

CITY COUNCIL
Randy Pope, Mayor
Aaron Meadows, Vice Mayor
Anissa Williams
George Fuller
Sue Higgins



CITY HALL
3231 Main Street
Oakley, CA 94561
925.625.7000 tel
925.625.9859 fax
www.ci.oakley.ca.us

June 9, 2022

Karla Nemeth
Director of the California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support of Ensuring the Health and Sustainability of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Dear Karla Nemeth:

Please accept this letter and accompanying resolution on behalf of the City of Oakley expressing the City's desire and commitment to ensure the health and sustainability of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The City of Oakley's vision is to celebrate our unique Delta lifestyle and small-town feel where we Live in a safe, dynamic community, Work together to build the future, and Play in our own backyard. This, along with many other aspects of the City's Strategic Plan, centers around the City's position on the edge of the Delta. The Delta is a prominent part of Oakley's history and future growth. Given its importance, the City Council has expressed concern with the iterations of the Delta Conveyance projects proposed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

An isolated delta conveyance, including the State's currently proposed Delta Conveyance Project, removes freshwater flow through the Delta that is needed to maintain the many beneficial uses of water within and near the Delta. The Delta is a significant economic, recreation, and agricultural resource that holds historical value to the City of Oakley and its culture. An isolated delta conveyance project will impact the Delta and its legacy communities without offsetting benefits, including, but not limited to, construction related impacts (traffic, road degradation, noise, water availability, and air quality) over an estimated 14-year construction period, as well as permanent land use and agricultural impacts, economic impacts, water quality impacts, biological impacts, and cultural and historical site impacts.

To ensure the health and sustainability of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, we oppose an isolated Delta conveyance in any form, including under the current title of the Delta Conveyance Project. We ask that you consider alternatives to this costly project, including a statewide water solution that includes water system operation improvements, increased regional self-reliance, adequate levee maintenance and improvements, increased water storage, water reuse and recycling, stormwater

capture, and restoration that includes good neighbor policies in the Delta. This is the only way to protect our Delta and avoid irreversible damage to our precious Delta.

The City of Oakley wholeheartedly supports the Delta Counties **Coalition's** (DCC) goals to protect and enhance Delta Communities, improve water quality and the Delta ecosystem, and provide a more reliable water supply for the state by reducing reliance on the Delta. We would be happy to partner with you in exploring paths forward in conjunction with DCC. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joshua McMurray
City Manager
City of Oakley

cc: Senator Steve Glazer, senator.glazer@senate.ca.gov
Assembly Member Lori Wilson, assemblymember.wilson@assembly.ca.gov
Natasha Drane, Delta Counties Coalition Coordinator, dranen@saccounty.gov
Sam Caygill, Cal Cities East Bay Division, scaygill@calcities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@calcities.org

RESOLUTION NO. 50-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKLEY IN SUPPORT OF ENSURING THE HEALTH AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast of the United States and includes major eastside tributaries that account for nearly half the snowmelt and runoff of the entire state. Located east of the San Francisco Bay and Suisun Marsh at the confluence of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers, the Delta stretches inland to encompass an area of over 730,000 acres with islands and tracts of rich fertile soil surrounded by miles of sloughs and winding channels protected by levees creating one of the country's most productive agricultural regions; and

WHEREAS, the Delta is also habitat for hundreds of plant and animal species providing crucial habitat for fish and wildlife. In addition, the Delta with its legacy Communities is a popular boating and recreation area, which supports a fishery for both recreational and commercial purposes. Eight percent of the State's commercial fishery species either live in or migrate through the Delta; and

WHEREAS, the Delta is also the hub of California's State and Federal water storage and delivery system with water exports made to agricultural and urban users in the Bay Area, Silicon Valley, San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and Southern California; two-thirds of California's rely on the Delta for some portion of their drinking water. Additionally, over 7 million acres of farmland in the San Joaquin Valley are irrigated in part by water conveyed through the Delta, contributing to California's multi-billion dollar agriculture industry which produces half the nation's fruits, nuts, and vegetables, and twenty percent of the nation's dairy products; and

WHEREAS, many people living in the California Delta depend on the Delta for drinking water; water for irrigation and livestock, industrial uses, and habitat, and recreation. The Delta is also essential to the shipment of goods from inland ports over highways and railways crisscrossing the Delta. The Delta also contains natural gas fields, electrical transmission and conveyance facilities; and

WHEREAS, the state has, among other things, proposed large-scale changes to the Delta's water conveyance system, water rights and water management statewide and many other aspects related to the Delta; and

WHEREAS, there are many parties making policy in and around the Delta including the State of California and United States Federal Government making the need for a local voice in the Delta essential; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) Counties and other local agencies in and around the Delta have raised significant concerns with large-scale isolated conveyance projects proposed by Federal and State entities that could have far reaching impacts to the Delta; and

WHEREAS, Large portions of the Delta Primary Zone and portions of the Delta Secondary Zone (per the Delta Protection Act) are located in and near the City of Oakley; and

WHEREAS, the Counties of Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo have joined together in a coalition, identified as the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC), to collectively articulate their mutual interests on issues concerning the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta from the perspective of the Delta region itself, from the people who call the Delta home and perhaps best understand the tremendous resources the Delta represents; and

WHEREAS, the DCC has identified a need for joint action and advocacy in various areas of mutual interest on Delta related issues; and

WHEREAS, since 2008 the Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) has given a strong local voice to the Delta pursuing three goals:

1. Protect and enhance Delta Communities
2. Improve water quality and Delta ecosystem
3. Provide a more reliable water supply for the state through reducing reliance on the Delta; and

WHEREAS, in pursuit of the three goals, the DCC and its partners advocate for a statewide water solution that includes water system operation improvements, increased

regional self-reliance, adequate levee maintenance and improvements, increase water storage, water reuse and recycling, stormwater capture, and restoration that includes good neighbor policies in the Delta; and

WHEREAS, The DCC has advocated for and advanced initiatives in pursuit of its goals including pursuing funding for commercial abandoned and derelict vessel removal, invasive species control, levee improvements, and water supply regional self-sufficiency all of which are seen as positive ways to spend limited resources; and

WHEREAS, The State of California has been pursuing an isolated Delta conveyance since the 1940s under many titles including the Peripheral Canal, Bay Delta Conservation Plan, California WaterFix, and Delta Conveyance; and

WHEREAS, an isolated delta conveyance (water conveyance that involves intakes on the Sacramento River and pipelines or canals to take that water to the South Delta or beyond), including the State's currently proposed Delta Conveyance Project, removes freshwater flow through the Delta that is needed to maintain the many beneficial uses of water within and near the Delta. Construction and operation of any isolated Delta conveyance project is not consistent with DCC principles; and

WHEREAS, an isolated Delta conveyance has potential adverse impacts on the Delta and its legacy communities, without offsetting benefits, including, but not limited to, construction related impacts (traffic, road degradation, noise, water availability, and air quality) over an estimated 14-year construction period, as well as permanent land use and agricultural impacts, economic impacts, water quality impacts, biological impacts and cultural and historical site impacts; and

WHEREAS, an isolated Delta conveyance has a high cost compared to other alternatives and will use many resources that could be better spent on other projects that would improve levees, increase water storage, water reuse and recycling and stormwater capture and other means to increase regional water self-sufficiency, among other possible projects. An isolated Delta conveyance would cause negative impacts to users within and north of the Delta, while benefiting only those water users outside the Delta by increasing export pumping capacity; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Oakley supports the DCC goals as stated herein. To ensure the health and sustainability of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, this includes opposing an isolated Delta conveyance in any form including under the current title of the Delta Conveyance Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Oakley supports the DCC position that the management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and greater Bay Delta Estuary must:

1. Protect and improve water quality and water quantity in the Delta region and maintain appropriate Delta outflow for a healthy estuary;
2. Protect the existing water right priority system and legislative protections established for the Delta;
3. Respect and safeguard Delta Counties' responsibilities related to land use, water resources, flood management, tax revenues, public health and safety, economic development, agricultural stability, recreation, and environmental protection in any projects, policies, or operations;
4. Represent and include local government in any governance structures for the Delta;
5. Protect, enhance, and preserve the Delta's agricultural economic viability, the ongoing vitality of its communities, and its historical significance;
6. Support rehabilitation, improvement, and maintenance of levees throughout;
7. Support the Delta pool concept, in which the common resource provides quality freshwater supply to all Delta users, requiring mutual responsibility to maintain, restore, and protect the common resource;
8. Support immediate improvements to through-Delta conveyance;
9. Require that any water conveyance plan for the Delta is aligned with these principles and supported by clearly demonstrated improvement to the entire state's water management;
10. Protect and restore the Delta ecosystem and provide for a healthy estuary in perpetuity by ensuring adequate water supply and quality, enhancing Delta fisheries, and managing or eradicating invasive species;
11. Include the study and implementation of storage options, sustainable groundwater management and conjunctive use, conservation, recycling, reuse, and regional self-sufficiency as part of an improved statewide flood management and water supply system, which will reduce reliance on the Delta as called for in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Reform Act of 2009;

12. Support conservation actions aligned with these principles and the habitat plans and programs of each Delta County.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 24th day of May 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: Fuller, Higgins, Meadows, Pope, Williams

NOES:

ABSTENTIONS:

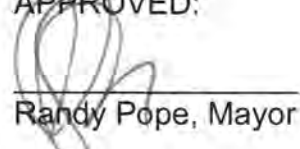
ABSENT:

ATTEST:



Libby Vreonis, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Randy Pope, Mayor

5/25/22

Date