RESOLUTION NO. 1979
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY
SUPPORT FOR THE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PROGRAM (BDCP)

WHEREAS, it has been about 75 years since voter approval of the State Water Project (SWP), it should be noted that the SWP has never been completed as originally envisioned which has resulted in the operation of the Bay-Delta system of reservoirs, rivers, streams, canals, levees and pump stations to convey water in a manner that was never intended; and,

WHEREAS, it has been seven years since state and federal officials first started this most current effort towards completion of the State Water Project in bringing together public water agencies, farmers, environmental organizations, regulatory entities and stakeholders from throughout the state to develop a NEW plan for the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Bay-Delta) and California’s water supply; and,

WHEREAS, the goal of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) has always been twofold: rehabilitate the Delta environment and ensure that people, businesses and farms have a reliable water supply; and,

WHEREAS, under the framework of the Endangered Species Act and state environmental laws, two California Administrations have studied a variety of strategies for re-plumbing the heart of California’s water delivery system and did so through hundreds of public meetings. After decades exploring all viable alternatives at a cost of over $200 million in planning, with broad public involvement, and substantially reconfiguring the proposed BDCP process into a Habitat Conservation Program (HCP) and Natural Community and Conservation Planning Program (NCCP) coupled with implementation of a “Preferred Project Alternative”; and,

WHEREAS, the Municipal Water District of Orange County strongly supports increased efforts by all cities and water districts in water use efficiency, conservation, water recycling, stormwater capture, groundwater storage, plus other local water supply expansion projects like brackish and ocean desalination, but realizes that development of these new supplies will not supplant the water supply from the SWP nor will it eliminate the critical need to fix the Delta problems; and,

WHEREAS, this effort in 2014 may be the best opportunity for securing a comprehensive Statewide approach and solution to the variety of issues facing the Bay-Delta region; and,

WHEREAS, the coequal goals of rehabilitating the Delta ecosystem and achieving water supply reliability must be achieved on independent paths, meaning that one cannot be sacrificed for the other and the goals and policies cannot keep changing. It is also recognized that a comprehensive set of rules must be established to operate the Delta for the benefit of the environment and water resources development; and,
WHEREAS, assurances regarding supply reliability, changed conditions & decision-making are central to success of the BDCP process with many of the details of the future BDCP operations being speculative at this time, which necessitates a decision-making process that must balance investments and tradeoffs consistent with the following provisions:

1. It is virtually impossible to predict the outcome of the BDCP habitat restoration efforts and endangered species population dynamics, and such a standard should not be required in the DEIR/DEIS.
2. Furthermore, this means that changed circumstances under the operation of the BDCP, including the potential for new species listing, be incorporated in such a manner to result in a minimum impact on future water supply exports; and,

WHEREAS, the modernization of the Delta conveyance system, including intake of water from north of the Delta, flexibility of pumping operations in a dynamic fishery environment, reduced seismic risks from levee failure, and reduced impacts from climate variability are essential for habitat restoration, conservation and improvements in water reliability and water quality that will accrue in such a way to reduce impacts on fisheries and the ecosystem. These implementing provisions must recognize these benefits in such a way to allow export diversions to be restored; and,

WHEREAS, Orange County has invested heavily to diversify our water portfolio but the Municipal Water District of Orange County realizes that the SWP is a critical source of low salinity water supply that is needed to support groundwater conjunctive use and water recycling and thus is an essential part of our water reliability strategy that sustains our citizens and businesses, economy, environment and water management – implementation of the BDCP is critical to Orange County's future.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Municipal Water District of Orange County does hereby support the 9,000 cfs twin tunnel Preferred Alternative (No. 4) provided reasonable assurances are included regarding governance and future decision-making in the process. The investment and decision-making must be structured to achieve a positive outcome for the SWP, the Permittees and the ecosystem restoration in a collaborative, partnership manner.

Said Resolution was adopted this 21st day of April 2014 by the following roll call vote.

AYES: Directors Barbre, Clark, Dick, Finnegan, Hinman, & Osborne
NOES: None
ABSENT: Director Thomas
ABSTAIN: None

I HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 1979 adopted by the Board of Directors of Municipal Water District of Orange County at its meeting held on April 21, 2014.

[Signature]
Marieth Goldsby, Secretary
Municipal Water District of Orange County