

Regional Conveyance of Water

League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

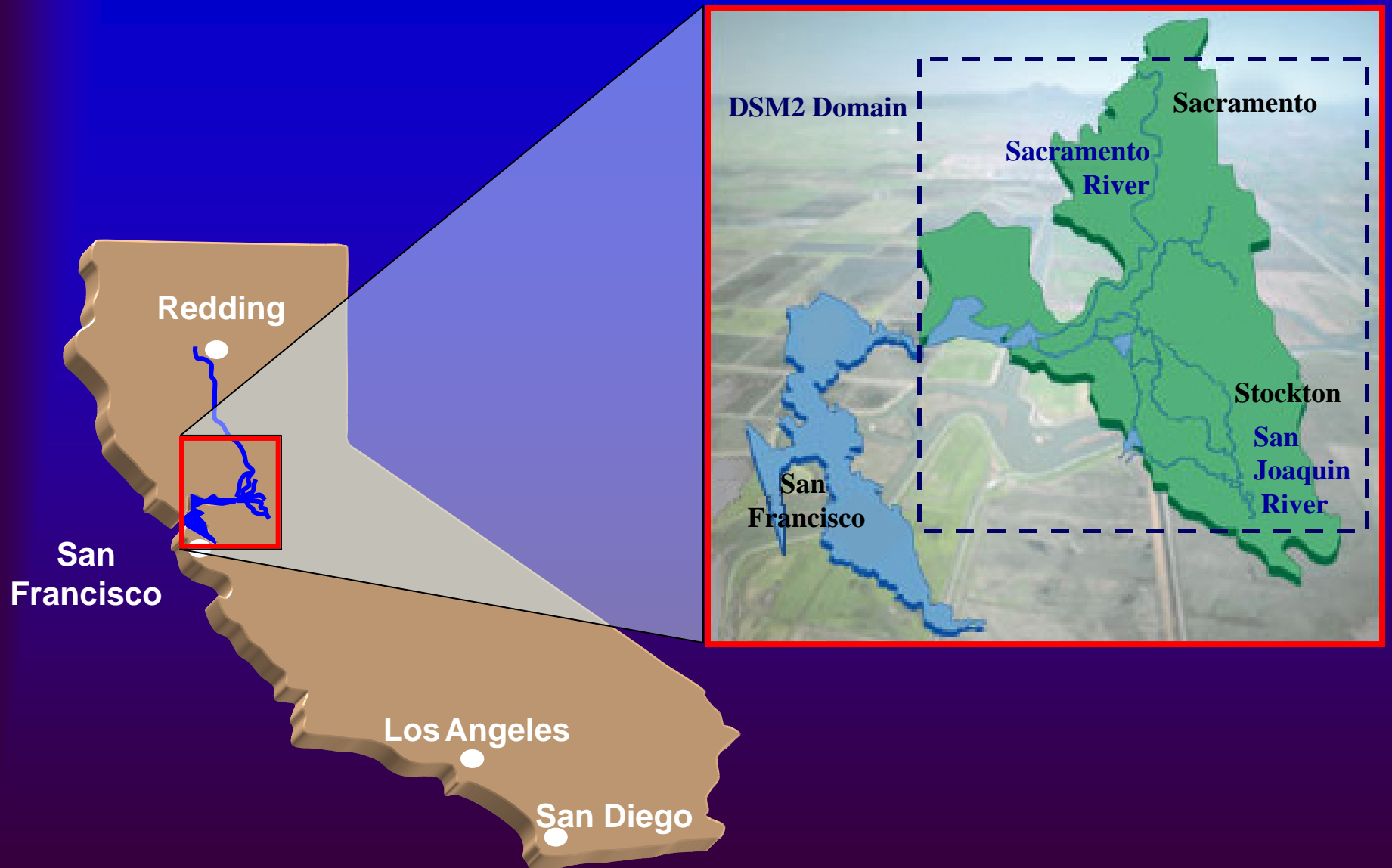
2009 Bay Area League Day

Katherine Kelly, Chief
Bay-Delta Office

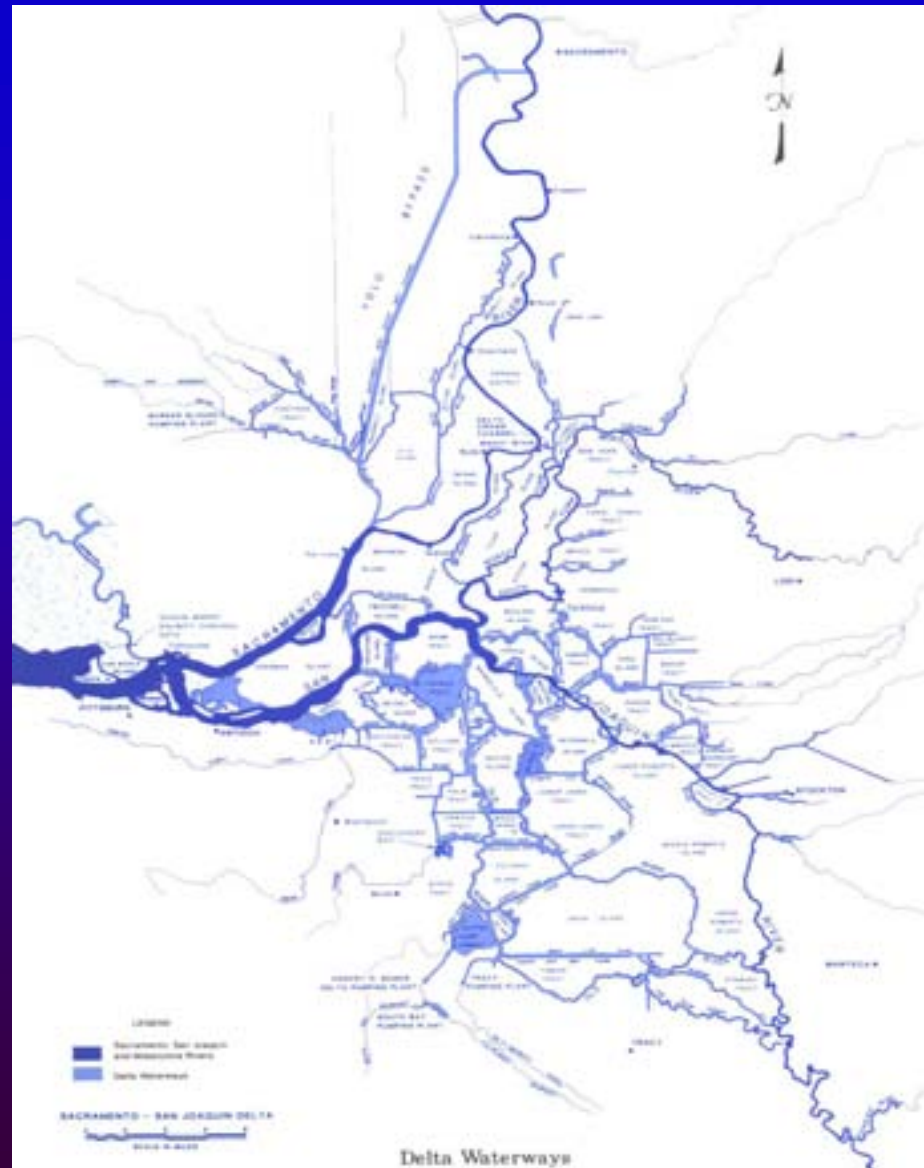
California Department of Water Resources



Bay-Delta System



Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta)



Subsidence in SJR Valley



California's Water Projects

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Federal Central Valley Project

20 Reservoirs

11 Hydro-electric power plants

500 miles of canals, siphons, & tunnels

11MAF total storage capacity

State Water Project

21 Reservoirs

17 Pumping Plants

3 Pumping-generating plants

5 Hydro-electric power plants

660 miles of canals, siphons, & tunnels

5.8 MAF total storage capacity

- 
- Major Rivers
 - State Projects
 - Federal Projects
 - Local Projects

Delta Facts

- ❑ Largest Estuary on West Coast
- ❑ ~490,000 acres
- ❑ 57 leveed islands, many below sea level
- ❑ +1,100 miles of levees
- ❑ Water supply for 2/3 of Californians
- ❑ Irrigation water for millions of acres of farmland
- ❑ Habitat for hundreds of species



Some General Policies on Water

- Water belongs to the people of the State
- Water rights are a right to the use of the water
- Prohibition against waste or unreasonable use

Public Trust Doctrine

- Protects a wide variety of environmental and recreational resources
- Must consider impact of water appropriation on public trust resources
- Public interest served by water diversion may outweigh harm to public trust resources
- May reconsider past water allocations in light of public trust resources impact (Water Right Permit term)

Reasonableness Doctrine

- Prohibits waste, unreasonable use or method of use and unreasonable method of water diversion
- Applies to all uses of all waters of the State
- Depends upon circumstances and can vary over time
- Method of diversion may be unreasonable based on its impact to fish, wildlife or other water user.



Water Quality Control Plan Beneficial Uses

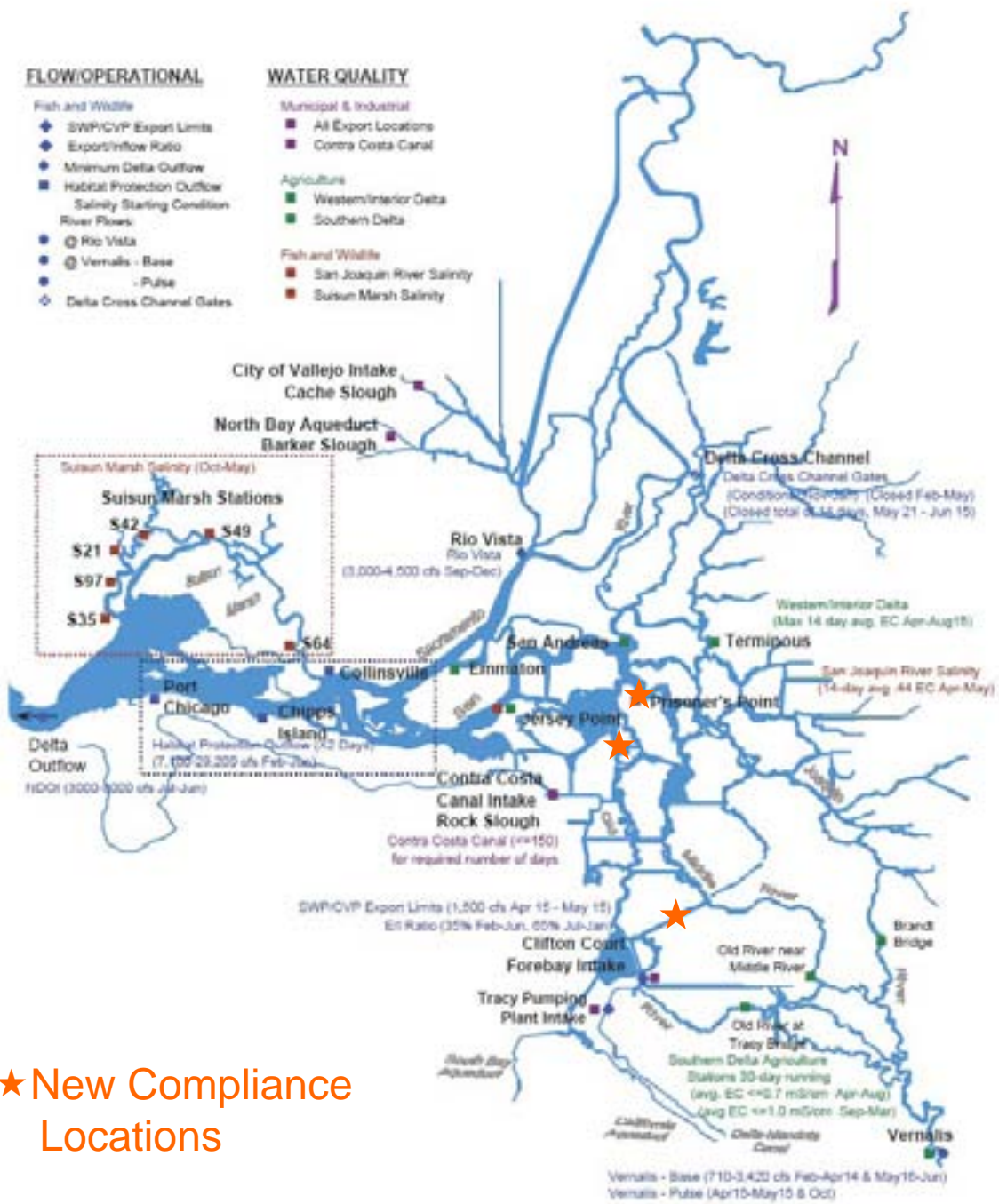
- Municipal and Industrial beneficial uses
- Agricultural beneficial uses
- Fish and Wildlife beneficial uses

SWRCB Bay-Delta Decisions

Water quality standards have evolved over time.

- D-990 (1961, Central Valley Project)
- D-1275 (1967, State Water Project)
- D-1485 (1978, SWP & CVP)
- D-1630 (draft update, 1992 with Bay-Delta Accord 1994)
- D-1641 (Current water quality and flow requirements for the Delta, 2000)

D-1641 Bay-Delta Standards Stations



★ New Compliance Locations

Some Delta Milestones

- 1933 Congress authorizes the Central Valley Project
- 1940 CVP exports begin from the Delta
- 1960 California voters approve the Burns-Porter Act financing the State Water Project
- 1971 State Water Resources Control Board adopts Decision 1379 establishing water quality standards for the SWP and CVP (later updated D1485, D1641)
- 1982 Voters defeat Prop. 9 - the Peripheral Canal
- 1993 Winter-run Chinook Salmon and delta smelt are listed under the Endangered Species Act

Recent Milestones

- 2007 Judge Wanger issues a decision to reduce export pumping to protect Delta smelt
- 2008 USFWS Biological Opinion for the operation of the CVP and SWP
- 2009 Delta Vision Committee Recommendation
- 2009 Pending NMFS Biological Opinion for the operation of the CVP and SWP

Proposed Delta Conveyance Alternatives 2009



- Western Alignment
- Dual Conveyance
- Eastern Alignment

Bay Delta Conservation Plan Schedule

2009	2010	2011	2012 - 16
Draft EIR/EIS	Final EIR/EIS		
		Permitting and Final Design	
			Construction of Dual Conveyance

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