

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # B-6

Urgent

Routine

CEO Concur with Recommendation YES NO

(Information Attached)

AGENDA DATE March 19, 2013

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Adopt a Resolution Opposing the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document that Supports Potential Changes to the Bay-Delta Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve a resolution opposing the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document that supports potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Implementation of proposed changes to the State Water Board proposed river flows could create a significant financial hardship to the agricultural economy of Stanislaus County.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2013-117

On motion of Supervisor De Martini, Seconded by Supervisor Withrow

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withrow, De Martini and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Monteith

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST:


ELIZABETH A. KING, Assistant Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

The California State Water Resources Control Board is updating its water quality control plan for the Bay-Delta. As part of that plan, the State Water Board is proposing increased flows of water down the Merced, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne rivers to benefit downstream wildlife and habitat in the San Joaquin River and San Francisco Bay-Delta. The San Joaquin Tributaries Authority, whose members include Modesto Irrigation District, Turlock Irrigation District, Oakdale Irrigation District, Merced Irrigation District, the City and County of San Francisco, and the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, request the Board of Supervisors to consider adopting a resolution opposing the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) that proposes to require the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers to release 35 percent of unimpaired flow from February to June of each year.

The agricultural economy of Stanislaus County is dependent on a stable and available water supply. As Stanislaus County continues to suffer from high unemployment and a slow recovery from the economic downturn, protecting the agricultural economy is vitally important.

The proposed requirement will divert critically needed water from valley farmers and create significant and unavoidable impacts to the economy, agriculture, and ground water basins in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced Counties. The San Joaquin Tributaries Authority requests the Board to consider a resolution opposing the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document that supports potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan.

POLICY ISSUES:

This action supports the Board's priority of a Strong Local Economy and a Strong Agricultural Economy/Heritage.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.

CONTACT:

Monica Nino, Chief Executive Officer (209) 525-6333.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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and approved by the following vote,

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Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Monteith

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

Item # B-6

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

**RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE CALIFORNIA STATE WATER RESOURCES BOARD'S DRAFT
SUBSTITUTE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT THAT SUPPORTS POTENTIAL CHANGES TO
THE BAY-DELTA PLAN**

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document (SED) proposes to require the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers release 35 percent of unimpaired flow from February to June each year; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will create "significant and unavoidable" impacts to the economy, agriculture, and groundwater basins in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced Counties; and

WHEREAS, those impacts include approximately \$69 million in economic impacts in an economically distressed region of our state, including \$23.5 million to Merced Irrigation District, \$30 million to Turlock Irrigation District, and \$15.5 million to Modesto Irrigation District each year; and

WHEREAS, the impacts result in a loss of \$4.5 million in energy revenue every year including \$1.5 million to each of the Merced, Turlock, and Modesto Irrigation Districts; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement would fallow approximately 128,295 acres of prime farm land and result in the loss of over 800 family farms in the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will result in over-drafted groundwater basins; and

WHEREAS, approximately 460 jobs will be permanently lost including 160 in Merced Irrigation District, 200 in Turlock Irrigation District, and 100 in Modesto Irrigation District; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will not benefit native fish populations or promote ecosystem restoration; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement ignores non-flow alternatives that are less costly and more effective; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement compromises attaining the dual goals of ecosystem restoration and water supply reliability under SB7x-7.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the State Water Resources Control Board should pursue a comprehensive solution that is consistent with the timing of the overall comprehensive Delta planning process and which takes into account the potential impact on hydroelectric energy generation. This solution must prioritize non-flow measures to protect native fish species, such as predation reduction programs, before demanding flow increases that would threaten the economic vitality of these California counties, cities, and small family farms.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors hereby supports the efforts of the San Joaquin Tributaries Authority by opposing the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Substitute Environmental Document that supports potential changes to the Bay-Delta Plan

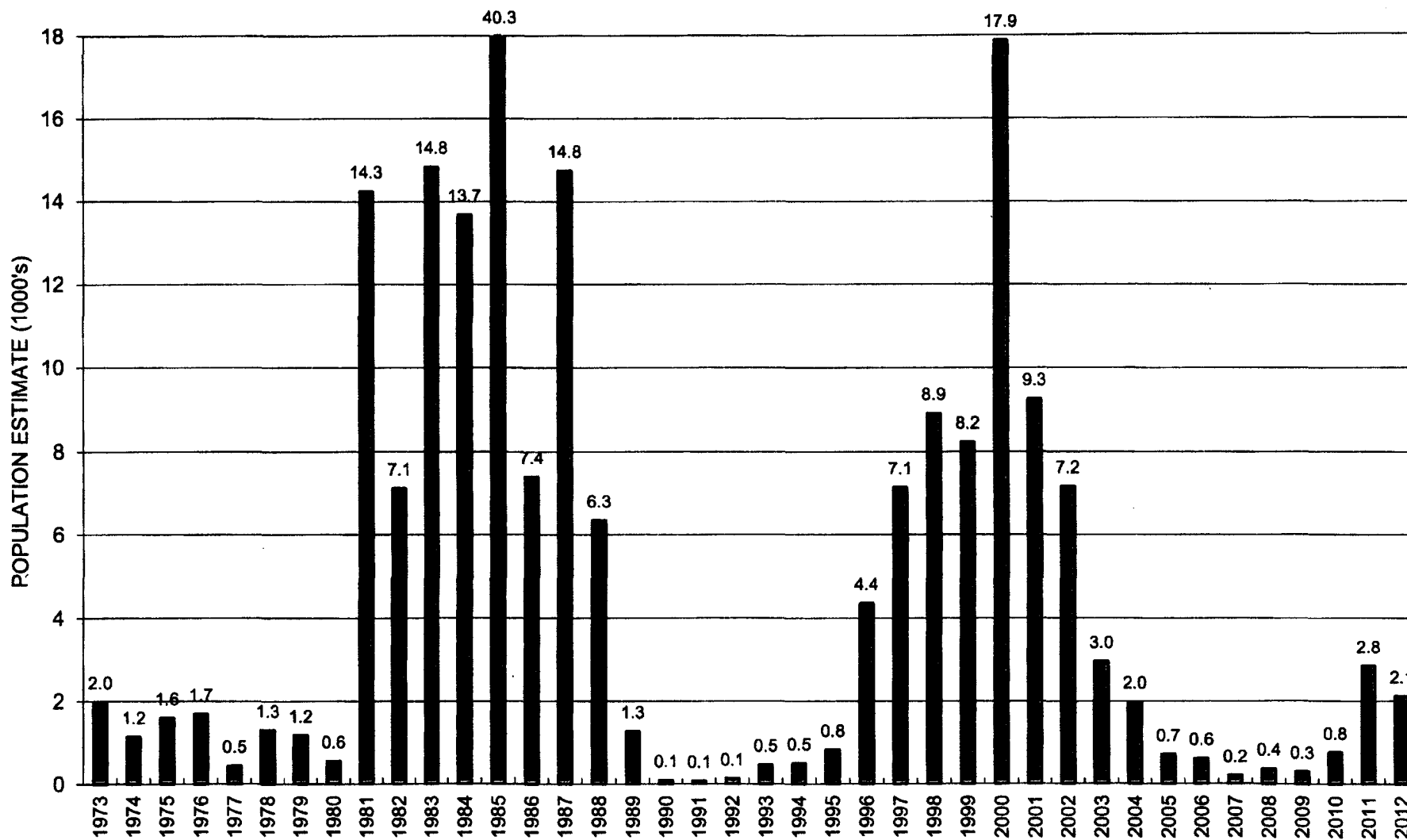
ATTEST: **ELIZABETH A. KING, Assistant Clerk**
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California



File No.

Net Allocation of Minimum Flow Req.				
TID, MID and CCSF Breakout				
	Total	TID	MID	CCSF
1972	245,264	167,908	77,356	0
1973	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
1974	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
1975	165,352	113,200	52,152	0
1976	94,766	64,876	29,889	0
1977	239,337	163,850	75,487	0
1978	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
1979	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
1980	190,095	130,139	59,956	0
1981	253,330	173,430	79,900	0
1982	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
1983	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
1984	193,960	132,785	61,175	0
1985	247,179	169,219	77,960	0
1986	169,544	116,070	53,474	0
1987	98,957	67,746	31,211	0
1988	109,420	74,909	34,511	0
1989	109,420	74,909	34,511	0
1990	109,302	74,828	34,474	0
1991	109,915	75,248	34,667	0
1992	239,949	164,269	75,680	0
1993	178,519	122,214	56,305	0
1994	242,229	165,830	76,399	0
1995	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
1996	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
1997	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
1998	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
1999	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
2000	187,934	128,660	59,275	0
2001	132,363	90,616	41,747	0
2002	171,169	117,182	53,987	0
2003	152,947	104,707	48,239	0
2004	241,616	165,410	76,206	0
2005	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
2006	171,139	117,161	53,977	0
2007	123,699	84,684	39,015	0
2008	155,116	106,193	48,924	0
2009	252,329	172,744	79,584	0
2010	300,923	206,012	94,911	0
2011	188,125	128,790	59,334	0
Average since 1997	218,737	149,747	68,990	0

TUOLUMNE RIVER SALMON RUN
(Estimates/Counts)



Years 2009-2012 are based on counting weir results. All previous years from CDFG surveys. Survey periods may vary over the years for both methods.

The issue

- State Water Board proposing Merced, Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers dedicate 35 percent of unimpaired flow Feb. through June annually for fish and wildlife.
- Proposal ignores MID, TID senior water rights, lacks scientific evidence and disregards the welfare of people in the Valley.

The impacts

- 210,000 acres of farmland fallowed in dry years. Ag sector income loss could total \$187 million/year in dry years.**
- Job losses to exceed 1,200 in dry years.**
- ** Source – SWRCB