



Delta Topics for the Bay Region

Assn. of Bay Area Governments

Winter 2009

League of Women Voters Delta Forum



A Confluence of Rivers

- Not a true delta – rather an inverted delta
- Why this matters
- Inland sediment-delivery system is one reason why the soils are so fertile and why farming is so productive in the valley



Delta Exhaustion and Revival

■ A performance based approach. How are we doing?

- Compacted soil
- Depleted soils
- Salt water intrusion
- Community decline
- Native flora
- Fisheries
- Wildlife
- Mining legacy
- Water withdrawals and diversions
- Water quality impacts from land uses
- Altered flood regime
- Levees

Shifting Priorities

- Historical policy context. A shift in priorities – salinity control to efficient movement of freshwater south to growing urban areas and agribusinesses

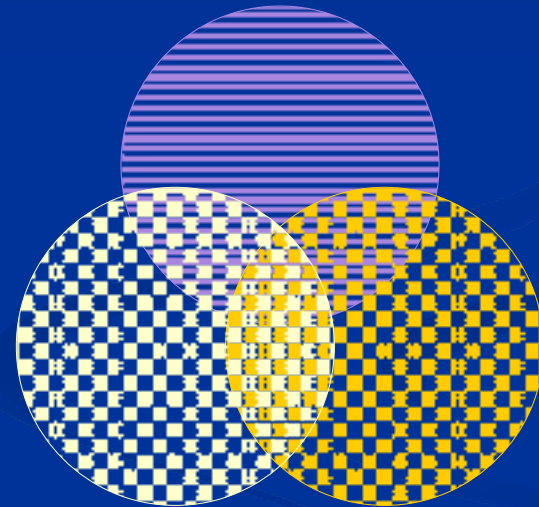


Bay Delta-Centric

- Delta as Special Communities and People;
- Close in Agricultural Center;
- Open Space and Recreational Area;
- Historic Places;
- Economic Engine;
- Hazard Mitigation Planning Area;
- Vital Watershed;
- Infrastructure Corridor;
- Water Source;
- Climate Change Mitigation Area;
- Biological Resource Area and Wildlife Corridor
- Research Center

Matching Up Values

- Bay Area/Delta Values
- Government Investments in the Delta and these Values
- Other Communities of Interest and their Values
 - Instream
 - Upstream
 - Down stream
 - Surrounding



Good Match with Bay/Delta Values?

■ Bay Delta Conservation Plan

■ Working Groups and Technical Teams

- Conservation Strategy Integration Team
- Conveyance Working Group
 - Fish Facilities Technical Team
- Habitat and Operations Technical Team
- Habitat Restoration Technical Team
- Other Stressors Working Group
- Implementing Structure/Governance Working Group
- Biological Goals and Objectives Working Group
- Science Liaisons
- Adaptive Management Working Group
- Analytical and Technical Tools Technical Team (on hiatus)

Delta Vision Goals

- Goal 1 – Co-equality of restoration/CA water supply
- Goal 2 – Ag, Cultural, Recreational values
- Goal 3 – Delta Ecosystem
- Goal 4 – Water conservation, efficiency, sustainable use
- Goal 5 – Build water storage and transport facilities
- Goal 6 – Emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses, levee repairs
- Goal 7 – New governance structure

Southern California and the Delta

- A demanding neighbor, So. Cal is growing at a rapid rate
- Rates of water conservation good
- Land use planning out of step
- Increased reliance on reuse, groundwater, ag water, desal
- Experimentation w/ storm water
- IRWMP is not in place for entire region – some integration in place
- Demand is highest for sprawling development and certain classes of customers



ABAG – A Willing Partner

- Planning context will need to shift to fully engage regional and local government.
- The table needs to widen and lengthen to find the balance and reduced conflict that the State of California hopes to achieve.
- COGs can assist

