



(October 2015)

**RESOLUTION OF CALIFORNIA WATERKEEPER ORGANIZATIONS TO TRANSFER
COLORADO RIVER WATER BACK TO THE RIVER AND THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA**

Whereas the Colorado River Delta has been 100 percent drained dry for decades where the river used to meet the Gulf of California, nearly 5 trillion gallons of water drained out every year;

Whereas the draining of the Colorado River Delta created massive, negative environmental impacts to 2 million acres of wetlands, fisheries, aquatic species, wildlife, and local indigenous human cultures;

Whereas the United States diverts 91 percent of the water out of the Colorado River before the river reaches Mexico;

Whereas the state of California is the biggest diverter of Colorado River water and has the biggest allotment of Colorado River water, totaling 4.4 million acre feet; approximately 30 percent of the entire flow of the River;

Whereas the state of California's historic drought has increased the attention on the negative impacts of the state's water management practices and policies on river ecosystems;

Whereas Waterkeeper organizations in California – joined together by the California Coastkeeper Alliance – are a leading state voice for the protection of water resources;

Whereas Waterkeeper organizations in California spend considerable time and resources promoting local sustainable water supply strategies that better protect and restore rivers and coastlines including water conservation, wastewater and stormwater recycling, water reuse, growth management, and water-sharing agreements with farmers;

Whereas the Colorado River Board of California manages the rights to the Colorado River of the State of California;

Be it therefore resolved, that California Waterkeeper organizations:

- (1) Support transferring enough of California's allotment of Colorado River water back to the Colorado River Delta for the Colorado River to meet the Gulf of California on a continual basis and provide occasional pulse flows to rejuvenate the ecosystem through the river corridor.
- (2) Urge the Colorado River Board of California to work with its members to facilitate this transfer each year so that the water can be released through Morelos Dam and down the historic channel of the Colorado River into the Gulf of California.