

NewsLibrary

Estimated printed pages: 2

Docs remaining: 44668

Subscription until: 12/31/2025

Contra Costa Times (Walnut Creek, CA)

June 9, 1996

Edition: Final

Section: Opinion

Page: A17

Topics:

Index Terms:

COMMENTARY

EBMUD SUPPORTS PLAN TO PROTECT, SAVE THE DELTA

Author: *John Gioia*

Article Text:

I would like to commend the Contra Costa Times staff on the thorough 20-page special report in the May 19 issue entitled "Rescuing the Delta: The Last Best Chance." Your staff did an outstanding job in synthesizing the timely and complex issues surrounding the management of the Bay-Delta system.

This special report has done much to inform your readers that the Delta is a unique natural resource of multiple uses and that the collaborative CALFED process is the last best chance for restoring the health of the Delta. The East Bay Municipal Utility District recognizes that without an acceptable level of stability for the Bay-Delta ecosystem, it will be impossible for water agencies to develop the needed level of reliability in providing high quality water supplies for millions of Californians.

EMBUD's Board of Directors supports the protection and enhancement of the Delta. We also support CALFED's balanced evaluation of a wide range of alternatives to help rescue the Delta while providing reliable, high-quality drinking water supplies for district customers. EMBUD derives its water from and has stewardship responsibilities for at least three watersheds tributary to the Delta or the San Francisco Bay.

We are actively interested in protecting and restoring the ecological health of the Bay-Delta System and believe all public agencies whose actions have an impact on the Bay-Delta environment have a responsibility to consider the effects of their decisions on the Bay and Delta.

For these reasons, EBMUD has undertaken a broader and integrated approach to securing a high quality future water supply for our customers and has developed alternatives that are both compatible with and specifically further efforts to rescue the Delta.

We are an active participant the CALFED process through Director Mary Selkirk, who is among the public policy-makers participating on the Bay-Delta Advisory Council. Through our efforts in developing a balanced management plan for the Mokelumne River resources, EBMUD will be providing increased freshwater inflow to the Delta in dry periods.

EBMUD continues to encourage the passage of appropriate legislation to protect the Bay-Delta, such as SB900. The bill would put a \$500 million bond measure on the November ballot to raise the state's share of restoring the existing Delta. It also would be used to secure federal matching dollars.

In December of 1995, EBMUD's board approved \$500,000 to help finance mitigation measures to address non-flow factors that have contributed to ecosystem degradation of the Bay-Delta. We are committed to working with all stakeholders in developing viable solutions for fixing the Bay-Delta system.

We welcome input from your readers in developing and carrying out policies to rescue the Bay-Delta.

Gioia is president of the EBMUD Board of Directors.

All content copyright (c) 1996 Contra Costa Times and may not be republished without permission.
Record Number: 9601360030