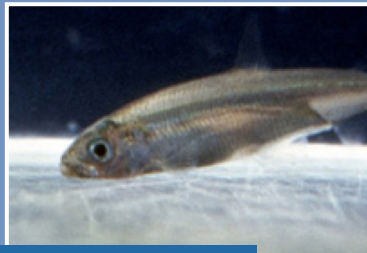


The Delta

Fast Facts

- 30 million+ = number of Californians who depend on the Bay-Delta watershed for all or part of their drinking water, including seven of nine Bay Area counties.
- 40% = Percentage of Santa Clara County's water supply conveyed through the Delta.
- 40% = Probability of major earthquake causing 27 or more Delta islands to flood at the same time, disrupting water supplies for up to 18 months.
- 20 feet = Depth below sea level of central Delta "islands."
- 69% = Percentage of Delta lands protected by levees that do not meet today's flood control standards.
- 47% = Percentage of California's water runoff that flows through the Delta watershed.
- 17% = Percentage of natural flows into the Delta watershed that is exported by CVP and SWP.
- 158 = Number of Delta flood events since 1900.
- \$50 million+ = Cost to repair 2004 Jones Tract levee breach that occurred



Images from the Delta

The Delta is where California's two longest rivers, the Sacramento and San Joaquin, meet and flow into San Francisco Bay to create the West Coast's largest estuary. The Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers receive snowmelt and rain runoff from more than 40 percent of California's land area, including the Sierra Nevada range in northern and eastern California.

A tremendously important ecosystem, the Delta supports more than 700 plant and animal species and is a major transit point along the Pacific Flyway, a key breeding area for numerous waterfowl and a migration route for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon. It is also a renowned recreational playground, a productive farming region and home to more than a half million people. Its more than 1,000 miles of levees protect vital Bay Area and state infrastructures, including gas and power lines, pipelines, highways and railroads.

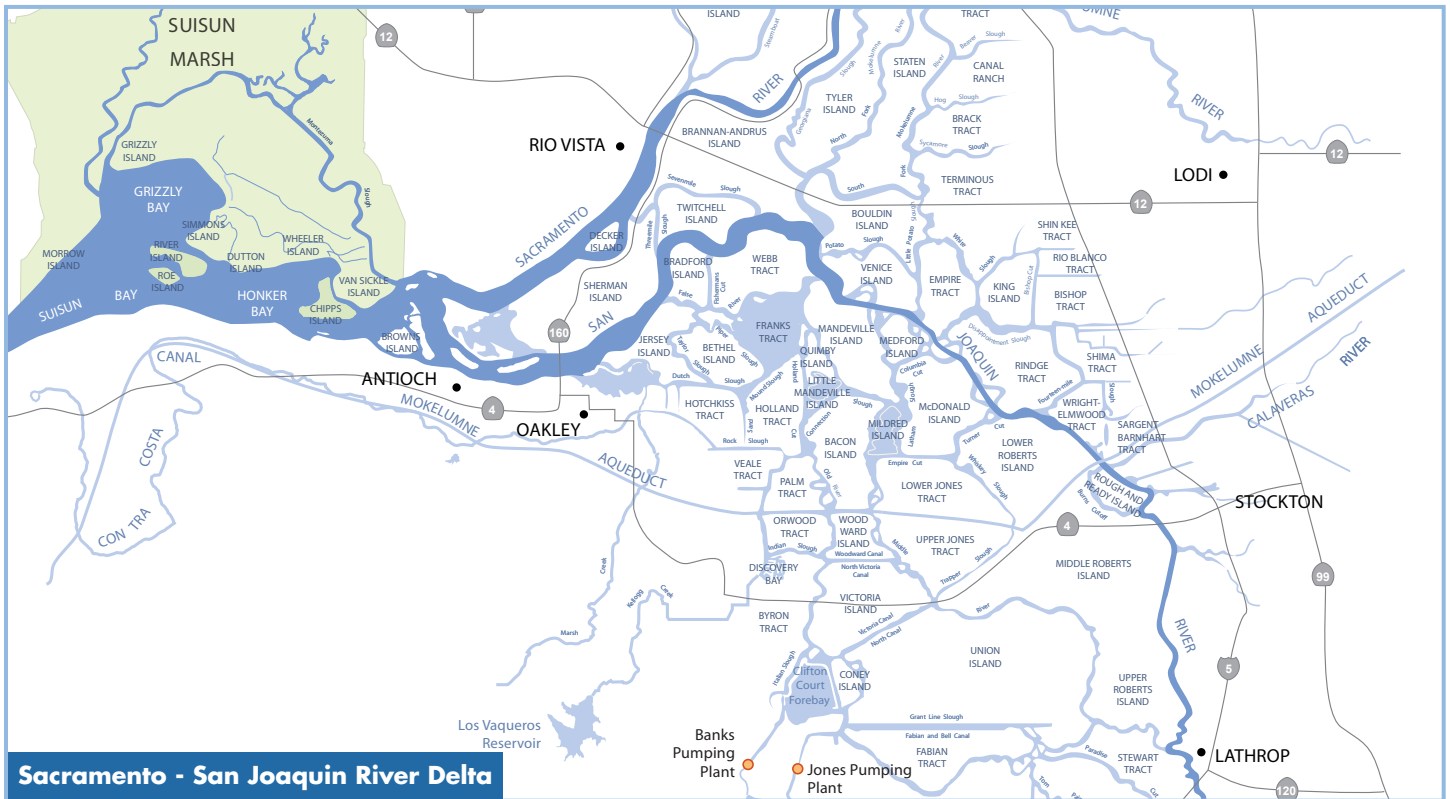
The Delta is the hub of California's major water systems: the State Water Project (SWP) and the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) supply drinking water to two thirds of the state's population and irrigate millions of acres of the nation's most productive agricultural lands. Santa Clara County relies on these two water projects for 40 percent of its water supplies on average. Consequently, threats to the Delta ecosystem and these water projects pose problems not only to Southern California or farmers, but to Silicon Valley too.

Invasive and non-native species, water pollution and wastewater discharges, unscreened water diversions, and changes in natural

continued on back...

Where does our water come from? **The Delta**

The Delta



flow patterns and hydrology threaten the health of the Delta's ecosystem and have contributed to the decline of several fish populations. And regulatory constraints to protect these threatened fish species have reduced the reliability of the county's SWP and CVP water supplies.

Catastrophic levee failure is also a growing threat. The United States Geological Survey estimates there is a 72 percent chance of major earthquake occurring in the San Francisco Bay area before 2043. The Department of Water Resources estimates that such an event has a 40 percent probability of causing multiple levees to fail in the Delta. A major levee failure could shut down the SWP and CVP Delta pumps for six to 18 months, depending on when and where it occurred, severely impacting Santa Clara County and the California economy.

Climate change scenarios predict even greater threats in the future. Earlier snow melts will put additional strain on the Delta levees. Rising sea level also threatens levee stability and will allow more salty ocean water to intrude into the Delta. This increased salinity may affect fish populations and will increase the cost to treat the water for use in Santa Clara County and elsewhere.

To address these risks, the water district is actively evaluating the state's proposed California WaterFix and California EcoRestore projects, efforts aimed at the dual goals of improving Delta ecosystem health and water supply reliability. The California WaterFix project is an attempt to improve the reliability of the water supply moving through the Delta while decreasing adverse impacts on fish and wildlife. It is not intended to increase the amount of water that water districts south of the Delta will receive, but to guard the existing water supply from the effects of sea level rise, climate change, earthquakes, and increasing regulatory constraints. In this capacity, the state expects it to protect the homes and businesses that rely on water flowing through the Delta should any of those disasters strike.

California EcoRestore is a program designed to improve Delta ecosystem health by accelerating restoration of at least 30,000 acres of habitat for fish and wildlife in the Delta by 2020. The EcoRestore program includes projects focused on restoration of tidal and managed wetlands and floodplains, as well as channel margin and fish passage improvements.