CALLEGUAS MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT and the BDCP BAY DELTA CONSERVATION PLAN

The Future of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta… and why it matters to Ventura County

The Search for Reliability…

Southern Ventura County and Imported Water

During the first half of the 20th century, water supplies within the southern portion of Ventura County became strained as groundwater levels dropped and quality deteriorated due to increasing use and recurring drought. To resolve the water resource dilemma, Calleguas Municipal Water District was formed by area residents in 1953 for the purpose of developing a reliable water supply for the region. After nearly a decade investigating numerous options, Calleguas opted to join the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, thereby gaining access to the agency's time-tested, imported water system.

Calleguas Water…

The Early Years

Initially, Calleguas received Colorado River water from Metropolitan. However, with the partial completion of the State Water Project (SWP) in the early 1970s, Calleguas began to exclusively take delivery of water originating from snowmelt in the northern Sierra, via Lake Oroville and the California Aqueduct.

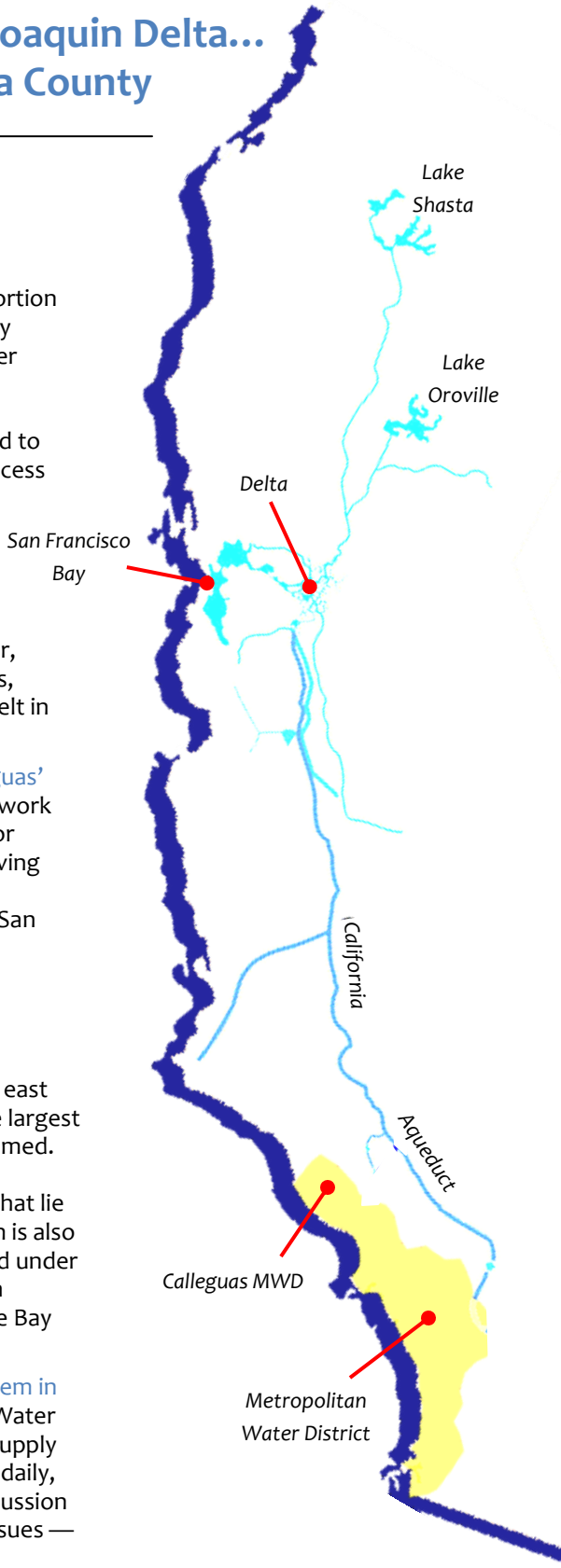
Today, this supply accounts for about 70% of the total water demand of Calleguas' purveyors, with the remaining 30% met by local resources. While the SWP network of reservoirs, aqueduct, and pump stations has proven to be a water lifeline for many communities throughout northern, central, and southern California, serving 25 million residents and three million acres of agricultural land, the intricate conveyance system has a major choke point or weak spot — the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The Delta…

An Evolving Place complicated by Competing Interests

Generally bounded by the cities of Sacramento and Stockton to the north and east and the San Francisco Bay to the west, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the largest estuary on the west coast, is the confluence of the two rivers for which it is named. Once a vast, natural tidal marsh encompassing 750,000 acres, it is now a manufactured complex of 1,100 miles of levees that form 57 "islands", many that lie 20 to 30 feet below sea level and are primarily used for agriculture. The region is also home to more than 500 plant and animal species, some of which are protected under the Endangered Species Act. Among other uses, Delta channels serve as open conduits for water supplies conveyed from the water-rich Sierra to users in the Bay Area, Central Valley, and southern California.

Over the last 40 years, these competing interests have left the Delta's ecosystem in steep decline and resulted in widely erratic water exports from year to year. Water losses in 2013 were estimated at 900,000 acre feet, equivalent to a nine year supply for Calleguas. Moreover, the risk of levee failure due to earthquake increases daily, further jeopardizing vital water supplies. Following decades of rancorous discussion and debate, it was time for a new, science-based approach to address Delta issues — the **Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)**.



The Promise of the BDCP…

Achieving co-equal goals of water reliability and ecosystem restoration

In 2007, the SWP and Central Valley Project (CVP) contractors initiated the **Bay Delta Conservation Plan** to seek greater regulatory assurances with respect to Delta water supply exports (reliable water, not more water) while working together with federal and state fish and wildlife agencies and other stakeholders to devise a 50-year master plan for restoring the Delta's long suffering ecosystems. The proposal includes numerous goals, objectives, and conservation measures designed to achieve these co-equal goals.

Prominent features of the program include the construction of new water conveyance facilities and over 150,000 acres of either restored or protected habitat. A comprehensive, adaptive management process has been embedded in the program to ensure that goals and objectives are met.

The $14.5 billion cost of new water infrastructure, which would be constructed within the first 10 years of the program, will be paid by the SWP and CVP water contractors. The $4.2 billion cost of ecosystem enhancements will be funded by federal and state sources.

For more information:
www.calleguas.com/bdcp.htm

BDCP Goals for Restored and Protected Habitat—

Approximately 153,000 acres

New Floodplain
10,000 acres

Tidal Habitat
65,000 acres

Channel Margin Enhancement
20 levee miles

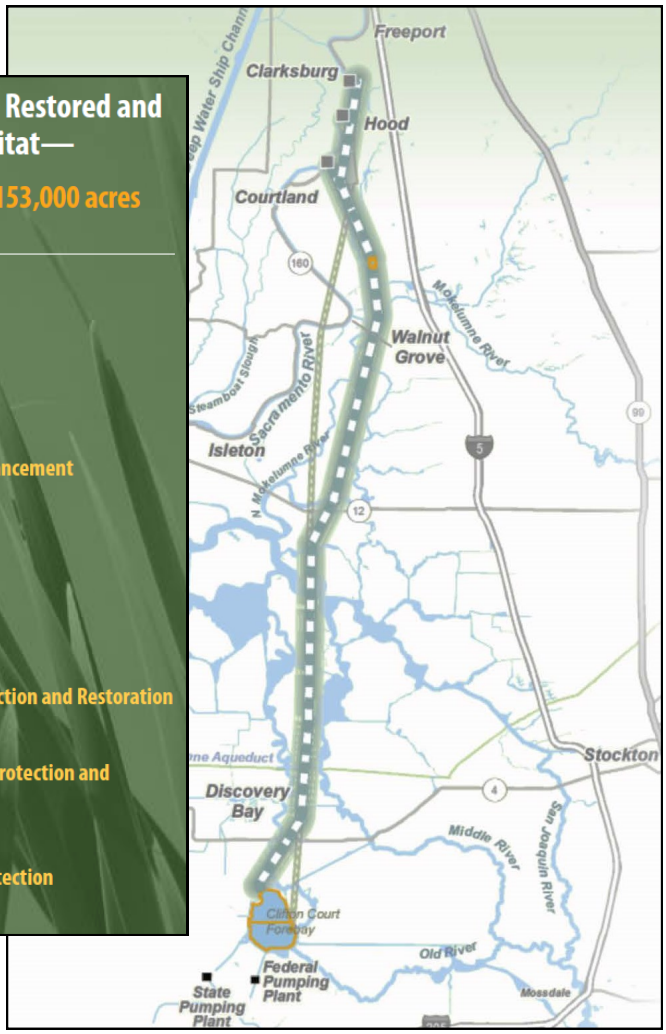
Riparian Habitat
5,000 acres

Grassland Habitat
10,000 acres

Other Habitats Protection and Restoration
5,000 acres

Managed Wetlands Protection and Restoration
8,000 acres

Cultivated Lands Protection
>45,000 acres



Preferred alignment of dual 40' diameter, 30 mile long tunnels

Oxnard Press Courier — June 15, 1960

Salt Water Intrusion Claims Another Well on Plain

Star Free Press — July 12, 1953

LOCAL SOURCES NOT SUFFICIENT:
County Must Import Water In Future, Engineers Reveal

Camarillo News
June 18, 1953

Water Crises Spurs Action In Conejo

Los Angeles Times — July 4, 1960

Ventura County Facing Water Quality Crisis

Camarillo News — October 6, 1960

DROPPING WATER LEVELS HIT CAMARILLO, HEIGHTS, STATE HOSPITAL AREAS

The Value of Reliable Imported Water…

More benefits than you may realize

In addition to serving as a primary, if not the sole, drinking water supply for over 600,000 Ventura County residents, the development of new and continued use of existing local water supplies is highly dependent upon the availability of high quality imported water as noted below.

- ◊ Imported water is also the source for recycled water, which is used not only for direct irrigation, but also serves as an essential supply of recharge to local aquifers.
- ◊ Native groundwater quality within the region is often unacceptable for domestic and certain agricultural uses, these resources are typically blended with higher quality imported water to enable their use.

As a result, recycled water programs and traditionally used groundwater supplies would be severely limited by a reduction in imported water deliveries to the region. The value of imported water in Ventura County is both immense and virtually irreplaceable. **Without it, or a replacement of similar yield, we are destined to return to our past… an unfortunate case of déjà vu, but this time with a population roughly 10 times greater than that of the mid 20th century.**