

RESOLUTION NO. 67,323–N.S.

SUPPORTING ECOSYSTEM HEALTH AND THE NEED FOR FRESH WATER FOR  
THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY-DELTA ESTUARY

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is uniquely located in the center of the Bay Area with its desirable climate and physical beauty; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley's General Plan emphasizes the protection of the environment, both locally and regionally, and addresses the importance of regional solutions on the health of the environment; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley is home to the Berkeley Marina, which sits on the San Francisco Bay and provides recreation opportunities to its residents through fishing and boating activities, restaurants, a playground, and the Shorebird Nature Center; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley, with its physical location on the San Francisco Bay, has a critical interest in the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley and Berkeley Marina are part of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary, which is the largest estuary on the west coast and supports hundreds of fish, wildlife, and plant species, many found nowhere else on earth, and provides critical habitat to many species; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta are at risk from many factors, including reduced freshwater flows; and

WHEREAS, the state and federal governments are proposing large-scale changes to address these factors, including new water conveyance through and around the Delta to address statewide water supply needs; changes to the Bay-Delta ecosystem to address declining ecosystem health and fish populations; changes to land use authority within the Delta; and changes to water allocations and management; and

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

WHEREAS, California's State Water Resources Control Board determined in 2010 that, in order to protect public trust resources in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta ecosystem, 75 percent of unimpaired runoff from the Sacramento-San Joaquin watershed should flow out of the Delta and into the Estuary during the critical winter and spring periods. In contrast, from 2000 to 2009, on average only 45 percent of estimated unimpaired inflow actually drained into the estuary during these seasons; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Bay Area Government/San Francisco Estuary Partnership's 2015 State of the Estuary Report, and other studies, indicate that limited freshwater inflows are having a negative impact on the greater San Francisco Bay-Delta

Estuary, and finds that fish abundance and diversity are declining in all regions of the Bay except near the Golden Gate; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley may be impacted by planned actions in the Bay-Delta through potential changes in water quality and quantity and the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley recognizes the need for joint action and advocacy on Bay-Delta Estuary-related issues.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that it hereby expresses its interest in the on-going Bay-Delta planning process of the Delta Stewardship Council, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix, and the State Water Resources Control Board's Delta planning and regulatory efforts, and urges that as part of any solution or conclusions reached in these critical planning and regulatory processes, the following principles be applied:

- **Bay-Delta Ecosystem.** Recognize that protection and restoration of a healthy sustainable Bay-Delta ecosystem includes adequate water quality, outflow, and water supply, to support fisheries, wildlife and habitat in perpetuity.
- **Delta Outflows.** Recognize that the Bay-Delta ecosystem has been in a state of "chronic drought" due to current water management practices, and ensure adequate Delta outflows to San Francisco Bay to support fisheries, wildlife, habitat, drinking water quality and other beneficial uses.
- **Regional Self-Sufficiency.** Incorporate sustainable approaches for improved water supply, water quality and reliability through the overarching principle of regional self-sufficiency, linked specifically to reducing reliance on exports from the Delta and reducing the current impacts on the Bay-Delta ecosystem.
- **Bay and Delta Communities.** Protect the economic viability of industry, recreation, tourism, fisheries, and agriculture, and the ongoing vitality of communities throughout and along the shoreline of the greater San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.
- **Full Financial Disclosure.** The multi-decade costs of restoring habitat in the Bay and the Delta are expected to be significant as would be the full costs associated with any new or modified water management facilities. Realistic cost estimates must be calculated and made clear to both taxpayers and ratepayers throughout California before any final decisions are made. A full cost-benefit analysis of any proposed project must cover all affected geographic areas, and adverse socioeconomic impacts need to be minimized and fully mitigated by the beneficiaries of the project.

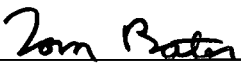
- Fair Representation. Represent and include Bay and Delta governments in any planning processes for the Bay-Delta Estuary.
- Flood Protection. Support funding and implementation of urban and non-urban flood protection, at the appropriate level of protection, through rehabilitation and restoration of wetlands wherever feasible, and improvement and maintenance of flood control levees and structures where necessary.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on December 15, 2015 by the following vote:

Ayes: Anderson, Arreguin, Capitelli, Droste, Maio, Moore, Wengraf, Worthington and Bates.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

  
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Tom Bates, Mayor

Attest:   
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Mark Numainville, City Clerk