RESOLUTION NO. 2014-16

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY SUPPORTING
PROMPT COMPLETION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE BAY DELTA CONSERVATION
PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Water Authority supports the development of a diversified water supply portfolio in the San Diego region in order to promote water supply reliability; and

WHEREAS, the Water Authority's adopted 2010 Urban Water Management Plan identifies water from the Bay-Delta as an important component of a diversified regional water supply; and

WHEREAS, continued access to high quality water from the Bay-Delta is necessary to ensure water supply reliability for the Water Authority's member agencies; and

WHEREAS, numerous human-induced and natural conditions have resulted in degradation of the Bay-Delta aquatic environment with resulting decline in native flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, long-term conflicts over Bay-Delta water use have led to litigation and acrimony among stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, a Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) was voluntarily prepared to meet co-equal goals of Bay-Delta ecosystem protection and water supply reliability; and

WHEREAS, the BDCP is a joint Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan containing 22 Conservation Measures collectively designed to protect and contribute to recovery of species listed, or likely to be listed, under the California and/or Federal Endangered Species Acts; and

WHEREAS, the BDCP is a "project" as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and a joint Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) was prepared that analyzed the potential significant effects of the BDCP on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the lead agency for compliance with CEQA is the California Department of Water Resources, and the lead agencies for compliance with NEPA are the United States Bureau
WHEREAS, the CEQA and NEPA lead agencies released a joint Draft EIR/EIS and associated BDCP documents for a 180-day public review and comment period beginning on December 13, 2013 and ending on June 13, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Interior and California Natural Resources Agency released a Draft Implementing Agreement (IA) on May 30, 2014 for a 60-day public review period; and

WHEREAS, the CEQA and NEPA lead agencies have extended the public review period for the Draft EIR/EIS and associated BDCP documents until July 29, 2014 to coincide with the public review period for the Draft IA; and

WHEREAS, the Water Authority submitted a comment letter on the Draft EIR/EIS and associated BDCP documents on May 30, 2014, and will submit another comment letter on the Draft IA before the extended public review deadline with the express purpose of ensuring the Final EIR/EIS, BDCP, and IA provide a comprehensive, affordable and lasting solution to conflicts between ecosystem protection and water supply reliability.

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Water Authority resolves to support the prompt completion of the environmental review process by the CEQA and NEPA lead agencies, including the Final EIR/EIS, BDCP, and Implementing Agreement for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Water Authority at a regular Board meeting held on this 26th day of June, 2014 by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Unless noted below, all Directors present voted aye.
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Morrison, Razak, Topolovac (p), Tu, Watkins, and Williams

Thomas V. Wornham, Chair
I, Doria F. Lore, Clerk of the Board of the San Diego County Water Authority, certify that the vote shown above is correct and this Resolution No. 2014-16 was duly adopted at the meeting of the Board of Directors on the date stated above.

Doria F. Lore,
Clerk of the Board