



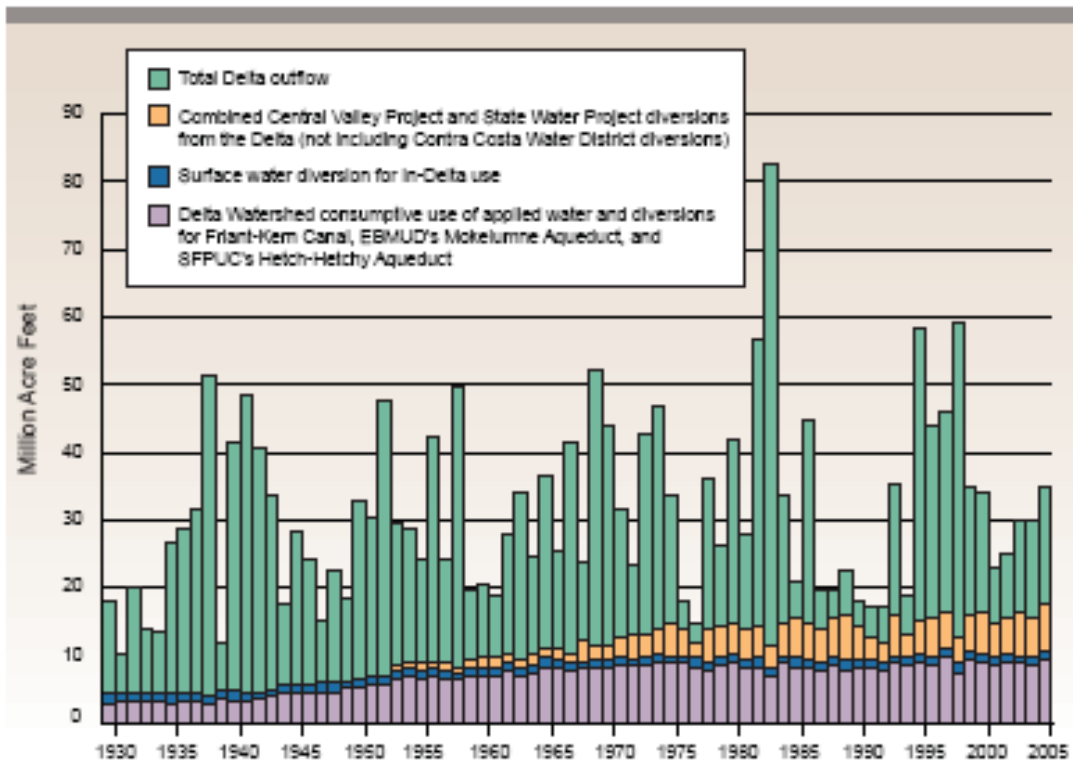
*To promote the economic, social and environmental viability of Northern California by enhancing and preserving the water rights, supplies and water quality of our members.*

## **SACRAMENTO VALLEY DIVERSIONS DO NOT CORRELATE WITH DELTA SPECIES DECLINES**

The Delta's problems have caused some to assert that upstream communities must dedicate more resources – both water and money – to improving the Delta's ecosystem. Current levels of upstream water use, however, have supported desired Delta species populations in the past. No water user should be required to dedicate additional resources to the Delta unless evidence shows that its individual water use contributed to the Delta's problems and the new demands are proportional to the water user's contribution to those problems.

- Consumptive water use in the watershed has been flat for decades. The Delta Vision Task Force's 2007 vision document shows that the share of runoff consumed in the watershed has been essentially flat since 1950 and especially since 1970. (See reverse.)
- Delta watershed water uses have not altered in-Delta physical habitat and do not change in-Delta flow directions. Upstream water uses affect inflows to the Delta. Unlike in-Delta water diversions and land changes, upstream water uses have not modified the physical habitat available to Delta species, do not entrain those species and do not reverse flows in Delta channels.
- Delta species populations have declined while upstream water use has been flat. Delta species declined in the 1980's, recovered to some degree during parts of the 1990's and have declined dramatically since 2000. (See reverse side for Delta Vision graphs.)
- Species law requires that solutions be proportional to water users' impacts. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) says that mitigation measures or project alternatives to benefit species "*shall be roughly proportional in extent to any impact on those species that is caused by that person.*" (Fish & Game Code § 2052.1).
- Causation and proportional are crucial to any Delta solution. Consistent with CESA, any solutions for Delta species problems that require water from Sacramento Valley water users must be supported by scientific evidence that: (1) their water uses contribute to impacts on the specific species; and (2) those solutions' impacts on water users are proportional to those individual water uses' impacts on those species. Current evidence would not support these conclusions.

Figure 7b. Historic Diversions before the Delta, in-Delta Uses and Exports from the Delta, plus Outflows



*Delta Vision Strategic Plan* (Oct. 2008) p. 68:

