

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDED PLANNING AGREEMENT TO UNDERTAKE FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A POTENTIAL LICENSING PROPOSAL FOR THE POTTER VALLEY PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Potter Valley Project, located on the main stem of the Eel River in Mendocino County, generates hydroelectric power and through its operation serves as an inter-basin transfer of water from the Eel River basin to the Russian River basin; and

WHEREAS, the main stem of the Eel River flows through Humboldt County for approximately eighty-one (81) river miles before discharging into the Pacific Ocean; and

WHEREAS, the Potter Valley Project affects environmental quality, ecosystem services, native anadromous fisheries, and beneficial uses of water in both the Eel and Russian River basins; and

WHEREAS, Pacific Gas and Electric’s (“PG&E”) hydropower license for the Potter Valley Project expires on April 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2017, PG&E filed a Pre-Application Document and Notice of Intent to file a new license application for the Potter Valley Project; and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter, Congressman Jared Huffman convened the Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee to work toward a Two-Basin Solution that protects fisheries and water supply in both the Eel and Russian River basins; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2019, PG&E announced that it would discontinue efforts toward relicensing the Potter Valley Project; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2019, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a Notice Soliciting Applications from any entity interested in filing a new license application for the Potter Valley Project; and

WHEREAS, entities interested in obtaining a license to operate the Potter Valley Project must file a notice of intent to submit a new license application, a pre-application document and a proposal to complete the pre-filing stages of the licensing proceeding, which includes a proposed study plan, by July 1, 2019, and a final license application by April 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, California Trout, Inc., Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission and Sonoma County Water Agency have agreed to work together to study the feasibility of forming a regional entity to develop a potential licensing proposal for the Potter Valley Project that will advance the goals and principles of the Two-Basin Solution proposed by the Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee; and

WHEREAS, California Trout, Inc., Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, and Sonoma County Water Agency have expressed a desire to enter into an “Amended Planning Agreement to Undertake Feasibility Study of a Potential Licensing Proposal for the Potter Valley Project” (“Amended Planning Agreement”) with the County of Humboldt in order to advance the goals and principles of the Two-Basin Solution proposed by the Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of June 4, 2019

NOW, THEREFORE, THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. The County of Humboldt hereby affirms its support of the collaborative effort to solve the regional issues and concerns associated with the Potter Valley Project.
2. The County of Humboldt hereby acknowledges that consideration of Russian River water users' interests will be essential to achieving the goals and principles of the Two-Basin Solution proposed by the Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee.
3. The County of Humboldt hereby commits to work together with California Trout, Inc., Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, Sonoma County Water Agency and other stakeholders to study the feasibility of forming a regional entity and developing a potential licensing proposal for the Potter Valley Project to advance the following shared objectives:
 - Minimizing or avoiding adverse impacts to water supply reliability, fisheries, water quality and recreation in both the Eel River and Russian River basins;
 - Improving fish passage and habitat on the Eel River sufficient to support recovery of naturally reproducing, self-sustaining and harvestable native anadromous fish populations, including, without limitation, migratory access upstream and downstream at current project dam locations;
 - Ensuring reliance on best available science and engineering analyses as the basis for evaluating options for restoration, water delivery and hydroelectric generation pursuant to a new license;
 - Ensuring active participation of tribes and other stakeholders who are willing to support the goals and principles of the Two-Basin Solution proposed by the Potter Valley Project Ad Hoc Committee;
 - Protecting tribal cultural, economic, and other interests in both the Eel River and Russian River basins;
 - Protecting the economic welfare of both the Eel River and Russian River basins;
 - Ensuring continued hydroelectric generation; and
 - Ensuring collaboration on funding.
4. The County of Humboldt hereby affirms its intent to enter into the Amended Planning Agreement with the understanding that the parties will consider a wide range of options to effect the Two Basin Solution, including, without limitation, options that involve refurbishing the facilities of the Potter Valley Project for the purpose of continued operations. In undertaking the feasibility study, the parties will consider all options that advance the interests of the parties, are based on good science and engineering and are fiscally feasible and sustainable over the long-term.

Dated: June 4, 2019

Rex Bohn, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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Adopted on motion by Supervisor _____, seconded by Supervisor _____ and the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Humboldt

I, KATHY HAYES, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of the original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California as the same now appears of record in my office.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Board of Supervisors.

KATHY HAYES
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Humboldt, State of California