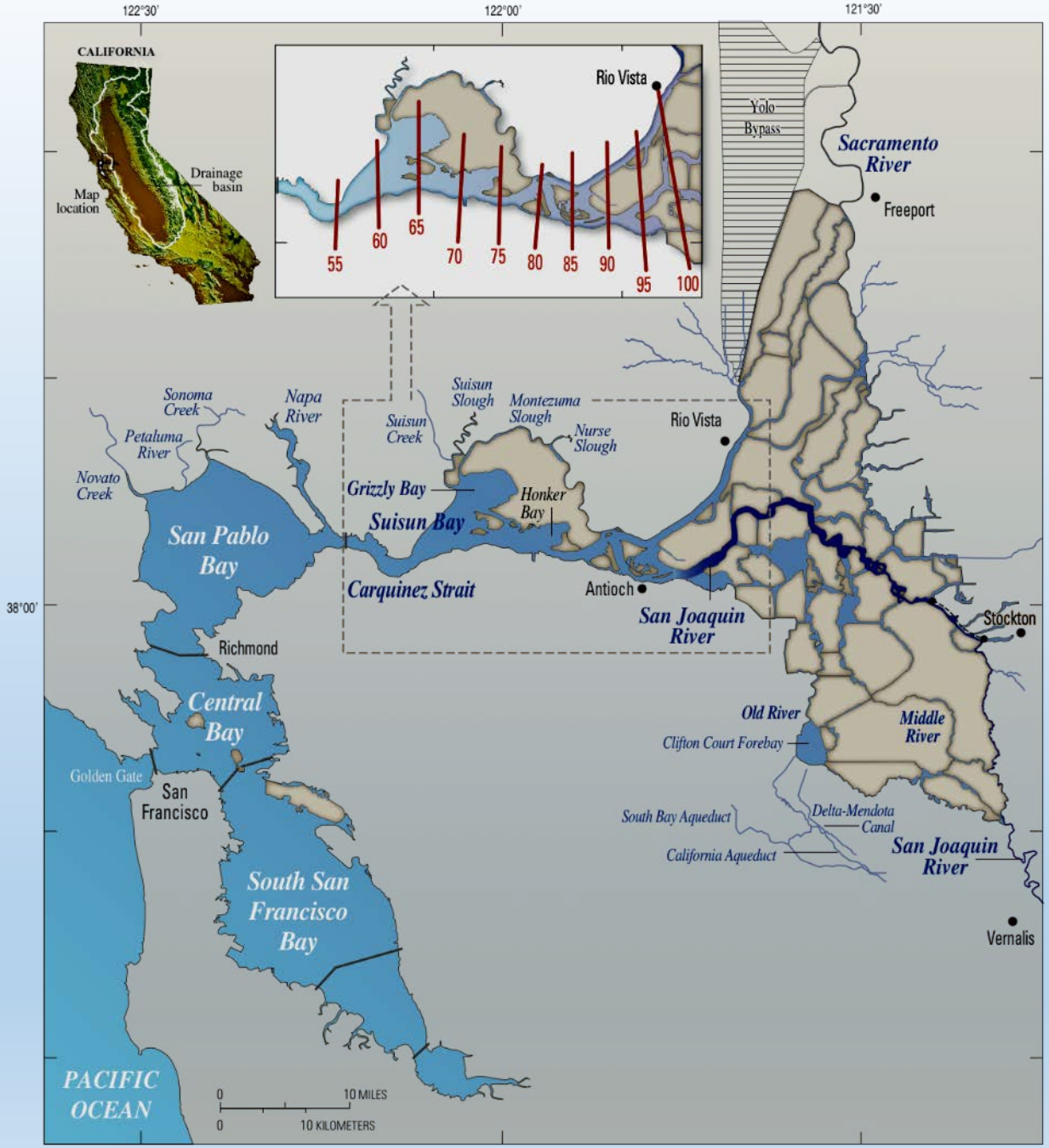
Overview of the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary

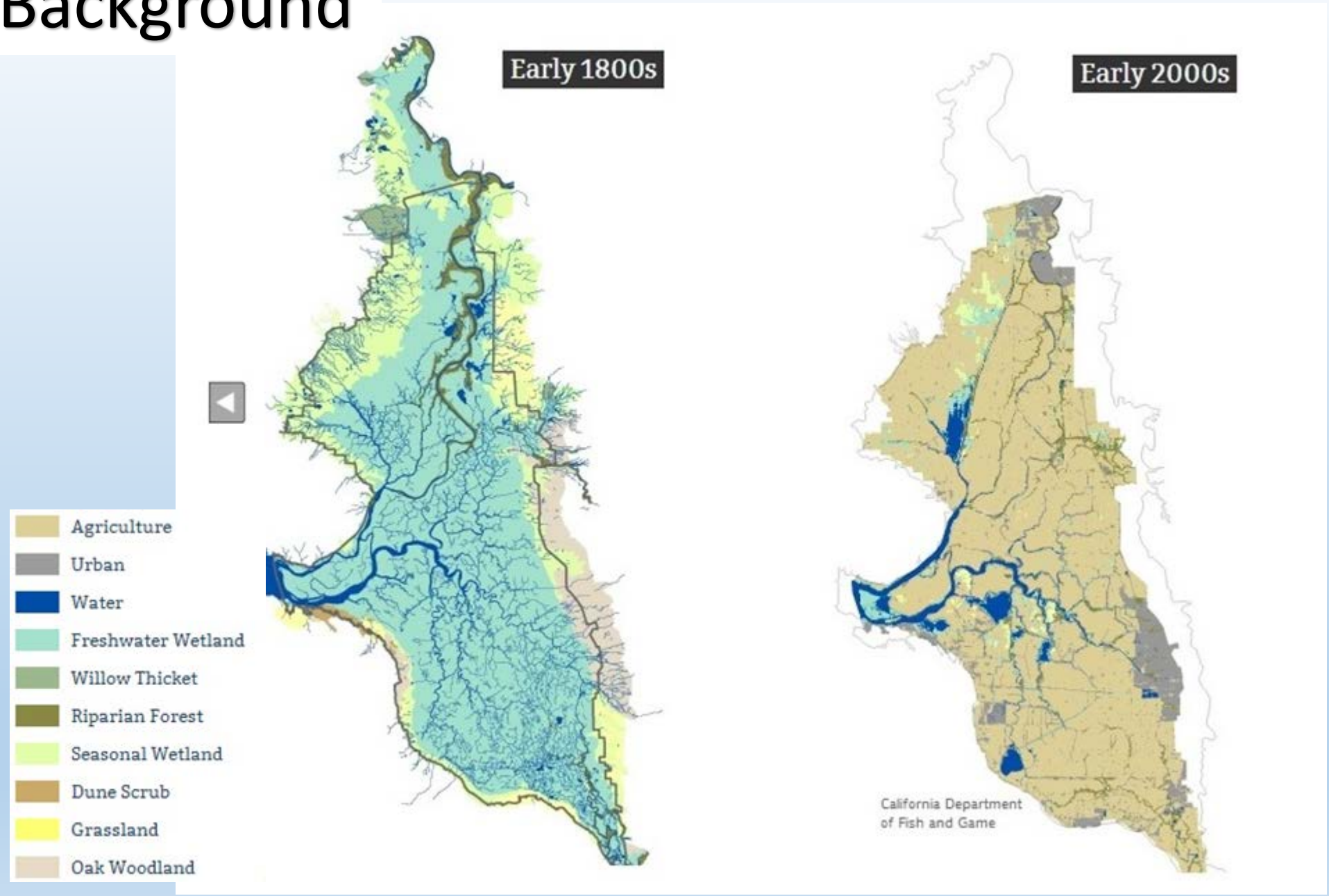
Outline

I. Where is the Bay Delta and why is it unique?
II. What problems is the BDCP Addressing?
III. What is the BDCP and what is the WaterFix?
IV. What is EPA's Involvement in the BDCP?

California and the Bay Delta


122°30'
122°00'
121°30'
38°00'
CALIFORNIA
Map location
Drainage basin
Rio Vista
55
60
65
70
75
80
85
90
95
100
Yolo Bypass
Sacramento River
Freeport
Sonoma Creek
Napa River
Suisun Slough
Montezuma Slough
Suisun Creek
Nurse Slough
Rio Vista
Petaluma River
Novato Creek
Grizzly Bay
Honker Bay
Suisun Bay
San Pablo Bay
Carquinez Strait
Antioch
San Joaquin River
Stockton
Richmond
Central Bay
Old River
Middle River
Clifton Court Forebay
Golden Gate
San Francisco
South Bay Aqueduct
Delta-Mendota Canal
California Aqueduct
San Joaquin River
South San Francisco Bay
Vernalis
PACIFIC OCEAN
0
10 MILES
0
10 KILOMETERS

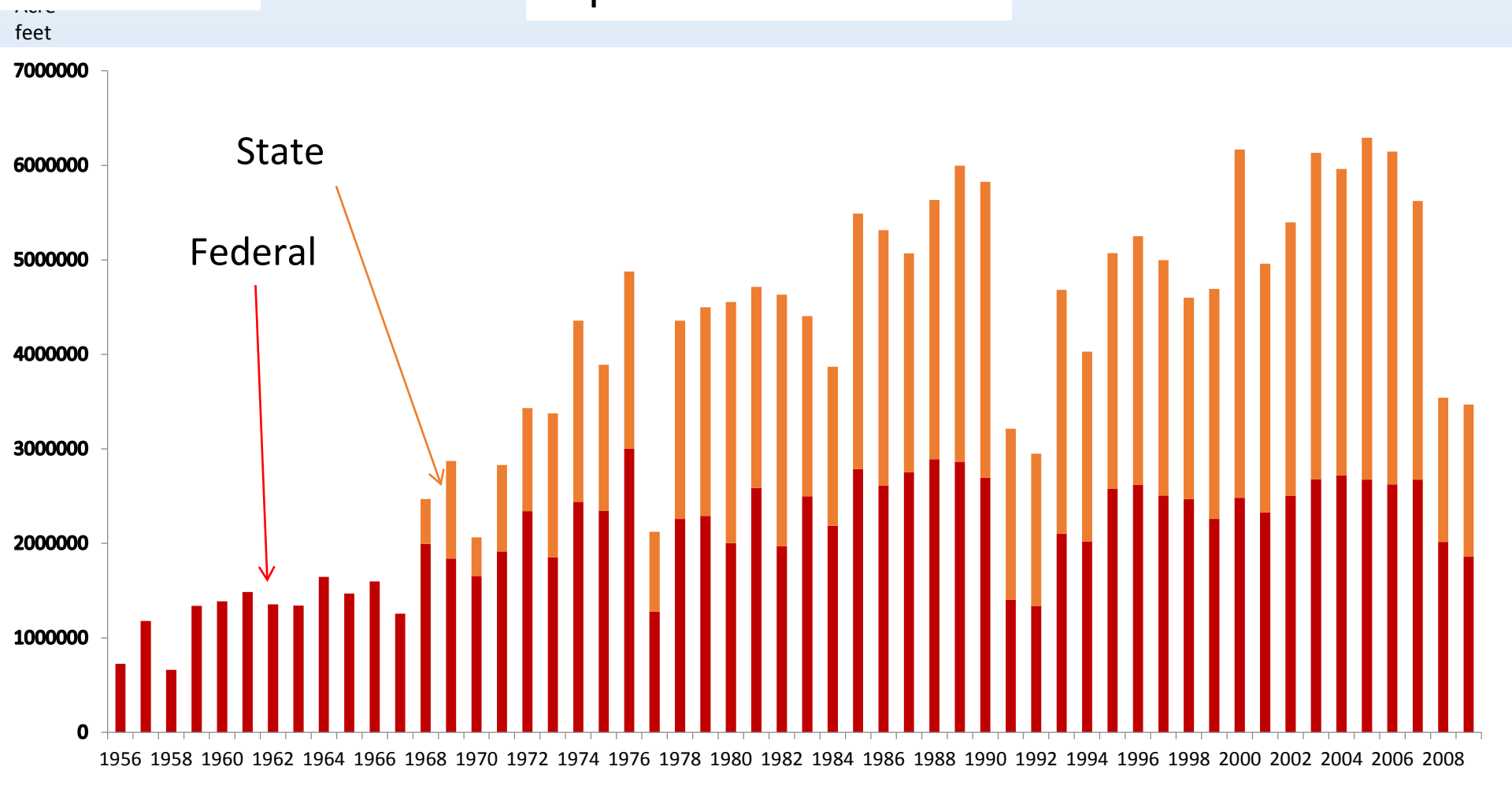
Background



Credit: http://science.kqed.org/quest/delta-map/

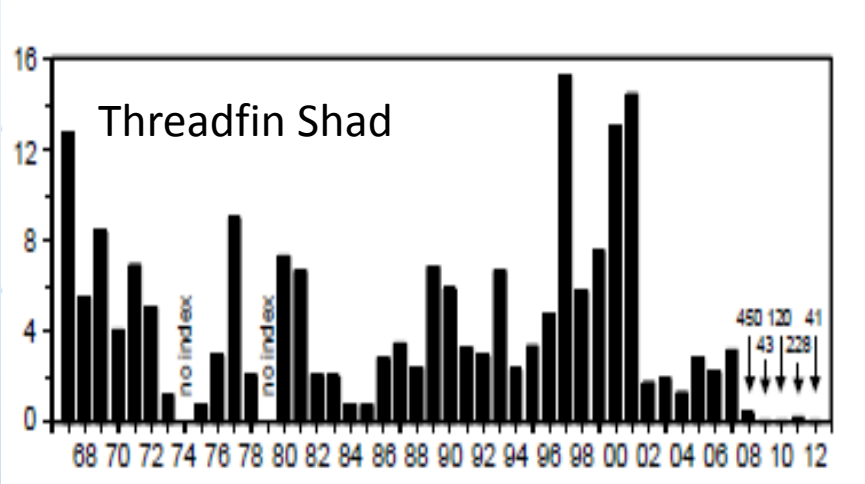
Water Demand

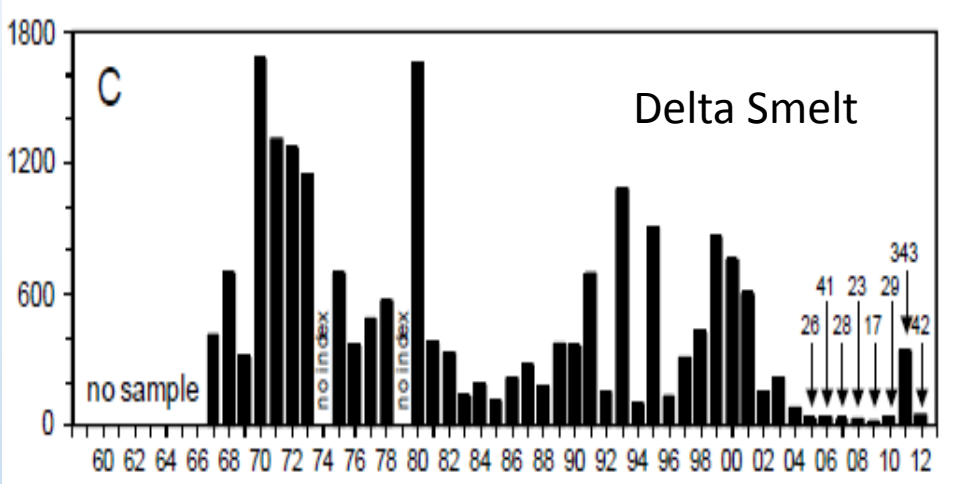
Exports in acre-feet

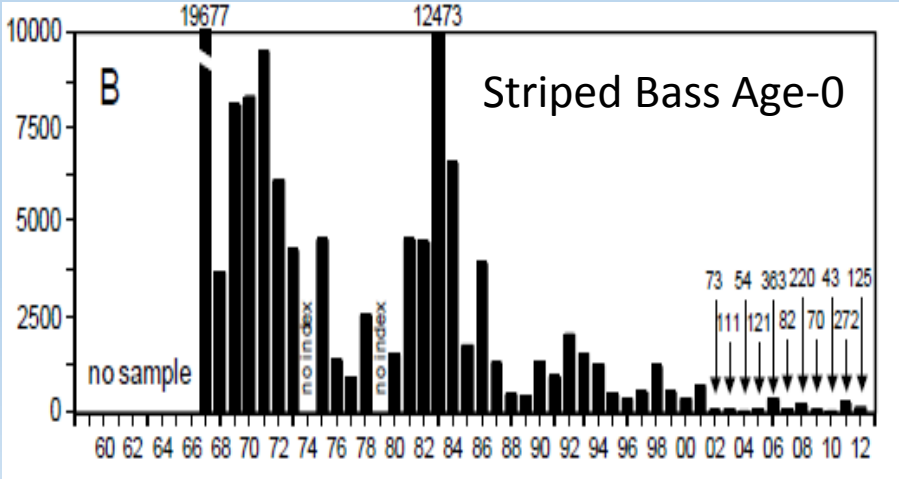


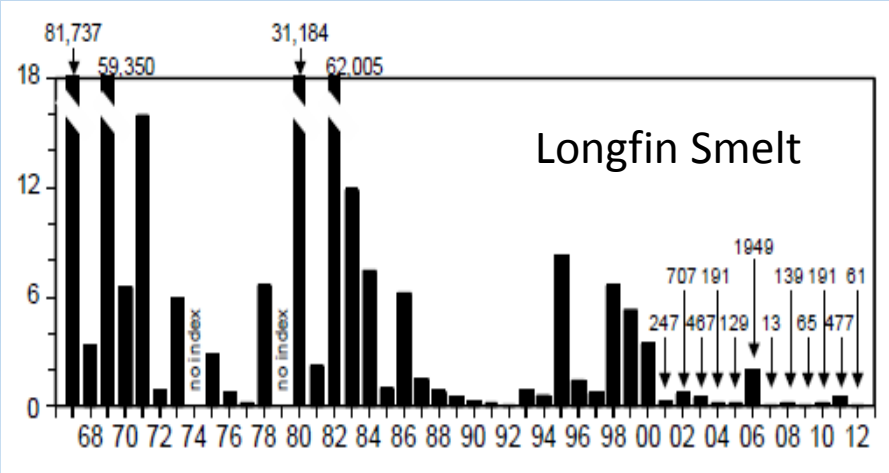
-6 million acre feet = 2 trillion gallons

Background – Fisheries Collapse



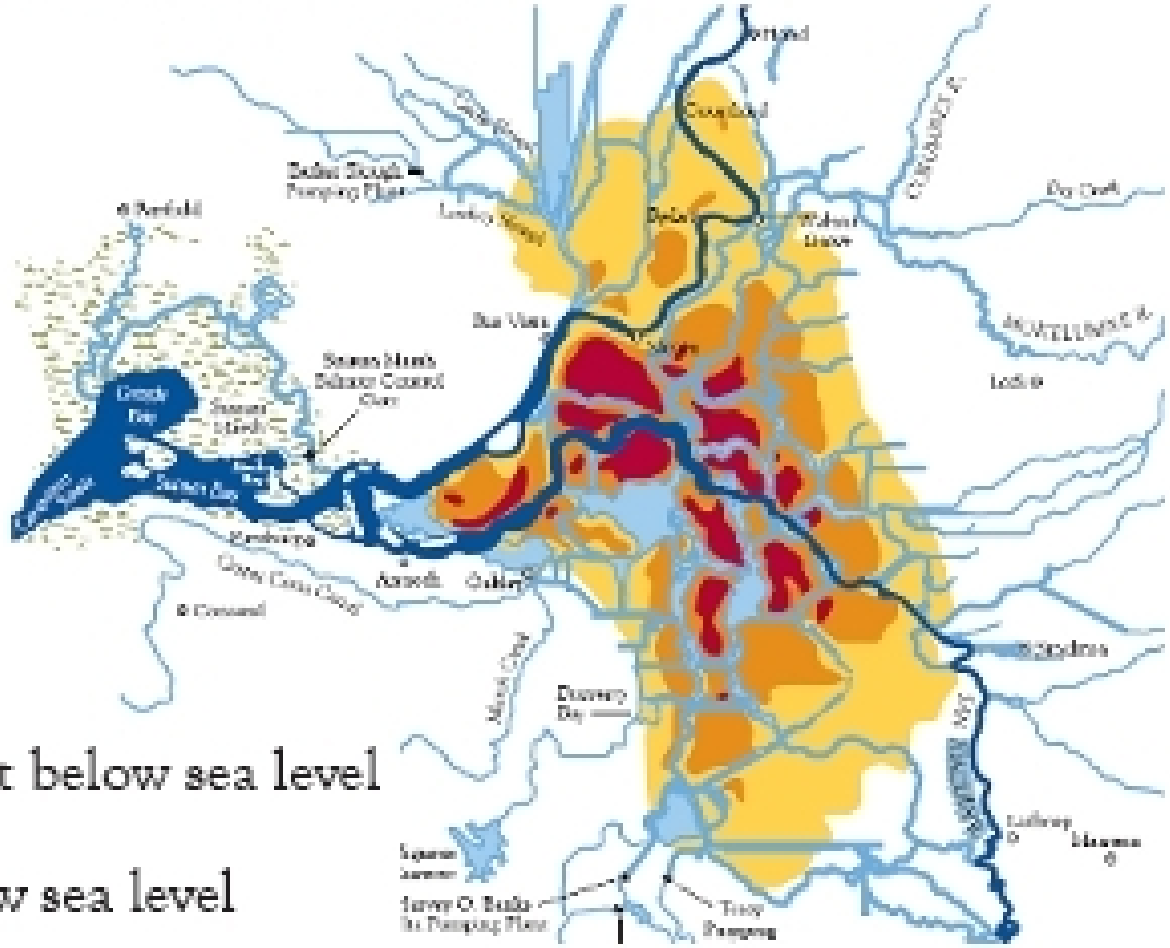






Background

Land Subsidence in the Delta

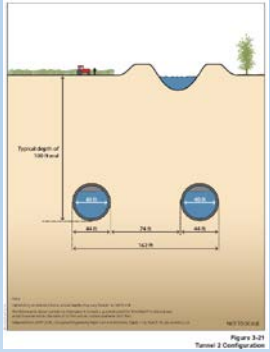


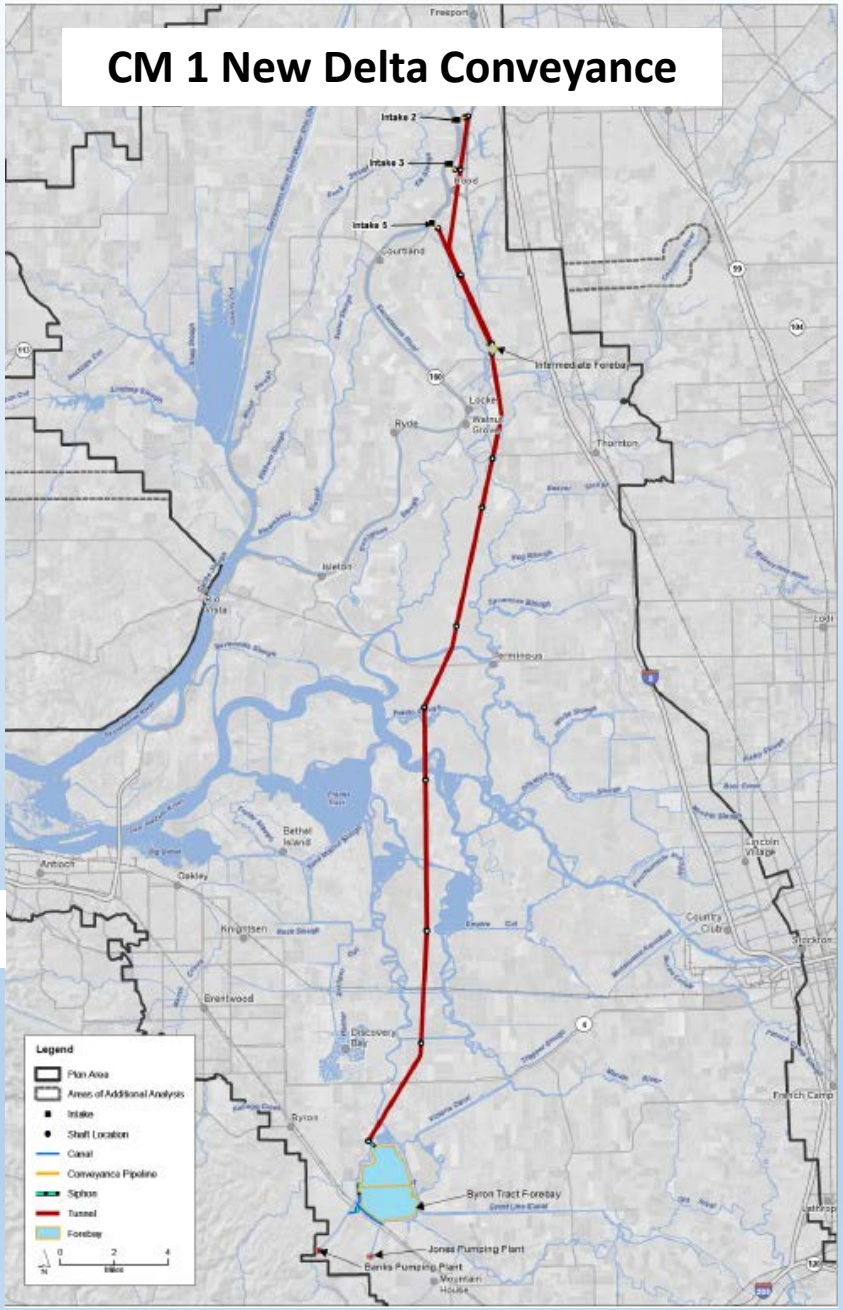
- Above sea level
- Suisun Marsh
- Sea level to 10 feet below sea level
- 10 to 15 feet below sea level
- 15 feet or more below sea level

What is the BDCP?

Old BDCP	New WaterFix
Lead agency: US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service	Lead Agency: Bureau of Reclamation
Habitat Conservation Plan- Section 10 ESA Compliance- 50 year assurance	Tunnel-only build plan- Section 7 ESA Compliance- on-going action w/ triggers to reinitiate consultation
3 intakes, 2 40-foot diameter 35 mile long tunnels	3 intakes, 2 40-foot diameter 35 mile long tunnels
22 conservation measures incl. 65K acres restoration and others	30K acres restoration pursued separately by the State of California
Army Corps 404/408 permits to be pursued after the NEPA process	Army Corps 404/408 permits- currently being pursued

"Twin Tunnels"





EPA August 2013 NEPA Letter Summary

- **Increases in violations of WQS & changing of compliance pt**
- **Reduced protection for aquatic life compared to a declining baseline**
- Information does not support project-level decision-making
- Assumes 100% restoration success
- Scope of impact analysis is limited
- Alternatives not compared
- Alternatives not comparably analyzed

Upcoming Events Timeline

- **July 10 2015-** BOR and DWR publish SDEIS/RDEIR
- **Sept 2015** Corps to publish Public Notice w/ EPA review of 30 days
- **October 30, 2015-** EPA comments and rating due to BOR
- **February 2016:** Anticipated Supplemental Final EIS to be released for public review.
- **Summer 2016:** Anticipated issuance of Biological Opinion by NMFS and FWS.
- **TBD:** Corps to issue CWA 404 and 408 permits.