SUPPORTING THE TEHAMA-COLUSA CANAL AUTHORITY’S RED BLUFF FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (“TCCA”) is a Joint Powers Authority whose mission is to “secure, protect, and develop dependable and affordable sources of water and to operate, maintain, and improve the works essential to deliver such water”; and

WHEREAS, the TCCA operates and maintains a 140 mile long, dual canal system that serves the water supply needs of 18 water districts, through four Counties, irrigating over 150,000 acres of farm and ranch lands along the west side of the Sacramento Valley; and

WHEREAS, the TCCA operates and maintains the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC) to convey and deliver water to the following water/irrigation districts located within the County of Glenn: Glenn-Colusa, Glide, Kanawha and Orland-Artois Water Districts; and

WHEREAS, the TCCA delivers irrigation water to more than 53,000 acres of agricultural lands, over 16,000 acres (30%) of which are planted to crops that are permanent in nature, within the boundaries of Glenn County; and

WHEREAS, the irrigation water delivered to Glenn County farmers by the TCCA provides for the production of a variety of crops within the County, including: alfalfa, almonds, barley, beans, corn, cotton, grapes, hay, irrigated pasture, milo, oats, olives, pecans, pistachios, prunes, rice, safflower, silage, sorghums, sudan grass, sunflowers, tomatoes, walnuts, and wheat; and

WHEREAS, irrigated agriculture is a vital and integral industry within Glenn County, which provides great value to the economic and social health and welfare of the County, as well as provides significant environmental, open space, and recreational benefits within the region; and

WHEREAS, the loss and/or prolonged interruption of a reliable supply of water from the TCCA would result in disastrous economic and social impacts to the County, and its residents, farmers, business community, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, biological opinions issued by State and Federal fishery agencies have limited the timeframe in which the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) can operate the Red Bluff Diversion Dam (RBDD) (the infrastructure that allows for gravity flow water diversions from the Sacramento River to the TCCA water users) from May 15th to September 15th due to concerns with fish passage, both upstream and downstream, for the winter and spring run Chinook; and
WHEREAS, this restriction has created severe operational difficulties and continues to threaten the water supply reliability of the TCCA water users; and

WHEREAS, additional regulatory concerns loom as a result of the recent listing of the green sturgeon as a threatened species, which could result in an even more restrictive timeframe for operation of the RBDD, an action that would have catastrophic implications to the water users located within the TCCA service area; and

WHEREAS, since 2002, the TCCA, in partnership with USBR, has been working on a policy to improve fish passage at RBDD, and after looking at over one hundred alternatives, the TCCA and the USBR have both selected preferred alternatives that would decrease or eliminate reliance on the gravity diversion, and instead rely on the installation of a pumping plant that would lift water out of the river through a state-of-the-art fish screen; and

WHEREAS, such a solution would resolve the fish passage issues at the RBDD and assure year round water supply reliability for TCCA water users, thereby avoiding the negative economic and social impacts associated with the loss of irrigation water to the TCCA water users within Glenn County and the region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glenn County Board of Supervisors hereby states its unequivocal support for the TCCA Red Bluff Fish Passage Project; the installation of a pumping plant and a state-of-the-art fish screen will assure long-term water supply reliability for TCCA water users within Glenn County and throughout the region, protecting the welfare of the County, its farms, and its residents.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS PASSED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Glenn at a regular meeting thereof on July 17, 2007 by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Amaro, Hansen, Murray, Quarne, and McGowan (Chairman)
NOES: None
ABSENT OR ABSTAIN: None.

TOM MCGOWAN, Chairman
Board of Supervisors
Glenn County, California

ATTEST:

DAVID J. SHOEMAKER, County Administrative Officer
and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Glenn County, California

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

THOMAS C. AGIN, County Counsel
Glenn County, California