



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 8, 2025

PRESENTER: John Jansons, City Manager

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution in Support of the State Water Resources Control Board Amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay Delta Plan) (JAJ)

RECOMMENDATION: City Council adopt a resolution of support and direct City Clerk to transmit adopted resolution to the California League of Cities demonstrating the City of Kerman's support.

DISCUSSION:

Periodically, organizations and advocacy groups solicit support from the City of Kerman on a variety of matters. Most often, the City receives requests from the California League of Cities (Cal Cities) to join campaigns supporting or opposing proposed legislation or items of significance to California cities or of statewide importance or impact.

The attached resolution (**Attachment 'A'**) has been requested by Cal Cities as it addresses water policy in California and is of direct impact to Kerman's agricultural industry. Additional information on this matter is included in this report as **Attachment 'B'**.

Staff has reviewed the request and draft resolution and recommends City Council adoption.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact in approving the recommended action.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution
- B. Additional Information

RESOLUTION NO. 25-___

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KERMAN IN SUPPORT OF
THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD AMENDING THE WATER
QUALITY CONTROL PLAN FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/SACRAMENTO-SAN
JOAQUIN DELTA WATERSHED (BAY DELTA PLAN)**

WHEREAS, the City of Kerman City Council finds that the State Water Resources Control Board should exercise its discretion to approve the Voluntary Agreements, as proposed in March 2022, rather than the unimpaired flow objectives proposed by the State Water Board staff; and

WHEREAS, the Voluntary Agreements present an effective alternative to unimpaired flow objectives by providing similar or better fish and wildlife protection while proactively preventing devastating water supply impacts that would occur by implementing the unimpaired flow standards; and

WHEREAS, under the suggested unimpaired flow standards, the delivery of water through the Central Valley Project and State Water Project would be reduced by more than 1.3 million acre-feet in already challenging dry years, essentially requiring the dedication of the benefits of decades of conservation efforts by Californians throughout the State to Delta outflow; and

WHEREAS, the suggested unimpaired flow standards would increase land fallowing in the heart of California's farmland which is already idling hundreds of thousands of acres due to the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and reducing socioeconomic opportunity in environmental justice communities throughout the San Joaquin Valley; and

WHEREAS, amending the Bay Delta Plan via the Voluntary Agreements would better balance the competing uses of water than adopting the unimpaired flow objectives; and

WHEREAS, accepting the Voluntary Agreements would provide reasonable and equivalent protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses of water; and

WHEREAS, the Voluntary Agreements include increased instream flow and Delta outflow above the current standards required under the Endangered Species Act permits; and

WHEREAS, the Voluntary Agreements would avoid disastrous socioeconomic impacts including but not limited to the potential loss of jobs, high-quality food supply, and state and local tax revenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Kerman resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 2. The City of Kerman City Council supports the State Water Resources Control Board amending the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay Delta Plan) by rejecting the proposed unimpaired flow standards and approving the Voluntary Agreements proposed in March 2022.

SECTION 3. The City Council authorizes the City Clerk to transmit this resolution (**Attachment 'A'**) to the California League of Cities demonstrating Kerman's support for the "Bay Delta Plan".

SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon its adoption.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Kerman at a regular meeting held on the 8th day of January 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

The foregoing resolution is hereby approved.

Maria Pacheco
Mayor

ATTEST:

Josie Camacho
City Clerk