

JUL 24 1996



RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SUISUN RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, The Suisun Marsh is one of the most diverse ecological wonders in the Nation. Making up most of the land mass within the 116,000 acre Suisun Marsh is Grizzly Island. 52,000 acres are managed wetlands, which benefit numerous species of waterfowl and other wildlife, 6,000 acres of unmanaged tidal marshes, 30,000 acres of bays and sloughs, and 2,770 acres of upland grasslands. The Marsh also contains the Joice Island State Wildlife Refuge encompassing 1,880 acres of land and was formed in 1927, and the Grizzly Island State Wildlife Refuge encompassing 8,600 acres of land, and was formed in 1948.

WHEREAS, both the Joice Island and Grizzly Island State Wildlife Refuges provide sanctuary for many species of waterfowl, wildlife, birds, Tule elk and other species. The State of California recognizing the importance of protecting the Marsh created the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan in the late 1970s and thereafter the Suisun Resource Conservation District was created by the Legislature.

WHEREAS, Grizzly Island is protected by flooding by approximately 20 miles of levees bordering the Suisun Bay. These levees are maintained by private land owners and do not meet Federal and State safety standards. Any breach in the privately maintained levee system would destroy most of Grizzly Island and the State Wildlife Refuge.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Suisun Resource Conservation district urges the CAL/FED Bay Delta Program to include the protection of the Suisun Marsh including Grizzly Island within the core elements of their program, and urge the Legislature to amend the above mentioned levees into the statutory definition of the Delta which will insure long term protection of California's vast ecological wonder.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director provide a copy of this resolution to the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, the Democratic Leader of the Assembly, the President Pro-Tem of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the conferees on Senate Bill 900 and Assembly Member Hannigan, the Author of AB 360.

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