

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF FRESNO
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF SUPPORT OF AN EMERGENCY)
TEMPORARY WATER SUPPLY AMENDMENT TO BE)
PROPOSED BY UNITED STATES SENATOR DIANNE)
FEINSTEIN)

RESOLUTION NO 10-0

WHEREAS, federal restrictions on water pumping from the Delta have led to dire economic and social circumstances in California's Central Valley, a situation recently described by a United States District Court as "catastrophic" for farms, businesses, cities, and counties that depend on water delivered by the Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project; and

WHEREAS, the lack of water for our agricultural industry has resulted in record unemployment and bankruptcies far in excess of the state and national levels; and

WHEREAS, the economic decline of the Central Valley has already impacted the local economies, agriculture exports, and the state's fiscal situation, and people locally and statewide whose livelihood depends on a vibrant agricultural industry have seen their jobs disappear and their small businesses stretched to the limit and beyond; and

WHEREAS, natural drought conditions have contributed to these curtailments but the most severe and significant supply reductions have been caused as a result of court-ordered mandates under the Endangered Species Act directed at achieving protection for the Delta Smelt, Chinook Salmon and Steelhead; and

WHEREAS, even more restrictive pumping restrictions this year are promising to deepen and worsen the crisis, not only within the San Joaquin Valley but in other parts of the state, including its major urban areas, despite an increase this year in natural storm activity and precipitation; and

WHEREAS, these restrictions prevent California from capturing and storing hundreds of thousands of acre feet of fresh water that are desperately needed by our cities and residents; and

WHEREAS, Senator Dianne Feinstein has proposed the Emergency Water Supply Amendment for consideration by the Congress of the United States, that would temporarily ease compliance restrictions with the Endangered Species Act without threatening said Endangered Species Act's integrity or intent, in order to make available increased minimal supplies of water pumped and exported from the Delta for contractors and water users in impacted regions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors does hereby concur in and support the Emergency Water Supply Amendment proposed by Senator Feinstein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fresno County Board of Supervisors does hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to provide such emergency relief to the affected water users of the State of California.

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Adopted by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors this 23rd day of February 2010, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Supervisors
NOES: None
Absent: None

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:
BERNICE E. SEIDEL, Clerk
Board of Supervisors

By _____
Deputy