



**WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION OF
YOLO COUNTY**

**Delta Vision Strategic Plan Update
Sacramento Valley Water Supply Impacts
March 2, 2009**

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Delta Vision Strategic Plan Process

- **September 2006 Executive Order establishes Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force**
- **November 2007 Delta Vision Document**
- **October 2008 Delta Vision Strategic Plan**
- **December 31, 2008 Delta Vision Committee Implementation Report**
- **Action by Governor and Legislature pending**

Delta Vision Principles November 2007

- **coequal goals: sustainable Delta ecosystem and a reliable water supply for California**
- **comprehensive approach: ecosystem restoration, new Delta conveyance infrastructure and water storage**
- **independent governance body with authority and funding to achieve the coequal goals**

Delta Vision Principles November 2007

Reduced diversions upstream from the Delta will be required:

- predisposition to “sharing the pain”
- no science, no reference to causation or proportionality, no operational or water-supply impacts analysis
- launching a water war as a pathway to a solution?



Summary of Strategic Plan Proposals Impacting the Sacramento Valley

Increase Delta flows:

- flood the Yolo bypass periodically to improve fishery habitat (now generally in SB 12 – Senator Simitian)
- increase spring and fall Delta outflow by 2012 (now generally in SB 12)
- potential water supply impacts: 1 million acre-feet per year (maybe much more)



Summary of Strategic Plan Proposals Impacting the Sacramento Valley

Where will the water come from?

Use less:

- reduce M&I per capita water use by 20 percent by the end of 2020 and by 40 percent by 2050 (now in SB 12)
- require water rates to encourage conservation by greater use of variable rates, tiered rates and connection fees (now in SB 12)



Summary of Strategic Plan Proposals Impacting the Sacramento Valley

Where will the water come from? (cont.)

Redefine “reasonable use:”

- request the SWRCB to determine that reasonable use of water should “evolve away from the generally accepted practice of diverting surface water for irrigated agriculture” (now in SB 12 as mandatory requirement of SWRCB)



Summary of Strategic Plan Proposals Impacting the Sacramento Valley

Where will the water come from? (cont.)

- release more water from storage
- reduce the amount of water diverted from the Delta watershed
- re-allocate water supplies from existing uses through uncompensated regulatory actions
- access to state funding (e.g., grant money) will be contingent on applicant's full compliance with Delta Plan



Summary of Strategic Plan Proposals Impacting the Sacramento Valley

How to pay for the Strategic Plan?

- levy water diversion fees and taxes (for the Delta and funding DWR, DFG, SWRCB and RWQCBs)
(water diversion fees now in SB 12)

How to implement the Strategic Plan?

- legislation by May 2009 (see SB 12)
- add the coequal goals to the California Constitution and statutes (now in SB 12)
- require all state agencies to follow Delta Plan (now in SB 12)



Summary of Strategic Plan Proposals Impacting the Sacramento Valley

How to implement the Strategic Plan? (cont.)

- new Delta governance with the authority, responsibility, accountability, science support and secure funding to achieve these goals (**now in SB 12**)
- Governor's cabinet committee recommends adoption of Strategic Plan (but have one-year study of governance)



Delta Vision Strategic Plan Coordination on Comments

YCFC&WCD has coordinated comments on the Strategic Plan, and participation in the process, with:

- Regional Water Authority**
- Northern California Water Association**
- Association of California Water Agencies**
- export area CVP and SWP contractors**
- the Public Water Coalition of California (water suppliers from around the state: north/south, ag/urban)**

Delta Vision Strategic Plan

Next steps:

- adoption by the Governor
- implementing legislation (see SB 12 amendments - 2/26/09)
- implementation by regulatory agencies (would be required by SB 12)
- expect M&I and ag water conservation requirements (now in SB 12)
- expect water fees and taxes (now in SB 12)
- expect water bond (see SB 301)




Other Delta-Related Processes

- **Bay-Delta Conservation Plan**
- **SWRCB Bay-Delta hearings**
- **Governor's Emergency Drought Declaration (2/27/09)**
- **Legislative Analyst's Water Right Proposal (October 2008):**
 - **redefine "beneficial use" of water**
 - **statewide control of groundwater**

An aerial photograph of a river delta, likely the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, showing a complex network of waterways and agricultural fields. The water is a deep blue, and the land is a mix of green and brown, indicating different types of vegetation and soil. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down at the landscape.

A “perfect storm” of events for bad water policy?

- **unreliable and vulnerable Delta conveyance infrastructure**
- **potential for historically-low water supplies**
- **significant economic downturn**



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