

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1
LAKE MERCED TASK FORCE
December 3, 2003

WHEREAS, under Rule 9.1 of the Lake Merced Task Force Rules, standing committees are to report regularly to the Steering Committee and the Task Force and are to make policy and program recommendations to the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, at its October 30, 2003 meeting, the Water Committee of the Task Force adopted a policy statement dealing with water policy with regard to restoration efforts for Lake Merced; and

WHEREAS, that policy statement has been presented to the Steering Committee of the Task Force; and

WHEREAS, it is now desirable to have the Task Force approve that policy statement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the following policy statement of the Water Committee adopted at the Water Committee's October 30, 2003 meeting is hereby approved by the Lake Merced Task Force:

“1)The Water Committee strongly supports the Lake Merced Task Force resolution urging a target level for the lake in the range 25 to 28 feet (8.5 - 10.5 feet City Datum). The burden of scientific proof lies with any that would want to change that target.

2) The lake level should approach that target very slowly, probably not more than 6 inches to a foot each year, in order to permit the environment to adapt smoothly.

3) Water quality is an issue, especially as the RWQCB has placed Lake Merced on its impaired lakes list due to low dissolved oxygen, organic enrichment, and pH.

4) The lake can not be considered in isolation, but needs to be studied within the context of the Westside Basin aquifer. Other programs, e.g., the recycled water plan, groundwater management plan, storm water management plan, etc. need also to be coordinated.

5) The Water Committee strongly urges that the best available science be brought to bear on studies of the lake and its relationship to the supporting Westside Basin aquifer. To this end we applaud the effort to develop a MODFLOW model describing this relationship, and strongly encourage all agency participants to support and participate in the development, maintenance and application of this model as new information becomes available.

6) In general then, a systems approach is needed that lays out a long-term strategy, with a planning horizon of 10 to 50 years, that will assure both the of the lake and provision for a sustainable program deriving domestic water from the aquifer.

7) Until a substantial portion of this long-term strategy has been developed additions of imported water to the lake should be limited to those needed to stabilize the lake at its current level. Until a sustainable, long-term program has been developed, no additional system water should be added to Lake Merced for the specific purpose of raising lake level.

8) Aquifer management, as a tool to cure the lake level and water quality problems, should be a prominent component of ongoing plans to deal with those problems unless and until a convincing case has been made that some combination of other tools (the EDAW 4 + Allemany aquifer) is virtually guaranteed to raise the lake to the 25-28 level and keep it there with water of satisfactory quality.”
