Ryan Wulff, NMFS  
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Wulff:

Subject: City of Torrance Support Position for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), the EIR/EIS Reports and Alternative Number 4, including the twin tunnel water conveyance facility

On behalf of the City of Torrance, I am writing to express our organization's support for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and specifically for Alternative #4 as outlined in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS), including the development of the twin tunnel water conveyance facility. This matter was brought forward for City Council consideration on July 22, and the Council voted to adopt a Resolution expressing our support for the BDCP (attached).

Southern California is rebuilding its aging infrastructure to ensure its water supplies are reliable. In Torrance, we are in the process of developing new local water resource projects to reduce our dependence on imported water supplies. We need the same kind of investment in the State Water Project to safeguard our imported supplies. A project of such magnitude will require some difficult decisions and compromises between many stakeholders with varying priorities. However, California cannot sit idly by and wait for disaster.

We support the BDCP, and specifically the 9000cfs twin tunnel design (Alternative #4), as a workable proposal that can lead to a final successful plan of action. Alternative #4 offers the best solution to minimize seismic risk to our state's water supply infrastructure, restores the Delta's ecosystem over time and provides vital water supply reliability.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Furey  
Mayor

Attachment: Resolution
RESOLUTION NO. 2014-92

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE ADOPTING A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN (BDCP), RELIABLE WATER SUPPLIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

WHEREAS, water supplies from the Northern California that move across the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are vital to the economy of California, serving 25 million people from the San Francisco Bay Area to the Mexican border and agriculture throughout the Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Delta is the 550,000 acre estuary where rivers from the Sierra Nevada mountain range merge before heading out to the San Francisco Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Delta is in a state of environmental stress due to the loss of wetlands habitat, invasive species, pesticide runoff, other sources of contamination, pumping operations and other factors; and

WHEREAS, the decline in the Delta's health threatens this unique environment and water supplies that are imperative to meeting California's water needs and preserving the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the Delta's levees are not engineered to protect the state's water supply distribution system from major earthquakes, and multiple levee failures could disrupt water deliveries and adversely impact the state's economy for up to three years; and

WHEREAS, numerous state and federal agencies and other stakeholder groups have worked for years towards developing a comprehensive package of ecosystem and water system reliability improvements by development of a comprehensive Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) to address both current conflicts in the Delta and long term threats to the reliability of the state's water supplies; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2013, the state released a public draft BDCP and its environmental impact statement/report, and subsequently extended the public comment period until July 29, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the BDCP represents the most comprehensive effort to comply with state and federal environmental laws over the last 50 years, through a cooperative effort to reverse the Delta's decline and protect the delivery of vital water supplies; and

WHEREAS, the failure to take decisive actions would be an unacceptable risk to the environment of the Delta, to the future reliability of water supplies and the economy of California; and

WHEREAS, out of all the proposed 15 BDCP alternative plans examined in detail by the state, Alternative Number 4 was designated and the state's preferred alternative for the BDCP; and

WHEREAS, Alternative Number 4 is the most promising plan developed to date to solve the Delta challenges and resolve decades of conflicts between agricultural, urban and environmental stakeholders with a comprehensive solution that achieves California's co-equal goals of a reliable water supply and a restored Delta ecosystem; and
WHEREAS, the City of Torrance is supportive of the proposed twin tunnel water conveyance system, as recommended in Alternative Number 4, which isolates and protects drinking water supplies and helps restore natural flow patterns in the Delta for the benefit of native species as well as implementing complementary habitat restoration, water quality and predator control measures outlined in the BDCP.

WHEREAS, the City of Torrance urges the state to move forward with the draft BDCP, specifically with support for Alternative Number 4, the state’s preferred alternative, and focus efforts on resolving those remaining issues needed to provide assurances that the plan will achieve California’s co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration in a cost effective manner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Torrance, California does hereby take a position of support for adoption of the Bay Delta Conservation (BDCP), including the adoption of Alternative Number 4, providing for the twin tunnel water conveyance system.

Introduced, approved and adopted this 22nd day of July 2014.

APPROVED AS TO FORM: 
JOHN L. FELLOWS III, City Attorney

by /s/ Patrick Q. Sullivan
Patrick Q. Sullivan, Assistant City Attorney

/s/ Patrick J. Furey
Mayor Patrick J. Furey
ATTEST:

/s/ R. Poirier
Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk

TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 2014-92

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ) ss
CITY OF TORRANCE )

I, Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk of the City of Torrance, California, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, approved, and adopted by the City Council of the City of Torrance at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 22nd day of July, 2014 by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS Ashcraft, Barnett, Rizzo, Weideman, and Mayor Furey.
NOES: COUNCILMEMBERS None.
ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBERS Goodrich.
ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBERS None.

Date: July 24, 2014

/s/ R. Poirier
Rebecca Poirier, MMC
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original document.

Dated ____________________________

City Clerk