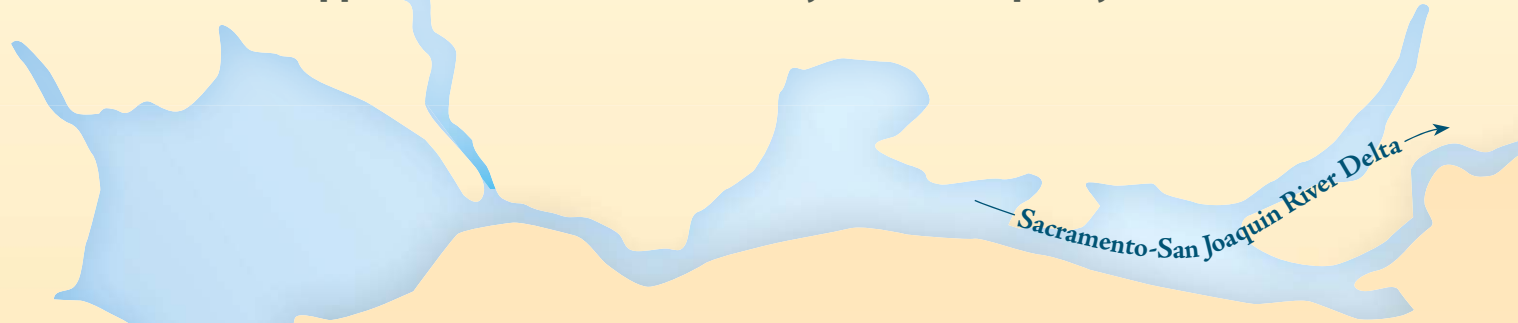


# Bay Area Reliance on Delta-conveyed Water: It's Not Just a Southern California Issue

The Bay Area is highly dependent upon imported water that is conveyed through the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta. Without this valuable water source the entire Bay Area would face severe consequences—to our ecosystem, to our water supplies, to our economic stability and to our quality of life.



▶▶▶ **W**ater flows through the Delta from sources throughout the Sierra Nevada and Central Valley, and is then conveyed to Bay Area water agencies via the South Bay Aqueduct, San Luis Reservoir, Contra Costa Canal and North Bay Aqueduct. Delta-conveyed water is also provided to the Central Coast, Central Valley and Southern California through other facilities.

**Bay Area**

People served by Delta-conveyed water: Nearly 3 million  
 Counties that rely on Delta-conveyed water: Alameda, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Napa, Solano  
 Yearly consumption of all water: 1,206,700 acre-feet  
 Percentage of all drinking water provided by the Delta: 33%

**Eastern Alameda County - Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore**

People Served: 190,000  
 Water Purveyor: Zone 7 Water Agency  
 Yearly Consumption: 46,000 acre-feet  
 Sources: 80% Delta-conveyed water; 20% groundwater and local surface water  
 Delta conveyance: South Bay Aqueduct

**Southern Alameda County - Fremont, Newark, Union City**

People Served: 325,000  
 Water Purveyor: Alameda County Water District  
 Yearly Consumption: 53,000 acre-feet  
 Sources: 40% Delta-conveyed water; 40% groundwater and local surface water, 20% San Francisco Regional Water System  
 Delta conveyance: South Bay Aqueduct

**Santa Clara County**

People Served: 1.8 million  
 Water Purveyor: Santa Clara Valley Water District  
 Yearly Consumption: 380,000 acre-feet  
 Sources: 50% Delta-conveyed water; 3% recycled water; 16% San Francisco Regional Water System; 31% groundwater and local surface water  
 Delta conveyance: South Bay Aqueduct and San Luis Reservoir

▶▶▶ **W**ater is the lifeblood of the Bay Area—critical to our families, farms, environment and businesses. It is our responsibility to protect the Bay Area's water supplies, including those conveyed through the Delta.



**The Delta is in peril, putting much of the Bay Area's water supply at risk, and threatening the ecosystem, recreation, energy supplies, transportation corridors and shipping routes. Many potential measures to protect the Delta are on the horizon.**

**While solutions are being studied and debated, it is important for residents and businesses in the Bay Area to be informed about these issues, to understand and appreciate the vital importance of the Delta to the Bay Area, and to encourage policies and measures that protect water supplies conveyed through the Delta.**

## Facts About the Importance of the Delta to Bay Area Residents, Businesses, and Farms

### What are the Threats?

- ▶▶▶ **Regulatory Uncertainty** Restrictions imposed by environmental regulations have already weakened California's water supply. Uncertainty regarding future regulations creates significant additional risks to Bay Area and statewide water supply reliability. For example, the recent temporary shutdown of the State Water Project to protect a threatened fish forced Bay Area water agencies to rely heavily on contingency and emergency sources of water.
- ▶▶▶ **Fragile Levees and Sinking Islands** Failure of the Delta levees would lead to flooding and seawater intrusion. The central Delta islands are up to 25 feet below sea level, subsiding at a rate of about two inches per year. The levees protecting these islands are old and weak, and are highly vulnerable to catastrophic events such as earthquakes and flooding, as well as daily ongoing threats such as animal burrows and wear and tear caused by age.
- ▶▶▶ **Earthquakes and Levee Failure** The Delta lies in close proximity to at least five major faults and it has been estimated that there is a two-in-three probability that the Bay Area will experience a large magnitude earthquake in the next 30 years. A recent state study predicts that a 6.5 magnitude earthquake near the Delta could cause 30 levee breaches resulting in the flooding of 16 islands. The influx of seawater would make water conveyed through the Delta an unusable drinking water supply for a prolonged period of time.
- ▶▶▶ **Loss of Drought Supply** The loss of the Bay Area's water supplies due to Delta levee failures would be magnified during a drought. Without Delta conveyance, Bay Area agencies would not be able to access the dry year reserves stored in Central Valley groundwater banks, meaning dry year shortages would be more severe and longer in duration.
- ▶▶▶ **Global Warming and Rising Sea Levels** Scientists estimate that global warming will increase the mean sea level between one and three feet over the next 100 years, placing greater pressure on the levee system and increasing the likelihood and impacts of levee failures. Regional climate changes may also result in an increase in the magnitude and frequency of extreme rainfall events, further stressing the stability of the Delta levee system.

### What is at Risk?

If Delta-conveyed water is reduced or eliminated, Bay Area residents and businesses could face significant economic hardships and a lowered quality of life.

- Water supplies for nearly 3 million people could be cut by as much as 50 percent.
- Business development could be hampered by unstable water supplies.
- Local municipalities and park districts could have insufficient supplies available to maintain their investments in landscaping.
- Residents and businesses alike could face significant cost increases for scarce water supplies.

### What is Next?

In addition to raising public awareness about the Delta's importance to the Bay Area, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Alameda County Water District and Zone 7 Water Agency are working with other Delta interests to develop a long-term vision to protect Bay Area water supplies and the Delta ecosystem, and to ensure that all alternatives are explored.

There are several concurrent efforts being undertaken that will ultimately guide the state's water plan and that are likely headed to a public vote in 2008. The Governor's Delta Vision Task force, the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan and the Delta Risk Management Study represent significant efforts to evaluate and recommend the best options to address the challenges in the Delta.