the Delta will continue to decline at an increasing rate as sea levels rise and subsidence caused by farming continues, resulting in salinity intrusion, artesian conditions and levee failures, which will become more frequent and more expensive to mitigate or repair as time passes; and

WHEREAS, 25 million residents rely on water from the Delta, and local conservation cannot replace the water the Delta has historically supplied to Southern California even though that amount is only 4 percent of the annual average Delta flows; and

WHEREAS, no practicable and economically efficient way exists to improve existing levees to keep pace with sea level rise or prevent levee collapse during a large earthquake. The consequences to the Bay Delta ecosystem, the water supply and the California economy would be immediate, severe and negative when these events occur; and

WHEREAS, voters approved the State Water Project (SWP) about 55 years ago, yet it was never completed as envisioned to include an independent conveyance facility that would allow increased capture and storage of water during periods of high flows and would also minimize conflicts with fisheries; and

WHEREAS, as the result of federal court decisions, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinions, as well as other regulatory constraints to protect native species in the Delta, the SWP has not been able to collect, store, and deliver an estimated volume of 3.6 million acre-feet of water since 2008; and

WHEREAS, although restoration of the Delta to the conditions of the historical past is not possible, much has been learned through science studies about what is needed to improve the management and utilization of the Delta that can enhance fish, wildlife and water management for the future; and

WHEREAS, Governor Brown's California WaterFix and California EcoRestore proposal provide a framework of how best to approach managing the Delta's combined water and land resources in a manner that will realistically achieve improvements in both water supply reliability and ecosystem protection for the Delta as an evolving place by balancing the many competing demands; and

WHEREAS, the California WaterFix and EcoRestore proposal will help with water supply reliability by improving essential ecosystem functions so that populations of endangered or threatened aquatic species will be strengthened; and

WHEREAS, the California EcoRestore will pursue more than 30,000 acres of critical Delta restoration over the next five years, including the improvement of habitat conditions for fisheries migration, restoration of tidal and non-tidal wetland habitat for native wildlife, and improvement of connectivity among existing grassland and other natural habitats; and

WHEREAS, the California WaterFix includes construction of three intakes north of the Delta, two 35-mile tunnels up to 150 feet below the Delta and Clifton Court forebay modifications, all of which will provide operational pumping flexibility and protect against water supply disruption due to sea-level rise, earthquakes and flood events; and

WHEREAS, the three new intakes north of the Delta will improve environmental conditions in the Delta by reducing reverse-flow conditions, minimizing the trapping of migrating fish and reducing diversions during critical fish-migration periods, which will allow more operational flexibility to enhance water deliveries, especially during wet periods; and

WHEREAS, improving the SWP system can increase regional storage reserve levels. These storage reserves are used to protect the region from devastating effects of drought and other emergencies. The California WaterFix will help ensure that Orange County will have sufficient supplies at critical times when we need them; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Orange County Water Reliability Study revealed a number of important findings with implications for the county's water reliability, including that projected water shortages would be too frequent and overall reliability would not be sustainable by as early as 2030 without new supply and system investments by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET), its member agencies and Orange County; and

WHEREAS, Orange County should strongly advocate for the implementation of the California WaterFix and EcoRestore, as it represents the most cost-effective, large-scale

reliability solution to improve regional water supply reliability for all of Southern California. The Orange County water reliability supply analyses assumes the California WaterFix results in "recovery" of historical supplies in the amount of approximately 440,000 acre-feet per year on average and notes that adjustments to the project costs or supply development could result in changes to this recommendation; and

WHEREAS, Orange County ratepayers have invested millions of dollars to build and maintain the SWP, as well as portions of Metropolitan's regional storage, distribution, and treatment systems that take delivery of SWP supplies. Modernizing the system through the California WaterFix will protect this investment for decades to come; and

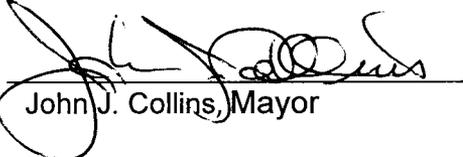
WHEREAS, moving forward with the California WaterFix will not be an inexpensive endeavor; however, it is the most cost-effective investment of the ratepayers' dollars to maintain and continue our economic vitality for the region. Furthermore, all of the costs for California WaterFix will be paid for exclusively by water agencies benefiting from the project; and

WHEREAS, to do nothing in the Delta is far costlier to the businesses, residents, and economy in the State of California and Orange County than investing in the California WaterFix and California EcoRestore.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fountain Valley does hereby support the California WaterFix and California EcoRestore Preferred Alternative (No.4A) as described in the environmental documents with reasonable adherence to the current, public operating criteria and cost allocation principles and assumptions.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of **July, 2017**, at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fountain Valley.

AYES: Brothers, McCurdy, Nagel, Vo, Collins
NAYS: None
ABESNT: None
ABSTAIN: None


John J. Collins, Mayor

Attest:


Rick Miller, City Clerk

Approve as to form:



Attorney for the City