



## **NDWA Resolution 2017-01**

### **Regarding Update of the Delta Water Quality Control Plan Objectives**

WHEREAS, California is facing a defining moment in water policy that will be substantially impacted by the State Water Resources Control Board's (Water Board) approach to developing new water quality objectives under the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta WQCP); and

WHEREAS, the State Water Board has the responsibility for updating the Delta WQCP in a manner that establishes water quality objectives that ensure the reasonable protection of all beneficial uses of water in a way that is consistent with the State's coequal goals for the Delta and with respect to the commitments made in existing settlement agreements and area of origin and other water rights protections; and

WHEREAS, the Water Board staff's current proposal, which focuses singularly on an "unimpaired flow" approach that could negatively affect water supply reliability and lead to widespread fallowing of agricultural land and could conflict with existing water rights laws and water supply and quality settlement agreements; and

WHEREAS, "functional flows" and non-flow solutions based on timed and tailored flow objectives offer promising benefits to water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration from an economic, operational, legal, and scientific basis; and

WHEREAS, to be successful, the Delta flow policy must be consistent with the principles of collaboration, comprehensive solutions, science, functional flows, economic considerations, and consistency with existing water rights laws and water quality agreements; and

WHEREAS, California's local urban and agricultural water managers are united in their vision for a future that includes a vibrant California economy as well as healthy ecosystems and fish populations, and believe that vision is best achieved through a comprehensive, collaborative, and scientifically and economically justified approach that explores a comprehensive suite of creative and cooperative solutions that ensure the reasonable protection of all beneficial uses of water; and

WHEREAS, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Board of Directors has unanimously adopted a Bay-Delta Flow policy statement calling for the Water Board to set aside its “unimpaired flows” approach for a more flexible “functional flows” approach that can more effectively achieve Delta water quality and fishery objectives while maintaining water rights protections and water supply reliability through negotiated settlement agreements, which have been successful on many rivers and tributaries in California; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the North Delta Water Agency hereby encourages the Water Board to avoid exclusively relying on “unimpaired flows” as the mechanism to update the Delta Water Quality Control Plan, and instead include analysis of alternative operational measures that can achieve the same objectives through execution of voluntary settlement agreements with water right holders, entities with water supply and quality contracts with the State, and other beneficial users of water.

Passed by vote of the board on \_\_\_\_\_

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Steve Mello, Chairman