

**Guiding Principles for
Bay Area Regional Reliability Partnership Development**

**Alameda County Water District
Contra Costa Water District
East Bay Municipal Utility District
Marin Municipal Water District
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
(with the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency)
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Zone 7 Water Agency**

The purpose of these principles is to memorialize the mutual willingness of the largest public water agencies to develop regional solutions to improve the water supply reliability for over 6 million area residents and the thousands of businesses and industries located in the area. The Bay Area Regional Water Supply Reliability Partnership would enable Bay Area agencies to work cooperatively to address water supply reliability concerns on a mutually beneficial and regionally focused basis.

Whereas, the Alameda County Water District, Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Marin Municipal Water District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (with the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency), Santa Clara Valley Water District, and Zone 7 Water Agency own and operate independent water systems that collectively serve the needs of over 6 million residents and businesses in the San Francisco Bay Region, and

Whereas, the Parties recognize that integrated utilization of capacity in existing infrastructure and new interconnections or facilities may provide water supply reliability and/or water quality benefits to multiple agencies or other regional partners and the public we all serve, and

Whereas, recognizing the potential for mutual and regional benefits, the Parties agree to these principles for cooperative pursuit of short and long-term projects for water supply and/or water quality benefits which look first to maximize the use of existing infrastructure of each agency and may eventually include additional joint facilities to assist in providing region-wide water supply reliability and/or water quality benefits.

Therefore, in consideration of the recitals and mutual obligations, the Parties wish to establish a set of foundational principles that will guide any future partnership development as follows:

- Parties will participate in the evaluation of near- and long-term joint water supply reliability projects including, but not limited to, use of capacity of existing facilities, changes to infrastructure including new interconnections, recycled water, water conservation, expanded treatment, regional desalination, water transfers and exchanges, and other projects or institutional arrangements that encourage a regional approach to achieving water supply reliability in the Bay Area.

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- Parties will conduct Regional Partnership activities in an inclusive manner that encourages voluntary participation by the Parties as well as other interested persons or organizations.
- A specific project or activity does not have to involve all signatories of this Regional Partnership document but it is expected that each Party would endeavor to communicate planning efforts initiated by two or more Parties to improve water supply reliability including water transfers, wheeling agreements, interties and additional water supply infrastructure improvements.
- Partnerships are expected to result in betterment for of the public served by the agencies involved and be conducted in a manner that does not adversely affect any of the Parties. Parties will not undertake Bay Area regional projects or activities that may impact the conditions within the service area of another Party without first obtaining that Party's approval.
- Parties will ensure equitable cost- and risk-sharing for future projects or concepts commensurate with the benefits to be received.
- Parties agree to transparency with regard to costs and the expectation is that actual costs will be used in determining reimbursements unless another acceptable arrangement is determined by the participants.
- To the extent a partnership relies on regional, state or federal grant money to evaluate regional reliability, the grant recipients will work with the Parties to determine how priorities for regional reliability are balanced against other individual agency priorities.
- Characterization and evaluation of facilities, water rights, or water contracts owned by any Party will not be conducted without the express consent of the owner.
- Parties undertaking specific projects identified through the Regional Partnership will cooperate in and, to the extent applicable, facilitate efforts to obtain regulatory approvals necessary to conduct demonstration and full scale projects.