

South San Francisco Water Conservation Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. 75-2008

CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WATER CONSERVATION,
EFFICIENCY AND RECYCLING RATHER THAN
INCREASING DIVERSIONS FROM THE TUOLUMNE RIVER

WHEREAS, the City of South San Francisco receives its water from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC); and

WHEREAS, the Governor has declared a state of drought; 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 California Department of Fish and Game warns that greater water diversions from the Tuolumne River would further harm Chinook salmon and steelhead trout (a federally-listed "threatened" species), and in its components on the Draft Program Environmental impact Report stated, "we respectfully request that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission 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, 18,000 salmon spawned in the Tuolumne River in 2000, but only 200 returned in 2007, supporting the decision to cancel the salmon fishing season in 2008; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of South San Francisco has a history of environmental stewardship.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of South San Francisco hereby:

1. Encourages the people of South San Francisco to conserve water.
2. Requests that City staff propose conservation measures to the Council.
3. Urges the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to focus on the seismic upgrades to the Hetch Hetchy water system and defer indefinitely its controversial proposal to divert more water front the Tuolumne River so that water conservation measures can be given a chance to work.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was regularly introduced and adopted by the City Council of the City of South San Francisco at a regular Meeting held on the 23rd day of July 2008 by the following vote:

AYES:

Council members Mark N. Addiego, Richard A. Garbarino and Zevin Mullin,

Mayor Pro Tern Iaryl MatsmTloto and Mayor Pedro Gonzalez

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

None