

Factors Potentially Impacting the Bay Area's Delta Water Supply

Management Issues

- Policy/regulation changes
- Levee maintenance decisions/funding
- Scientific community determinations

Decisions made by State government can affect many aspects of the Delta including how much water is allowed to flow through the system and the operation of the pumping facilities.

Hydrologic Conditions

- Snowpack
- Reservoir storage
- Rainfall
- Tidal flows

Sierra water is captured in upstream reservoirs before being released to the Delta. Annual variations of hydrologic conditions can significantly impact Delta supplies.

Water Quality

- Seawater intrusion
- Agricultural and municipal discharges
- Agricultural and urban runoff

Poor water quality impacts drinking-water quality, threatens agricultural diversions and may impact Delta fish populations.

Levee Stability

- Earthquakes
- Seepage
- Erosion
- High flows/floods

Levee failures could cause floods, threaten public safety, jeopardize the water supply for millions of Californians and put the state's economy in peril.

San Luis Reservoir

- Degraded water quality at summer low point
- Potential water delivery interruptions at low point

When Delta supplies are limited by regulations or hydrology, low reservoir storage levels may result in algae that affect drinking water treatability. If levels drop too low, deliveries to Santa Clara may be interrupted.

Protection of the Delta Ecosystem

Efforts to improve conditions for fish can affect the availability of water deliveries. Factors that may impact the Delta Ecosystem include:

- Toxics
- Invasive species
- Water diversions

Ability to Access Drought Supply

- Dry-year reserves stored in Central Valley groundwater banks
- Delta infrastructure needed to reach and move this water

Emergency drinking-water supplies for the Bay Area are stored in groundwater banks in the Central Valley and depend on a healthy Delta system to access and transport the water.

