

Delta Watermaster Periodic Report

Jay Ziegler – Delta Watermaster
January 22, 2026



Office of the Delta Watermaster

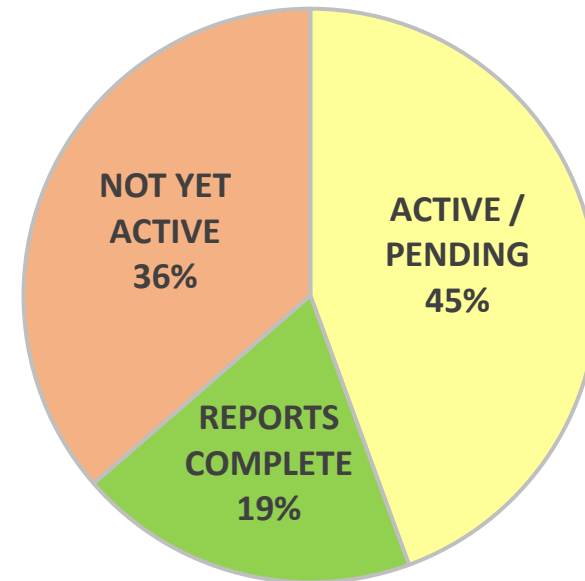
January 2026 Delta Issues Summary

- **Annual Diversion & Use Reporting Update**
 - CalWATRS transition
 - WY 2025 Status of annual report submissions
- **Implementing Revised SB88 Regulations**
- **Delta Measurement Experimental Consortium (DMEC)**
 - Local measurement & water balance studies
- **Update on Delta Science Issues – Delta Monitoring Network**

Status of Water Year 2025 Reporting Legal Delta and Suisun Marsh

- Some hurdles in new account creation
- 20 accounts ~ half of Delta rights
- Rest of Delta & Suisun Marsh ~ 700
- ~1,150 rights assigned to agents
- 2/3 of Delta rights in Delta ACP
- Deadline for reporting Jan. 31st

Legal Delta Annual Reports
as of January 14



Key Lessons in CalWATRS Transition

- Hands-on work with users for initial setup
- Support of Division of Water Rights CalWATRS team for complex problem-solving
- Intensive update of legacy data (connecting users/agents to rights records)
- Robust case tracking system
- Geospatial relationships add complexity
- Extraordinary value in OpenET integration / Delta ACP



Example POU on Bacon Island (DeltaACP / CalWATRS)

Revised SB88 Measurement Regulations

Large Diverter Requirements

- Within 23 CCR §931-939, as amended Dec. 2025
- Enhanced measurement and reporting for >30 cfs or >10,000 AF/yr
- Generally, hourly measurements and weekly submittals
- Required to implement for WY 2027 (by October 1, 2026)

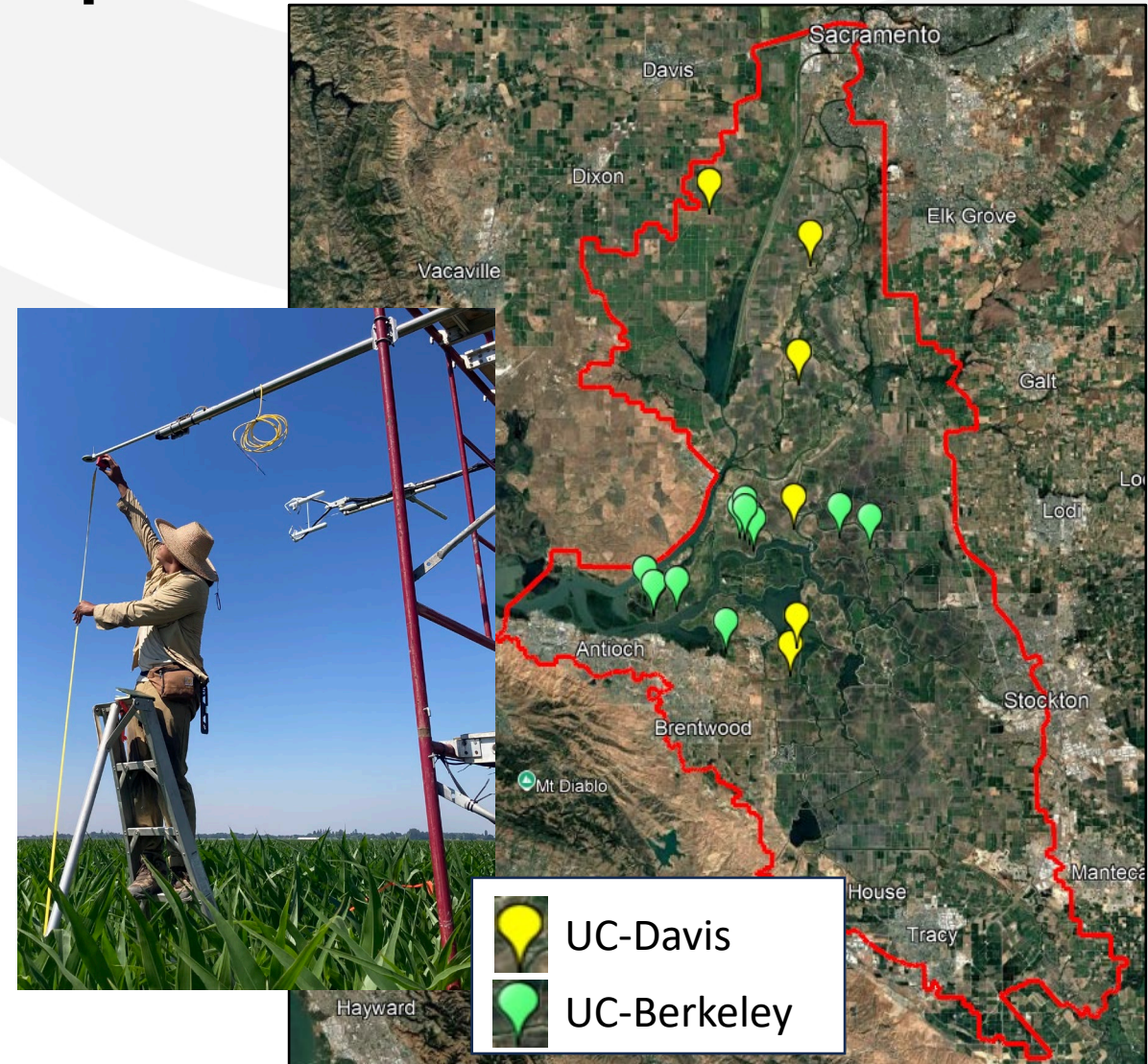
ODWM approach:

- Review of large diversions in Legal Delta (~1/3 of in-Delta water use)
- Assess technical feasibility and reasonable alternative compliance options

**Also, review and update of
Alternative Compliance Plans and
measurement methodologies by
January 2027**

Delta Measurement Experimental Consortium (DMEC)

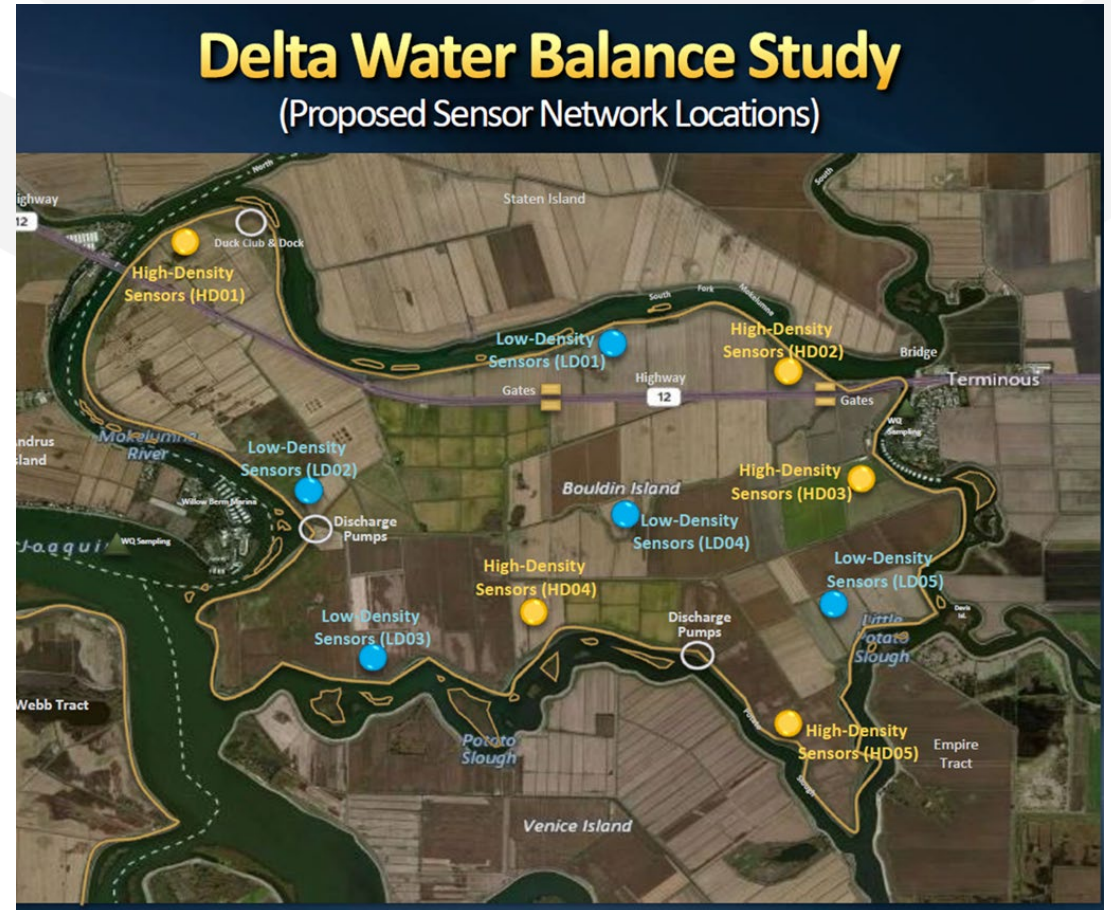
- Share local knowledge and research
- Assess feasibility and costs of diversion measurement and alternatives
- Comparison of local sites with OpenET / DeltaACP
- Consider future study needs



Comprehensive measurement: Bouldin Island (Metropolitan WD of Southern California)

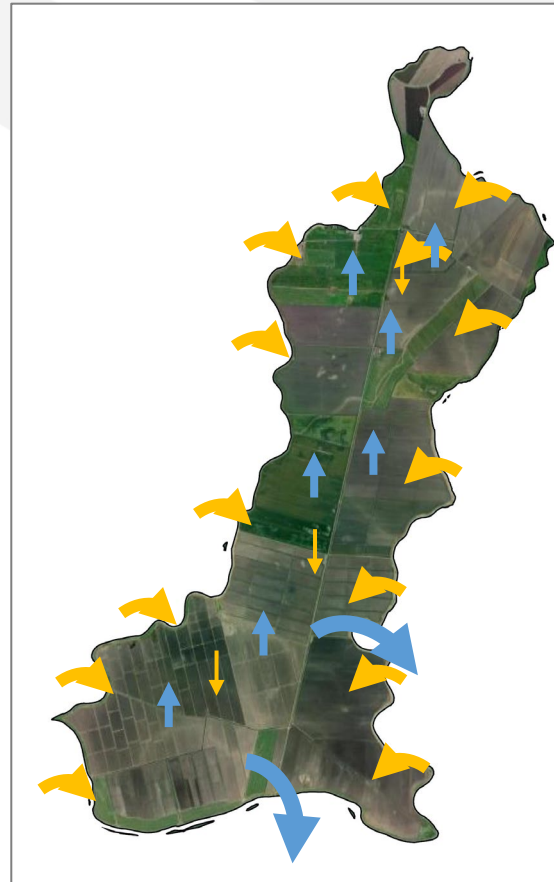
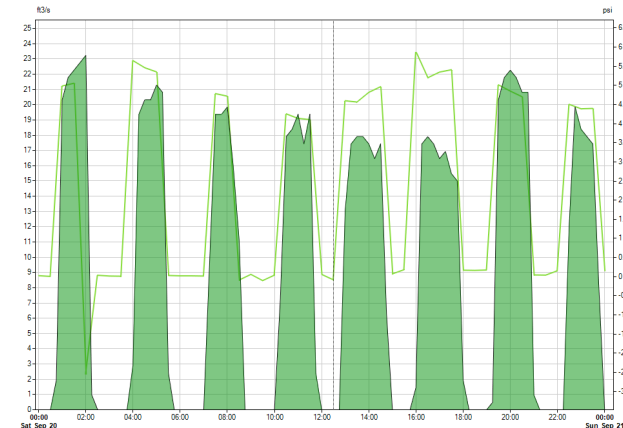
- Flow meter installation at ~30 siphons
- Flow meters at two drainage pump stations
- Soil moisture sensors
- Eddy covariance sites to measure water flux / compare to OpenET
- Groundwater modeling study

Agenda Item: 9, Presentation
Meeting Date: January 22, 2026
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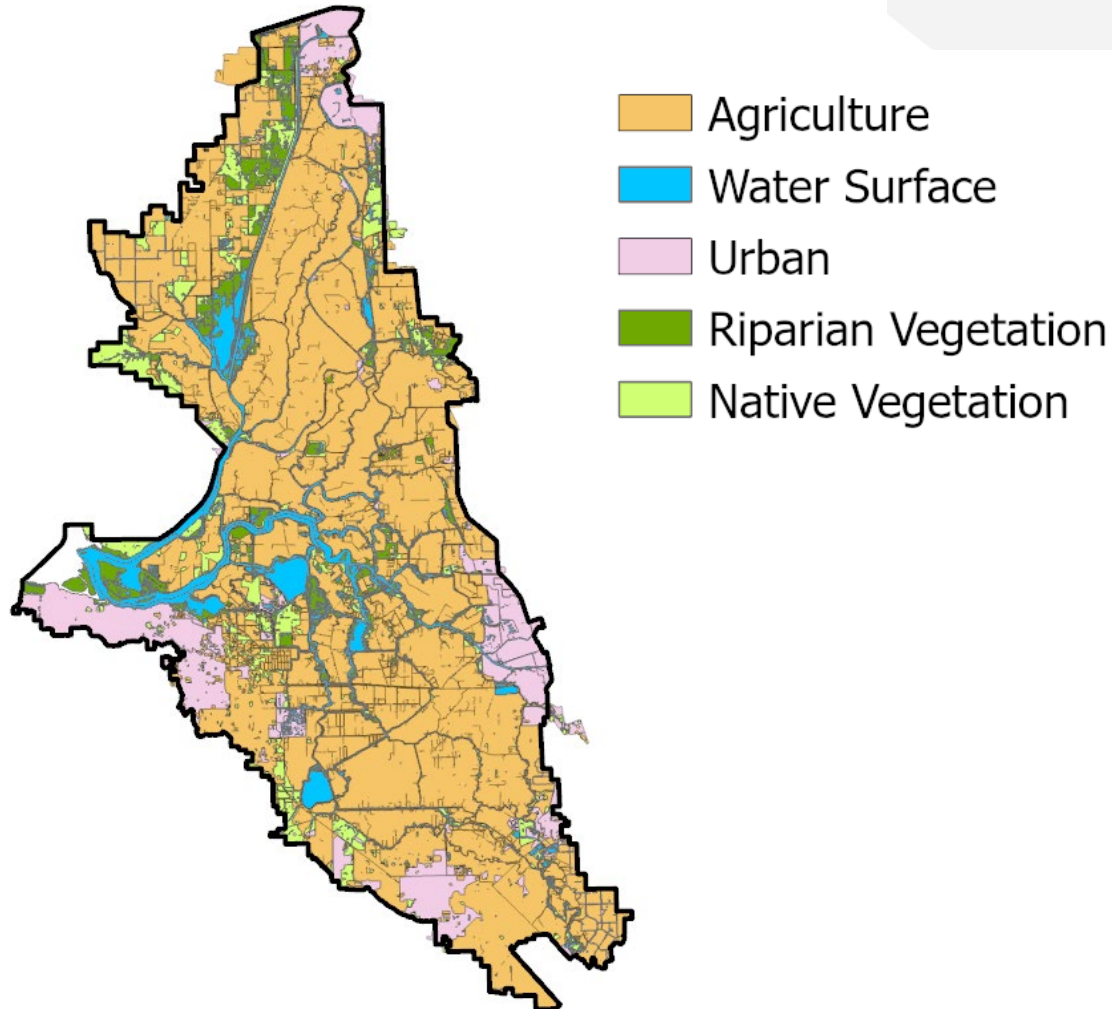
Drainage measurement: Staten Island (The Nature Conservancy)

- Flow meter installation at two drainage pump sites
- Pump tests
- Power meter records
- Challenges and opportunities

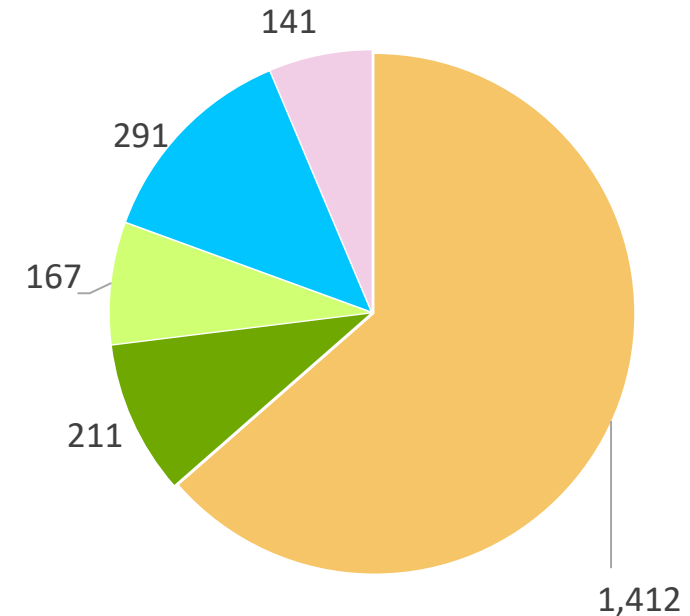


Holistic view of Delta water use (OpenET)

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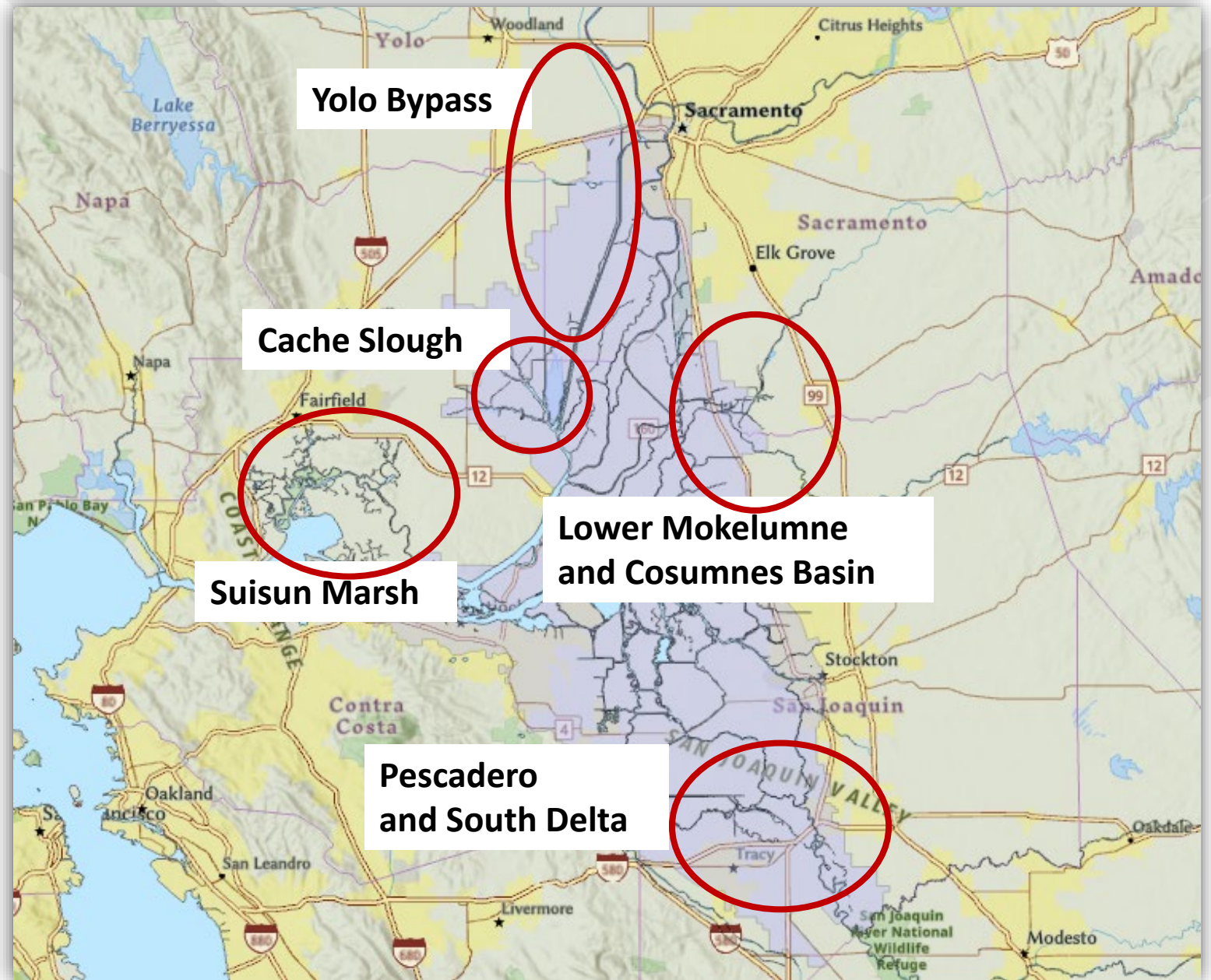
ET Attributed to Land Use in Delta (TAF)



Total Ensemble ET ~ 2,222 TAF
(WY 2024 based on latest available landuse;
2017 DWR crop survey and NLCD)

Potential Multi-Benefit Project Areas

- Yolo Bypass
- Cache Slough
- Lower Mokelumne
- Suisun Marsh
- South Delta



South Delta Circulation & Channel Maintenance

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Objectives:

- Engage Federal, State & Local Agencies

Next Steps:

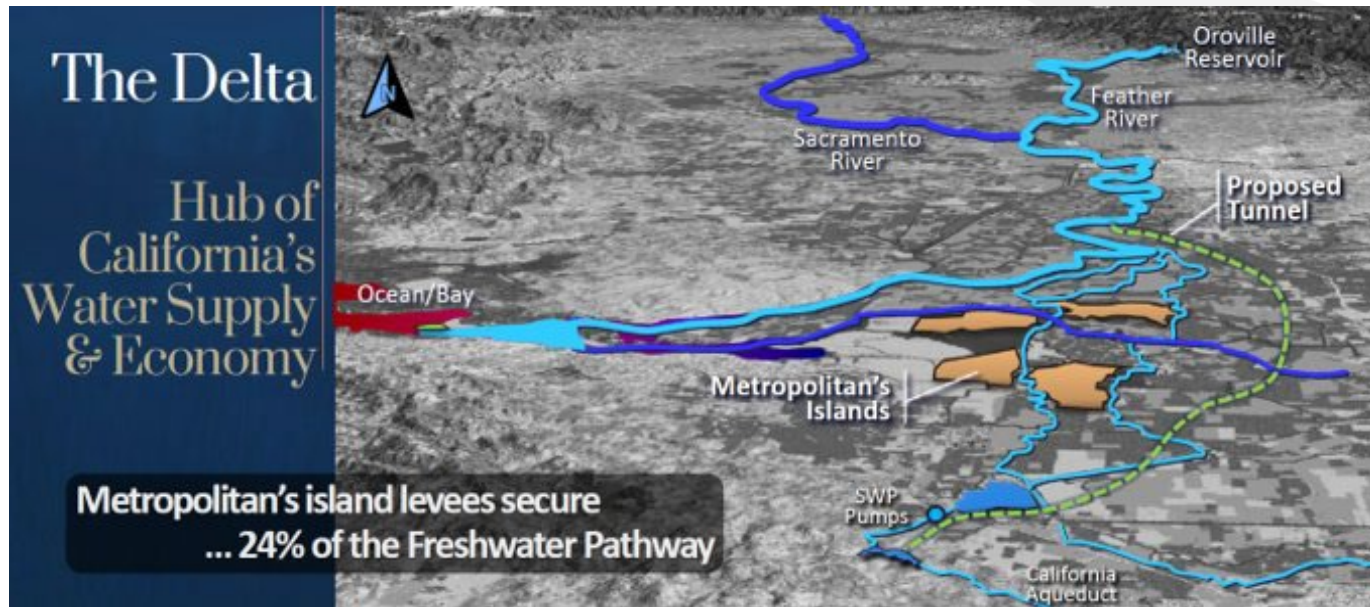
- Multi-Party MOU & Shared Work Program
- Paradise Cut Evaluation Study



FARMER-TO-FARMER
**GREAT VALLEY FARM
WATER PARTNERSHIP**



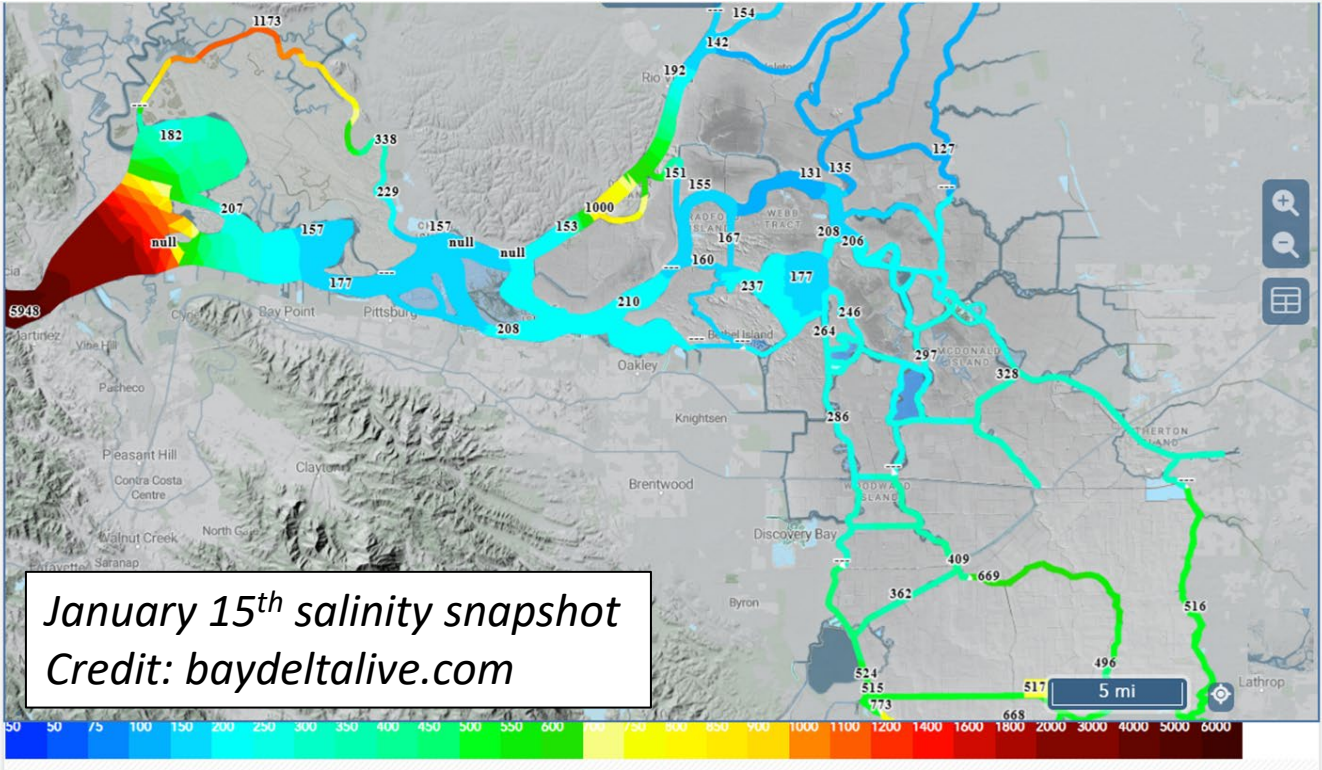
Metropolitan WD of Southern California - Envisioning Delta Levee Improvements



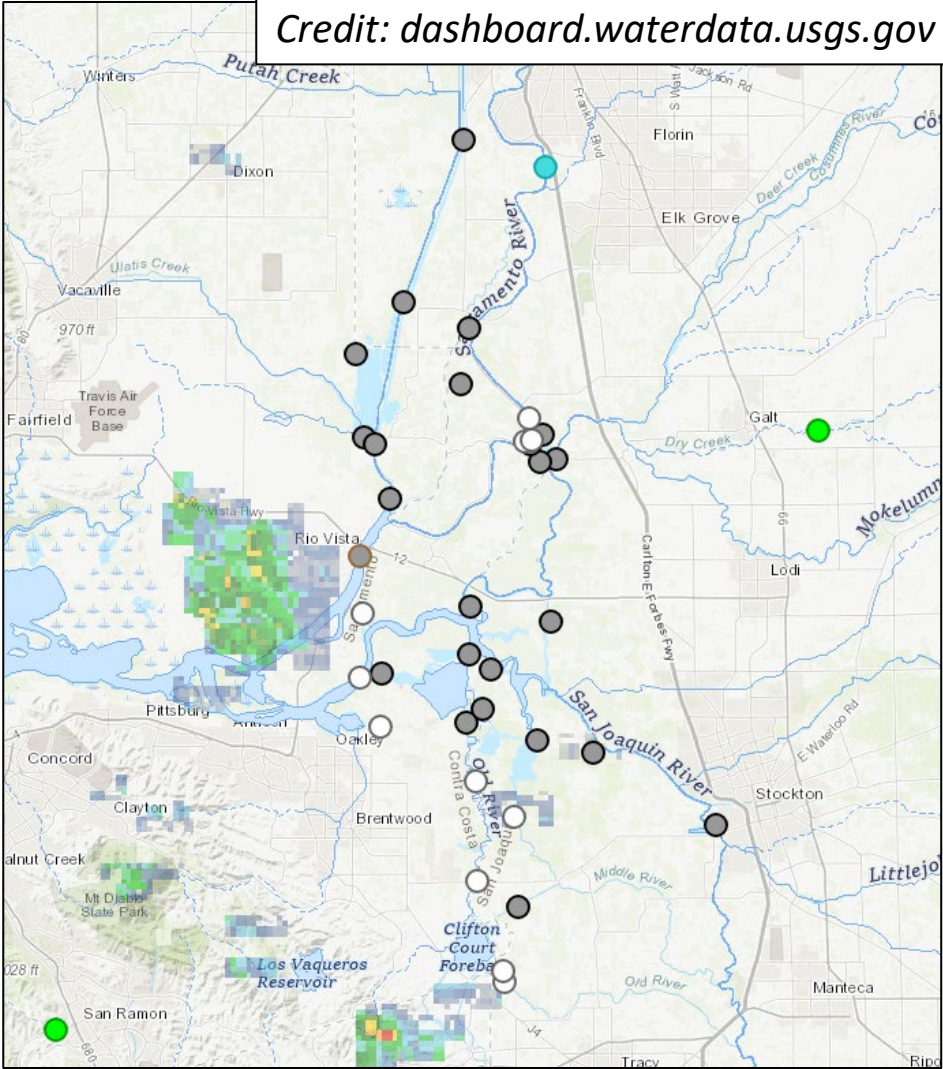
- Approx. \$700 Million investment needed for levees in Freshwater Corridor
- *With or without Delta Conveyance, reliance on "thru-Delta" water for 80%+ of water supply* [One Water and Stewardship Committee, 10/7/2024](#)

Status of Delta Water Quality Monitoring

Bureau of Reclamation monitoring stations remain offline (greyed out dots)



January 15th National Water Dashboard
Credit: dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov



National Academies LTO Review

- Key recommendations:
 - Better monitor Shasta coldwater pool & improve Winter-run salmon survival
 - Improve OMR flow management by developing defensible thresholds
 - Decision process for Smelt Summer-Fall Habitat Actions
 - “**Science Hub**” for collaborative, inter-agency modeling of impacts



Thank you!

Jay Ziegler

Delta Watermaster

Jay.Ziegler@waterboards.ca.gov