

Resolution to Stop Raids on Wildlife Refuge Water

WHEREAS, there are efforts to lift the provisions of the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act to take water away from federal wildlife refuges and direct it to private landowners and agribusiness for the growing of water-intensive crops such as almonds, pistachios, cotton and rice; and

WHEREAS, private landowners and agribusiness have the ability to pump water from aquifer resources, but such water comes at a higher cost than draining wildlife areas; and

WHEREAS, wildlife refuges are already suffering from severe water shortages and, because these unique wildlife resources are not renewable, their loss will have long-term consequences for environmentally challenged areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party opposes efforts to transfer water away from federal wildlife refuges to private landowners or agribusiness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Los Angeles County Democratic Party will send copies of this resolution to President Barack Obama, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Dan Ash, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer and members of the California Congressional Delegation.

Submitted by Craig Athon, AD49

Adopted by the Los Angeles County Democratic Party, September 8, 2015