

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM
3.29
(ID # 5397)

MEETING DATE:

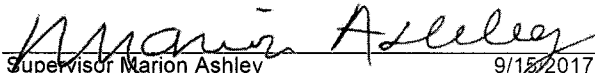
Tuesday, September 19, 2017

FROM : SUPERVISOR MARION ASHLEY:

SUBJECT: SUPERVISOR MARION ASHLEY: Resolution 2017-2018, A Resolution of the County of Riverside to Support the California WaterFix. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors approve Resolution No. 2017-2018, a Resolution of the County of Riverside supporting the California WaterFix.

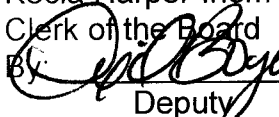
ACTION: Consent


Supervisor Marion Ashley 9/15/2017

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Washington, seconded by Supervisor Ashley and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Washington, Perez and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: September 19, 2017
xc: Supvr. Ashley

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

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**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$	\$	\$	\$
NET COUNTY COST	\$	\$	\$	\$
SOURCE OF FUNDS			Budget Adjustment:	
			For Fiscal Year:	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: [CEO use]

BACKGROUND:

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is a vital link in California's water system. The Delta ecosystem is in jeopardy of collapse as a result of habitat loss, invasive species, and a degraded food web as a result of wastewater discharges, water diversions, and other stressors. Additionally, the earthen Delta levees, which were largely formed in the mid-1800s and are relied upon to secure freshwater supplies within the Delta from salt water intrusion, are vulnerable to failure if faced with a moderate earthquake, which could cut off water supplies for up to two years. Immediate and continued action is necessary to enhance water supply reliability in the Delta and to achieve the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and Delta ecosystem restoration, as stated in the Delta Reform Act of 2009.

Federal and state officials, water agencies, and other stakeholders have been working collaboratively toward a comprehensive plan to protect public water supplies for California and improve the health of the Delta's ecosystem. The California WaterFix and the California Eco-Restore represent a comprehensive solution to fixing aging and outdated infrastructure in the Delta; protect critical water supplies from earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters; contribute to the recovery of fish and wildlife species in the Delta; and improve the State's ability to store water during rainy periods. In addition to supply reliability, the WaterFix would also greatly improve water quality and provide local water agencies with a lower salinity water supply.

During the winter storms of 2015-2016, more than 486,000 acre-feet of water (or enough water for 3.6 million people) was lost to the ocean through the Delta due to pumping restrictions as a result of potential impacts to Delta smelt. Similar water releases are occurring in 2017 due to the inability to capture, transport, and store this vital resource. Had the California WaterFix been in place, this wet year surplus could have been directed to storage and put to beneficial use.

The WaterFix costs can be fully funded from the State Water Project and Central Valley Project water contractors, including the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), as recipients of the upgraded and more reliable water system. A recent study by an MWD water contractor

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found under a wide array of cost and water demand possibilities that the WaterFix was affordable to the median single family resident household, only increasing water bills by a median \$1.73 per month.

While no public vote is required for WaterFix approval and funding, it is subject to regulatory proceedings and the resolution of anticipated lawsuits. In late June and July 2017, the WaterFix received Federal and State Endangered Species Act approvals. Additional authorizations and permits remain to be finalized (e.g., from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and various State environmental agencies). A special MWD Board Meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2017 to discuss support for the WaterFix.

As a County with many local water districts that are reliant upon imported water supplies from the Delta, in addition to locally developed sources, it is important that the County

support efforts to keep the California WaterFix on schedule and that we recognize and support these critical milestones necessary to move the project forward.

ATTACHMENT:

California WaterFix Project Map/Description

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2017-208

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
TO SUPPORT THE CALIFORNIA WATERFIX**

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is a 550,000-acre estuary that is formed by the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers as they come together and flow into the San Francisco Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Delta serves 25 million Californian residents, farms, and businesses throughout the state and supports the water supply that is key to the California economy; and

WHEREAS, the Delta is not sustainable as it exists today, and changes must be made in order to stabilize and mitigate environmental conditions, secure the levees against potential earthquake and erosion, and protect water supplies from salinity intrusion; and

WHEREAS, water from the Delta makes up a significant portion of local water supplier imported water supply needs; and

WHEREAS, as a result of federal court decisions, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinions, as well as other regulatory constraints to protect native species in the Delta, the State Water Project (SWP) has had to forego an estimated volume of 3.6 million acre-feet of water since 2008; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources and the state administration have proposed the linked California WaterFix and Eco Restore projects as the best framework to approach the management of the Delta's water resources; and

1 WHEREAS, the California WaterFix and Eco Restore proposals address the core issues
2 brought forth by environmental groups and water agencies to improve essential ecosystem
3 functions and establish water supply reliability; and

4 WHEREAS, the California WaterFix is the most cost-effective investment to secure water
5 supply reliability for southern California and the state as a whole, and to do nothing would be far
6 costlier to residents, agriculture, and businesses in the state; and

7 WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Water District will be considering support of the California
8 WaterFix at a special meeting on September 26, 2017, and

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Riverside County Board of
10 Supervisors does hereby support, and further encourages the Metropolitan Water District to
11 support, the California WaterFix and California Eco Restore projects.

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13 ROLL CALL:

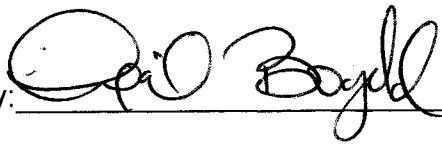
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15 Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Washington, Perez and Ashley

16 Nays: None

17 Absent: None
18

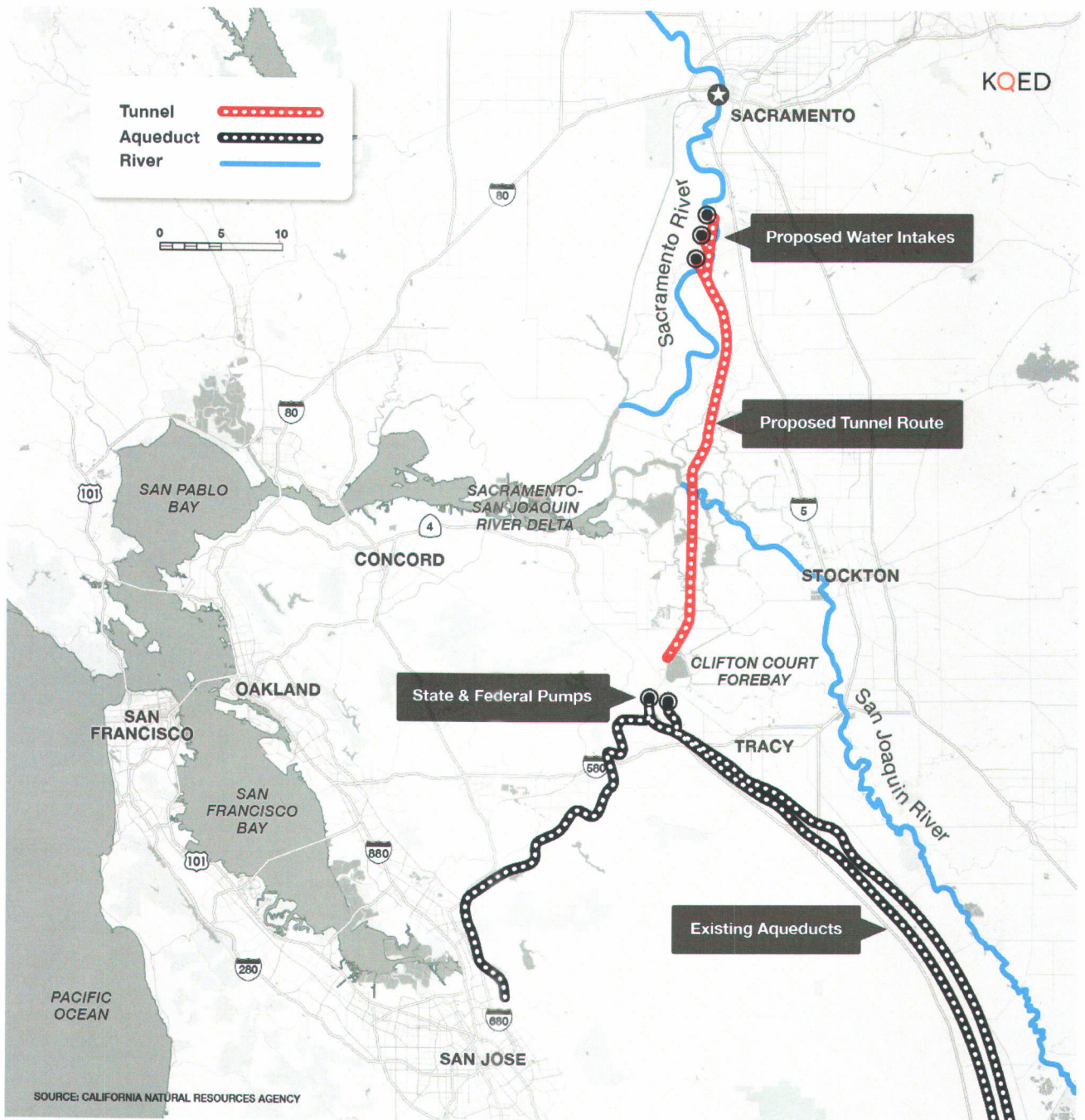
19 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of
20 Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

21
22 KECIA HARPER-IHEM, Clerk of said Board

23
24 By: 
25 Deputy
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California WaterFix –

Two 30-mile water tunnels that would be built in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Each tunnel would be 40 feet in diameter and would be buried 150 feet below ground.



Graphic from KQED Science, July 25, 2016