



Statement by Nicole Sandkulla, Chief Executive Officer of BAWSCA, Before the State Water Resources Control Board as Part of Hearing on Recirculated Draft Substitute Environmental Document

January 3, 2017

Good morning Chair Marcus and members of the State Water Resources Control Board. My name is Nicole Sandkulla. I am the Chief Executive Officer and General Manager for the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA). BAWSCA represents the interests of the 26 water suppliers who purchase, on a wholesale basis, two thirds of the water produced by the San Francisco Regional Water System (System), which is operated by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC).

On September 15, 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) released the *Recirculated Draft Substitute Environmental Document in Support of Potential Changes to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta Estuary: San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Water Quality* (SED). This State Board proposal could cause a substantial reduction of water from the Tuolumne River to the Bay Area for the 1.7 million residents, 40,000 businesses, and thousands of community organizations in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties whose water interests BAWSCA represents.

The proposal's purpose is to update water-quality requirements in the San Joaquin Delta and establish minimum water flows in major tributaries, including the Tuolumne River, which supplies the System, and for the protection of fish and wildlife resources. BAWSCA understands the value of the Bay Delta ecosystem and that the status quo is not sustainable.

In nine words, "BAWSCA supports the objective of the Bay Delta Plan." Simple, clear, understandable.

In twenty words, "BAWSCA will work with other stakeholders to protect water quality in the Bay Delta for humans, fish, and other wildlife." Simple, clear, understandable.

BAWSCA is already committed to exploring scientifically proven ways of rehabilitating fish habitat on the Tuolumne River, such as gravel augmentation, managing fish predation, and ensuring that flows support habitat improvements.

The SED, with its appendices, is a large and complex document. Thank you for the extension of the comment deadline. The SED raises a number of concerns, including the unproven presumption that other water supplies or transfers will be available to the Bay Area in times of shortages to make up the water reduction due to increased flows. BAWSCA is also concerned that the SED fails to take into account the likely actions in times of shortages of other Bay Area water suppliers (other than San Francisco) who use the largest portion of this supply. Lastly, BAWSCA is concerned that while the SED recognizes that implementation of the flow proposal is expected to result in potentially significant economic impacts in the Bay Area, a full analysis of these impacts is not included in the SED. As part of our comments on the Draft SED, BAWSCA will be providing the State Board critically important data about the potential environmental, economic, and other impacts of the proposed actions that must be considered as part of any decision on the Bay-Delta Plan.

I would like to share with you this map, which shows BAWSCA's 26 member agencies and water use on a per capita basis for each agency during this most recent mandatory rationing period. With an average residential use of 60 GPCPD, compared to a statewide average of 82 GPCPD, it is clear that conservation of water is seen as an essential responsibility for BAWSCA's 26 member agencies and the customers they serve. At the same time, it is equally important for the State Board to understand and acknowledge that municipal water users, specifically in BAWSCA's three-county service area, need a reliable supply to ensure the economic viability of their communities.

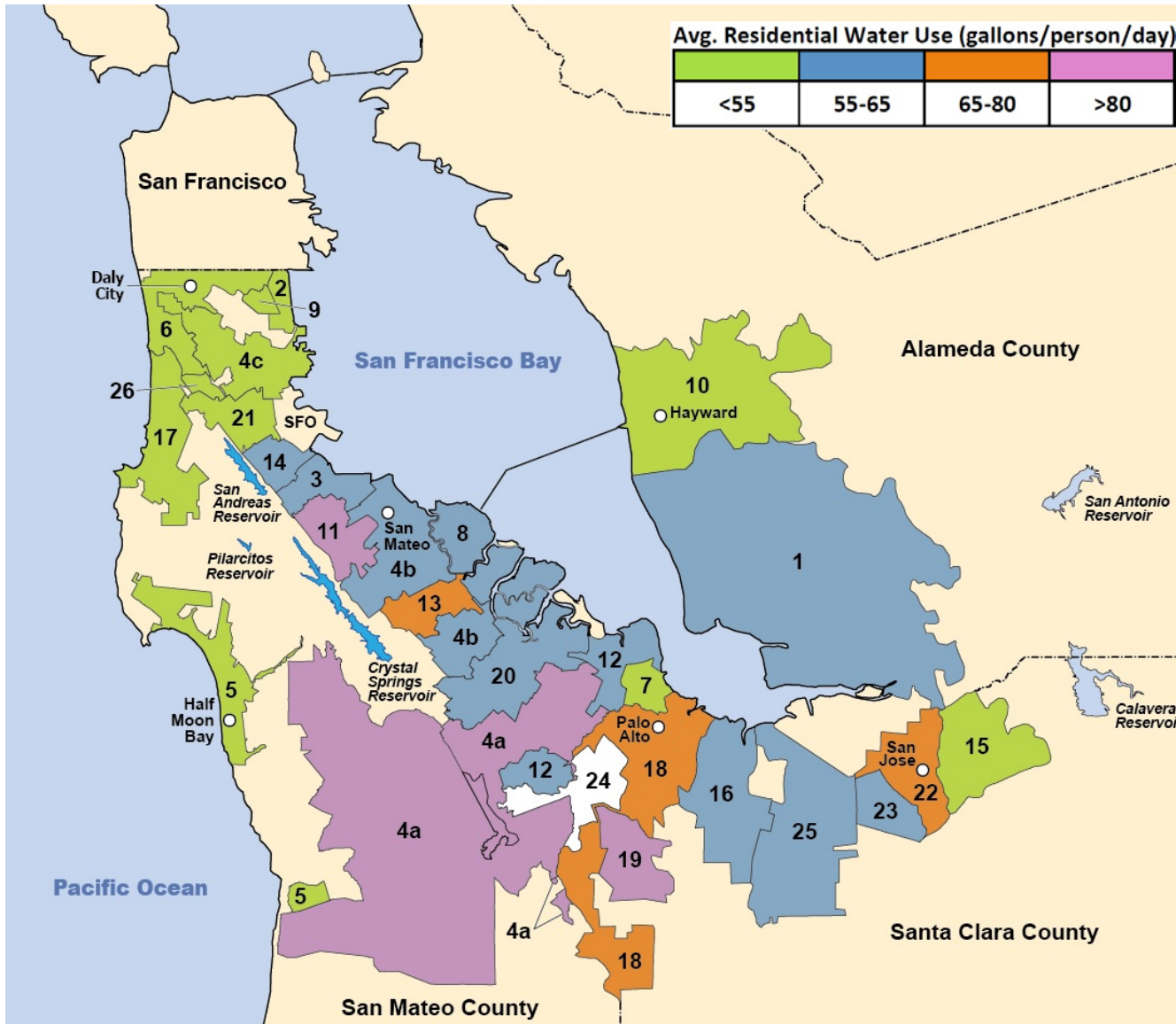
In a recent Chronicle article, State Board Chair Felicia Marcus shared her opinions on the Bay-Delta Plan and the SED. Chair Marcus is correct that this is not an effort to choose a winner between the urban and agricultural water users or the environmental advocates. BAWSCA agrees – this is an effort to protect the water quality in the Bay-Delta for all users – humans, fish and other wildlife.

The solution may be out there but everyone will have to do their part. The Governor has indicated his strong support for negotiated voluntary agreements to resolve this issue. BAWSCA is committed to continuing to work closely with the diverse interests and stakeholders to develop that shared solution. This should be a strategic process, not a legal brawl. It is about sharing the River for our mutual benefit. It requires tough action and respect for all interests. Ingenuity. Open minds. Sticking to the facts. Crafting a solution under which all users can survive and thrive.

BAWSCA is pleased to help. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.

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Average Residential Customer Uses 60 Gallons per Day in BAWSCA Service Area



BAWSCA Member Agencies	
Agency Name	Agency Number
Alameda CWD	1
Brisbane	2
Burlingame	3
CWS - Bear Gulch	4a
CWS - Mid Peninsula	4b
CWS - South SF	4c
Coastside County WD	5
Daly City	6
East Palo Alto WD	7
Estero MID	8
GVMID	9
Hayward	10
Hillsborough	11
Menlo Park	12
Mid-Peninsula WD	13
Millbrae	14
Milpitas	15
Mountain View	16
North Coast WD	17
Palo Alto	18
Purissima Hills WD	19
Redwood City	20
San Bruno	21
San Jose MWS-North	22
Santa Clara	23
Stanford University	24
Sunnyvale	25
Westborough WD	26

Source: SWRCB June 2015 to May 2016; Agency data for PHWD, Brisbane/GVMID