

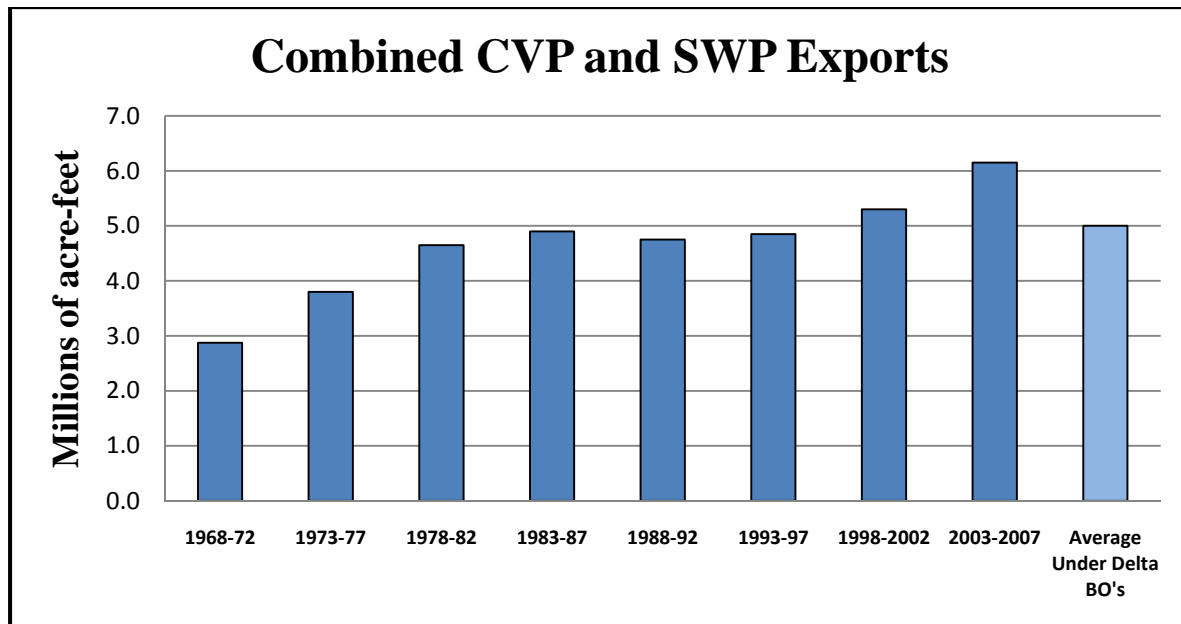


## Facts: Water Supplies in the Bay-Delta

**FACT:** The Bay-Delta estuary is the West Coast's largest estuary, and is a valuable source of drinking water for tens of millions of Californians.

**FACT:** In 2011, water supply allocations would not be any higher even if Endangered Species Act protections were waived. The biological opinions had virtually no impact on water supply for the Central Valley Project and State Water Project this year, as witnesses from Westlands Water District and other water users admitted in Court testimony in 2011.<sup>i</sup>

**FACT:** Since passage of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, water exports from the Bay-Delta have increased.<sup>ii</sup>



**FACT:** As the above chart shows, even with the biological opinions in place, on average the State Water Project and Central Valley Project can export on approximately 4.9 million acre feet of water per year from the Delta. During the period of 1981 to 2000 (before the massive increase in Delta pumping and the collapse of salmon and other fish populations in the Delta), on average the SWP and CVP exported 4.9 million acre feet of water per year from the Delta.<sup>iii</sup>

**FACT:** Even with the protections in the biological opinions in place this year, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California was able to export so much water from the Delta that it recorded water storage levels higher than at any time in the history of the district.<sup>iv</sup>

**FACT:** Federal water contractors signed contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation that explicitly stated, even prior to the recent biological opinions, that in many years contractors would not receive a full contract supply.<sup>v</sup>

**FACT:** Even with the biological opinions in place, the State Water Project and Central Valley Project are likely to export more than 6 million acre feet of water this year, one of the highest levels of water exports in the history of the two projects.<sup>vi</sup>

**FACT:** During the 2007-2010 drought, the drought, not pumping restrictions, was responsible for 75% of the reduction in water deliveries. Waiving protections for endangered species could have increased Central Valley Project and State Water Project allocations by as little as 5% in 2009.<sup>vii</sup>

**FACT:** Even during the 2007-2010 drought, many Central Valley Project contractors received full contract allocations each year. The vast majority of farmers in the San Joaquin Valley were not affected by protections for endangered species in the Bay-Delta.<sup>viii</sup>

**FACT:** The California Department of Water Resources has admitted that the pumping restrictions in the Delta to protect endangered species will **increase** water supplies in dry years.<sup>ix</sup>

**FACT:** There are many solutions readily available to ensure California has a reliable supply of water, including: (1) improving urban and agricultural water use efficiency; (2) water recycling; (3) groundwater cleanup and management; and (4) low impact development to capture urban stormwater. These alternative water supply sources are often the cheapest, quickest to develop, and most environmentally sustainable solutions, and can yield more new water than California has ever exported out of the Delta.<sup>x</sup> By investing in these alternative supplies, and reducing reliance on the Delta, California can ensure sustainable supplies of abundant, clean water into the future for farmers, fishermen and all Californians alike – in wet years and dry.

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<sup>i</sup> Rough Transcripts, Hearing on Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction, March 23-25, 2011, The Consolidated Salmonid Cases, Case No. Case 1:09-cv-01053-OWW-DLB.

<sup>ii</sup> Congressional Research Service, *California Drought: Hydrological and Regulatory Water Supply Issues*, December 2009, at p. 18.

<sup>iii</sup> Chart and statement prepared by NRDC based on data from the following sources: Interagency Ecological Program, Dayflow database; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, August 2008 OCAP Biological Assessment; Congressional Research Service, *supra* note 2; Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Presentation to the Special Committee on Bay Delta, Item 4b, April 26, 2011; Public Policy Institute of California, “Comparing Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta,” at pp. 46-47.

<sup>iv</sup> Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Presentation to the Water Planning and Stewardship Committee, Item 8-6, April 11, 2011.

<sup>v</sup> *See, e.g.*, Westlands Water District, 2007 Interim Renewal Contract, Article 3(b).

<sup>vi</sup> Based on allocation announcements and information on Article 21 water exports from the Department of Water Resources, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

<sup>vii</sup> Department of Water Resources; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Congressional Research Service, *supra* note 2.

<sup>viii</sup> U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Congressional Research Service, *supra* note 2.

<sup>ix</sup> Department of Water Resources, Summary, State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report 2009.

<sup>x</sup> Legislative Analyst’s Office, *California’s Water: An LAO Primer*, October 2008; Delta Vision Strategic Plan, 2008.