

**California Board of Food and Agriculture
Resolution Supporting Water Infrastructure Bonds as
Part of the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan**

Whereas on February 21, 2006, and February 22, 2006, the California Board of Food and Agriculture conducted field visits to study the conditions of the San Joaquin Delta and the infrastructure that conveys water for the benefit of agriculture, the environment and urban areas, and

Whereas on February 22, 2006, the California Board of Food and Agriculture conducted a roundtable discussion with 24 stakeholders, local leaders, and elected officials in Los Baños, California, and

Whereas the roundtable included a presentation from Mr. Crawford Tuttle, Deputy Resources Secretary for External Affairs on the subject of the Governor's infrastructure initiative as it pertains to the State Water Plan and efforts to manage the San Francisco/San Joaquin Bay-Delta through the CALFED Authority and other policy components, and

Whereas the Governor's Infrastructure plan includes as a key element an investment of roughly \$35 billion over the next ten years responding to population growth and need for a sustained investment strategy, including \$9 billion in a general obligation bond for water that will harness \$21 billion in expected federal matching funds and local contributions to revitalize deteriorating levees, improve storage, encourage water conservation and improve water quality, and

Whereas recent negotiations between the legislature and the Governor failed to place a general obligation bond for water infrastructure on the June 2006 statewide ballot for consideration by the voters, and

Whereas California remains vulnerable to unstable levees in the San Joaquin Delta threatening failure of the state's principle water delivery system potentially creating casualties of life and property while impacting food production as well as the health and safety of 20 million Californians, and

Whereas roundtable participants in Los Baños cited examples demonstrating that the current configuration of state planning for water resources is unsustainable because a clear point of accountability is lacking and strategic water storage proposals are being minimized as a priority if not altogether ignored, and

Whereas roundtable participants illustrated how regional and state water quality, wildlife protection, recreation and water supply agencies operate in a manner that is uncoordinated thus complicating consensus and agreement on cost effective and meaningful solutions to the Bay-Delta in coordination with a State water plan, and

Whereas roundtable participants pointed to solutions to the Bay-Delta that are meaningful to the State water plan in a manner that not only define multiple benefits but quantify value for water supply entities, dischargers, and wildlife conservation, and

Whereas roundtable participants provided elements for a new strategy that have been deliberated and discussed by the Board of Food and Agriculture to advise the Governor through various panels and boards that deliberate water supply, water quality and wildlife conservation,

Where as the Department of Food and Agriculture will serve as the signatory, the Secretary of Agriculture shall continue to be at the table as these policies are developed.

Therefore the California Board of Food and Agriculture presents strategic recommendations for addressing issues affecting the Bay-Delta and the State Water Plan:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE STATE BOARD OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE supports the Governor's bold vision contained in his Strategic Growth Plan and in the Department's California Water Plan and urges the Governor and the Legislature to assure that new infrastructure for water supplies and flood protection is a central part of the Strategic Growth Plan as it is further developed and implemented.

Be it further resolved that the Governor exercise his emergency powers in the use of any bonds enacted by the voters to fix the levee system through strategies involving surface storage addressing flood control, environmental protections, and the protection of life and property, and

Be it further resolved that the Governor and Legislature need to consider the Delta first in order to develop a new approach to watershed planning that will be based on the cost/benefit analysis that converges the economics of water suppliers and dischargers. This may provide for larger local contributions without requiring the assessment of new fees by the state; permit local entities to constructively coordinate capital improvements to benefit whole watersheds with local water quality goals.

Be it further resolved that the Board urges the Governor and the Legislature to include the following elements in any legislation or policies that further refine or implement the Strategic Growth Plan or the California Water Plan.

- Flood Protection and the related infrastructure to protect public safety and property.
- Integrated Regional Water Planning that empowers regional and local entities to improve water supplies and water quality for the diverse needs within a region.
- Delta conveyance through an enclosed system, open canal or levee network that will serve as a long-term solution to improve water supplies and water quality in water quality and fisheries in the Delta. This strategy would provide relief to

Delta dischargers who are currently being forced to treat water to higher standards than when the water was first received; steady flows through the Delta benefiting fisheries and wildlife; while providing water supply beneficiaries including metropolitan areas in or near the Delta a higher quality of water relatively immune from failure of the Delta levee system.

- Surface storage and the related infrastructure necessary to support growing population, drought management, the unknown consequences of global warming, flood control, water quality management, and to meet the various water needs in California for farms, cities, wildlife refuges and fisheries. Storage projects are critical bridges that can help preserve food production, wildlife habitat, public health and safety as the Delta is stabilized that can be addressed in the following order of priority:
 - A) Federal and State funding for expansion of existing storage facilities, such as Sites and Temperance Flat reservoirs, to better deal with flood and drought management.
 - B) Construction of new storage facilities of strategic value to the state financed by local sponsors, and
 - C) Set the stage for local priorities and long-term financing
- Evaluation of Delta levees and islands first for potential wetlands recovery opportunities with wildlife benefits while securing levee and island structures critical for the protection of lives and farming property with strategic value.

Be it further resolved that the Board is very concerned with the deluge of taxes and fees that have recently been targeted at agriculture and the rural communities in California. The Board is opposed to volumetric fees on water as they would be devastating to the strategic capacity of agriculture to provide food and fiber, jeopardize the attendant environment and working landscapes and rural communities throughout California, and are likely to undermine the success of the Strategic Growth Plan. The Board urges the Governor to make it clear to the People in California that he will not support any fee that does not provide direct and recognizable benefits to those paying the fee, and that he will oppose any diversion or user fees based on the volume of water used.

Be it further resolved that the California Board of Food and Agriculture empowers its President or board member representatives he designates to outline these strategic components at any forum provided by the Governor which allows input with respect to the State Water Plan, CALFED, Water quality, Delta Land Conservation etc.

Subscribed
Helen Lopez, Executive Director

Approved May 10, 2006