

STAFF REPORT

To: Coastside County Water District Board of Directors

From: Mary Rogren, General Manager

Agenda: January 12, 2021

Report

Date: January 8, 2021

Subject: General Manager's Report

Recommendation:

Information Only.

Proposed Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement (TRVA) – BAWSCA Statements

Please find attached recent statements from Nicole Sandkulla regarding BAWSCA's interests in the proposed Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement:

- December 17, 2020 statement
- December 22, 2020 statement documenting Nicole Sandkulla's remarks to the San Francisco Public Utility Commission.

COVID-19 Update

In December 2020, the District prepared and distributed a COVID-19 Prevention Program (CPP) document as required by CAL OSHA under the COVID-19 emergency temporary standards effective December 1, 2020.



The Proposed Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement (TRVA), Based on the Tuolumne River Management Plan Developed by the Modesto and Turlock Irrigation Districts (Districts) and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), Provides More Water for Fish in the River and Protects Water Users in Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, to Meet Governor Newsom's Goal for Voluntary Water-Supply Issues

December 17, 2020

BAWSCA Chief Executive Officer Nicole Sandkulla says the TRVA is exactly the kind of science-based, voluntary agreement that Governor Newsom wants to resolve California's water issues. It will provide more water for fish in the Tuolumne River and protect the water supply for 1.8 million residents, over 40,000 businesses, and hundreds of communities in the three counties that BAWSCA represents and that could suffer serious water reductions if the adopted Bay-Delta Plan is implemented.

These water customers purchase two-thirds of the water sold by the SFPUC's Regional (Hetch Hetchy) Water System (System) and pay \$250 million a year for it. This is twice as much water used and paid for by San Francisco's in-city customers and is why BAWSCA, under California law, represents the interests of the water customers in the three counties.

The TRVA includes an integrated suite of additional Tuolumne River flow and non-flow measures that substantially increase the production of native salmon in the river while providing reasonable protection for water supply critical to BAWSCA's member agencies. Studies have shown that the TRVA will result in a 150 percent increase in young salmon that leave the river for the Bay-Delta, and eventually the Pacific Ocean, compared to numbers projected under current conditions.

The Tuolumne River is an important part of the Bay-Delta, and negotiations have been held for years to improve it. Taxpayer money will not be used for the TRVA, and more than \$120 million in construction and operating costs will be paid by customers of the Districts and the water users who rely on the System.

BAWSCA supports the TRVA and urges the Governor to encourage the State Water Resources Control Board (Board) to perform the required environmental evaluation of the TRVA. The Board has supported voluntary agreements in past negotiations of water-supply issues and restated it in its 2019 report about the Bay-Delta including the Tuolumne River.

BAWSCA will enlist support for the Governor's leadership from California legislators who represent water users, labor unions who want more jobs and affordable housing for their members, and businesses, which all depend on water from the Tuolumne River.

Ignoring or opposing this carefully constructed voluntary agreement after years of development, discussion, and participation by non-governmental organizations and water agencies, could endanger the water supply for these residents in the three counties; businesses that provide jobs, and the communities that protect their citizens' health, safety, and economic well-being.

Having the Board study the TRVA as an alternative to the adopted Bay-Delta Plan is a positive step forward, with no downside and a potential to solve one of the region's and the State's most significant water-supply issues. It is an opportunity for the Governor to protect everyone in Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, who depends on the Tuolumne River, and improve the environment for fish and the Bay-Delta.

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Statement from Nicole Sandkulla, Chief Executive Officer of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission About the Water-Supply Situation for BAWSCA's Constituents in Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties

December 22, 2020

Good afternoon President Maxwell and Commissioners:

Merry Christmas and happy holidays from BAWSCA to all of you and your staff.

As I look ahead to 2021, I assure you that BAWSCA will work closely and cooperatively with you and your staff during what promises to be a very busy and challenging year for BAWSCA, and, I presume, for your organization.

For BAWSCA, there will be a determined effort to reach our goal, which is a reliable supply of high-quality water at a fair price. It has been BAWSCA's single goal for twenty years and will continue to be.

BAWSCA wants to make progress with and get closure on the Bay Delta issue as it affects our future water supply and successful resolution is necessary to protect our water users in Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. As the owner and operator of the Regional (Hetch Hetchy) Water System (System), San Francisco appropriately decided to take the lead to resolve the Bay Delta issue, but the reality is that little progress has been made.

This situation must not drag on without reasonable progress, and the BAWSCA Board of Directors, appointed by its 26 member agencies in our three counties, and I are determined that we will do everything within our power and authority to protect our residents, businesses, and communities from an unwise Bay Delta Plan.

As you know, BAWSCA's constituents purchase two-thirds of the water sold by your System and currently pay \$250 million a year for it. This is twice as much water as used and paid for by San Francisco's in-city customers. It is one reason why BAWSCA, under California law, represents the interests of water customers in its three counties.

We expect you to do more to get the results we need without further delay. A Tuolumne River Voluntary Agreement (TRVA) based on the Tuolumne River Management Plan is the right vehicle. BAWSCA will use its strategic assets directly to help reach this goal. We will keep you informed of what we are doing, and we will continue to exchange ideas on a weekly basis.

We also expect your organization to continue aggressively to complete the WSIP without further extension and complete it within the current legislated deadline.

Clearly, we cannot be satisfied with the achievements in 2020 to protect BAWSCA's constituents. You must continue your work to identify new alternative sources of high-quality water for your system and be prepared to deliver it at a fair price when and where our constituents need it.

Finding new water sources is an annual requirement in AB 1823, and while there has been forward movement in 2020, it must be on a faster track in 2021 to meet the adopted schedule and deadlines set by this Commission. BAWSCA is committed to doing its part to achieve these critical results.

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