

CITY OF HUGHSON
CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION NO. 2013-09



**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUGHSON OPPOSING
THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD'S PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE
THE RELEASE OF 35% OF UNIMPAIRED FLOWS ON THE STANISLAUS,
TUOLUMNE, AND MERCED RIVERS**

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board's Draft Environmental Document 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 requirements 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 could fallow approximately 128,295 acres of prime farmland and result in the loss of over 800 family farms in the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed requirement will result in over-drafting 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 necessarily 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.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Hughson does hereby proclaim that the State Water Resources Control Board should pursue a comprehensive solution that is consistent with the timing of the overall comprehensive Bay-Delta planning process and which takes into account the potential impact on hydroelectric energy generation. This solution should 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.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Hughson City Council at a regular meeting thereof held on March 11, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: SILVA, CARR, HILL, YOUNG, and Mayor BEEKMAN

NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

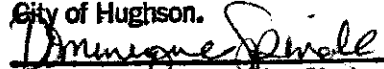

MATT BEEKMAN, Mayor

ATTEST:


DOMINIQUE SPINALE, Deputy City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original document on file in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Hughson.


City Clerk

Dated: 3/13/13 Page 2 of 2