

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # B-6

Urgent

Routine

*pkc*

AGENDA DATE March 19, 2013

CEO Concur with Recommendation YES  NO   
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Adopt a Resolution Opposing the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document that Supports Potential Changes to the Bay-Delta Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve a resolution opposing the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document that supports potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan.



FISCAL IMPACT:

Implementation of proposed changes to the State Water Board proposed river flows could create a significant financial hardship to the agricultural economy of Stanislaus County.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2013-117

On motion of Supervisor De Martini, Seconded by Supervisor Withrow  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withrow, De Martini and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Monteith

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1)  Approved as recommended

2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

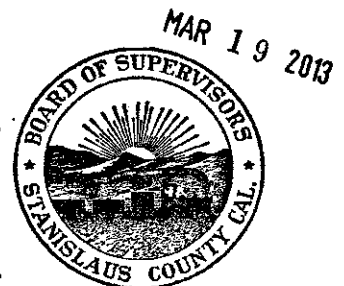
MOTION:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California

By *Elizabeth King*



ATTEST:

*Elizabeth King*  
ELIZABETH A. KING, Assistant Clerk

File No.

**DISCUSSION:**

The California State Water Resources Control Board is updating its water quality control plan for the Bay-Delta. As part of that plan, the State Water Board is proposing increased flows of water down the Merced, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne rivers to benefit downstream wildlife and habitat in the San Joaquin River and San Francisco Bay-Delta. The San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, whose members include Modesto Irrigation District, Turlock Irrigation District, Oakdale Irrigation District, Merced Irrigation District, the City and County of San Francisco, and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, request the Board of Supervisors to consider adopting a resolution opposing the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) that proposes to require the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers to release 35 percent of unimpaired flow from February to June of each year.

The agricultural economy of Stanislaus County is dependent on a stable and available water supply. As Stanislaus County continues to suffer from high unemployment and a slow recovery from the economic downturn, protecting the agricultural economy is vitally important.

The proposed requirement will divert critically needed water from valley farmers and create significant and unavoidable impacts to the economy, agriculture, and ground water basins in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced Counties. The San Joaquin Tributaries Authority requests the Board to consider a resolution opposing the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document that supports potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

This action supports the Board's priority of a Strong Local Economy and a Strong Agricultural Economy/Heritage.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.

**CONTACT:**

Monica Nino, Chief Executive Officer (209) 525-6333.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: March 19, 2013

No. 2013-117

On motion of Supervisor De Martini Seconded by Supervisor Withrow  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withrow, De Martini and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Monteith

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

Item # B-6

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

**RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES BOARD'S DRAFT  
SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT THAT SUPPORTS POTENTIAL CHANGES TO  
THE BAY-DELTA PLAN**

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) proposes to require the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers release 35 percent of unimpaired flow from February to June each year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will create "significant and unavoidable" impacts to the economy, agriculture, and groundwater basins in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced Counties; and

WHEREAS, those impacts include approximately \$69 million in economic impacts in an economically distressed region of our state, including \$23.5 million to Merced Irrigation District, \$30 million to Turlock Irrigation District, and \$15.5 million to Modesto Irrigation District each year; and

WHEREAS, the impacts result in a loss of \$4.5 million in energy revenue every year including \$1.5 million to each of the Merced, Turlock, and Modesto Irrigation Districts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement would fallow approximately 128,295 acres of prime farm land and result in the loss of over 800 family farms in the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will result in over-drafted groundwater basins; and

WHEREAS, approximately 460 jobs will be permanently lost including 160 in Merced Irrigation District, 200 in Turlock Irrigation District, and 100 in Modesto Irrigation District; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will not benefit native fish populations or promote ecosystem restoration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement ignores non-flow alternatives that are less costly and more effective; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement compromises attaining the dual goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability under SB7x-7.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the State Water Resources Control Board should pursue a comprehensive solution that is consistent with the timing of the overall comprehensive Delta planning process and which takes into account the potential impact on hydroelectric energy generation. This solution must prioritize non-flow measures to protect native fish species, such as predation reduction programs, before demanding flow increases that would threaten the economic vitality of these California counties, cities, and small family farms.

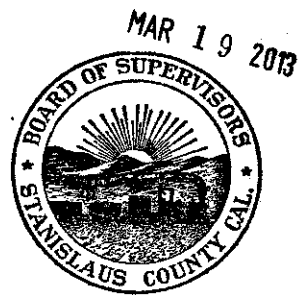
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the efforts of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority by opposing the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document that supports potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California

By Elizabeth A King



ATTEST: ELIZABETH A. KING, Assistant Clerk  
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,  
State of California

Elizabeth A King

File No.