

Fact Sheet

Sacramento - San Joaquin River Delta



The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta ("Delta"), a 700-mile maze of sloughs, canals, waterways and islands located where the San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers converge, is the largest estuary on the West Coast and California's main water supply hub. The Delta is one of the most important aspects of California's water delivery system — serving millions throughout Northern, Central and Southern California — and is home to hundreds of species of fish and wildlife. In addition to supporting an important ecosystem, water that moves through the Delta is indispensable to the agricultural industry and businesses that drive our state's economy.

However, scientists and government leaders agree the Delta is failing. Aged and vulnerable levees, climate change, mounting regulatory uncertainties, declining water quality and a struggling ecosystem plague the Delta more so today than ever before. The Delta's deteriorating condition has made it an increasingly unreliable pathway for delivering water to 25 million Californians, businesses and farms throughout the state.

The Delta is critical to California's environmental, public & economic health...

- Provides drinking water for more than 25 million residents throughout California.
- Transfers water for 2/3 of the state's population. Millions of Californians rely on water that moves through the Delta for at least a portion of their drinking water including Northern, Central and Southern California. Some regions are 100% dependent on water supplies that move through the Delta.
- Is the largest single drinking water source in the nation.
- Sends water to some 7,000 agencies or cities that have permits to develop and use water supplies transferred through the Delta and its watershed region.
- Irrigates more than 7 million acres of prime California agricultural lands, which produce 45% of the fruits and vegetables grown in the U.S.
- Helps support California's \$1.6 trillion economy, the 6th largest in the world.
- Provides habitat for 700 native plant and animal species and is the largest estuary on the West Coast.
- Is traversed by energy, communications and transportation facilities that are vital to the state's economic health.
- Serves as a popular recreation area.

The State Water Contractors, 27 public water agencies throughout the state, collectively serve 25 million residents in California and more than 750,000 acres of agricultural lands with water from the State Water Project. For more information, please visit www.swc.org or call (916) 447-7357.

The State Water Contractors, 27 public water agencies throughout the state, collectively serve 25 million residents in California and more than 750,000 acres of agricultural lands with water from the State Water Project.

For more information, please visit www.swc.org or call (916) 447-7357.

www.swc.org

