



RESOLUTION NO. 197
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
LOS TRANCOS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
**IN SUPPORT OF WATER CONSERVATION, EFFICIENCY AND RECYCLING
RATHER THAN INCREASING DIVERSIONS FROM THE TUOLUMNE RIVER**

WHEREAS, the Los Trancos County Water District is served by the California Water Service Company, which purchases water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC); and

WHEREAS, 85% of SFPUC water comes from the Tuolumne River and is transported to the Bay Area through the Hetch Hetchy water system; and

WHEREAS, the SFPUC is overseeing a \$4.3 billion Water System Improvement Program (WSIP) aimed at upgrading and seismically retrofitting the aging Hetch Hetchy water system to ensure it can withstand a major earthquake; and

WHEREAS, these seismic upgrades are critical to the health and safety of 2.4 million people in the San Francisco Bay Area who depend on the Tuolumne River for water; and

WHEREAS, the WSIP includes a proposal to divert up to 25 million more gallons of water per day from the Tuolumne River to meet projected water demands for the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Fish and Game has stated that additional diversions from the Tuolumne River would harm Chinook salmon and steelhead trout (a federally-listed “threatened” species), and in its comments on the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report stated, “we respectfully request that the SFPUC use alternative water sources other than the Tuolumne river system or implement water conservation measures to meet drought year demands and 2030 purchase requests;” and

WHEREAS, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors has threatened to sue the SFPUC over its plans to divert more water from the Tuolumne River; and

WHEREAS, sound public policy decisions should be made based on their specific merits and not coupled to unrelated policy decisions; and

WHEREAS, the seismic upgrades to the Hetch Hetchy water system could get delayed by the controversial plan to divert more water from the Tuolumne; and

WHEREAS, the final PEIR will contain an option that would cap the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) water allowance at the current 184 mgd until 2018 and thereby allow the seismic upgrades to be undertaken in a timely fashion; and

WHEREAS, deferring the decision concerning additional diversions for ten years will allow more refined analysis of future water demand based on improved water conservation, efficiency and recycling efforts, and completion of studies on the impact of additional diversions on fish populations, and

WHEREAS, the Los Trancos County Water District has a long and on-going history of promoting water use efficiency, water conservation and provision of rebates for such programs;

Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Los Trancos County Water District strongly encourages the SFPUC to focus its full attention on the seismic upgrades to the Hetch Hetchy water system and drop the controversial proposal to divert more water from the Tuolumne River; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Los Trancos County Water District strongly encourages the SFPUC to adopt the WSIP option that would cap BAWSCA's water allowance at the current levels, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Los Trancos County Water District strongly encourages the California Water Service Company to pursue aggressive programs in water conservation, efficiency and recycling to meet future water demands from its customers, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Los Trancos County Water District will support and supplement the programs of the California Water Service Company, and will continue to pursue additional innovative educational, water conservation and water use efficiency programs.

REGULARY PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2008

Charles Krenz, Board President

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board