

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
Summary: Policies & Principles
October, 2007

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has developed policies and principles aimed at supporting a reliable water supply for the region and a sustainable ecosystem for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. As the service provider for 18 million Southern Californians in its six-county area, Metropolitan is looking to local sources and conservation as major new sources for the future. Metropolitan's stated goal in its long-term water plan is to maintain - not increase - outside supplies from Northern California. With regard to the Delta, Metropolitan is collaboratively working with government agencies and stakeholders on a plan to create a healthy, durable estuary as the key to a reliable water supply. To protect the Delta, Metropolitan strongly supports facility improvements that will physically isolate the effects of water pumping. Metropolitan sees a "conveyance fix" in the Delta as the single most important element of a comprehensive package.

Metropolitan's Delta approach, in summary:

Fundamental Water Strategy Goals

- Provide nearly 60 percent of dry year water for Southern California from local sources and cutting-edge efficiency measures.
- Improve reliability of all supplies
- Prepare Delta levee system for earthquakes

Comprehensive Delta Plan

- Reduce pesticide runoff
- Restore native habitat
- Pay a fair share of Delta costs
- Adapt management based on new and better science
- Adopt a long-term management plan through an open, public process

Improved Delta conveyance

- Improve water quality and reliability
- Reduce risks from seismic events and climate change
- Increase flexibility in pumping operations to adapt to changing conditions

Solutions in stages

- Short-term (2008): Position rock supplies in Delta for levee repairs in case of earthquake and launch habitat restoration at key Delta sites
- Medium-term (by 2010): Approve long-term Delta conservation plan
- Long-term (2011 and after): Construct new Delta improvements

Complete copies of Metropolitan's long-term water plan and Delta policies are available by contacting Bob Muir (213) 217-6930.