



To promote the economic, social and environmental viability of Northern California by enhancing and preserving the water rights, supplies and water quality of our members.

IMPLEMENTING DELTA VISION'S STREAMFLOW RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD HAVE MAJOR IMPACTS ON THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY'S WATER SUPPLIES AND ECONOMY

In order to understand what impacts implementing the Delta Vision Strategic Plan would have, the Strategic Plan's individual recommendations must be read together. If implemented together, those recommendations would significantly reduce the water available to use in the Sacramento Valley while providing no compensation for the reductions.

Delta Vision Strategic Plan Proposals and Their Impacts

Page 71: "Increase inundation frequency on the Yolo Bypass . . . Modify the Fremont Weir and other internal waterways as needed to allow the Yolo Bypass to 1) flood at least 60 day continuously between January and April every other year except during critical dry years, and 2) provide multiple inflow pulses at two-to-three week intervals during this inundation period."

Impact: For NCWA, MBK Engineers conducted, in September 2008, the only water-supply analysis of the Delta Vision Task Force's draft streamflow proposals. That analysis is attached. That analysis showed that, with Fremont Weir modifications, this flow proposal would demand 260,000 acre-feet of water from the Sacramento Valley in dry years. This estimate did not include the additional demands of "multiple inflow pulses," which the Task Force added later.

Page 85: "From an ecosystem perspective, flow targets are achieved far more effectively by reducing water diversions through . . . retiring marginal agricultural lands . . . [and] regulatory re-allocation . . ."

Impact: "Retiring marginal agricultural lands" and "regulatory re-allocation" apparently mean reallocation of water from existing water uses to ecosystem enhancement without compensation.

Pp. 85-86: "Charge the Department of Fish and Game with completing recommendations for in-stream flows for the Delta and high priority rivers and streams in the Delta watershed by 2012."

Impact: It is not possible to analyze this proposal's water-supply impacts because it lacks specificity. Much water needed to satisfy any DFG streamflow recommendations would come from reducing existing water uses.

Page 86: “Adopt new State Water Resources Control Board requirements by 2012 to increase spring Delta outflow . . . the largest percentage flow increases will occur in dry and ‘average’ years . . . These variable percentage increases allow greater water supply diversions during wet winter and spring periods.”

Note: High Delta flows do not allow greater Sacramento Valley diversions. They only allow higher Delta export diversions.

Impact: If increased spring Delta flows range from 10% increases in wet years to 25% increases in critical years, then the estimated range of water-supply impacts is 59,000 acre-feet in wet years to 357,000 acre-feet in critical years, according to MBK Engineers.

Pp 86-87: “Adopt new State Water Resources Control Board requirements by 2012 to reintroduce fall outflow variability by 2015 . . . Among the proposed recommendations from some scientists are that in the fall following should provide two months, between August and November, in which Delta outflows are between 1.5 to three times those during the 1990s.”

Impact: The Delta Vision Strategic Plan does not state what fall Delta flows it proposes. MBK’s analysis estimates that, if those flows were to range from 12,000 cfs in below-normal years to 18,000 cfs in wet years, the water-supply impact would range from 772,000 acre-feet to 1,110,000 acre-feet.

Page 95: “Request the State [Water Resources Control] Board to use its authority to determine reasonable use of water over the coming decades to evolve away from the generally accepted practices of diverting surface water for irrigated agriculture.”

Impact: This Delta Vision proposal appears to request that the State Water Resources Control Board define the use of surface water to grow crops as an unreasonable use of water over some period of time. If this is what the proposal means, then it would be a radical revision of California water law and would have severe economic impacts throughout the State.

Page 134: “Create no expectation of public payment for any water required for ecosystem revitalization.”

Impact: In this proposal, the Delta Vision Task Force proposes to take any water necessary to improve the Delta without compensating existing water users without regard to whether their water uses bear any relationship to the Delta’s problems.