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In general, Restore the Delta encourages staff to move away from hackneyed formulations about the Delta, particularly those of questionable accuracy.

For example, the claim about "providing drinking water to about 23 million people" appears twice: once on page 9 in a quotation from Delta Vision (which should be in an appendix), and once on page 41, under Finding of Risks to People, Property, and State Interests.

"The Delta is the hub of California's two largest water distribution systems, the federal Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, and at least 7,000 other permitted water diverters have developed water supplied from the watershed feeding the Bay-Delta estuary, providing drinking water to about 23 million people and irrigation water to about seven million acres of highly productive agricultural lands."

This phrasing is terribly misleading. Restore the Delta will be happy to provide calculations using DWR's own statistics that show that water from the Delta itself provides less than 20%, and perhaps as little as 10%, of the state's overall water supply, making far fewer than 23 million people reliant on the Delta for their drinking water, although that many do rely on the watershed.

In addition, if staff insists on using the "hub" metaphor, at least include all the spokes.

Recommended revision:

"The Bay-Delta estuary is the hub of California's two largest water distribution systems, the federal Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. In addition, at least 7,000 other permitted water diverters, including upstream diverters, have developed water from the Delta watershed. Developed water in the entire watershed provides water for drinking and other uses for 23 million people and irrigation water to about seven million acres of agricultural lands. Flows from the estuary sustain the state's Pacific Coast fisheries. "

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