

SAN LUIS & DELTA-MENDOTA WATER AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-_____

RESOLUTION APPROVING MUD SLOUGH RESTORATION PROJECT

A. WHEREAS, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (“Authority”), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), prepared that certain Environmental Checklist & Initial Study - San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Water Mud Slough Restoration Project (“IS”), together with a proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (“MND”) and accompanying Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (“MMRP”) in consultation with the Grassland Basin Drainage Management Activity Agreement Steering Committee (“Steering Committee”); and

B. WHEREAS, the Authority in 2002 and 2010 entered into Memoranda of Understanding with the California Department of Fish and Game (now the “Department of Fish and Wildlife,” or “CDFW”) (the “CDFW MOUs”), which required the Authority to restore Mud Slough North (“Mud Slough”) to its condition as it existed prior to 1995, upon completion of the Grassland Bypass Project phases that involved discharge of agricultural subsurface drainage; and

C. WHEREAS, the final phase of the Grassland Bypass Project that allowed agricultural subsurface drainage discharges into Mud Slough expired on December 31, 2019, there have been no agricultural subsurface drainage discharges into Mud Slough since 2015, and water in Mud Slough now meets water quality objectives; and

D. WHEREAS, the proposed Mud Slough Restoration Project (the “Project”) is the hydraulic modification of Mud Slough to allow restoration of water deliveries directly from Mud Slough to Newman Lake as occurred prior to 1995 and prior to implementation of the Grassland Bypass Project, as required in the 2002 and 2010 CDFW MOUs, which explain how the site is to be restored including contouring, ground disturbance, and surface drainage from adjacent overflow areas within the CDFW’s China Island Unit of the North Grasslands Wildlife Management Area; and

E. WHEREAS, the CDFW MOUs require the Authority to pay the cost of the restoration of Mud Slough, including but not limited to all design, permitting, construction, and monitoring work necessary to ensure the restoration is achieved; and

F. WHEREAS, the current Fiscal Year 2022 Budget for the Grassland Basin Drainage Management Activity includes funding for the preparation of the IS and MND and permit applications, and subsequent budgets will include funding for completion of the permitting and construction of the proposed Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

Section 2. Approval of the Mud Slough Restoration Project. The Board hereby approves the Mud Slough Restoration Project as described in the IS and MND and accompanying MMRP.

Section 3. Authorization to Proceed with Project Subject to Approved Budgets for Grassland Basin Drainage Management Activity. The Board hereby authorizes the Executive Director and appropriate representatives of the Grassland Basin Drainage Management Activity to proceed with the Project, subject to the Board-approved budgets for the Grassland Basin Drainage Management Activity.

Section 4. Additional Actions. The Executive Director and any Authority employees or consultants as he shall designate are further authorized to take such additional actions, including the execution of such additional documents, as may be reasonably necessary or convenient to proceed with the Mud Slough Restoration Project as expeditiously as reasonably possible.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 9th day of December, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES:
NAYS:
ABSTAIN:

CANNON MICHAEL, Chairman

Attest:

FEDERICO BARAJAS, SECRETARY

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution No. 2021-__ 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 9th day of December, 2021.

Federico Barajas, Secretary