



STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

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September 26, 2024

Delta Watermaster Report



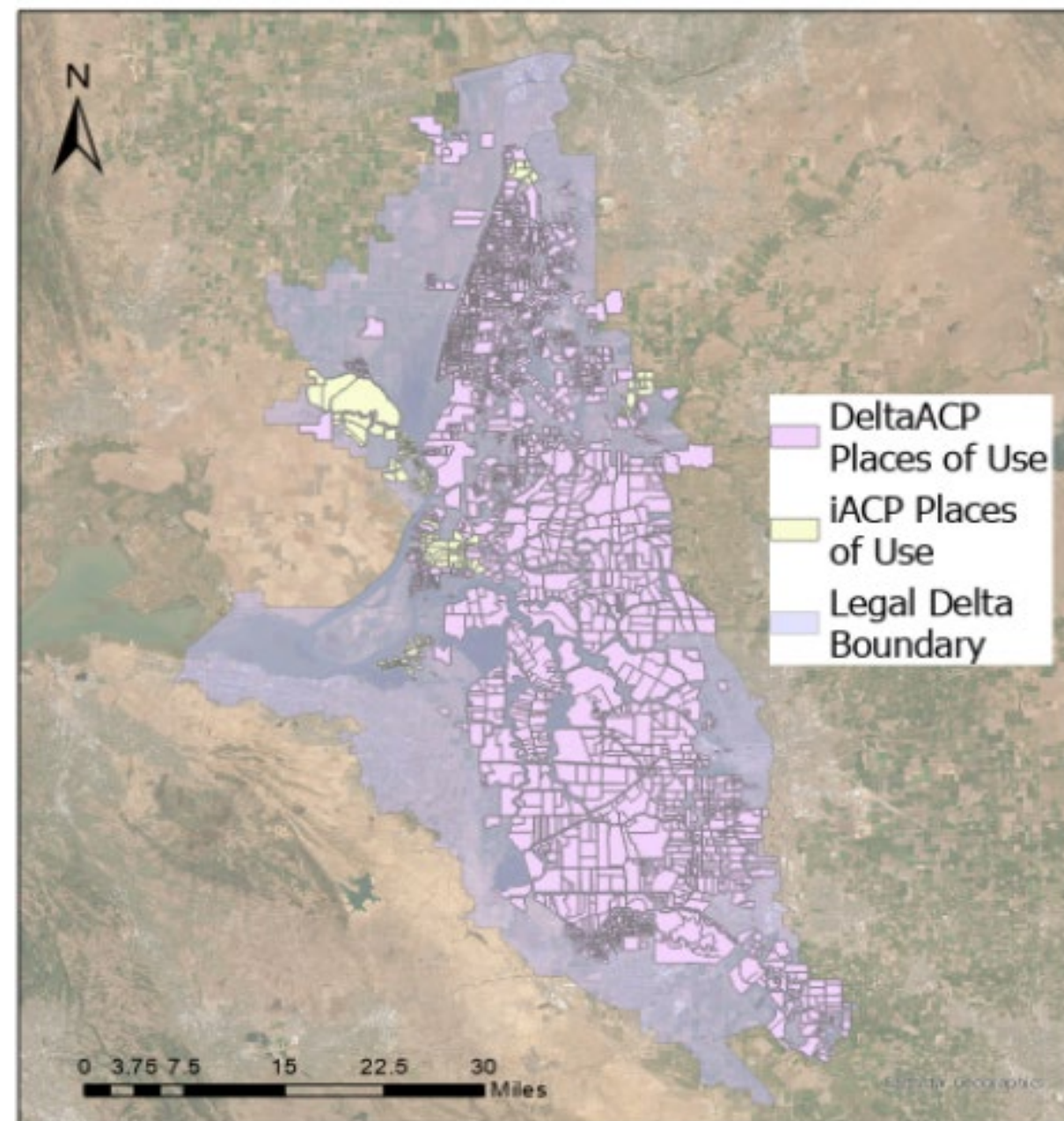
Measuring water use in the legal Delta

- Measurement to SB88 standards is not cost-feasible (3000+ PODs)
- Equipment failures via siphon gages is common
- Data via siphon gages is unreliable



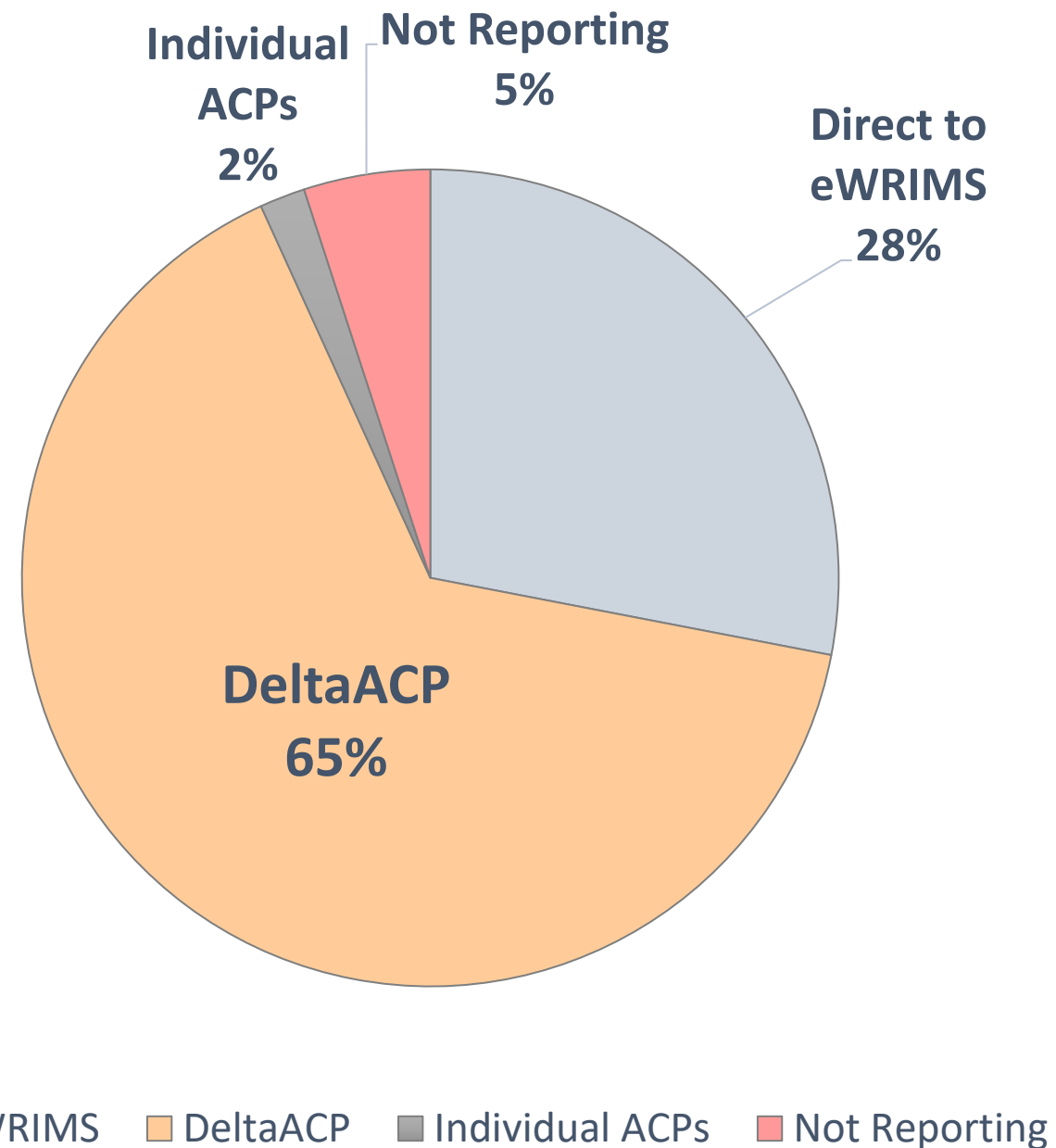
DeltaACP.com emerges as alternative compliance pathway

- OpenET-based reporting recommended via open science process (2017-present)
- Partnership across leading science agencies, NGOs, Central and South Delta Water Agencies
- Consumptive use estimates calculated by OpenET via satellite imagery



Delta water user reporting compliance: Water Year 2023

- Almost two-thirds of Delta water users reporting via DeltaACP.com
- Many users still reporting via standard eWRIMS Report Management System (RMS)
- Overall reporting at ~95% as of August 30, 2024

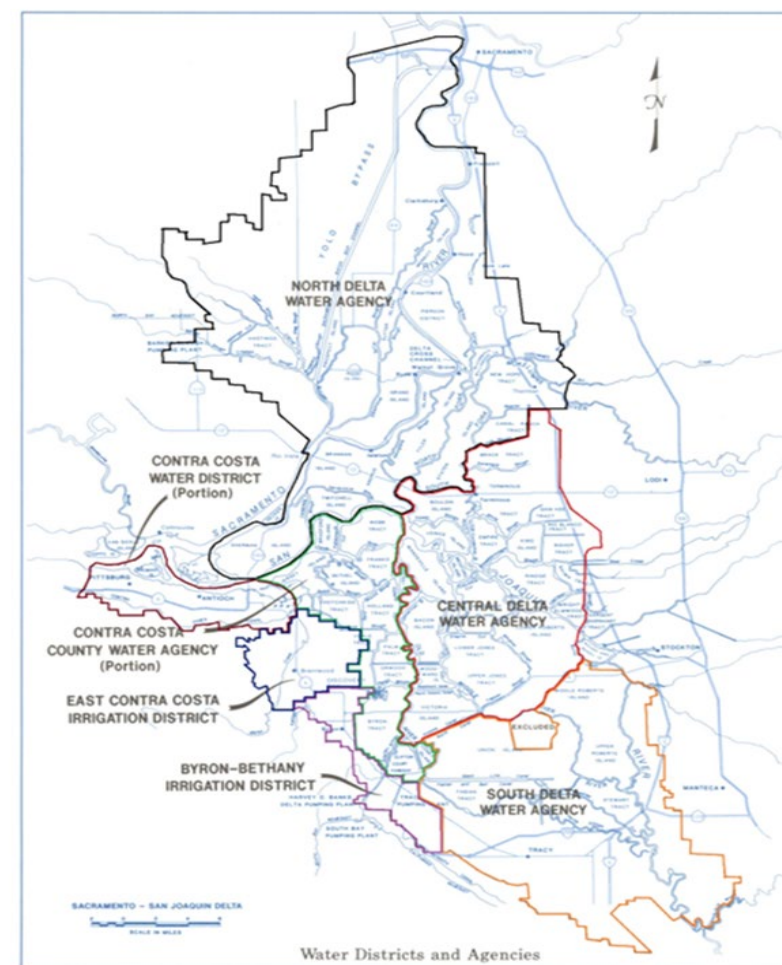


Delta Drought Response Pilot Program

**2012-2016 Drought – FFD
2020 & Beyond...**

**2017: Delta Measurement
Experimental Consortium
Launched (DMEC)**

**2020-21: Open ET emerges as
critical platform for consistent,
reliable and credible data to
understand consumptive use in
the Legal Delta**



Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Atlas

2023 DDRPP Objectives

Evaluate if changing specific field management practices could result in water savings during water year 2023

Protect Delta water quality by providing additional incremental instream flow benefits to reduce salinity effects on water quality

Mitigate potential drought impacts on fish and migratory birds

Promote soil health



What Did We Learn in DDRPP Experiments?



Key Takeaways

- Consumptive use and water savings estimates did not differ among water conservation practice types, but savings estimates differed by calculation method
- Reducing applied irrigation may not be sufficient to produce substantial water savings within the legal Delta, especially at low elevations
- **Agricultural areas at higher elevations show more potential for water savings and lower cost/acre-foot of water saved**
- Lower elevations resulted in water savings less consistently



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Water Boards
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The Nature
Conservancy



Thank you Questions

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