



Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee

TO: Board of Harbor Commissioners

FROM: Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee- Commissioners Reyring & Mattusch

DATE: March 17, 2021

SUBJECT: Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee Report

Topic:

Water Quality Committee Update, Guest Speaker Presentation on the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan (BDWQCP) and Full Board Consideration to support the BDWQCP Updates via Resolution

Recommendation/Motion:

Committee Recommendation: Receive update from the Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee, receive PPT presentation from Peter Drekmeier, Policy Director of Tuolumne River Trust, and consider below Motion to support the BDWQCP updates via Resolution.

Motion: Approve Resolution No. 21-05 supporting the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan updates.

Policy Implications:

It is consistent with the District's policies to support efforts related to environmental responsible stewardship of its maritime resources including our local commercial fishing industry.

Background/Discussion:

The Board President appointed Commissioners Reyring and Mattusch to serve on the Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee. Committee purview may include discussion or advocacy related to:

- realistic and attainable goals to address water quality challenges within District controlled waters;

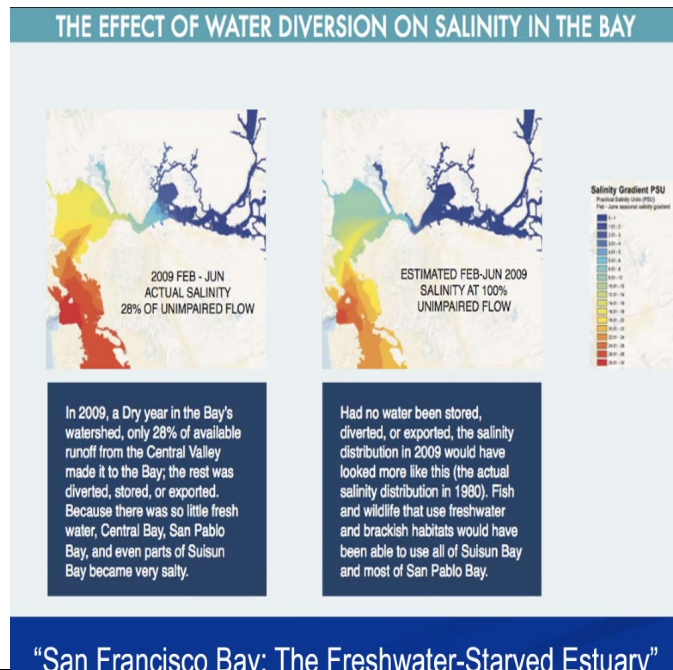
- examining what the District may do to further safe water quality standards and better understand potential causes of water contamination that may be a result of District supported activities;
- supporting efforts related to environmentally responsible stewardship of its maritime resources including our local commercial fishing industry;
- working collaboratively with other local agencies to reduce occurrences of beach postings and other water quality concerns.

The Committee met on March 10, 2021 and recommends the full Board receive a presentation from Peter Drekmeier, Policy Director of Tuolumne River Trust, on the critical benefits to local commercial and recreational fishers of the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan (BDWQCP) update. The BDWQCP was created as a requirement of the Clean Water Act, but has not been updated in decades.

The Delta supports over 500 species of native fish, including salmon, steelhead and sturgeon, which rely on this migratory route to reproduce in fresh water. Regretfully, the current use and control of Delta fed waters has led to crisis conditions for many species including endangering six native fish species and causing a precipitous decline in numbers of many others.

District commercial and recreational fishers, as well as the large number of fish consumers that frequent District facilities, rely on a healthy fish population. Therefore, it is very important to the District to do all it can to support a healthy Delta eco-system.

The proposed BDWQCP updates will assist in re-creating a healthy, thriving fish population for decades to come.



“San Francisco Bay: The Freshwater-Starved Estuary”

Summary/Recommendation:

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Motion: Approve Resolution No. 21-05 supporting the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan updates.

Attachments:

1. [Bay Delta WQC Plan PPT Presentation](#)
2. [Resolution No. 21-05](#)