



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 12/17/2024

File #: 25-45

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Steve Madrone

Agenda Section: Consent

Vote Requirement: Majority

SUBJECT:

Comment Letter on Draft Potential Updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Chair of the Board to sign the attached comment letter (Attachment 1) for submittal by Public Works to the State Water Resources Control Board.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Not applicable

DISCUSSION:

The State Water Resources Control Board is considering potential updates to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed (Bay-Delta Plan). A notice of opportunity for public comment and background information on the draft potential updates has been released (Attachment 2).

The Bay-Delta watershed encompasses the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, numerous tributaries and the estuary interface with San Francisco Bay. Humboldt County's interest in the Bay-Delta Plan involves the concern that measures to protect beneficial uses and achieve water quality objectives within the Bay-Delta watershed could come at the expense of increasing water imports from the Trinity River, which flows through Humboldt County for approximately 31 river miles. The Bureau of Reclamation diverts nearly half the stored water in Trinity Reservoir to the Sacramento River. Humboldt County has a 1959 contract for releases of water from Trinity Reservoir into the Trinity River. Public Works recently completed a water management plan to utilize the county's contract water to help restore natural processes and fisheries habitat and improve water quality within the Trinity River. The comment letter (Attachment 1) requests for the State Water Board to incorporate measures into the Bay-Delta Plan that would ensure protections for the Trinity River and Humboldt County's contract water.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Not applicable.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports the following areas of your Board's Strategic Framework.

Core Roles: Provide for and maintain infrastructure

New Initiatives: Advance local interests in natural resource discussions

Strategic Plan: 2.4 - Foster healthy forests, wildlife, and watersheds, thereby creating healthy fish population, through responsible management of our forest lands and watersheds

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

State Water Resources Control Board, Bureau of Reclamation

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board discretion

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Board of Supervisors Comment Letter
2. Notice of Opportunity for Public Comment on Draft Updates of the Bay-Delta Plan

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: N/A

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A