

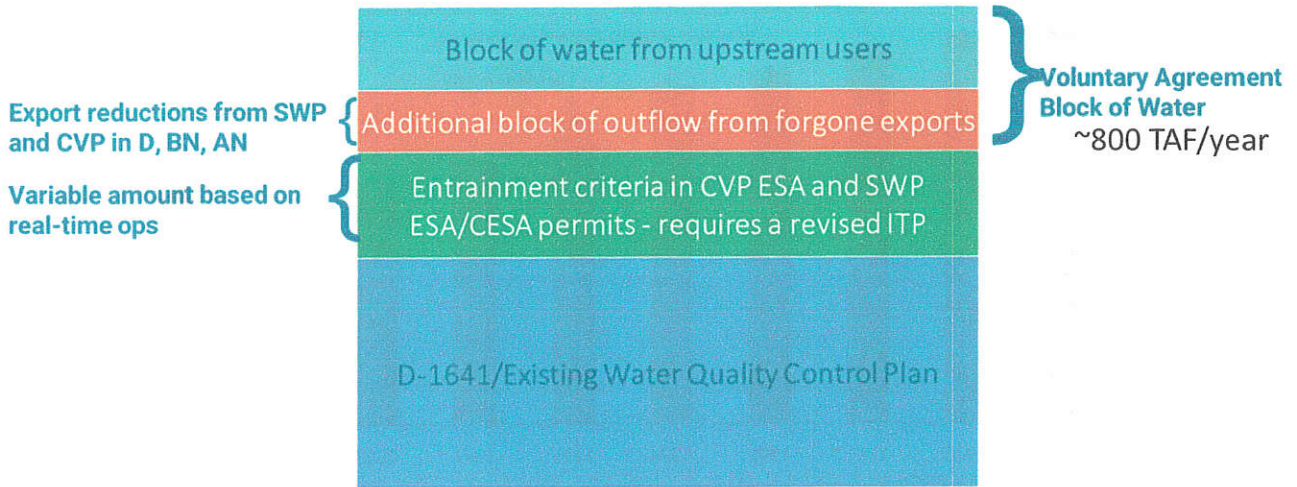
1

Proposed Action

- Sacramento River
 - Fall and Winter Baseflows for Shasta Refill and Redd Maintenance
 - **Water Temperature and Storage Management Framework**
- Clear Creek and American River
 - Minimum Instream Flows and Pulse Flows
- Delta
 - **OMR**
 - Delta Smelt Summer Fall Habitat
- Stanislaus
 - Minimum Instream Flows and Winter Instability Flows

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Bay-Delta Plan and VAs



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Change in NOD CVP Deliveries

| Year Type | Proposed Action w/ VA | | | Unimpaired Flows | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Ag Service | M&I Service | Settlement | Ag Service | M&I Service | Settlement |
| Wet | -1 | 0 | -11 | -3 | -1 | 0 |
| Above Normal | -1 | 0 | -109 | -4 | -1 | -5 |
| Below Normal | -8 | 0 | -118 | -62 | -2 | -10 |
| Dry | -15 | 0 | -109 | -72 | -2 | -21 |
| Critical | -30 | 0 | -259 | -53 | -1 | -485 |
| All Years | -11 | 0 | -107 | -38 | -1 | -85 |

All values in 1,000 acre-feet relative to No Action Alternative

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Change in SOD CVP Deliveries

| Year Type | Proposed Action w/ VA | | | Unimpaired Flows | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------|------------------|-------------|------------|
| | Ag Service | M&I Service | Exchange | Ag Service | M&I Service | Exchange |
| Wet | -55 | 0 | 0 | -1077 | -51 | -3 |
| Above Normal | -112 | -1 | 0 | -955 | -56 | -5 |
| Below Normal | -120 | 0 | 0 | -771 | -58 | -41 |
| Dry | -133 | -3 | 0 | -520 | -56 | -52 |
| Critical | -42 | -1 | 8 | -64 | -12 | -59 |
| All Years | -91 | -1 | 1 | -709 | -48 | -31 |

All values in 1,000 acre-feet relative to No Action Alternative



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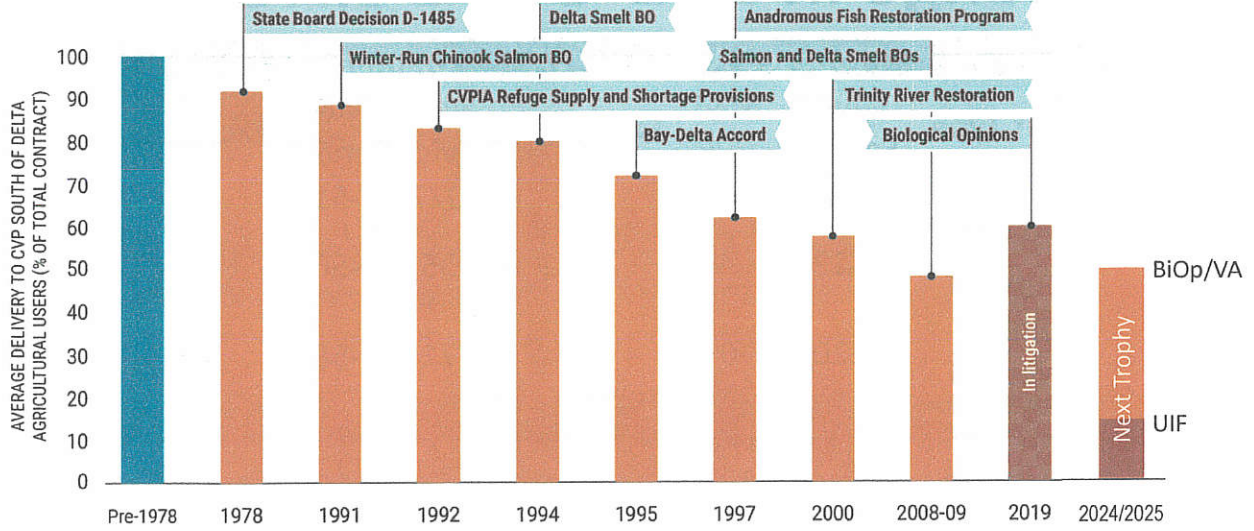
Remaining Schedule

- Public Draft EIS – soon
- Biological Opinions and ROD – Fall '24
- Draft Staff Report hearing and public comment just ended
- Board review and revised Staff Report – 2024



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The Squeeze of Regulation



Sources: Pre-1978, CVP Water Delivery Records; 1978-2000, San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority, extracted from various California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) CalSim-II benchmark studies; 2008/2009, Reclamation & DWR CalSim-II Benchmark BO Study; 2020, Reclamation EIS on the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP



VI.

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0004
(916) 319-2004

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Aguiar-Curry@assembly.ca.gov

WEBSITE
a04.asmdc.org

Assembly California Legislature



CECILIA M. AGUIAR-CURRY
MAJORITY LEADER
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICES
600 A STREET, SUITE D
DAVIS, CA 95616
(530) 757-1034
2721 NAPA VALLEY CORPORATE DRIVE
NAPA, CA 94558
(707) 224-0440

February 20, 2024

State Water Resources Control Board
E. Joaquin Esquivel, Chair
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for the Agreements to Support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes

Dear Chair Esquivel and Board Members:

We write to express our support for, and to encourage you to take definitive action to approve, the Agreements to support Healthy Rivers and Landscapes as the approach for the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan Update.

As you know, on March 29, 2022, the Governor convened federal, state, and local water leaders to announce broad agreement on measures to provide additional water flows and new habitat to help improve conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta watershed. This agreement, referred to as the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes proposals, are the culmination of more than five years of collaboration among the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, public water agencies throughout California, and other stakeholders to develop a modern approach to protecting all beneficial uses of water in the Bay-Delta watershed.

Water suppliers acknowledge flows as an important component of habitat – and the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes proposal dedicates between 500,000 acre-feet and 700,000 acre-feet of water to the environment in many water years – but we need a new approach where every drop of water serves a specific and targeted beneficial use or multiple uses. The updated Delta water quality standards should protect all beneficial uses. The unimpaired flow (flow-only) approach that is also on the table, will not improve fish and wildlife and will not protect all beneficial uses, including water supplies for millions of Californians and hydroelectric power generation that is essential to California's resilient energy grid.

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The Healthy Rivers and Landscapes proposal would check off substantial needs to advancing a comprehensive and integrated approach to updating the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan, including:

- Substantial dedication of water flows to the environment;
- Significantly reduced environmental effects throughout California;
- A comprehensive portfolio of actions designed to reactivate floodplains for robust populations of fish and wildlife;
- A commitment to over \$2.5 billion in funding to support the proposals;
- Actions throughout the state designed to restore ecosystem function;
- Recognition of the important contribution that hydroelectric generation during the summer provides for California's grid stability and reliability;
- Inclusive governance that will address changing climate conditions and support research to improve management actions;
- Commitment to collaborative and structured science programs; and
- Processes for resolving litigation and regulatory issues that have stifled implementing innovative water resources stewardship and management practices.

While there have been some notable successes, the various efforts to manage the Bay-Delta over the recent decades have not worked as planned overall, as both important species and water supply reliability have declined in the Bay-Delta and throughout the state. To change course and offer a different approach and trajectory, it is important to advance these innovative agreements that will improve environmental conditions more quickly and holistically than traditional regulatory requirements, and will provide more certainty to communities, farms, and businesses.

California's recent dry years have shown us how quickly we need to move and how much we can get done with mutual commitments to additional flows, accelerated habitat restoration, and learning together what works best – so that we can do more of it.

We encourage the State Water Board's adoption of the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes proposals as the best alternative for meeting the objectives for the Delta Plan update and to fulfill the State Water Board's obligation to reasonably balance the multitude of factors and considerations when updating the Delta Plan.

Sincerely,



CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY
Assembly Majority Leader
Assemblymember, Fourth District



BOB ARCHULETA
Senator, 30th District

JUAN ALANIS
Assemblymember, 22nd District

ANGELIQUE ASHBY
Senator, 8th District

JASMEET BAINS, MD
Assemblymember, 35th District

ANNA M. CABALLERO
Senator, 14th District

JUAN CARRILLO
Assemblymember, 39th District

BRIAN DAHLE
Senator, 1st District

JAMES GALLAGHER
Assemblymember, 3rd District

BILL DODD
Senator, 3rd District

CHRIS HOLDEN
Assemblymember, 41st District

SHANNON GROVE
Senator, 12th District

DEVON MATHIS
Assemblymember, 33rd District

ROGER NIELLO
Senator, 6th District

JOE PATTERSON
Assemblymember, 5th District

ANTHONY PORTANTINO
Senator, 25th District



BLANCA RUBIO
Assemblymember, 48th District



SUSAN RUBIO
Senator, 22nd District



GREG WALLIS
Assemblymember, 47th District



SCOTT WILK
Senator, 21st District



LORI WILSON
Assemblymember, 11th District

cc: Yana Garcia, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Anna Naimark, Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Water Policy,
California Environmental Protection Agency
Eric Oppenheimer, Executive Director, State Water Resources Control Board
Michael A.M. Lauffer, Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board
Jay Ziegler, Delta Watermaster