



RESOLUTION 2009-144

ADOPT A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO CALIFORNIA, REQUESTING RELIEF FROM DROUGHT AND REGULATORY DECISIONS SEVERELY REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF FEDERAL WATER SUPPLY DELIVERIES TO FRESNO COUNTY AGRICULTURE.

WHEREAS access to adequate, reliable and affordable supplies of high-quality water is the most vital and fundamental need of all Californians and the many communities in which they live; and

WHEREAS, the water supplies upon which millions of Californians depend are at risk because of new regulations from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service that have been imposed in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay-Delta Estuary (Delta) for the purpose of endangered species protection and that aggravating existing water shortages caused by other environmental protection demands and mandates and by the effects of drought; and

WHEREAS, curtailments in water supplies result in decreased economic activity, losses in employment, community and family hardships; and

WHEREAS, farmers on the West side of the San Joaquin Valley including large portions of Fresno County are operating under severe and unprecedented water supply shortages due to drought and Delta related regulatory action; and

Adopted 6/25/09
Approved 6/25/09
Effective 6/25/09

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WHEREAS, said water supply shortages have created severe economic crises and great hardship for families and communities throughout Fresno County; and

WHEREAS, water districts on the West side of Fresno County have been allocated only 10% of their Federal Central Valley Water (CVP) supply for 2009, resulting in the fallowing of over 250,000 acres of prime agricultural land in Fresno County; and

WHEREAS, the East Side of Fresno County including the City of Fresno, is likewise vulnerable to Delta-driven water cutbacks from the Friant Unit of the CVP; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that one out of every five jobs in Fresno County is related to agriculture; and

WHEREAS, agricultural production in Fresno County when water supplies are more readily available in most years exceeds \$5.3 billion dollars per year in direct revenue and generates for local economies \$3.50 for each dollar in direct receipts; and

WHEREAS, the majority of local agriculturally derived revenue directly benefits the economy of the City of Fresno; and



WHEREAS, the State's severe economic downturn and water shortages have disproportionately and painfully impacted the following communities in Fresno County as evidenced by unemployment rates that are many times higher than those experienced in other parts of the state and the nation:

Mendota- 38.8%, Huron- 35.5%, San Joaquin- 34.9%, Firebaugh- 26.1%,
Kerman- 19.4%, City of Fresno- 14.5%, County of Fresno- 15.4% overall; and

WHEREAS the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service have constrained State and Federal pumping in the Delta and thereby severely reduced water deliveries to the rest of California in the belief that restrictions on pumping will protect endangered Salmon, Delta Smelt and other native species in the Delta; and

WHEREAS, the primary threat to native species in the Delta, based upon current scientific evidence, is not the operation of State and Federal pumping facilities, but rather the collapse of food sources on which threatened species depend, due to unscreened water diversions, invasive species, toxic discharges to numerous waters and other factors that have been occurring in the Delta for an extended period of time; and

WHEREAS, water deliveries have been reduced by more than one million acre feet over the past two years without any demonstrable benefit to any endangered species; and



WHEREAS, reduced Delta water deliveries from State and Federal water projects to Fresno County and the State will continue to sharply retard any economic recovery, especially in the San Joaquin Valley.

WHEREAS, without regulatory and/or legislative relief, water supply shortages impacting Fresno County and the entire State will have lasting and possibly irreversible impacts; and

WHEREAS, farmers, farm workers, business owners, their families and entire communities desperately need and deserve relief from the hardships and uncertainties caused by continuing water shortages.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City of Fresno as follows:

The Mayor and the Council acknowledge and support the Governor of California's declaration of a State of Emergency in February and declaring a major disaster for Fresno County on June 19, 2009, due to drought conditions.

The Mayor and Council acknowledge and support the Governor's request to the President of the United States requesting the President to declare a major disaster for Fresno County, due to drought conditions and call upon the President to do so;



Furthermore, the Mayor and Council authorize and directs that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Governor and Legislators of the State of California demanding:

- (i) regulatory and legislative relief from Delta pumping restrictions and reduced water supply deliveries; and
- (ii) that the Governor and Members of the California Legislature immediately develop, authorize and seek voter approval of a Comprehensive Water Plan to solve current water supply and related problems while meeting the needs of the future. At a minimum the Water Plan should include, creation of new water conveyance facilities to protect the environment and restore water supply reliability south of the Delta; creation of new and expanded groundwater storage facilities; and development of new above-ground reservoirs such as Sites and Temperance Flat; and
- (iii) that the State of California shall implement the proposed two-gates fish protection project; and
- (iv) any and all State and Federal assistance which may be available to provide relief to those impacted by water shortage and related unemployment; and

The Mayor and Council further authorize and directs the City Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to all Federal legislators representing California, requesting:



- (i) relief from all discretionary water delivery restrictions, and
- (ii) fiscal relief from economic impacts attributable to federally induced water supply shortages; and
- (iii) request the re-evaluation of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) biological opinion; and

The Mayor and Council further authorize and directs that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture demanding immediate relief from all discretionary water delivery reductions and compliance with the recent federal court decision stipulating conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act prior to the exercise of any discretionary water delivery reductions.



CLERK'S CERTIFICAITON

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
COUNTY OF FRESNO } ss.
City of Fresno }

I, REBECCA E. KLISCH, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, California, at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 25th Day of June, 2009.

AYES: Borgeas, Brand, Dages, Perea, Westerlund, Xiong, Sterling
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

Mayor Approval: _____ N/A _____, 2009
Mayor Approval/No Return: _____ N/A _____, 2009
Mayor Veto: _____ N/A _____, 2009
Council Override Veto: _____ N/A _____, 2009

REBECCA E. KLISCH
City Clerk



Deputy