



Statement from Nicole Sandkulla, Chief Executive Officer: BAWSCA is pleased that Governor Newsom's senior Water-Policy Officials, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts have reached agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide greater water flows and increased habitat for the Tuolumne River. It will Protect Fish and a Reliable Water Supply for 1.8 million Residents, 40,000 Businesses, and Communities in Alameda, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties and for San Francisco's water users.

November 10, 2022

BAWSCA anticipates that this eight-year agreement will become part of a larger voluntary agreement for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that meets the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Board) objectives for the Bay-Delta.

The MOU includes a commitment by the Tuolumne River parties for new flows in the Tuolumne River to benefit native fish species that are in addition to the current requirements. The MOU also commits to implementation of \$64 million in habitat improvement projects over the eight-year term of the MOU to provide improved and increased habitat for native fish species.

BAWSCA's Chair Gustav Larsson and Vice Chair Tom Chambers, on behalf of the agency's 26-member board, sent a joint letter to Governor Newsom urging him to support a new and improved voluntary agreement for the Tuolumne River. Other supporting letters from elected officials and key stakeholders throughout the three-county area were also sent to Governor Newsom, including letters from the Silicon Valley Leadership Group with its 350 member companies; the Bay Area Council with more than 300 business and community members; labor union officials from Alameda and San Mateo Counties; and the Mayors of Hayward, Redwood City, and San Jose.

The MOU is a big step forward in providing necessary improvements for fish in the Tuolumne River and ensuring a reliable supply of high-quality water at a fair price for the health, safety, and economic well-being of BAWSCA's water users and for construction of thousands of new affordable housing units.

Lastly, the MOU provides that pending litigation concerning the adopted 2018 Bay-Delta Plan will be the subject of future negotiations.

Fortunately, the State Board has invited voluntary agreements to resolve major California water-supply issues, such as this one, and BAWSCA looks forward to a voluntary agreement for the Tuolumne River being carefully analyzed, as an update to the Bay-Delta Plan, and implemented.

#####