

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-053

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SANTA ANA IN SUPPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA
WATERFIX AND CALIFORNIA ECORESTORE PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the California 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; 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, 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, Governor Brown's California WaterFix and California EcoRestore proposal provides 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 improvements of habitat conditions for fisheries migration, restoring tidal and non-tidal wetland habitat for native wildlife, and improving 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, 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 needed; 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, 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Santa Ana as follows:

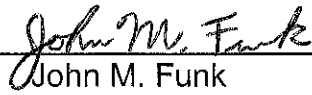
Section 1. The City of Santa Ana does hereby support the California EcoRestore and California WaterFix Preferred Alternative (No.4A) as described in the respective environmental documents with reasonable adherence to the current, public operating criteria and cost allocation principles and assumptions.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the Clerk of the Council shall attest to and certify the vote adopting this Resolution.

ADOPTED this 1st day of August, 2017.


Miguel A. Pulido
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Sonia R. Carvalho, City Attorney

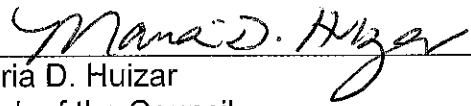
By: 
John M. Funk
Assistant City Attorney

AYES:	Councilmembers	<u>Martinez, Pulido, Sarmiento, Solorio,</u> <u>Villegas (5)</u>
NOES:	Councilmembers	<u>None (0)</u>
ABSTAIN:	Councilmembers	<u>None (0)</u>
NOT PRESENT:	Councilmembers	<u>Benvides, Tinajero (2)</u>

CERTIFICATE OF ATTESTATION AND ORIGINALITY

I, MARIA D. HUIZAR, Clerk of the Council, do hereby attest to and certify the attached Resolution No. 2017-053 to be the original resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Santa Ana on August 1, 2017.

Date: 8/8/2017



Maria D. Huizar
Clerk of the Council
City of Santa Ana