

Resolution 2008-6

Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District Encouraging the Public to Drink Local Water

WHEREAS, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District's domestic water system and operations are among the finest in the world that have reliably and economically provided for the needs of the municipalities in the Humboldt Bay region, and

WHEREAS, the water which the District delivers to its municipal customers comes from an aquifer beneath the Mad River, that meets and exceeds all federal and state criteria for drinking water quality, and

WHEREAS, the District invests over \$2 million a year to provide pure drinking water to its municipal customers,

WHEREAS, bottled water costs more than an equivalent volume of gasoline, equivalent to 1,000 to 10,000 times more than tap water, and

WHEREAS, the U.S. consumes nearly 9 billion gallons of bottled water at a cost of more than \$11 billion a year, and

WHEREAS, the energy required to make these water bottles in the US is equivalent to 17 million barrels of oil annually, enough to fuel 1 million cars for a year, and

WHEREAS, bottled water must travel many miles from the source, resulting in the burning of massive amounts of fossil fuels, releasing CO₂ and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and

WHEREAS, 38 billion single-use water bottles a year end up in our land fills, one of the fastest growing sources of municipal waste, and it is estimated that 86% of the single-use water bottles produced are not recycled into other products, and

WHEREAS, our Mad River water system is sustainable and environmentally beneficial (fish friendly and nearly carbon neutral): situated in the upper watershed where salmon naturally cannot reach, our drinking water first provides recreational opportunities at Ruth reservoir, water on release from Ruth, via gravity, produces emission free electricity, as water flows over 75 miles downriver it supports riparian and aquatic habitats and threatened populations of salmon and steelhead, on reaching the Essex Narrows, water percolates through the gravel bed forming an aquifer where it is pumped from nearly a hundred feet below up to a ridge for disinfection, and again via gravity, it flows onward to the municipalities.

WHEREAS, in addition to providing the region with high quality water, the District in 2006 nearly attained a carbon neutral footprint (93% off-set).

WHEREAS, the District encourages the public to drink more water, but not plastic bottled water, instead use a pitcher and refillable containers; but please drink our Mad River water, it is good for you and much better for the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District's Board of Directors will prohibit the use of District funds to purchase single-serving bottles of water (except through special approval), and will utilize refillable water containers at its facilities and functions, and will prohibit the sale and discourage the use of single-serving bottles of water on its properties.

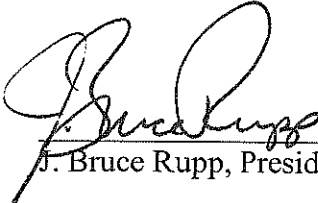
FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District's Board of Directors support efforts in concert with its municipal customers to educate the public regarding the value and benefits of using our unique public water system for all of their water needs.

Adopted and approved this 10th day of July, 2008, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Hecathorn, Laird, Rupp, Sopoci-Belknap, Turner

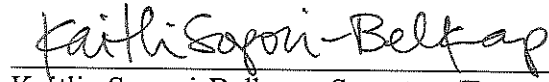
NOES: None

ABSENT: None



J. Bruce Rupp, President

Attest:



Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, Secretary/Treasurer