

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DIANE VAN ATTA RATHMANN, GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY FROM 1992-2015 AND OUTSIDE COUNSEL THEREAFTER

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (the “Board” and the “Water Authority,” respectively) seeks to recognized the invaluable and outstanding contributions of DIANE VAN ATTA RATHMANN (“Diane”) upon her upcoming retirement from the practice of law; and

WHEREAS, Diane was born and raised in Dos Palos, California; and

WHEREAS, Diane graduated from Stanford University in 1969 with a Bachelor of Arts (with great distinction) as a Spanish major and earned her Juris Doctor from UCLA School of Law in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Diane was admitted to the California State Bar in 1979, and returned home to begin her career with the Linneman, Burgess, Telles, Van Atta law firm; and

WHEREAS, Diane was selected as the Water Authority’s first General Counsel in 1992 and faithfully served in that position until 2015; and

WHEREAS, in her position as the Water Authority’s General Counsel, Diane was a principal creator of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Joint Powers Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Diane’s contributions as Water Authority General Counsel were countless but included being crucial to the Water Authority successfully navigating its first years, instrumental in negotiating the Transfer Agreement between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Water Authority for the operation and maintenance of the South-of Delta Central Valley Project facilities, responsible for developing numerous Activity Agreements for special programs and projects administered by the Water Authority, responsible for drafting the first water transfer agreements that established the template for agreements still utilized today, an unflinching leader through years of Central Valley Project contract renewal negotiations, instrumental in the development of the Grassland Bypass Project and the San Joaquin River Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, after concluding her time as the Water Authority’s General Counsel, Diane continued to be an important part of the Water Authority family by representing a number of the Water Authority’s member agencies and serving as outside, special counsel to the Water Authority, a role in which she to this day provides sound legal advice, practical guidance, and mentorship all informed by her in invaluable, deep understanding of the history behind the challenges faced by the Water Authority; and

WHEREAS, for decades the Water Authority has greatly benefited from Diane’s legal guidance, practical advice, steadfast advocacy for water users and their businesses and families, friendship with and mentorship of Water Authority staff, and venerable blend of strength, patience and kindness pursuant to which the Water Authority has been able to grow, adapt, and meet the various challenges this changing world has presented it.

WHEREAS, the Water Authority is pleased to have Diane’s continuing service as outside counsel in the months and years to come but wishes her well in her “retirement” to enjoy time with family and friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS, THAT:

Section 1. The facts stated in the recitals above are true and correct, and the Board so finds and determines.

Section 2. The Board hereby formally recognizes DIANE VAN ATTA RATHMANN for her achievements and contributions to the Water Authority throughout her thirty-two years of service as General Counsel and outside counsel.

Section 3. Water Authority Chair CANNON MICHAEL is hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of the Water Authority to formally present a certified copy of this Resolution to DIANE VAN ATTA RATHMANN as a token of the esteem of the Water Authority.

Section 4. Water Authority Chair CANNON MICHAEL is hereby further authorized and directed on behalf of the Water Authority to formally present to DIANE VAN ATTA RATHMANN Golden Bucket Award No. 36.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of June, 2024, by the Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority.

Cannon Michael, Chair
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority

Attest:

Federico Barajas, Secretary

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2024- was duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority at the meeting thereof held on the ____th day of _____, 2024.

Federico Barajas, Secretary

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