

**RESOLUTION NO. 17-5-1**

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE EL TORO WATER DISTRICT  
SUPPORTING THE CALIFORNIA WATER FIX  
AND CALIFORNIA ECO RESTORE**

**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 continuing subsidence caused by farming result 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**, it has been about 55 years since voter approval of the State Water Project (SWP), which was never completed as originally envisioned to include an independent conveyance facility which 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 total 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 Water Fix and California Eco Restore 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 Water Fix and Eco Restore 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 Eco Restore 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 Water Fix 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**, the California Water Fix conveyance project includes proposed operations to meet the State Water Resources Control Board's Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan regulatory requirements for "in-Delta" water quality to protect the designated beneficial uses. The conveyance operations would also provide water moving through the south Delta channels to reduce salinity levels; 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 Water Fix 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 without new supply and system investments made by MET, MET's member agencies and Orange County, projected water shortages would be too frequent and overall reliability would not be sustainable by as early as 2030; and,

**WHEREAS**, Orange County should strongly advocate for the implementation of the California Water Fix and Eco Restore, 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 Water Fix 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 already invested millions of dollars over the years 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 Water Fix will protect this investment for decades to come; and,

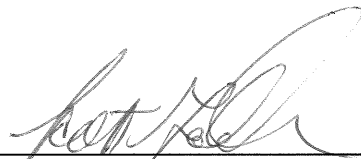
**WHEREAS**, moving forward with the California Water Fix will not be an inexpensive endeavor; however, it is the most cost-effective investment of the ratepayers’ dollars to maintain and continue our economic vitality for the region. Furthermore, all of the costs for California Water Fix will be paid 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 Water Fix and California Eco Restore; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the El Toro Water District does hereby support 1) the California Water Fix 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 and 2) the California Eco Restore.

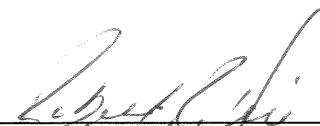
Said Resolution was adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2017 by the following roll call vote:

- AYES: President Goldman, Vice President Kahn, Director Vergara, Director Monin, Director Adjarian
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None
- ABSTAIN: None

  
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 M. SCOTT GOLDMAN, President  
 El Toro Water District, and of the  
 Board of Directors thereof

Attest:

I HERBY CERTIFY the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 17-5-1 adopted by the Board of Directors of El Toro Water District at its meeting held on May 23, 2017.

  
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 ROBERT R. HILL, Secretary  
 El Toro Water District, and of the  
 Board of Directors thereof