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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta are at risk from many factors, and State and Federal governments are proposing large-scale changes to address these factors, including new water conveyance through and around the Delta to address state-wide 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, compared to an average of only 45 percent of estimated unimpaired inflow that actually drained into the estuary during the previous decade; and

WHEREAS, The Association of Bay Area Government/San Francisco Estuary Partnership’s 2011 State of the Bay report also indicates 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 virtually all regions of the Bay; and

WHEREAS, Each city and town in the San Francisco Bay area, including the City and County of San Francisco, 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, As the Association of Bay Area Governments and the counties of Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Contra Costa and San Mateo have acknowledged in similar resolutions, San Francisco recognizes the need for joint action and advocacy on Bay-Delta Estuary issues;

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

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

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

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; now, therefore be it RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its interest in the on-going Bay-Delta planning processes of the Delta Stewardship Council, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the State Water Resources Control Board, and urges applying the above principles as part of any solution or conclusions reached in critical planning and regulatory processes.
Resolution urging the on-going Bay-Delta planning processes of the Delta Stewardship Council, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, and the State Water Resources Control Board, and protection of the health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.

July 22, 2014 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED
Ayes: 10 - Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee
Excused: 1 - Avalos

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 7/22/2014 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board