

1 [Urging Protection of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary]

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3 **Resolution urging the on-going Bay-Delta planning processes of the Delta Stewardship**
4 **Council, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the State Water Resources Control**
5 **Board, and protection of the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.**

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7 WHEREAS, At 1,600 square miles, the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary is the largest
8 of its kind on the West Coast, drains nearly 40 percent of California’s land area, provides
9 drinking water to nearly two-thirds of the state’s population, supplies irrigation water to four
10 million acres of farmland, and provides the critical habitat to the fish, birds and many other
11 species critical to the local ecosystem; and

12 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay Area is the United States’ fourth largest exporting
13 region, accounting for 36 percent of California’s exports; hosts over 16 million visitors each
14 year, who add over \$8 billion to the Bay Area economy; the Sacramento-San Joaquin River
15 Delta generates a state-wide economic output of over \$5 billion in agriculture and related
16 value-added manufacturing yearly; and

17 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary helps to power these economic
18 engines, is the globally recognized symbol of our region, and its health reflects on our region’s
19 capacities, values, and vibrancy; and

20 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta are
21 at risk from many factors, and State and Federal governments are proposing large-scale
22 changes to address these factors, including new water conveyance through and around the
23 Delta to address state-wide water supply needs, changes to the Bay-Delta ecosystem to
24 address declining ecosystem health and fish populations, changes to land use authority within
25 the Delta, and changes to water allocations and management; and

1 WHEREAS, Bay-Delta cities, counties, local agencies, and other impacted entities
2 need a key and meaningful decision-making role in these proposed changes; and

3 WHEREAS, California’s State Water Resources Control Board determined in 2010
4 that, in order to protect public trust resources in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta
5 ecosystem, 75 percent of unimpaired runoff from the Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed
6 should flow out of the Delta and into the Estuary during the critical winter and spring periods,
7 compared to an average of only 45 percent of estimated unimpaired inflow that actually
8 drained into the estuary during the previous decade; and

9 WHEREAS, The Association of Bay Area Government/San Francisco Estuary
10 Partnership’s 2011 State of the Bay report also indicates that limited freshwater inflows are
11 having a negative impact on the greater San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary, and finds that fish
12 abundance and diversity are declining in virtually all regions of the Bay; and

13 WHEREAS, Each city and town in the San Francisco Bay area, including the City and
14 County of San Francisco, may be impacted by planned actions in the Bay-Delta through
15 potential changes in water quality and quantity and the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta
16 Estuary; and

17 WHEREAS, As the Association of Bay Area Governments and the counties of Marin,
18 Sonoma, Napa, Contra Costa and San Mateo have acknowledged in similar resolutions, San
19 Francisco recognizes the need for joint action and advocacy on Bay-Delta Estuary issues;

20 WHEREAS, Organizations such as the Bay Institute, Friends of the San Francisco
21 Estuary, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Tuolumne River Trust and Golden Gate
22 Salmon Association, working alongside governmental agencies, have urged that the following
23 principles be applied to any strategy to address the Bay-Delta Estuary:

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1 Bay-Delta Ecosystem. Recognize that protection and restoration of a healthy
2 sustainable Bay-Delta ecosystem includes adequate water quality, outflow, and water
3 supply, to support fisheries, wildlife and habitat in perpetuity.

4 Delta Outflows. Recognize that the Bay-Delta ecosystem has been in a state of
5 “chronic drought” due to current water management practices, and ensure adequate
6 Delta outflows to San Francisco Bay to support fisheries, wildlife, habitat, drinking
7 water quality and other beneficial uses.

8 Regional Self-Sufficiency. Incorporate sustainable approaches for improved water
9 supply, water quality and reliability through the overarching principle of regional self-
10 sufficiency, linked specifically to reducing reliance on exports from the Delta and
11 reducing the current impacts on the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

12 Bay and Delta Communities. Protect the economic viability of industry, recreation,
13 tourism, fisheries, and agriculture, and the ongoing vitality of communities throughout
14 and along the shoreline of the greater San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.

15 Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System. Recognize the significance of the Hetch Hetchy
16 Regional Water System to the economic well-being of the San Francisco Bay Area by
17 providing a reliable, high-quality, gravity-driven water supply to 2.6 million customers in
18 the Bay area.

19 Full Financial Disclosure. Require realistic and transparent cost estimates of the multi-
20 decade costs of restoring habitat in the Bay and the Delta and the full costs associated
21 with any new or modified water management facilities, before any decisions that will
22 impact taxpayers and ratepayers.

23 Fair Representation. Represent and include Bay and Delta governments in any
24 planning processes for the Bay-Delta Estuary.

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1 Flood Protection. Support funding and implementation of urban and non-urban flood
2 protection, at the appropriate level of protection, through rehabilitation and restoration
3 of wetlands wherever feasible, and improvement and maintenance of flood control
4 levees and structures where necessary; now, therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its
6 interest in the on-going Bay-Delta planning processes of the Delta Stewardship Council, the
7 Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the State Water Resources Control Board, and urges
8 applying the above principles as part of any solution or conclusions reached in critical
9 planning and regulatory processes.

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