Specific Consideration for Conveyance Across the Delta

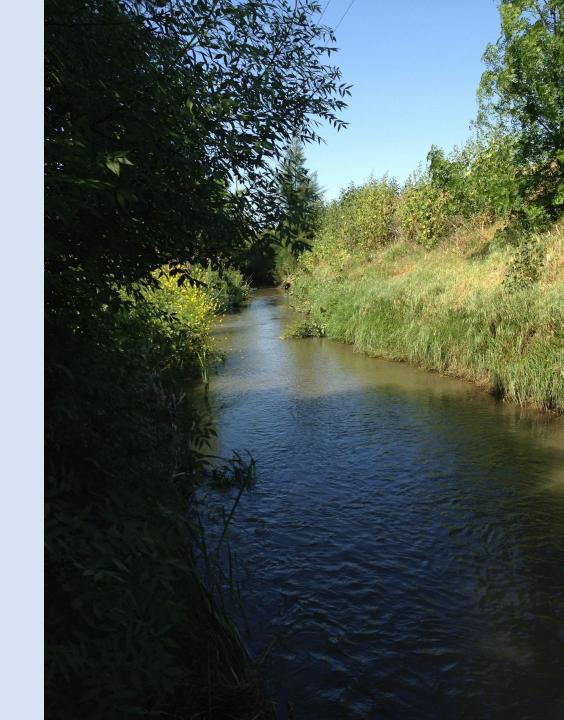
Michael George Delta Watermaster April 21, 2021





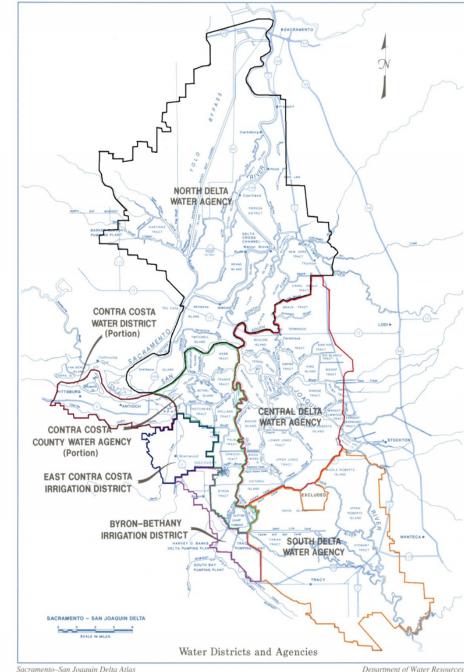
Overview

- Highly Variable Watershed
- Conveyance Through the Delta
- Regional Differences
- Capacity Constraint Awareness
 - Current
 - Prospective



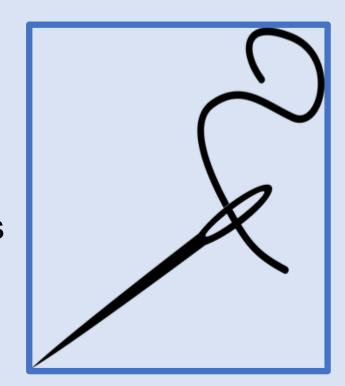
Highly Variable Watershed

- Drought and Flood Create Unpredictability
- Planning for the Average is Foolish
- Aging Infrastructure is Geared for Snow
- Project Contractors Foot the Bill
- The Tidal Delta is Not a Monolith
- "Excess" Water Comes in a Gush
- Supply Management is Expensive
- Environmental Reparations are Needed
- Climate Change Complicates Everything



Conveyance Through the Delta

- Delta is both Hub and Chokepoint
- State Policy Requires Reduced Reliance
- Conveyance Depends on:
 - Protecting Water Quality, Particularly in Dry Years
 - Avoiding Injury to Others
 - Protecting the Environment
 - Getting the Timing Right
 - Minding Point-to-Point (and everything in between)
 - Threading the Approval Needle



Regional Differences

- Regions in the Delta Watershed Have Dramatically Different Opportunities, Constraints and Concerns
 - North (area of origin, source of intrastate transfer water, rapid groundwater recharge, large reservoirs)
 - **Delta** (ample local supply, relies on watershed for quality, impossible to "squeeze" incremental export)
 - South-of-Delta Is Differentiated Between
 - Urban (massive investments to accommodate variable supply)
 - Ag (massive investments hardening demand in the face of variable supply, with new gw constraints)
- Competing Interests Generate Conflict

Capacity Constraint Awareness

- Every Diversion from the Delta has Limited Capacity
 - Varies by Hydrologic and Regulatory Condition
 - Is Allocated According to Priority
 - Presents Inherent Uncertainty
 - Multiple Gatekeepers have Multiple Approval Processes
- Public Benefit Is Stuck in the Conveyance Queue
 - Value of Water is Variable with Location and Time
 - Conveyance Capacity Across the Delta Remains Dear
 - Planning Must Incorporate a High Degree of Uncertainty

Summary

