California Water

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April 24, 2014

Drought changing conversation about water

- Changes in public opinion polls:
  - 2010: <50% approve a water bond
  - 2014: >50% approve bond, depending upon question
- Many Northern CA communities with < 2 month supply of drinking water
- Southern CA reservoirs are full as state sent more water south last Fall

Big Picture

- State/federal gov’ts contracted to supply water at 5x amount going through the Delta
- CA has 10x more groundwater storage capacity than reservoir storage
- No regulations on pumping groundwater
- Water-related energy use in CA:
  - 20% of state’s electricity usage
  - 5% to pump water over the Tehachapi’s

The Delta

- 2/3 of California's population relies on the Delta for some or all of their water
- Northern California:
  - Relies primarily on Delta
- Southern California:
  - Relies on Delta as well as Colorado River

2008 Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force Recommendations

- Manage the Delta according to 2 co-equal goals:
  - Restore the Delta ecosystem
  - Create a more reliable water supply in CA

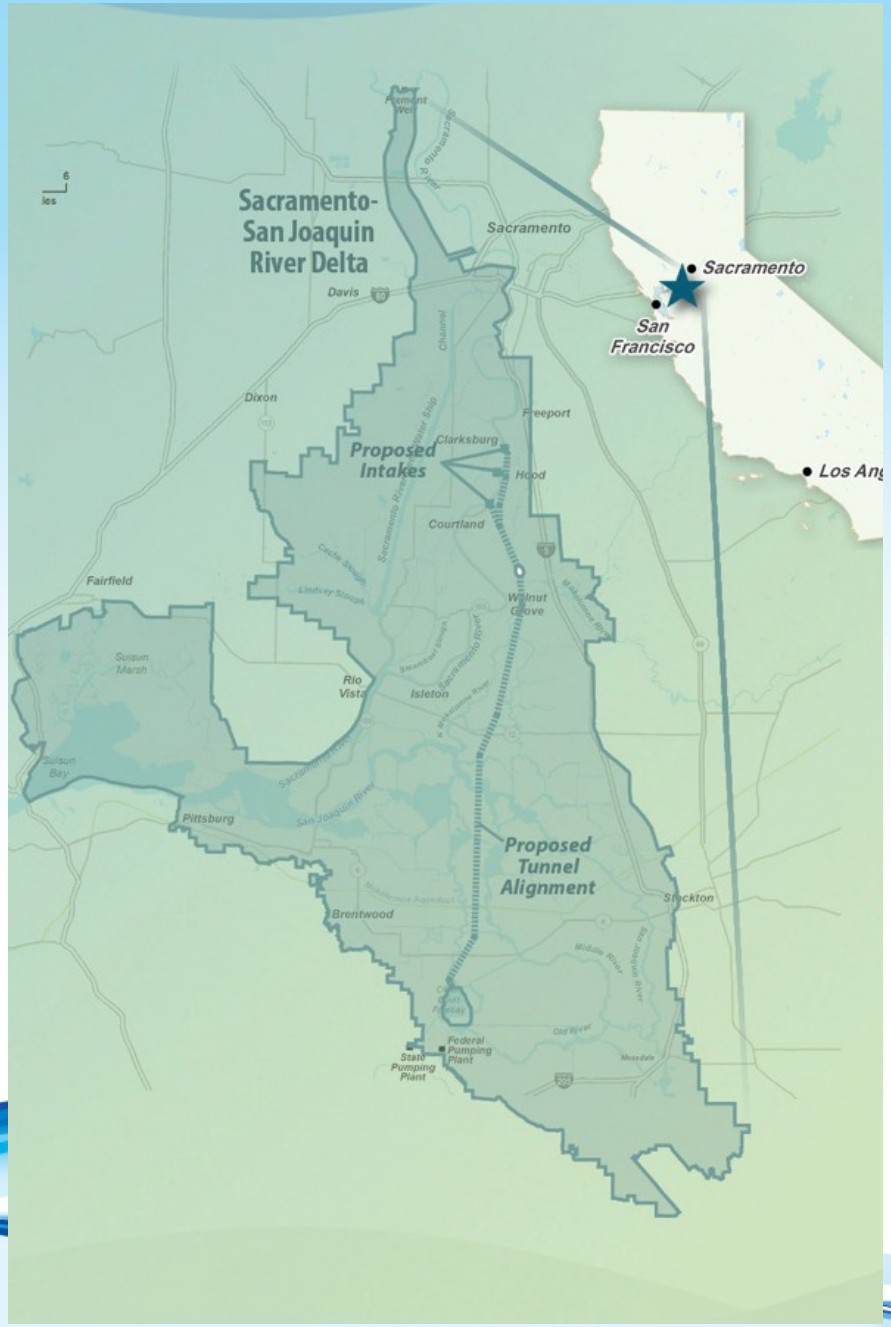
2009 Water Legislation

- Created Delta Stewardship Council to develop a Delta plan
- Began voluntary groundwater monitoring
- Req'd residential & industrial conservation
- Account for water diverted in the Delta
- Proposed a $11 Billion water bond

Issues with 2009 Legislation

- 80% of river/lake water in CA to agricultural use
- Agriculture & mining < 2% of GDP
- Conservation requirements:
  - Residential: 20%
  - Industrial: 10%
  - Agriculture: none

BDCP TUNNEL PLAN



Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

- 40,000 page plan & EIR report
- Comments due by June 13, 2014
- Two 40 foot diameter tunnels–30 miles long
- Three pumping plants
- Two concrete batch plants
- Muck pits (1,600 acres/25 million cubic yards)
- Soil deposit areas (1,200 acres)

BDCP - Construction

- 10-year construction project
- 25,000 daily steel pile driving strikes
- Dewatering wells every 50-75 feet
- Pumping 10,300 gallons/minute
- Thousands of trucks 24 hrs/day

BDCP – Adverse Impacts

- 218 aquatic impacts (none are beneficial)
- 186 wildlife impacts (2 beneficial)
- 48 significant & unavoidable impacts on water quality, agriculture, transportation, public services, public health, etc.
- Loss of domestic water supply for homes & businesses for > 6yrs
- Hazardous air quality & noise levels

BDCP Impacts (con't)

- Alter the hydraulic barrier keeping salt water out of Delta
- No levee improvements
- No provision for new reservoirs or groundwater replenishment
- Loss of Delta agriculture, recreation & property values

BDCP Finances

- Grants 50 year permits for water deliveries
- Taxpayers responsible for ecosystem restoration & project cost overruns
- Project est. of $25B – could be up to $67B
- Standard &Poor's finds significant pressure for higher water deliveries to pay for project
- No cost-benefit analysis – indep. analysis suggests $2.50 in costs per $1 in benefits

2014 Water Bond Proposals

- SB 2X 7(2010) Bond scheduled for Nov '14 ballot
- 8 bond proposals in Legislature:
  - New surface & groundwater storage projects
  - Clean & safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities
  - Allocations for regional water management/recycling projects
  - Some proposals include:
    - Ecosystem restoration
    - BDCP/tunnel mitigation
    - Delta levee improvements
    - Delta sustainability projects

My recommendations - #1

Rely on independent, credible data-based recommendations regarding the water flows & quality needed to support a healthy Delta ecosystem

My recommendations - #2

Establish guarantee that only water in excess of minimum flows be exported

My recommendations - #3

Establish enforceable mechanisms for reducing demand on the Delta, including groundwater and surface storage, recycled water & conservation regulations that include agriculture

My recommendations - #4

Ensure the Delta is region where profitable, sustainable agriculture, habitat, recreation and residents thrive together

My recommendations - #5

Improve critical Delta levees

My recommendations - #6

Oppose a large-scale conveyance as the means to solve our water problems

My recommendations - #7

Develop a comprehensive plan for regional sustainability

My recommendation #8

Look at alternatives that will increase water supply:

- Water recycling/reuse
- Improved efficiency
- Stormwater recapture
- Desalination
- Local storage projects