



**NORTH DELTA WATER AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03**

**Resolution Commending Michael P. George for Dedicated and
Distinguished Service as Delta Watermaster**

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta (the Delta) is California's largest estuary for fish and waterfowl, a vital agricultural and recreational region, and the central hub of the State's water, transportation, and energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the California Legislature passed the Delta Reform Act, which established coequal goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California, and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem, in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place; and

WHEREAS, the Delta Reform Act created the role of Delta Watermaster, an independent officer of the State, to administer and enforce water rights within the Delta and Suisun Marsh, to oversee water quality and water operations in and affecting the Delta, and to advise the State Water Board and Delta Stewardship Council; and

WHEREAS, Michael P. George served as Delta Watermaster for two four-year terms from 2015 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Delta Watermaster, Mr. George brought a knowledgeable and nuanced perspective to Delta issues and advanced new approaches to enhance communication, outreach, and constituent assistance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George clarified standards for the State Water Board's evaluation of water diversion and use, and provided guidance on the bases of riparian and pre-1914 appropriative claims; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George built and led teams to address and overcome endemic challenges in the Delta such as water use measurement and reporting gaps, water use inefficiencies, and more frequent and extended droughts; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George improved the collection and use of Delta water data through technology and education, championed new tools like OpenET alternative monitoring, and consolidated diversion reporting periods; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George directed strategic and sensible enforcement of Delta water right cases, investigated complex complaints, and settled longstanding heritage actions; and

WHEREAS, in carrying out his duties, Mr. George was a tireless advocate for the Delta and a trusted ally to state and local coalitions, alike.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Board of Directors of the North Delta Water Agency does hereby publicly commend Mr. Michael P. George for his long and distinguished service and contributions to the unique values in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta estuary, and conveys its sincere best wishes in all his future endeavors.

CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I, _____, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the North Delta Water Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2023-03 adopted by the Board of Directors at its regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____ 2023, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Secretary