North Delta CARES Action Committee

P.O. Box 223, Clarksburg,CA 95612 Phone: (530) 570-9641 Email: deltaactioncommittee@gmail.com

Comments Requested on DELTA PLAN Performance Measures

"The Council seeks comments on recommendations for refinements to the Output & Outcome Performance Measures presented at the December Council meeting"

The 3-legged stool –
(Chapter 3) Water Supply Reliability,
(Chapter 4) EcoSystem Restoration,
(Chapter 5) Preserve and Protect the Delta as a Unique Place

all in a manner that preserves, protects and enhances the unique agricultural, cultural, and recreational characteristics of the Delta.

Delta Plan Chapter 3 – A more reliable water supply for California

3.31 WR R6: Meeting and Setting Goals - - Current Delta Plan Wording: "Progress made in achieving existing water conservation and water supply performance goals and setting expanded future goals for local, regional, and statewide water conservation, water use efficiency. This wording is being REMOVED because it is being combined into (covered) by 3.25, 3.26 and 3.27 (below).

3.25 WR R1: "Percentage change in urban per capita water use" with progress toward meeting California's conservation goal of achieving a 10% reduction in statewide urban per capita water usage by 2015 and a 20% reduction by 2020."

COMMENT: Agricultural interests, through which far greater water savings could be realized, are not being held to any specific standards or regulatory reduction goals as are the urban users from whom far less savings can be obtained. To reduce the overall use of water in the State of California, if agricultural interests were even held to a 10% reduction in their use of water that would result in an overall whopping 8% reduction of water used in California compared with the two times greater 20% reduction goal of water use by urban water users, the savings are only 4% of water used throughout California. If agricultural water users were held to even ½ the standard that urban water users are held to for water reduction, that alone would result in twice as much water savings as the maximum 20% that the urban users will save and approaches 10% of total water savings in California.

3.26 WR R6: "Progress toward achieving CA's goal for the increased use of storm water runoff of at least 500,000 AF/year by 2020 and by at least 1 MAF/year by 2030."

3.27 WR P1: "Progress toward increasing local and regional water supplies, measured by the amount . . (this measure is combined into 3.28 below)

3.34: WR Rl: Agricultural Water use efficiency:

COMMENT: Agriculture uses 80% of California's water. The Pacific Institute did a study in 2009 which concluded the following comparison of water quantities: "For an average water year, the agriculture water conservation and efficiency practices identified in the Pacific Institute Report have the potential to save 5.6 million acre-feet of water, equivalent to:

- more than 16 times the amount of water that can be stored in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir;

- triple the water that can be stored in the far larger San Luis Reservoir;

- 4.5 times the water than could be stored in the proposed Temperance Flats Reservoir;

- 19 times the water restored to the environment in the recent Delta smelt ruling;

- more than double the 2.3 million acre feet in urban efficiency improvements identified in the Pacific Institute's urban water efficiency study of the potential for residential, commercial, and industrial efficiency improvements." **(Please see July 22, 2009, "Saving California Agriculture" attached.)**

3.28 WR R1 and WR R4: "Measurable reduction in reliance on the Delta":

COMMENT: With 3 NEW/ADDED water diversion permits being submitted for the Sacramento River Delta watershed, additional reliance on the Delta would potentially create a huge hardship to this Region. The end users, Metroplitan Water District of Southern California and Westlands Water District, are using public money to subsidize their water deliveries and the public is paying for this many times over. Metropolitan Water District is improving their regional water usage by using federal taxpayer dollars to create incentives for people to reduce their water usage. One example is: "Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Proposition 13 and 50 Bond Programs Grant Agreements 4600003108 and 4600004214: DWR awarded the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California a $2.5 million Proposition 13 grant for the Residential High-Efficiency Clothes Washers Rebate Program for the purpose of providing approximately 33,333 rebates to residential customers. To sustain momentum of the Proposition 13 grant, the Department also awarded a $1.66 million Proposition 50 grant to provide an additional 33,200 rebates. The program projects water savings of 7,000 gallons per unit per year." (Per A Grant Audit by the Office of State Audits and Evaluations – Department of Finance – June 2010) **(See attached Department of Finance letter dated June 18, 2010)**

Attached are three additional examples of how the water in California is being lost as a public trust.

1. "District Rakes in $14 million from Water Auction"
2. "Who Owns California's Water?" (Kern County Water Bank)
3. "Soaking Uncle Sam" (Westlands Water District)

3.32 WR R9: Groundwater management planning is being removed from the Strategies and becoming an Administrative Measure:

3.33 WR R11: Recover and Manage Critically Overdrafted Basins:

COMMENT: There is great opportunity here to properly manage and monitor the recharge of the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region. The Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region could ostensibly store an additional million acre feet of water that would otherwise flow out to the ocean. This water is above and beyond what is needed for the health of the ecosystem. Not enough progress is being made. WR R11 should also state that measurable demonstration must be made that groundwater basins are being recharged appropriately.

Delta Plan Chapter 4: Protect, Restore, and Enhance the Delta Ecosystem

4.26 ER R1: Adopt Delta Flow Objectives (by June 2, 2014 and major tributaries by 2018 or) as soon as REASONABLY possible; Spring pulse flows and Recession flows:

COMMENT: The SWRCB must develop and specify appropriate Delta flows **prior** to the Hearings on the NEW water diversions being sought after by DWR and USBR. As soon as reasonably possible is not acceptable to the people of California. The Permits being requested by DWR and USBR are not a "Change" of Diversion, they are three **"ADDITIONAL"** diversions.

4.31 ER R1: **Progress** towards restoring in-Delta flows:

COMMENT 1: We cannot restore more natural flows in the Delta by taking more water **out** of the Delta before it has gone through the Delta, as is proposed with the California WaterFix. The Primary and Secondary Zones will become a salt water marsh. The Delta has always been a fresh water estuary. The reasons for this have compounded on each other, but the main cause of the decline of the Delta has been the removal of too much water and the mismanagement and over-allocation of the available water in California. Much of the mismanagement has occurred with the management of the dams and reservoirs above the Delta run by the State Water Project and the Central Valley Water Project. The water management needs to be reconsidered, redeveloped and NEW water needs to be developed. This is very possible and there are solutions available! **(Please see attached COMMENT binder for RDEIR/EIS).**

COMMENT 2: The Delta Tulare Lake Water Plan recharges the Tulare Lake ground basin and parts of the original Tulare Lake, which was the largest fresh water lake/basin west of the Mississippi River in the early 1900's. The Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region is one of the 11 California Water Basins and needs to be recharged for their own regional use. Recharging Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region would eliminate the need for building additional costly infrastructure such as Sites or Temperance Flats reservoirs and/or the California Water Fix twin tunnels. This should be done instead of building either Sites or Temperance Flats Reservoirs; it can be done with much less cost and will reestablish the natural habitat for the environment. No Prop 1 money should be spent to do this! The Water Agencies, and especially Kern Water Bank, but also all of the SemiTropic Users, need to pay for this. No Prop 1 money and no Twin Tunnels. **(Please see attached information on the Delta Tulare Lake Water Plan).**

4.27 ER R2: Acres of habitat restored:

4.30 ER R2: Progress toward "doubling goal" for wild CV salmonids . . . relative to 1995 levels:

4.32: ER R2: Progress toward occurrence & use of protected & restored habitat and native species:

4.37: ER R2: Landscape metrics to assess ecological functions:

COMMENT: If the salmon go extinct, the farmers in the Delta will become extinct. Salmon are a native critical species. There won't be enough water for anyone to survive in Northern California. Critical habitat is being destroyed along the Sacramento River between Freeport and Rio Vista at an alarming rate. There are numerous agencies out in the Delta "trimming trees" to the point that major limbs are being chopped off and the tree is then left to die on its own. Perfectly healthy trees are being cut at their trunk base and left. It has been observed over the past 5 years that the trees are being gradually removed and the grass and vegetation is being severely sprayed with herbicides to the point that the vegetation is turning "Orange". We know they are using 2-4-D (Agent Orange) as part of the spray being used. This has to stop. Not only is this denuding the much needed vegetation that supports the insects and ecosystems so critical to fish abundance and other habitat needs such as shade, but it is also making the levees more vulnerable to erosion and hence, potential levee failure. Additionally, the harmful glyphosate in 2-4-D, now considered a probable carcinogen by the World Health Organization, and being considered by Prop 65 as a probable carcinogen, is washing into the water and increasing the environmental toxicity for fish and other aquatic species as well as to the water users in urban communities downstream of the spray areas.

4.34 ER R7: Implement the 2014 ERP Conservation Strategy:

4:35 ER R5: Progress towards decreasing trends in new/existing nonnative invasive species and abundance/distribution of existing nonnative invasive species:

6.21 WQ-R8: Concentration of pesticides . . . met by 2020:

COMMENT 1: In regard to the hyacinth problems in the Delta, the over use of 2-4-D and of glyphosate is not acceptable to people, plants, fish or wildlife! There are new mechanical methods that need to be used on a small scale and then developed to remove the hyacinth. The harmful glyphosate in 2-4-D, now considered a probable carcinogen by the World Health Organization and being considered for Prop 65 as a probable carcinogen, is washing into the water and increasing the environmental toxicity for fish and other aquatic species as well as to the water users in urban communities downstream of the spray areas. **(See attached "Glyphosate Classified Carcinogenic by ICA, March 20, 2015") (See attached North Delta CARES 9-14-15 Letter)**

COMMENT 2: The striped bass need to be left alone. It is obvious that the pumps at Tracy and the diversions at the Delta Cross Channel, etc., and the over-pumping causing low water levels, etc., are the major cause of the decline of the ecosystem in the Delta. The California water supply is being mismanaged and over-appropriated. This needs to be fixed first before any new infrastructure such as the California WaterFix is considered.

Delta Plan Chapter 5: Protect and Enhance the Unique Cultural, Recreational, Natural Resource and Agriculture in the Delta

5.27 DP R1: Designate NHA for Delta and Suisun Marsh:

COMMENT: We the People in the Delta do not want a National Heritage Area here. We do not need another level of oversight in the Delta. What we do need is **real support** to develop our unique cultural, recreational, agricultural and natural resources. This is not happening at any level. At the recent International Sportsmen's Exposition at Cal Expo in Sacramento on Thursday, January 21, 2016, there was an entire wall of tables with promotional recreational materials staffed by the California Department of Water Resources and the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. When looking for material that supported recreational activities and businesses specifically in the Delta, the information was not only extremely minimal, but what was there was deficient and/or inadequate.

Attached is the information that was available to the attendees at the IES. The Delta Map is an incomplete, inadequate, and juvenile piece of work. If this is how we are "protecting the Delta" and how we are enhancing the unique "recreational" opportunities in the Delta, the Departments/Agencies of the State of California have been remiss and have failed. If an agency was purposely undermining the recreational and tourism opportunities in the Delta, they couldn't have done a better job. DWR and CDFW are systematically downplaying the rich cultural heritage and recreational/tourism opportunities in the Delta largely through omission of their resources on State maps – with emphasis only on their industrial structures, rather than "protecting and enhancing the unique cultural, recreational, natural resources and agriculture in the Delta." DWR and CDFW need to create and develop meaningful public outreach material which includes the North Delta's 9 legacy towns with the multitude of tourist opportunities

including museums, artwork and historic sites, wine tasting, etc. as well as various boating, fishing, and water recreation opportunities throughout the Delta, etc. This appears to be deliberately minimizing the recreation and tourism opportunities in the Delta. **(Please see the attached DWR Delta Map and the attached RDEIR/S Comments.)**

5.25 DP P1: No further Delta rural farmland loss (to urban development):

5.25 DP P2: Minimize water and habitat project impacts on local land uses:

COMMENT: Urban development is not the biggest threat to the loss of Delta farmland due to County Planning regulations which control this. The biggest threat to the loss of the Delta's farmland which needs to be stated and defended is to the California WaterFix and the California EcoRestore. Both of these are taking out the richest farmland in perhaps the entire world. And, both of these will allow the twin tunnels to be built and then filled. This will result in salt water encroachment and the loss of thousands of acres of farmland in the Delta. Please stop ignoring the true threats and over exaggerating the others. **(See attached binder of RDEIR/S Comments)**

5.29 DP R3: Progress toward Delta Legacy Communities . . .protecting the Delta legacy communities as indicated by renovation of historic structures, flood proofing, and other reductions in flood hazards and maintenance or growth of small businesses and population:

COMMENT: Thus far, there's been talk and little-to-no action. The legacy communities are under the biggest threat from the Agencies designed to protect them. It must be noted that the California WaterFix and the California EcoRestore will destroy many of the 9 North Delta legacy communities. Alternative 9, which is thoroughly outlined in the Revised Draft EIR/EIS, describes two 7,500 cfs intake facilities; one at the Delta Cross Channel at Locke/Walnut Grove and the second at Georgiana Slough about a mile south of the first. The combination is 15,000 cfs! This is 50 times larger than the 300 cfs Freeport Facility recently constructed only 20 miles north. The 10-year construction of Alternative 9 alone will destroy these two communities! The Delta Stewardship Council needs to protect the Delta in every way possible **from** the California WaterFix, the California EcoRestore and the twin tunnels, which will all devastate the Delta. There are real solutions that are not being discussed and fully vetted and must be considered before anything else moves forward. These include real water savings from reduced agricultural use by natural drip irrigating as well as natural desalinization, primary water in the earth's magna, and others.

It is also important to note that the DRMS Report information being used for the Delta Levee Investment Strategy is another incorrect tool being used to determine parameters for the Delta Stewardship Council and many State projects.

5.28 DP R9: Include recreation facilities in ecosystem projects:

5.33 DP R11: Delta recreation and tourism activities and success:

COMMENTS: The maps by DWR for Recreation in the Delta are totally incorrect and omit vitally critical aspects of both recreational and tourist opportunities in the Delta. A grievous omission are the historic legacy towns which are the lifeblood of the North Delta and an anchor for many recreational opportunities in the Delta. Also, the maps for Recreation in the Revised Draft EIR/EIS for the California WaterFix are inadequate and incorrect. **(See attached: Figure M15-4 Sheets 1-8 – Recreation Facilities – Modified Pipeline/Tunnel Alignment -Alternative 4, and Comments on Recreation in the RDEIR/S Comments Binder attached)**

5.30 DP R18: Track cargo tonnage and jobs at ports:

COMMENT: DPC is creating an ROI in partnership with UC Davis . . . in the meantime the hyacinth has shut down the Port of Stockton for days. Money and pesticides have been thrown at this problem and real solutions are not being encouraged. Gene Colver, Deckhands Marine, Walnut Grove, has a concept to destroy the hyacinth at its core, the seed; but to get that information to an Agency that will support its development is not forthcoming to date. Please note earlier references to the World Health Organization designation of glyphosate as a probable carcinogen. Any use of products containing glyphosate present a diabolic danger to the health of both aquatic species and downstream water users. This includes the use of glyphosate-containing 2-4-D in or around any water source, particularly the water diverted from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta, which reaches nearly 22 million Californians and through use by agricultural interests, it ends up in the contamination of the food they eat as well as the water they drink.

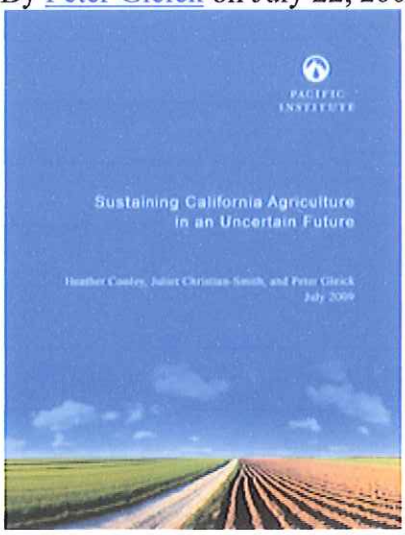
Submitted by North Delta C.A.R.E.S.
"Community Area Residents for Environmental Stability"
January 22, 2016

END

City Brights: Peter Gleick

Saving California Agriculture

By Peter Gleick on July 22, 2009 at 9:16 AM



Pacific Institute

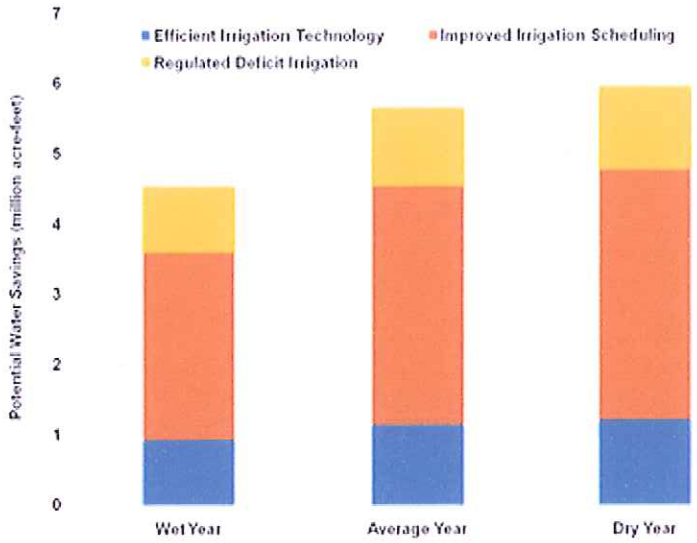
The Pacific Institute has just released a major new study that shows that a strong and healthy California agricultural sector can flourish despite diminishing water supply and future uncertainty from climate change, but only if new steps are taken to significantly increase the efficiency of water use in California fields. The good news is that many farmers and irrigation districts are already making improvements in how they use water. The better news is that there is still tremendous untapped potential – potential that totals millions of acre-feet. The report also offers explicit policy and water management changes to capture this potential.

The new report, ***Sustaining California Agriculture in an Uncertain Future*** (funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation), quantifies the potential to reduce agricultural water withdrawals and vulnerability to drought and climate change while maintaining and even increasing productivity.

Water Number: 4.5 to 6 million. The number of acre feet each year that we estimate can be saved statewide by comprehensive changes in the irrigation technologies and management practices we use to grow California's crops. This savings represents around 17% of all of the water used by agriculture in California. In comparison, this is 19 times the amount of water returned to the environment through the recent Delta smelt ruling.

While there are many approaches to increasing our water-use efficiency, we looked at three: improving irrigation and soil

moisture management, changing from old inefficient irrigation technology to newer efficient technologies, and regulated deficit irrigation.



Pacific Institute

Potential water savings (in million acre-feet) in a wet, average, and dry year

Our report finds that all three of these approaches show potential for significant savings. Indeed, all three are already being implemented by innovative farmers. Many farmers have worked hard to improve water-use efficiency in recent years, but much more can be done. For example, an astounding 58% of crops are still irrigated in California by flooding the field – a practice that leads to unproductive water loss. As hard as it is to believe, the last irrigation survey in California showed that nearly 300,000 acres of vineyards are still grown using flood irrigation in the San Joaquin and Tulare hydrologic regions (as are many more acres of crops that don't need flood irrigation). In comparison, fewer than 4,000 acres of vineyards in the rest of the state are grown using flood irrigation. Converting even a fraction of flood irrigation to sprinklers allows farmers to apply water with greater precision and uniformity, boosting yields and quality, while reducing unproductive water use. Other states already do far more with smart irrigation systems than California.

The report also features several early adopters who have implemented water conservation and efficiency improvements that both reduce water use and increase their bottom line. For example, Craig McNamara, owner and operator of Sierra Orchards, has converted many fields to drip irrigation and installed tailwater recovery ponds to capture excess water runoff (watch the video).

The new report makes specific recommendations, such as property and sales tax exemptions, rebates for efficient irrigation equipment, greater federal support through Farm Bill conservation programs, and better water pricing policies.

Here are a few:

– Provide financial assistance and incentives to more farmers to implement efficient irrigation methods.

– Update district irrigation delivery systems to provide water to farmers when it is needed.

– Change current state law, which allows local government to create local groundwater management authorities, to require such authorities throughout the state.

– Provide legislative, regulatory, and administrative support to update the water rights system given future hydrologic uncertainties.

– Empower the State Water Resources Control Board to act as an independent body by changing the appointment and funding processes.

– Develop economic strategies, including pricing, water markets, and water transfer agreements that provide incentives to improve efficiency rather than incentives to consume water.

– Ensure that state and federal water contracts comply with state water law and encourage water conservation by promoting and implementing diverse best management practices.

If California wants a healthy agricultural sector, and if significant new sources of supply remain out of reach or are too expensive, we have no choice but to implement conservation and efficiency more aggressively. The good news is that we're starting to move in the right direction; the better news is we can do much more.

COMPARISON OF WATER QUANTITIES

For an average water year, the agricultural water conservation and efficiency practices identified in the Pacific Institute report have the potential to save 5.6 million acre-feet of water, equivalent to:

-more than 16 times the amount of water that can be stored in the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir;

-triple the water that can be stored in the far larger San Luis Reservoir;

-4.5 times the water than could be stored in the proposed Temperance Flats Reservoir;

-19 times the water restored to the environment in the recent Delta smelt ruling;

-more than double the 2.3 million acre-feet in urban efficiency improvements identified in the Pacific Institute's urban water efficiency study of the potential for residential, commercial, and industrial efficiency improvements.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR

915 L STREET ▮ SACRAMENTO CA ▮ 95814-3706 ▮ WWW.DOF.CA.GOV

June 18, 2010

Ms. Susan Sims, Chief Deputy Director
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836, Room 1115-1
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Ms. Sims:

Final Report—Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Propositions 13 and 50 Grant Audits

The Department of Finance, Office of State Audits and Evaluations (Finance), has completed its audit of the following Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (District) grants:

Grant Agreement	Audit Period	Awarded
4600003108	February 27, 2004 through April 15, 2007	$2.5 million
4600004214	December 29, 2005 through December 30, 2008	$1.66 million

The enclosed report is for your information and use. Because there were no audit findings or issues requiring a response, we are issuing the report as final.

In accordance with Finance's policy of increased transparency, the final report will be placed on our website. Additionally, pursuant to Executive Order S-20-09, the California Department of Water Resources is required to post the final report in its entirety to the Reporting Government Transparency website at http://www.reportingtransparency.ca.gov/ within five working days of the final transmittal.

We appreciate the assistance and cooperation of the District. If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Frances Parmelee, Manager, or Evelyn Suess, Supervisor, at (916) 322-2985.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

David Botelho, CPA
Chief, Office of State Audits and Evaluations

Enclosure

cc: On following page

District rakes in $14 million from water auction

BY LOIS HENRY Californian columnist lhenry@bakersfield.com

A local water district will make close to $14 million from selling 12,000 acre feet of its water to other Kern County growers left dry by California's drought.

The water will go to four Kern County agricultural operations per requirements set out by Buena Vista Water Storage District.

RELATED INFO

THE WINNING BIDS

Starrh & Starrh, $1,250 paf -- 1,000 af, total $1.25 million cotton growers

Starrh & Starrh, $1,200 paf -- 1,000 af, total $1.2 million

Primex, $1,200 paf -- 1,100 af, total $1.32 million

Horizon Nut, $1,175 paf -- 250 af, total $293,750

Starrh & Starrh, $1,150 paf -- 1,000 af, total $1.15 million

Starrh & Starrh, $1,100 paf -- 714 af, total $785,600

Paramount Farming, $1,100 paf -- 7,142 af, total $7.856 million

AF sold: 12,206

Total: $13,855,350

Average price paf: $1,135

af = acre foot

paf = per acre foot

NOTE: Starrh & Starrh and Paramount are both part of the Belridge Water Storage District.

Primex is in Lost Hills Water District. (Why not Belridge in Lost Hills, CA

Horizon Nut is in Berrenda Mesa Water District.

Paramount Farming will get the bulk of the water, 7,142 acre feet, for which it will pay nearly $8 million.

Starrh & Starrh Farms will get 3,714 acre feet from four separate bids for a total of $4.38 million.

Primex Farms will get 1,100 acre feet for $1.32 million and Horizon Nut will get 250 acre feet for $293,750.

All the bids are pending contracts to be OK'd by the growers' water districts.

Buena Vista generated headlines and a lot of interest from water users up and down the state last month when it announced it would auction off the water.

The minimum bid price was set at $600 per acre foot, about three times what growers usually pay for state water.

Ultimately, 50 bids came in, with nearly 20 at $1,000 per acre foot or higher. In all, the bids reflected a need for more than 63,000 acre feet of water.

The highest bid was $1,350 per acre foot for 300 acre feet, or $405,000 from Harris Ranch.

Buena Vista initially accepted that bid but then learned Harris intended to use the water on local lands but also in an exchange with Westlands Water District in Fresno County.

"We said if that's what you're going to do, we can't approve the bid," said Maurice Etchechury, general manager of Buena Vista.

The district wanted the water used in Kern but also didn't want it to be used in exchanges that might keep other water out of Kern, Etchechury explained.

Harris ended up withdrawing its bid.

Buena Vista plans to use part of the proceeds from the auction to pay for a land fallowing program within its district. It has offered to pay farmers $400 per acre not to farm this year to reduce demand on the aquifer.

It had hoped to be able to fallow 4,000 to 5,000 acres.

The district ended up getting applications for 11,000 acres, Etchechury said.

After weeding through all the applications, he said, it looks like about 7,500 acres are eligible for the fallowing program, which could cost the district $3 million.

Not all the land was eligible, Etchechury said.

"Some people tried to enroll land that wasn't even in the district," he said. "And there was some land that had never been farmed."

The object was to take land out of production that would otherwise have been farmed this year.

Buena Vista's board of directors will sift through the applicants and make the final decision on which lands it will pay to fallow.

Bob Williams: Who owns California's water?

POSTED: 12:00 AM, Jun 21, 2010
TAG: opinion (/topic/opinion) | bob williams (/topic/bob+williams)

Most of us have always believed that water flows downhill. We were recently corrected by Len Richardson, editor of the California Farmer who said, "Water tends to flow toward wealth."

Richardson has good reason for this cynical view and it's time for all Californians to take notice. Wealth has moved to take more and more control of California's waters. The rise of water oligarchs is nothing new and was brought home to anyone who saw the movie "Chinatown."

The action has now shifted to the San Joaquin Valley and to maneuvers there for privatizing control of water in the massive State Water Project. These are not work-a-day farmers we are talking about. One or two may own a broad-brimmed hat but their offices are in Sunnyvale and Beverly Hills.

The Kern Water Bank is an underground water storage facility, an aquifer, 32 square miles in area. Part of it extends under Interstate 5 below the Grapevine. It was developed by the Department of Water Resources with $74 million in taxpayer money. It stores water in times of plenty to be used in times of drought and cutbacks of state water. The Kern Water Bank stores 1 million acre-feet of water, the largest such storage in the world. From its initiation in 1988 to 1995, the DWR was unable to pump this stored water as planned. State law requires the DWR to gain local approval for pumping "local" groundwater. Kern County refused this approval.

In the Monterey Agreements of 1995, the DWR gave the Kern Water Bank to a newly organized Kern Water Bank Authority. In turn Kern County gave up a portion of the water that it had a right to sell to municipal users. The Kern Water Bank Authority

consists of five water districts and one private company. The private company is the Westside Mutual Water Company. This company is part of a larger holding company, Roll International Corp., which also owns Paramount Farms, a collection of enterprises irrigating about 115,000 acres of tree crops year-round in the southern San Joaquin Valley. All of this: Roll, Westside Mutual, and Paramount Farms, is owned by Beverly Hills billionaires Stewart and Linda Resnick.

Paramount Farms, through Westside Mutual, owns 48.06 percent of the Kern Water Bank. The Resnicks also own a 40 percent interest in the Dudley Ridge Water District, which has 8.66 percent of the Kern Water Bank. This is tantamount to complete control.

The Monterey Agreements permit water contractors to resell the water they receive from the State Water Project. This means they become middlemen making profits on state-supplied water. If they choose to, they can dry up vast areas of productive agriculture and ship the water to municipalities south of the Tehachapi range. A coalition of agriculturalists and environmentalists has brought suit to challenge this.

A major farming enterprise, Sandridge Partners, has filed statements supporting this suit. To quote them extensively: "The State of California could have hardly foreseen that a private individual would own, control, and monopolize such a valuable public asset. The situation as it exists today seems to 'game' the State of California's water policy. Meeting in 'closed sessions,' rewriting public policies, tailoring their edits to the interests of monopoly-like agribusiness corporations."

But Sandridge is hardly taking the high road. It goes on to recommend that others in the water bank be permitted some of the socially dubious practices that now only Paramount Farms are allowed.

Sandridge Partners is controlled by the Vidovich family centered in the quaint little farming community of Los Altos Hills, where the median home price is $2.5 million. Their corporate (farm) headquarters in Sunnyvale also includes De Anza Properties, categorized as a peanut farm, and a major developer in the Silicon Valley. They have a

10 percent interest in that same Dudley Ridge Water District where Resnick has a 40 percent interest. There are eight such owners in this 47,000-acre water district where no one lives. The owners agreed that all could sell their water independently of the others.

Last year Sandridge Partners sold to the Mojave Water District the water rights to 14,000 acre-feet of water for $5,250 per acre-foot. We're not talking peanuts here. It also means quite a bit of agricultural land will return to semi-desert aridity.

Let's face it, these multimillionaires are not work-a-day farmers. They are not investors. They are speculators in water. Buying land for its water then alienating the water from the farmland is the next big thing for making millions.

Since the Department of Water Resources seems powerless to control this, the state Legislature has the obligation to step in, and soon, before the remainder of the State Water Project is privatized.

Bob Williams is a Millville rancher and a retired UCLA professor. His e-mail address is wmsranch@hughes.net (mailto:wmsranch@hughes.net).

Print this article

CC: KG + BD

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP THE POWER OF INFORMATION

Published on Environmental Working Group (http://www.ewg.org)

Soaking Uncle Sam

Why Westlands Water District's New Contract is All Wet

Published September 14, 2005

Soaking Uncle Sam

Courtesy of U.S. taxpayers, a few hundred farms in Fresno and Kings counties annually get enough water to supply every household in Los Angeles, at pennies on the dollar of the price paid by urban water users. Now they're about to gain control of still more – even though they will need less in the future.

The farms are in the Westlands Water District, which is about to sign a contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation that will set the price and amount of water the district gets from the Central Valley Project (CVP) for the next 25 years, with virtually automatic renewal for another 25 years. [1] If Westlands gets its way, it will control more water than the households of Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Riverside and San Bernardino combined use in a year.

Under the current contract, a computer investigation by Environmental Working Group (EWG) calculated the value of Westlands' federal water subsidy at $110 million a year in 2002. [2] The new contract will result in an increase in the price Westlands will pay for each acre-foot of water, but the vast amount of new water the district stands to receive will boost the value of the subsidy by tens of millions of dollars a year. Meanwhile, a third or more of the district's land is in such poor condition that to continue farming it, taxpayers will also have to pay for a drainage system the government says will cost at least $589 million to build and $11 million per year to run. [3] At the current value of the annual water subsidy, plus millions each year in federal crop subsidies, taxpayer-financed benefits to Westlands will total billions of dollars over the life of the contract.

EWG's analysis shows that the proposed new contract is a bad deal for taxpayers; for urban water users; for statewide water planners; for low-income Valley communities that lack adequate supplies of clean, affordable drinking water; and for fish and wildlife in the San Francisco Bay-Delta and rivers that Westlands' water comes from. It is, however, a very good deal for Westlands, cementing its position for decades to come as the dominant force in California water politics.

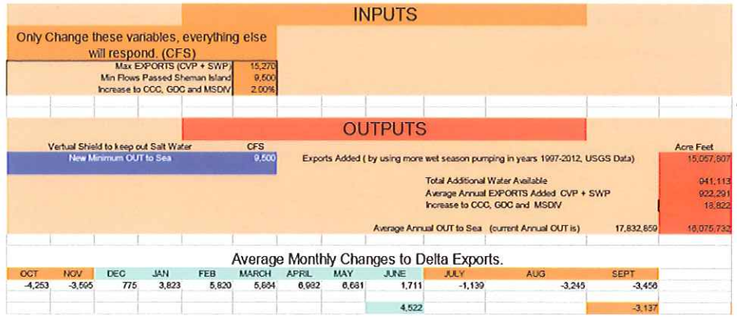
Over the life of the contract, its terms will affect the supply and cost of water throughout California. The public comment period for the proposed contract ends Sept. 15, but there's been little critical scrutiny of a deal that would lock up a huge amount of California's most precious resource for 50 years:

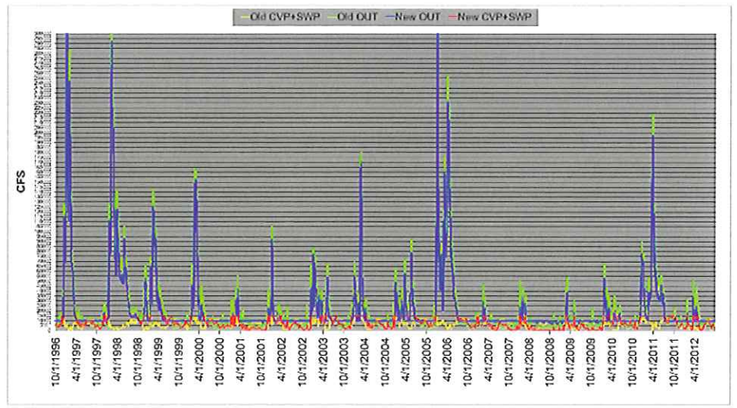
- Nowhere in the contract does it say what price Westlands will pay for CVP water in 2006 and beyond. Instead, the Bureau of Reclamation says it will adjust the rate – up or down – from year to year. This year, Westlands' base rate is $31.63 per acre-foot, less than one-fifth the water's market value. †1 With future prices a mystery, the contract cannot guarantee that Westlands will, as required by law, pay off by 2030 the $386 million it owes the government as its share of the cost of building the CVP, the largest federal irrigation system in the nation.
- The contract promises Westlands 1.15 million acre-feet of water a year, with the fine print adding another 38,490 acre-feet a year that may come from other irrigation districts through a scheme that seems designed to circumvent restrictions on water transfers. (An acre-foot is the amount of water needed to cover one acre one foot deep. The average California household uses half of an acre-foot per year.)
- Compared to the average of 755,635 acre-feet a year Westlands received from 1990 to 2003, the amount promised in the contract is an increase of more than 50 percent. Yet, in violation of federal law, none of the additional water was considered in studies of the new contract's environmental impact.
- Westlands is promised more water even though it's receiving a $107 million buyout from taxpayers in exchange for removing from cultivation 34,000 acres with severe drainage problems. To solve the drainage problem, the Bureau of Reclamation is considering taking out of production up to 298,000 acres – about half of the district – but the contract implies that Westlands would get to keep its full current water allotment no matter how much more land is retired.

Careful examination of Westlands' new contract is critical given what's at stake. In terms of both size and water use, Westlands is by far the largest of the roughly 100 CVP water districts. Almost all are signing new contracts this year, but because Westlands gets about one-fourth of all the irrigation water delivered by the CVP – more than five times as much as

Reoperations and capture of flows

With West Delta conveyance in position, the capture of excess flows through reoperations and timing is greatly enhanced. Fresh water flows of a higher quality for the benefit of agriculture, urban use and the environment become much more abundant and reliable. The "smoothing" of water supply versus water demand can be performed on a real-time basis. South of Delta deliveries can be performed with less saltwater intrusion (X2) beyond Sherman Island. More water and of a higher quality could be reliably available for all users.





Let's take the next steps on the Delta-Tulare Water Plan

The people of California want our elected officials and policymakers to take a more reasoned approach to our water resource challenges – one that does not pit north vs. south, or agriculture vs. urban interests vs. the environment. North Delta CARES, Citizens Water Plan of Southern California, and the San Joaquin Valley Leadership Forum urge our leaders to take the next steps on the Delta-Tulare Water Plan.

Next steps:

- **Feasibility study of West Delta conveyance**
- **Analysis of reoperation and capture of Delta flows based on West Delta conveyance**
- **Feasibility study of Tulare Lake Basin used as a water storage and distribution hub**

Let's work together to make this plan a reality.

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9/22/15

The Delta-Tulare Water Plan

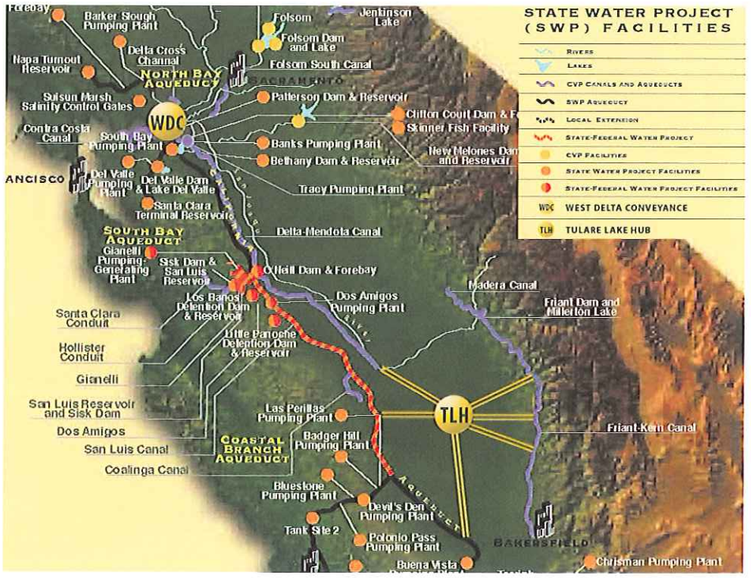
A cost-effective, environmentally superior alternative to the Twin Tunnels
1.1 million acre feet of NEW WATER for California annually*
No damage to Delta farms or fisheries

Three organizations from Northern and Southern California have joined together to present a cost-effective, technically feasible, and environmentally sound water plan that benefits all Californians. Unlike the Twin Tunnels, the Delta-Tulare Water Plan provides *new water* for urban centers and agriculture without damaging Delta farms and fisheries. And, it delivers new water at a fraction of the cost of the Twin Tunnels.

What is the Delta-Tulare Water Plan?

- **A new conveyance system in the West Delta that delivers water to the existing South Delta pumps.**
- **New water storage in the Tulare Lake Basin, which will function as a water hub for the surrounding region.**
- **Flows captured in the West Delta are delivered via the California Aqueduct to the Tulare Lake Basin for storage and re-distribution.**
- **1.1 million acre feet of new water can be captured and stored – water that would otherwise go out to sea.**
- **Can be implemented without the multi-billion dollar costs, decade-long disruptions, farmland forfeiture, and environmental damage associated with the Twin Tunnels proposal.**

This map shows how West Delta conveyance (WDC) and a Tulare Lake hub (TLH) would function within current SWP and CVP operations and infrastructure.



* On average, based on 43 years of flow data. Less water would be available in dry years, but significantly more water could be captured in wet years.

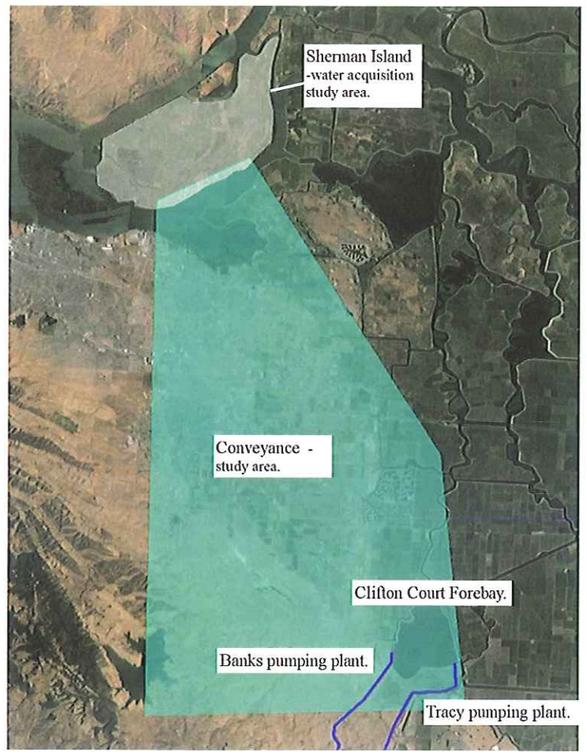
Captures and stores Delta water during high flows

Currently, most of California's surface water is captured and stored in Northern California in the winter, then pumped south in summer. The disadvantage of this system is that by pumping when flows are naturally low, saltwater intrusion and reverse flows are more likely to occur in the Delta. The Delta-Tulare Water Plan reverses this paradigm. Because it utilizes storage in the south, water can be pumped south *in the winter,* when flows and water quality are high. Instead of water going out to sea during high flow events, the water can be captured and conveyed to Tulare Lake for re-distribution and groundwater recharge.

Why conveyance in the West Delta?

Fresh water is the lifeblood of Delta agriculture and the Delta ecosystem. Without adequate flows to keep saltwater out, Delta fisheries suffer and water becomes too salty for irrigation. One of the biggest flaws in the Twin Tunnels plan is the placement of intakes – and diversion of the Sacramento River – at the top of the Delta system, depriving the Delta of the freshwater flows it needs.

Sherman Island in the West Delta is the ideal location for new water intakes and conveyance because it allows water to flow through the Delta before being captured and sent south. Sherman Island is already 90% owned by the State of California, so there is no impact on farms or homes (unlike the Twin Tunnels, which requires the sacrifice of 300 Delta farms and homes.) There are already several proposals for West Delta intakes and conveyance systems, including proposals by Dr. Robert Pyke and SolAgra. What is needed now is a feasibility study to evaluate the technical, financial and environmental merits of these and other proposals.



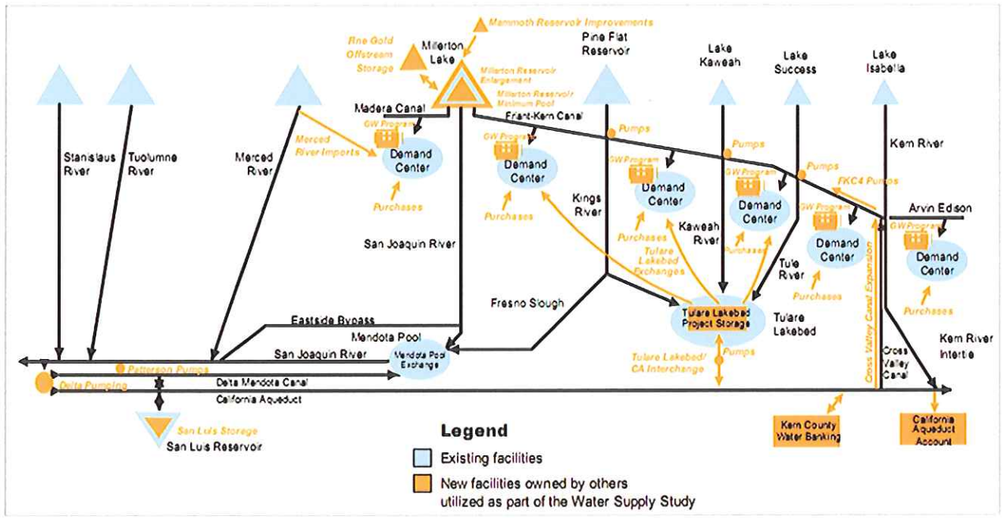
West Delta conveyance study area.

Why Tulare Lake Basin for water storage and distribution?

At 2.5 million acre feet, the historical Tulare Lake was the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. When California agriculture began to develop, the lake was drained and became farmland. Today, the Tulare Lake region has a robust array of canals that (with some infrastructure enhancement and cooperation of landowners) could be used to store and re-distribute water.

Groundwater recharge from water stored at Tulare Lake

In addition to providing water for agricultural and urban use, water stored at Tulare Lake can be used to recharge depleted aquifers in the region. In wet years especially, water can be moved out of Tulare Lake to recharge stations, then the Tulare Lake water replenished by water captured in the West Delta.



This illustration, from a 2002 URS study, shows how a Tulare Lake hub could re-distribute water to demand centers throughout the region.

A cost-effective plan that builds upon existing infrastructure

The Twin Tunnels are expected to cost upwards of $50 billion, including interest. And this sobering price tag does not include the inevitable cost overruns.

The Delta-Tulare plan would cost far less. New intakes and conveyance in the West Delta would cost a fraction of the Tunnels plan, and most of the distribution canals needed in the Tulare Lake area already exist.

Glyphosate Classified Carcinogenic by International Cancer Agency, Group Calls on U.S. to End Herbicide's Use and Advance Alternatives

(Beyond Pesticides, Washington, DC, March 20, 2015 – A national public health and environmental group, Beyond Pesticides, is calling on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to stop the use of the country's most popular herbicide, glyphosate, in the wake of an international ruling that it causes cancer in humans. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) released its finding today concluding that there is *sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity* based on laboratory studies.

Glyphosate, produced and sold as Roundup by Monsanto, is touted as a "low toxicity" chemical and "safer" than other chemicals by EPA and industry and is widely used in food production and on lawns, gardens, parks, and children's playing fields. However, IARC's new classification of glyphosate as a Group 2A "probable" carcinogen finds that glyphosate is anything but safe. According to IARC, Group 2A means that the chemical is probably carcinogenic to humans based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals. The agency considered the findings from an EPA Scientific Advisory Panel report, along with several recent studies in making its conclusion. The agency also notes that glyphosate caused DNA and chromosomal damage in human cells. Further, epidemiologic studies have found that exposure to glyphosate is significantly associated with an increased risk of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL).

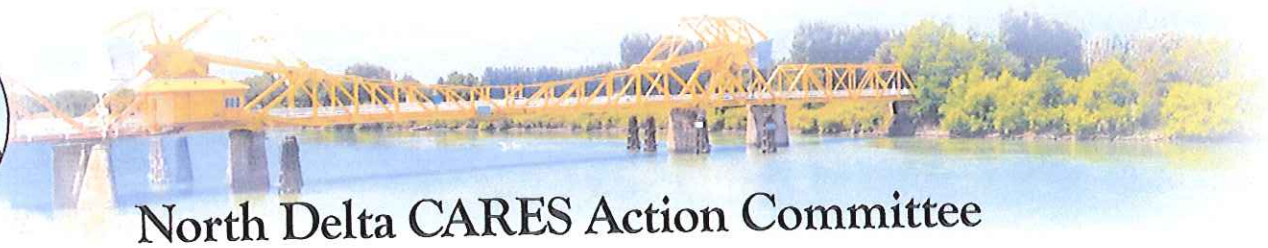
"With the cancer classification on top of the documented weed resistance to glyphosate and water contamination resulting from its use, continued reliance on glyphosate is irresponsible from a public health and environmental perspective," said Jay Feldman, executive director of Beyond Pesticides. "We have effective sustainable organic management systems that do not utilize glyphosate and it's time that EPA and USDA recognized its responsibility to move away from hazardous and unnecessary pesticides," he continued.

Ironically, EPA in 1985 originally classified glyphosate as '*possibly carcinogenic to humans*' based on tumors in laboratory animals, but changed its classification to evidence of non-carcinogenicity in human years later, most likely due to industry influence, allowing the chemical to be the most widely used pesticide in the U.S. USDA has contributed to its growth by deregulating crops, including the vast majority of corn and soybeans, that are genetically engineered to be tolerant to the chemical. In recent years, weeds have exhibited resistance to glyphosate and its efficacy has been called into question. Additionally, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) routinely finds glyphosate in U.S. waterways especially in the Midwestern states and the Mississippi River valley. Ecological data also reports that glyphosate and glyphosate formulated products are toxic to aquatic organisms, and is extremely lethal to amphibians.

But the U.S. regulatory agencies have ignored questions about its hazards and its necessity in crop production. Last year, cotton growers applied for an emergency exemption for the use of propazine on three million acres of cotton because glyphosate was no longer effective. Now that IARC has classified the world's most widely used herbicide as a probable human carcinogen, EPA must quickly reevaluate its widespread use and registration status.

In addition to glyphosate, IARC also reviewed four other organophosphate herbicides, including malathion, diazinon, tetrachlorvinphos, and parathion. Malathion and diazinion were also classified as "probably carcinogenic to humans."

http://www.beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/?p=15245



North Delta CARES Action Committee

P.O. Box 223, Clarksburg,CA 95612 Phone: (530) 570-9641 Email: deltaactioncommittee@gmail.com

9/14/15

Greetings,

North Delta CARES has been an active organization in the Delta for more than 8 years. We are very concerned about the negative impacts that hyacinth and other invasive weeds are having on recreation, business and the overall health of the Delta.

The State of California has spent millions of dollars spraying Delta waterways with glyphosate and other chemicals, yet the invasive weeds are out of control. Spraying has proven to be inefficient, ineffective, and a waste of tax dollars. Moreover, glyphosate is a toxic chemical. The State has published an "intent to list" glyphosate as a carcinogen under Proposition 65:

http://oehha.ca.gov/prop65/CRNR_notices/admin_listing/intent_to_list/090415LCset27.html

North Delta CARES does not support chemical application as a means to eradicate the invasive weeds. We have consistently asked for alternatives to be considered and studied.

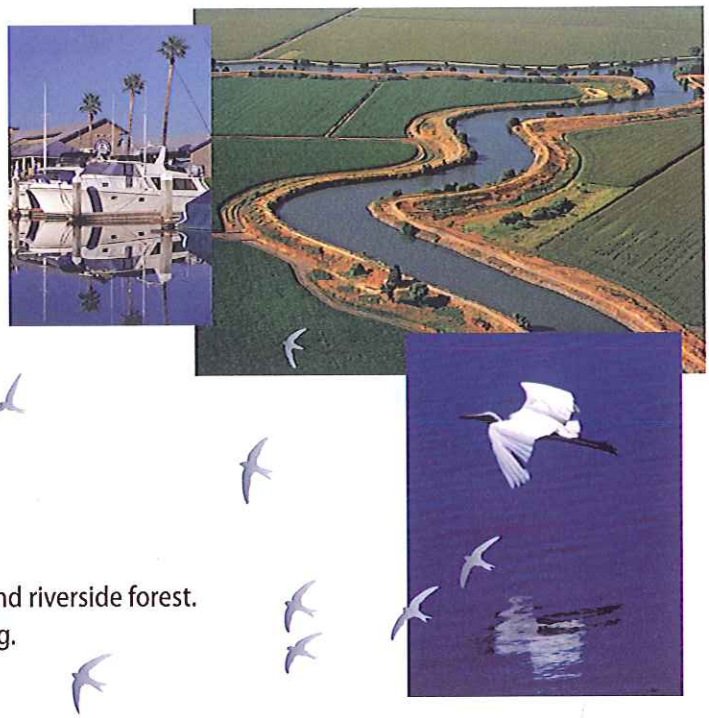
Green Mountain Engineering has developed an alternative that deserves funding. Their plan not only eradicates invasive weeds, but also puts the plant material to beneficial use as mulch on Delta farms. Green Mountain understands the unique nature of the Delta, with first-hand knowledge of Delta lands, levee structures, history, and the natural environment. They are local Delta residents who live, work and enjoy recreation in the Delta.

North Delta CARES respectfully asks that Green Mountain's invasive weed removal plan be funded. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Anna Swenson
North Delta CARES

the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta FACTS



1. **Population:** 571,000 (2010 Census)
2. **Counties:** Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Yolo, Alameda
3. **History:** The Delta was once a mosaic of tidal marshes and riverside forest. Early settlers built levees and drained the land for farming.
4. **Levees (total mileage, 1987):** 1,100
5. **Rivers flowing into the Delta:** Sacramento, San Joaquin, Mokelumne, Cosumnes, and Calaveras
6. **Diversion directly from the Delta:** State Water Project, Federal Central Valley Project, Contra Costa Canal, North Bay Aqueduct, City of Vallejo, Western Delta Industry, 1,800+ Agricultural Users
7. **Water Supply:** Drinking water for 25 million people; supports California's nearly $2 trillion economy and $34.5 billion agricultural industry (2011).
8. **Agriculture (2009):** The Delta's average annual gross value for agriculture is more than $702 million in corn, grain, hay, sugar beets, alfalfa, pasture, tomatoes, asparagus, safflower, a range of fruits and more.

9. **Wildlife Species:** 52 mammal, 22 reptile and amphibian, 225 bird, 54 fish. The Delta is also home to approximately 260 invasive species of plants and animals.
10. **Recreation:** Over 12 million visitors annually. There are 290 shoreline recreational areas, 300 marinas, and about 500,000 boaters. The Delta has 57,000 acres of navigable waterways. *(Figures from the Department of Boating and Waterways)*
11. **Major Sport Fish:***
    - American Shad
    - Bass (Striped, Smallmouth, Largemouth, Spotted)
    - Black Crappie
    - Chinook Salmon
    - Catfish (Channel, Blue, White, Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead)
    - Starry Flounder
    - Steelhead
    - Sunfish (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Redear, Green)
    - Tule Perch

QR/Smart phone code
November 2012

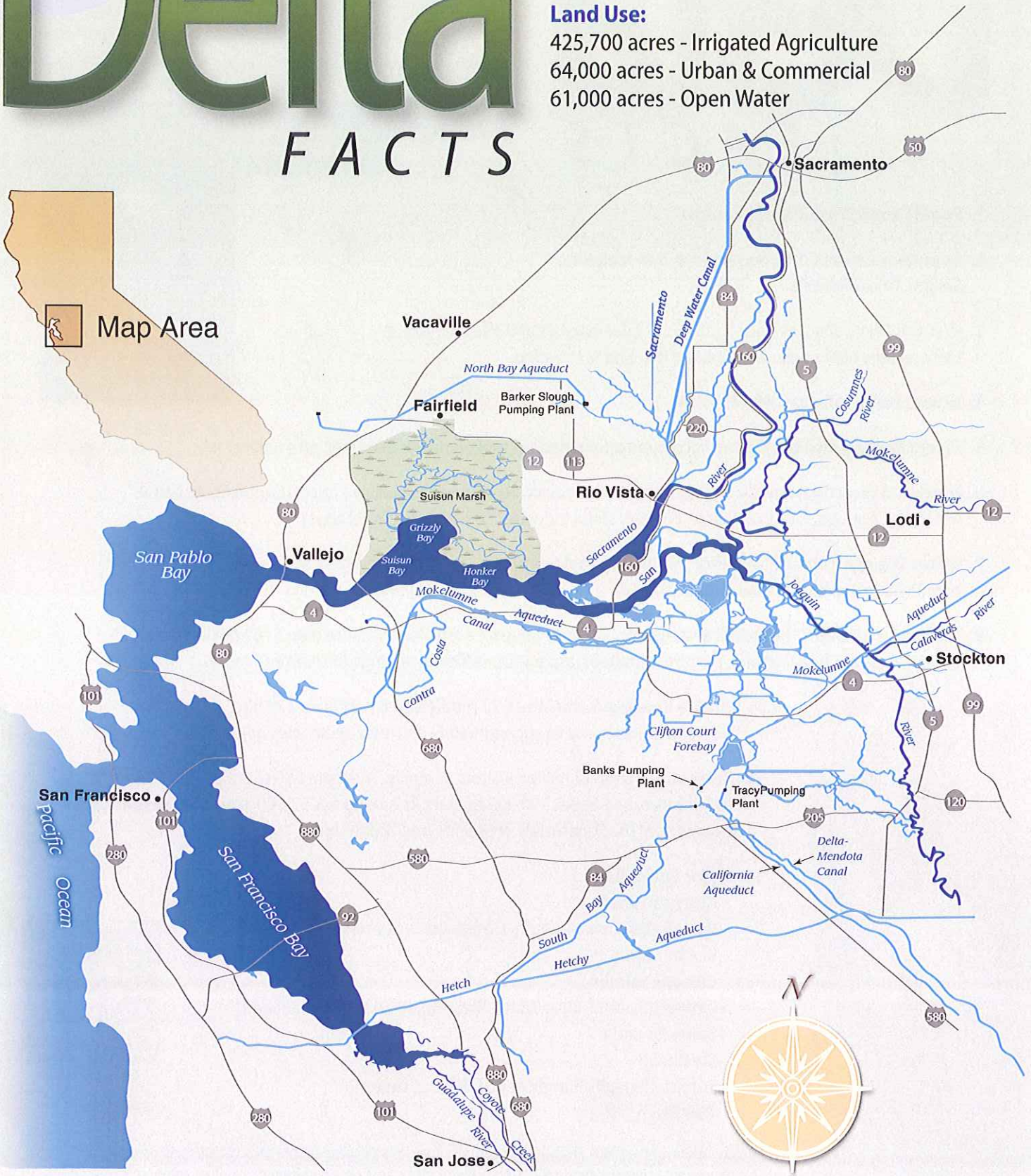
*Before fishing in the Delta, always check with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife *(www.dfg.ca.gov)* for regulations regarding particular fish species and specific license requirements for the region.

the Delta FACTS

Sacramento/ San Joaquin

Area:
The Bay-Delta is the West Coast's largest estuary, with 57 major reclaimed islands and numerous unleveed channel islands.

Land Use:
425,700 acres - Irrigated Agriculture
64,000 acres - Urban & Commercial
61,000 acres - Open Water



California Department of Water Resources www.water.ca.gov