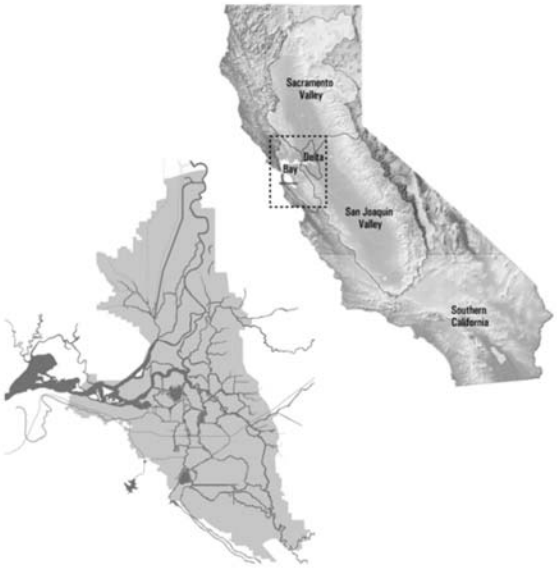
Delta Vision Strategic Plan Summary

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta has long been at the center of competing demands as the hub of California's water system and the heart of the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast. In addition, the Delta is home to more than 500,000 residents and 750 species of plants and animals, has a strong agricultural economy, is a popular recreation area and a crossroads for major California utilities and transportation corridors.



The Delta formed by the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers is a critical habitat for more than 750 species, hub of the state's major water conveyance system, and crossed by major transportation and utility corridors.

Today the Delta is in crisis. Several pelagic fish species are at historic low numbers, the California salmon fishery closed in 2008, and regulatory and court actions to protect Delta smelt have reduced water supplies pumped from the Delta. New scientific information about the effects of climate change, sea-level rise, subsidence, invasive species and the increasing potential threat to public health and safety from a devastating seismic event only add to growing concerns.

It is this stark picture that led Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to call for a long-term sustainable management program for the Delta. He created the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force to develop a durable vision for sustainable management of the Delta and a strategic plan to implement that vision. His order also formed a committee of Cabinet Secretaries and the President of the Public Utilities Commission to review the plan and make recommendations for its implementation.

In October 2008, after 20 months of fact-finding, public and expert testimony, input from a stakeholder advisory group and science advisors, the seven-member Task Force issued its Delta Vision Strategic Plan, recommending 22 strategies and 73 actions organized under seven goals. Additionally, the group recommended 10 near-term actions that should be undertaken as soon as possible.

Blue Ribbon Task Force members included: Phil Isenberg (chair), Monica Florian, Richard M. Frank, Thomas McKernan, Sunne Wright McPeak, William K. Reilly and Raymond Seed.

Delta Vision Committee members are: Mike Chrisman, Secretary of Resources (chair); Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection; Dale Bonner, Secretary for Business, Transportation, and Housing; Michael Peevey, President, California Public Utilities Commission; and A.G. Kawamura, Secretary for Food and Agriculture.

Goals for the Delta

1. Make the co-equal goals of water supply reliability and ecosystem restoration the foundation of Delta and water policy making.
2. Recognize and enhance the unique cultural, recreational, and agricultural values of the California Delta as an evolving place, an action critical to achieving the co-equal goals.
3. Restore the Delta ecosystem as the heart of a healthy estuary.
4. Promote statewide water conservation, efficiency, and sustainable use.
5. Build facilities to improve the existing water conveyance system and expand statewide storage, and operate both to achieve the co-equal goals.
6. Reduce risks to people, property, and state interests in the Delta by effective emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses, and strategic levee investments.
7. Establish a new governance structure with the authority, responsibility, accountability, science support, and secure funding to achieve these goals.

Near-Term Actions

1. Obtain needed information on water diversion and use.
2. Initiate collection of improved socio-economic, ecosystem, and physical structure data about the Delta to inform policy processes and project level decision making by all public agencies—local, state, and federal.
3. Accelerate completion of in-stream flow analyses for the Delta watershed by the Department of Fish and Game.
4. Conduct a Middle River Corridor Two Barrier pilot project.
5. Complete construction of an alternative intake for the Contra Costa Water District.
6. Evaluate the effectiveness of a Three Mile Slough Barrier project.
7. Construct a demonstration fish protection screen at Clifton Court Forebay.
8. Advance near-term ecosystem restoration opportunities.
9. Stockpile rock and other emergency response materials.
10. Assess and improve state capacity to respond to catastrophic events in the Delta.

Next Steps

The Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force has completed its work set forth by the Governor in Executive Order S-17-06, by developing the Delta Vision Strategic Plan. The focus now shifts to the Delta Vision Committee, also established by the Executive Order, which is charged with reviewing the Strategic Plan and developing recommendations for its implementation. These findings are due to the Governor by December 31, 2008, and may result in introduction of legislation to implement its recommended actions in 2009.

Public Comment

Two public workshops—one each in Sacramento and Long Beach—will be held to obtain final public input to inform the Delta Vision Committee findings. On November 21, the first of these meetings will be held in the Seaside Ballroom of the Long Beach Convention Center. On December 5, the second of these meetings will be held in Sacramento at a yet-to-be-determined location. Both workshops will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information go to the Delta Vision web site: www.deltavision.ca.gov. Public comments on the Delta Vision Committee recommendations may be submitted to: dv_context@calwater.ca.gov

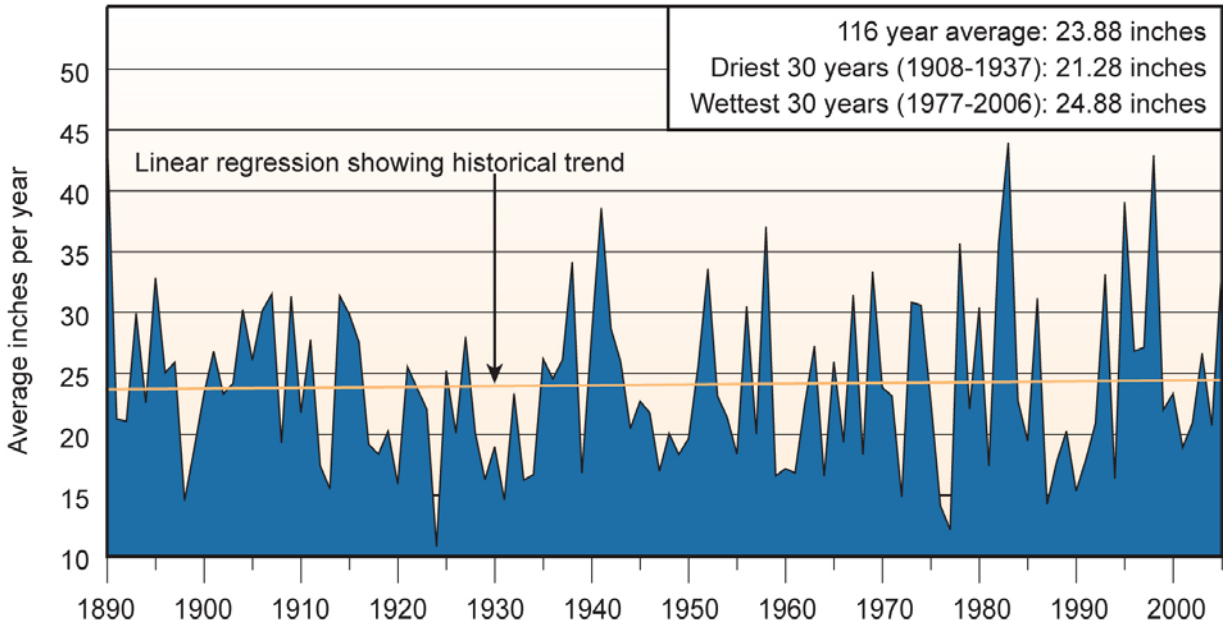


FIGURE 1-2 (from "Delta Vision Strategic Plan," October 2008)
History of California Precipitation
California's average annual water supply has remained constant over 116 years of recorded precipitation. (Yearly precipitation calculated from 95 stations spread across California. Data compiled by Jim Goodridge, state climatologist, formerly of DWR. Source: DWR 2006)

	1998 (171% of normal)[a]		2000 (97% of normal)[a]		2001 (72% of normal)[a]	
Total supply (precipitation & imports)	336.9		194.7		145.5	
Total uses, outflows, & evaporation	331.5		200.4		159.9	
Net storage changes in state	5.5		-5.7		-14.3	
Distribution of dedicated supply (includes reuse) to various applied water uses						
Urban uses	7.8	(8%)	8.9	(11%)	8.6	(13%)
Agricultural uses	27.3	(29%)	34.2	(41%)	33.7	(52%)
Environmental water[b]	59.4	(63%)	39.4	(48%)	22.5	(35%)
Total dedicated supply	**94.5**		**82.5**		**64.8**	

MAF = million acre-feet

a. Percent of normal precipitation. Water year 1998 represents a wet year; 2000, average water year; 2001, drier water year.

b. Environmental water includes instream flows, wild and scenic flows, required Delta outflow, and managed wetlands water use. Some environmental water is reused by agricultural and urban water users.

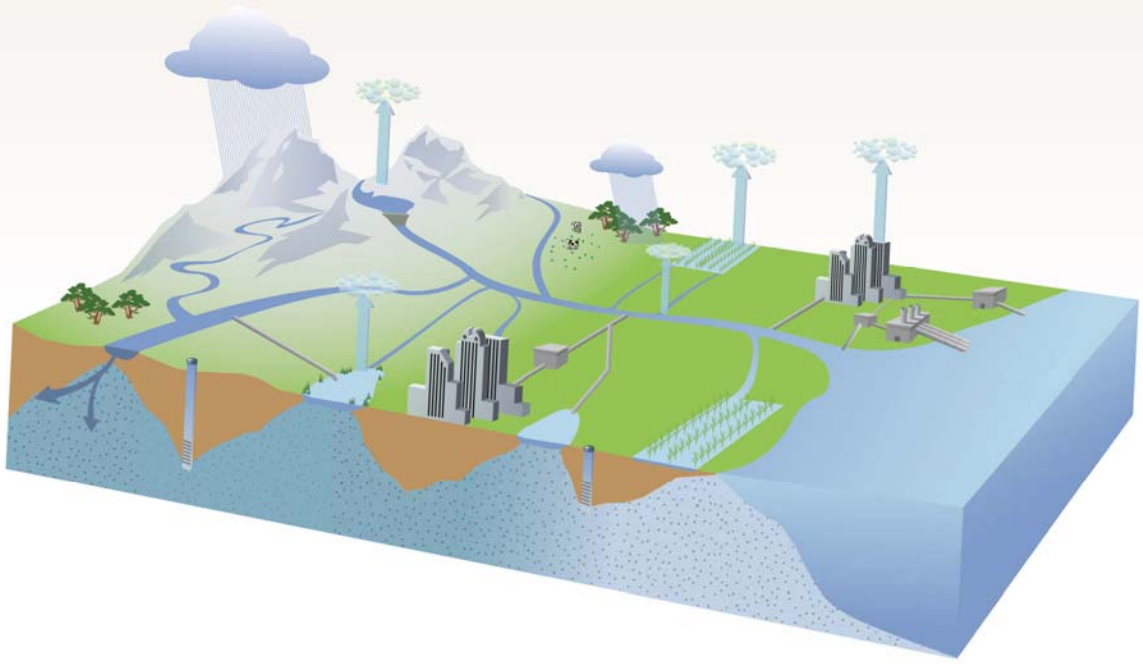


FIGURE 1-11 (from "Delta Vision Strategic Plan," October 2008)

California Water Supplies and Uses

Total supply and distribution of the dedicated supply to various uses within California for a typical wet, average, and dry year. (Source: DWR 2005)

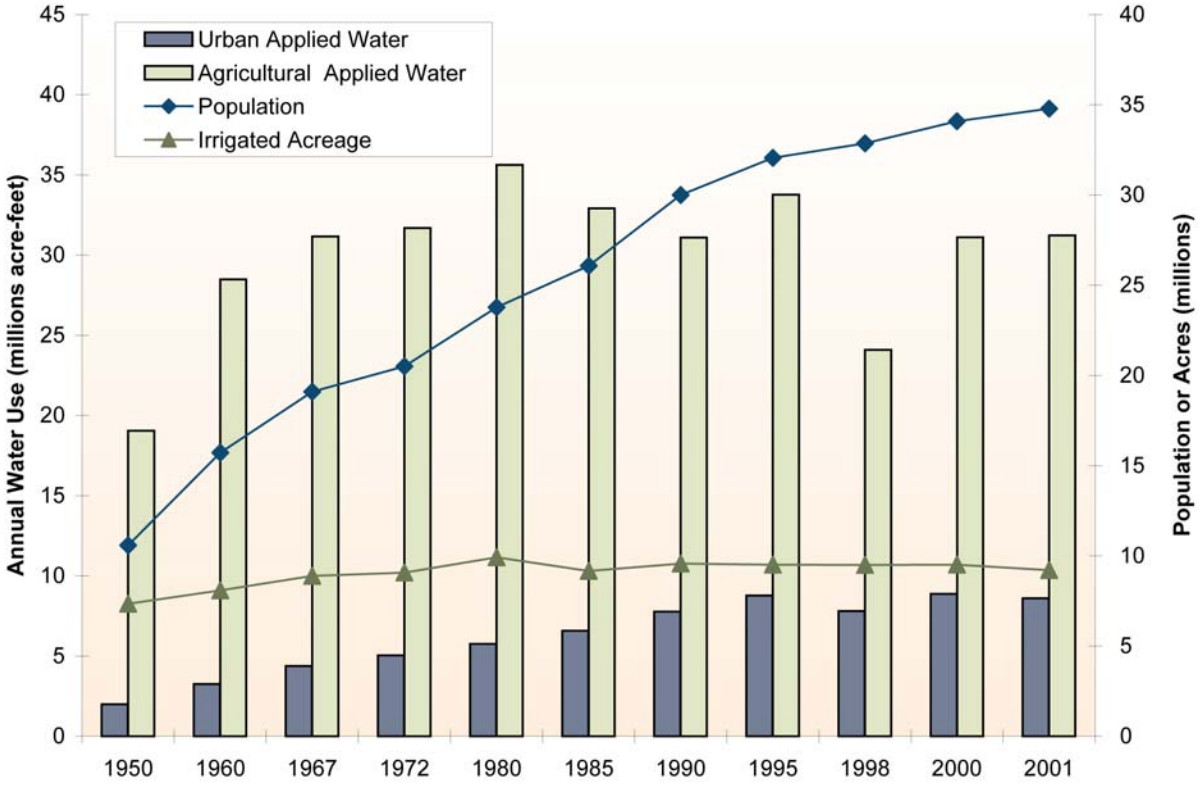
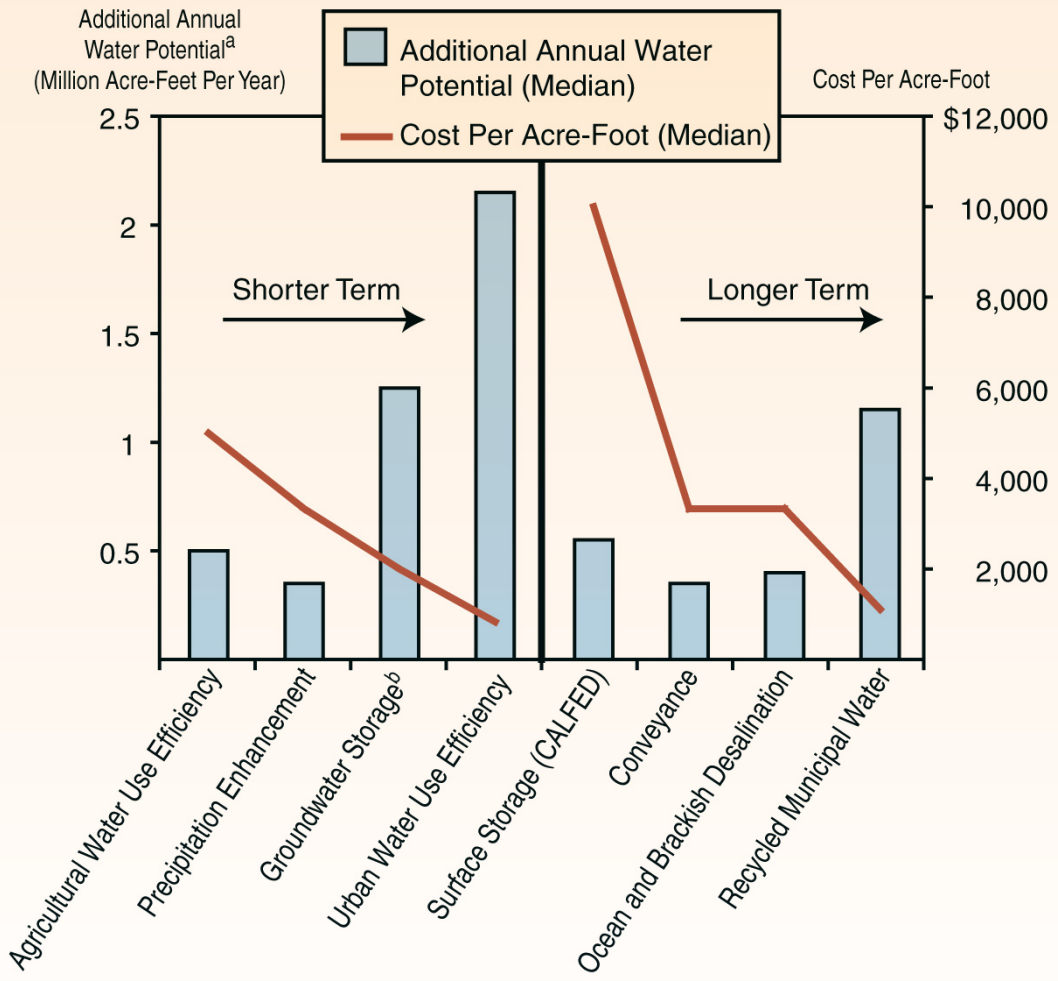


FIGURE 1-3 (from "Delta Vision Strategic Plan," October 2008)

Urban and Agricultural Water Use and Drivers

Trends in urban and agricultural water use show that total water use has increased over the last 50 years. Urban water use continues to increase with population. On average, agricultural water use and irrigated acreage has remained relatively unchanged in the last 20 years. (Source: DWR 2008)



[a]Reflects the midrange of estimates of water supply development potential of particular solutions, Department of Water Resources, California Water Plan 2005.
[b]Includes integrated management of groundwater and surface water.

FIGURE 2-6 (from "Delta Vision Strategic Plan," October 2008)
Options for Additional Water Supply
Water supply portfolio elements organized by estimated costs. (Source: LAO 2008)

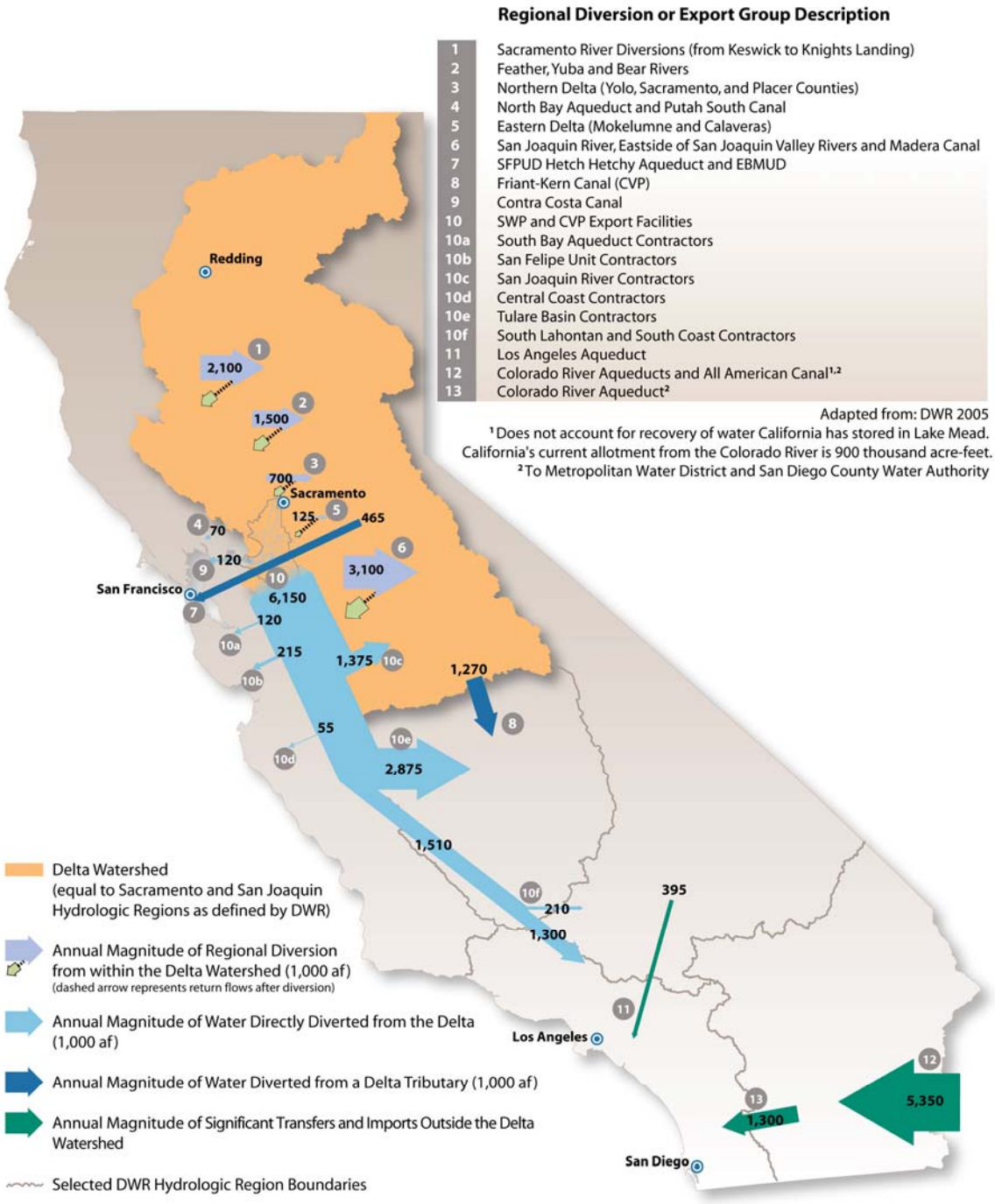
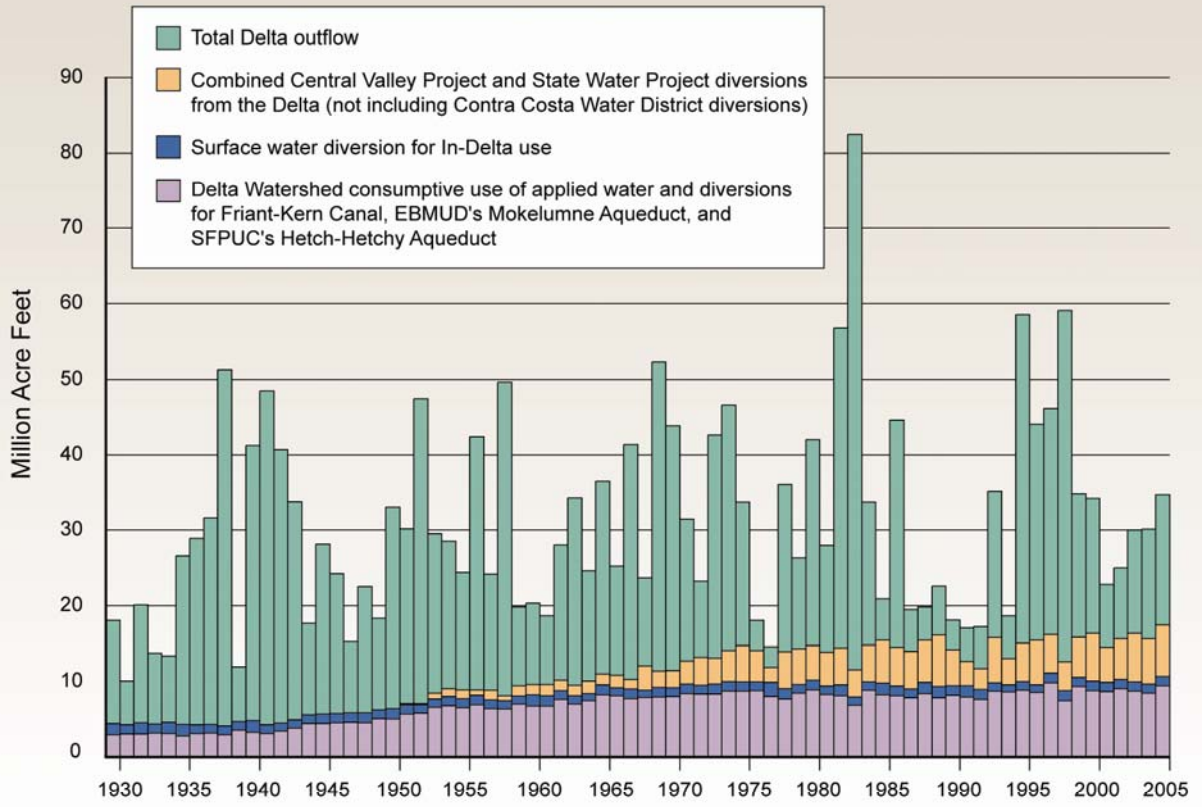


FIGURE 1-12 (from "Delta Vision Strategic Plan," October 2008)

Statewide Upstream and Export Diversions from the Delta Watershed

California's water supply is moved all over the state to meet regional demands. Most of the water that historically flowed through the Delta and out the Bay is used in the watershed itself, with relatively small amounts transferred across the Tehachapi Mountains. Meeting the needs of all regions will require improved conveyance, increased storage, and aggressive conservation and efficiency improvements. (Source: DWR 2005)

Figure 7b. Historic Diversion from the Delta



Trends in Destinations and Uses

Period	Average Annual Total (MAF)	Outflow	in-Delta	Exports	Delta Watershed
1930 to 1949	25.80	81%	5%	0%	14%
1950 to 1969	31.71	67%	4%	4%	24%
1970 to 1989	34.34	51%	5%	15%	29%
1990 to 2005	32.85	48%	4%	17%	31%

FIGURE 7B (from "Our Vision for the California Delta", December 2007)
Historic Diversions and Outflows from the Delta
(Source: Tully and Young, Inc.)

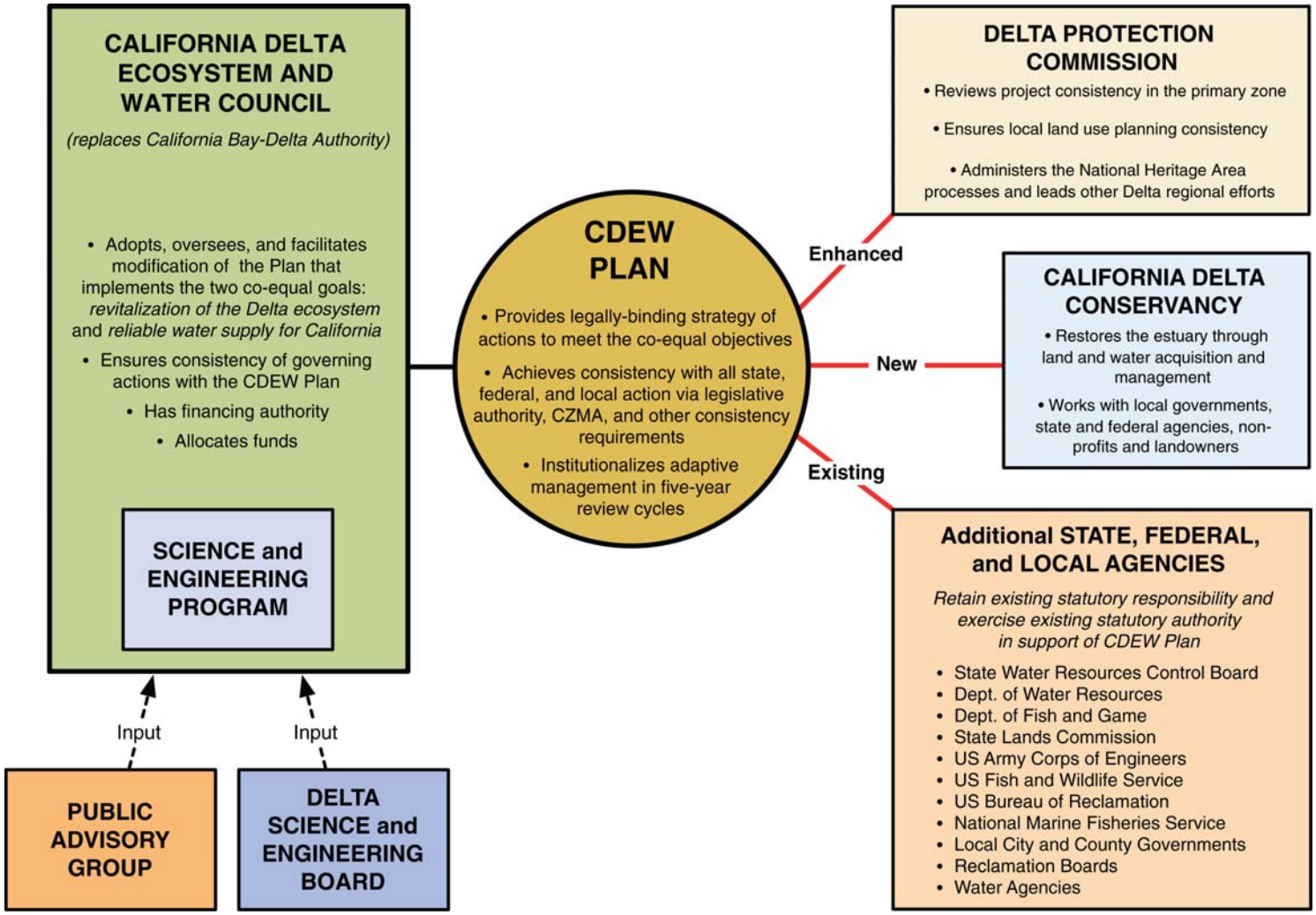


FIGURE 1-14 (from "Delta Vision Strategic Plan," October 2008)
Proposed Governance Structure
(Source: Delta Vision Staff 2008)