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# SEPARATING **FACT** FROM **FICTION** IN THE DELTA

Discussions about the State Water Project, the proposed California WaterFix and challenges in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta are too-often driven by misinformation and widely perpetuated myths. “Separating Fact from Fiction” attempts to identify some common misimpressions about California water issues in hopes of advancing a more informed public discussion.

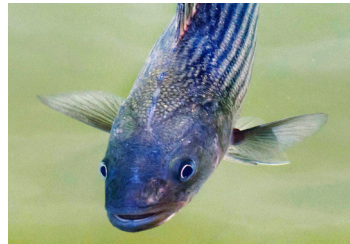
## YOU MAY HAVE **HEARD**...

The health of the Delta is in decline primarily due to overpumping by the State Water Project and Central Valley Project.

California can protect the Delta from earthquakes and sea level rise simply by building up existing levees.

A new water delivery system will drain the Delta to increase exports.

## THE **FACT** IS...



Water deliveries from the SWP and CVP account for about **18 percent of total inflows into the Delta in an average year**. The scientific community has consistently concluded that many factors affect fish populations in the Delta, including invasive species, non-project diversions, contaminants, predators and loss of food availability. Exports from the SWP and CVP facilities account for well under half of all diversions from the watershed in a typical year and less in a dry year.



Strengthening and widening levees **will not eliminate the risks from levees that are built on unstable soils** that could liquefy in a major seismic event. Rock-lined levees provide no food or shelter to fish species. Levee improvements will not address water pumping restrictions that exist due to the existing intake locations in the far southern Delta.



California WaterFix will change where water is diverted but not increase typical quantities of diversions in the Delta. New intakes in the northern Delta will allow **water agencies to capture excess freshwater during high flow periods when all environmental needs are being met**. This added flexibility to capture storm water when it is available will improve California’s ability to prepare for droughts while ensuring water continues to move through the Delta for the environment and other users.



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**California WaterFix  
does not create  
one drop of new water.**

**Alternatives to  
California WaterFix have not  
been considered  
and adequately reviewed  
by state and federal agencies.**

**Constructing pipelines  
to deliver water  
will harm the surrounding  
environment.**

**California WaterFix  
is a Southern California  
water grab, only benefiting  
special interests.**



The State Water Project faces a continuing decline in water supplies and reliability absent a modernization of the system. **No fix in the Delta creates more Sierra snowpack.** Stabilizing the water system and allowing it to capture wet-period supplies will provide real, quantifiable benefits to the participating public water agencies.



**Solutions for the Delta and our state's water system have been analyzed for decades.** During development of the proposed California WaterFix, a 34,000-page draft environmental impact report was prepared examining dozens of alternatives. The report shows how all of the ideas were initially analyzed with additional analytical review focused on several that could meet the requirements of a successful final project and extensive review of the alternative that best meets those requirements.



California WaterFix would be **operated under the nation's strictest environmental laws.** The project, along with California EcoRestore, is designed to benefit fisheries by restoring river flows to more natural patterns and improve Delta habitat. The three new intakes in the northern Delta would be surrounded by state-of-the-art screens that are already installed and working well to protect salmon at a different intake near Red Bluff on the Sacramento River.



The project will fix a broken system that provides water to users throughout California. **In total, 26 million residents, 3 million acres of farms and businesses that make up the world's sixth largest economy depend on water from the Delta.** The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Southern California's largest water supplier, is planning to meet all new demands from population growth with new local supplies. Southern California has grown by 5 million people since 1985 with the same imported supplies.

