

RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS & INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles (City) with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal government body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta) – the hub of California’s water supply and a unique ecological resource that should be restored and sustained – is facing several major challenges, including ecosystem degradation, climate change, drought, and potential sea-level rise; and

WHEREAS, the City supported the 2009 Delta Legislative Package (Council File No. 09-002-S155), including Senate Bill (SB) X7-1 (Simitian), the 2009 Delta Reform Act, which established (1) the co-equal goals of restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem and providing a more reliable water supply to California, consistent with existing law including the California Endangered Species Act (2) state policy to reduce reliance on the Delta in meeting California's future water supply needs through a statewide strategy of investing in improved regional supplies, conservation, and water use efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the California Water Fix is proposed to build new water supply infrastructure in the Delta, to make water supplies more seismically reliable, while continuing to meet state and federal environmental laws; and

WHEREAS, any legislation that repeals environmental protections for the Bay-Delta and its native fisheries, including protections for salmon and other native fisheries under the Endangered Species Act, is inconsistent with state law, including the co-equal goals of the Delta Reform Act, undermines the political feasibility and foundational requirements for the California Water Fix, and is inconsistent with City policy; and

WHEREAS, California’s fourth year of drought, not state or federal environmental laws, is the cause of low water supplies across the state, and the drought has affected farms, cities, and fish and wildlife.

WHEREAS, H. R. 2898, introduced by Representative Valadao and others in Congress on June 25, 2015, proposes to significantly undermine state and federal environmental protections for the Delta and endangered species in the Delta, as well as repealing the San Joaquin River settlement and preempting state law; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 2898 has the potential to reduce water supplies from the State Water Project and lead to significant litigation over water project operations; and

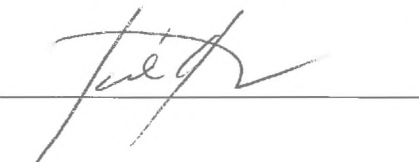
WHEREAS, Congressional legislation introduced in recent years that is similar to H.R. 2898, such as H.R. 1837 of 2012, has been opposed by the State of California, Senator Feinstein and Senator Boxer, the majority of the State’s House delegation, the Metropolitan Water District Board, sport and commercial fishing organizations, conservation groups, farmers, water districts, Tribes, and numerous other stakeholders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 Federal Legislative Program OPPOSITION to H.R. 2898 (Valadao) and similar legislation that would override or weaken environmental protections for the Delta and its native fisheries, including existing biological opinions under the federal Endangered Species Act.

PRESENTED BY:

  
PAUL KORETZ  
Councilmember, 5<sup>th</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



JUN 26 2015



ORIGINAL