

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
in support of the

Bay Area Water Forum

This Memorandum of Understanding is based on the following acknowledgements about the value of participating as a sponsoring partner of the Bay Area Water Forum:

- I. The water resources of the San Francisco Bay estuary region, including the Delta, represent a precious resource with extensive ecological and economic value, supporting a highly populated, growing region which extends into the Delta and beyond;
- II. Regional water resources planning is critical to identifying and achieving water supply, water quality, stormwater management, flood control, public health, environmental, habitat, land use and related goals for the Bay region;
- III. Effective regional partnerships are critical to improving and sustaining Bay Area water resources and associated ecosystems;
- IV. The Bay Area Water Forum (BAWF) provides a venue for all stakeholders in the Bay region including water, wastewater and stormwater agencies, local governments, environmental and business groups, and other community and civic organizations, to identify, discuss and work cooperatively on key water resources issues for the Bay region;
- V. The BAWF does not have policy making or decision making authority; nonetheless, it provides an essential opportunity to build an appreciation of regional water resources issues across differing agencies, interest groups and sub-regions within the Bay area, building on the needs of individual jurisdictions, public agencies and interest groups;
- VI. With the added emphasis on regional cooperation as the basis for state funding of water resources and infrastructure projects, the BAWF provides a place where new approaches and sustainable solutions to regional water resource challenges can be generated in light of existing and potential future funding sources;
- VII. Since the BAWF is designed to be a resource and advocate for Bay region cooperation, it serves as a vehicle to gain greater leverage for new policy and funding initiatives without usurping the responsibilities and authorities of any participating agency or organization;
- VIII. As the relationships of those involved in the Forum strengthens, the BAWF can be used as a venue for identifying and discussing the more complex regional issues that must be addressed as the region continues to grow and change;
- IX. The BAWF can serve as an important, multi-stakeholder forum for discussing issues related to developing, updating and implementing the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) and which would benefit from regional cooperation and consistency;

X. To the extent desired, the BAWF provides an opportunity to explore new challenges, such as changing land uses, global climate change, sea level rise and other heretofore unidentified issues that will require regional cooperation and resources to address effectively.

Based on these and emerging values associated with enhanced regional cooperation on water resources issues, and with the intent that the BAWF become an even more effective venue for promoting regional efforts to protect and enhance water sources for the Bay Region, the following organizations do hereby commit to work together to build and sustain the BAWF as a vehicle for improving trust, coordination and cooperation among – and strengthening the voice of – the many jurisdictions, agencies and organizations responsible for and with a vested interest in the future of Bay Region water resources and ecosystems.