

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTING THE
INTRODUCTION OF THE GAINING RESPONSIBILITY ON
WATER ACT

WHEREAS, California communities suffer from lack of water reliability; and

WHEREAS, federal laws such as the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) and San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act (SJRRSA) have curtailed water deliveries to California communities; and

WHEREAS, restrictions under the Endangered Species Act and court decisions have dramatically curtailed the amount of water made available through the Central Valley Project (CVP); and

WHEREAS, the SJRRSA requires increased diversion of surface water from the Friant Division of the CVP for environmental purposes, resulting in significant water resources flowing to the ocean; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno has a number of concerns regarding the viability of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program as contemplated by the SJRRSA.

WHEREAS, a complex and inconsistent system of laws, court decisions, and regulations at state and federal levels is resulting in mismanagement of critical water resources throughout California; and

WHEREAS, more than a half-million acres of Central Valley farmland have been fallowed as a result of such mismanagement, causing unemployment of thousands in the Central Valley; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fresno is the largest city in the Central Valley, and the

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Date Adopted:
Date Approved:
Effective Date:
City Attorney Approval: _____

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fifth largest city in California, with a regional economy rooted in the agricultural industry and an unemployment rate consistently higher than the state and national average; and

WHEREAS, reliable water supplies would allow restoration of fallowed Central Valley farmland, generating immense economic opportunities for farmers, farm laborers and related businesses in Fresno and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the Gaining Responsibility on Water (GROW) Act has been introduced to the House of Representatives by Representative Valadao as House Resolution 23; and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act contains provisions to restore water deliveries to the Central Valley communities by codifying the Bay-Delta Accord, and affirming that if the State Water Project and the Central Valley Project are operated consistent with the Bay-Delta Accord, they are in compliance with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act; and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act improves water reliability by updating the CVPIA to ensure water resources are reliable, predictable and available to fulfill supply promises; and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act streamlines permitting reforms aimed at building infrastructure to capture more water; and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act requires the federal government to expedite and complete consideration of feasibility studies for water storage projects that have been languishing in bureaucratic purgatory for over ten years; and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act prevents federal agencies from requiring certain entities to relinquish their water rights to the United States in order to use public lands;

and

WHEREAS, the GROW Act will correct the underlying policies which have led to the current lack of water reliability in the Central Valley;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The Council of the City of Fresno calls upon the United States House of Representatives and Congress to enact long term, meaningful solutions to our water supply issues and utilize the introduction of the GROW Act as a vehicle to advance those solutions.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
CITY OF FRESNO)

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2017.

AYES :
NOES :
ABSENT :
ABSTAIN :

Mayor Approval: _____, 2017
Mayor Approval/No Return: _____, 2017
Mayor Veto: _____, 2017
Council Override Vote: _____, 2017

YVONNE SPENCE, CMC
City Clerk

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DOUGLAS T. SLOAN
City Attorney

By: _____
Amanda Freeman [Date]
Deputy City Attorney

ABF:cm [73815cm/abf] 2/10/2017