

Delta Vision

Bay Area Water Forum

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Oakland – April 27, 2009

BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE

**Delta Vision
Strategic Plan**

October 2008

The Delta Vision
Strategic Plan

Phil Isenberg

Chair

Delta Vision Blue Ribbon
Task Force

November 21, 2008

Drivers for launching and completing Delta Vision

- California faces crises in both ecosystem function and reliable water supply
- Projected population increases and anticipated climate changes will exacerbate these crises
- California does not have the institutions or public policies to address the current crises or to achieve a desired future

Note: Of course, different parties frame the crises differently and propose different actions for the future

Beginnings of Delta Vision

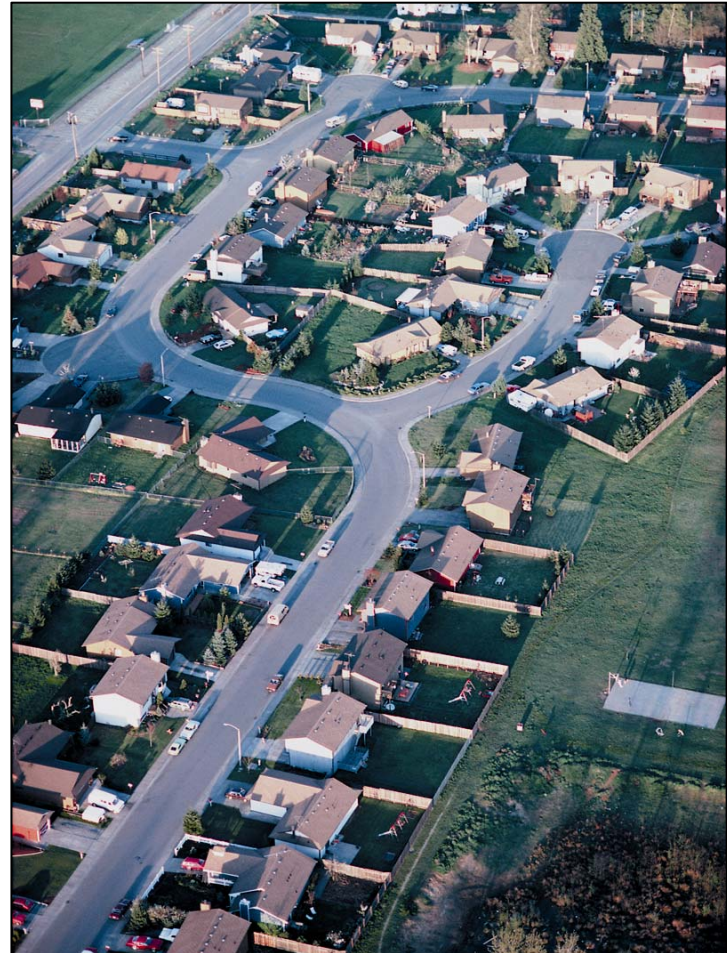
- Established by Governor's Executive Order on September 28, 2006
- Charged with developing a durable vision for sustainable management of the Delta over the long term
- Restore and maintain identified functions and values important to the Delta's environmental quality and economic and social well-being of the state
- Seven members appointed to serve by the Governor

How the Delta Vision Was Developed

- Task Force held 14 days of public meetings in the Delta
- A 43-member Stakeholder Coordination Group met publicly for 15 days, and provided input to the Task Force
- Task Force recommendations were informed by Delta Science Advisors, other state and federal agencies and public testimony
- Three drafts and a final version of *Our Vision for the California Delta* were published as a result of this process

The Adopted Delta Vision (November 2007)

- An independent approach to the crisis in the Delta resulted in recommending 7 goals, 22 strategies and 10 near-term actions
- Recommendations are integrated and linked together – they are not designed to be “cherry picked”



Seven Goals

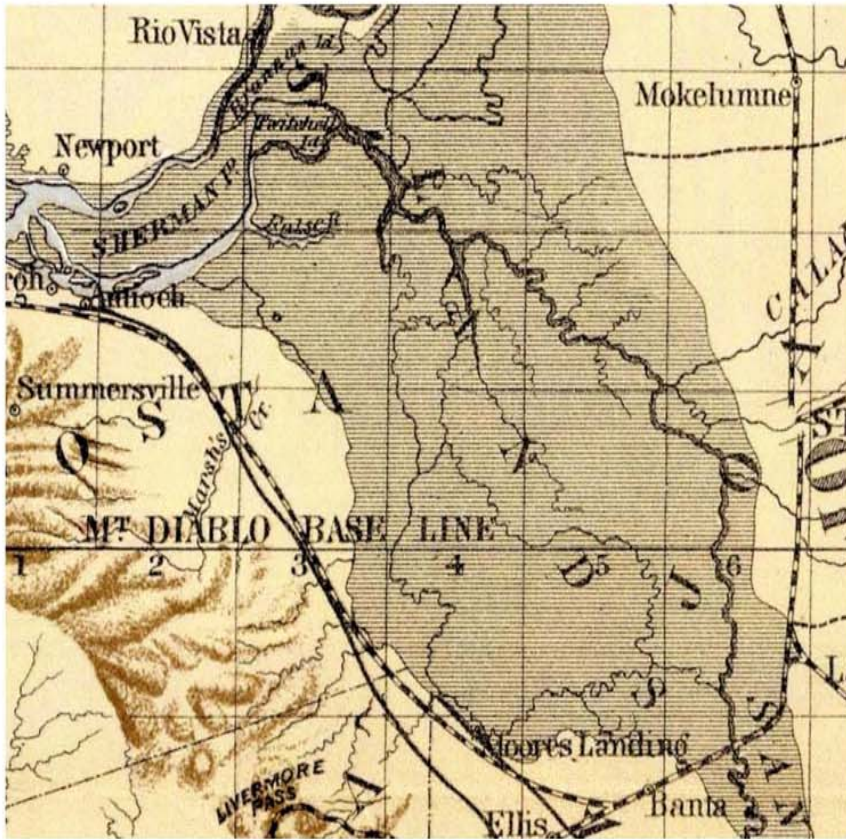
(shorthand labels)

- 1. Co-equal goals
- 2. Delta as place
- 3. Ecosystem restoration
- 4. Water policy
- 5. Water facilities
- 6. Risk reduction
- 7. Governance

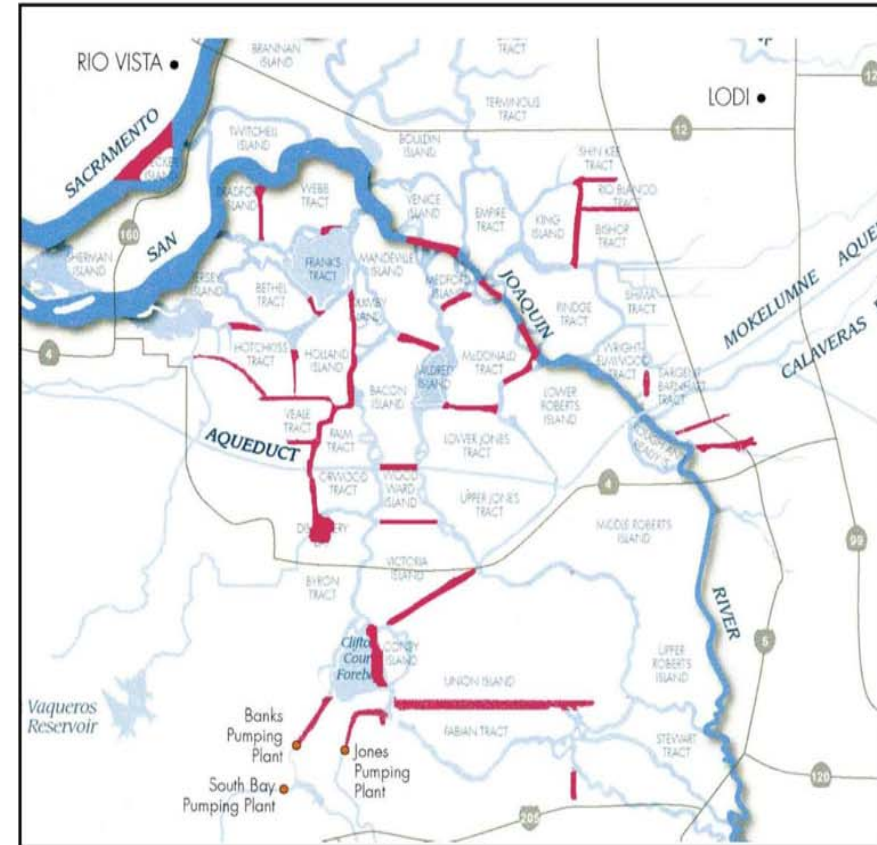
Statewide Upstream and Export Diversion from the Delta Watershed (Water Year 2000)



Natural branching versus man-made “cross-cuts” in south Delta channels.



Natural branching channels in the Delta in 1873



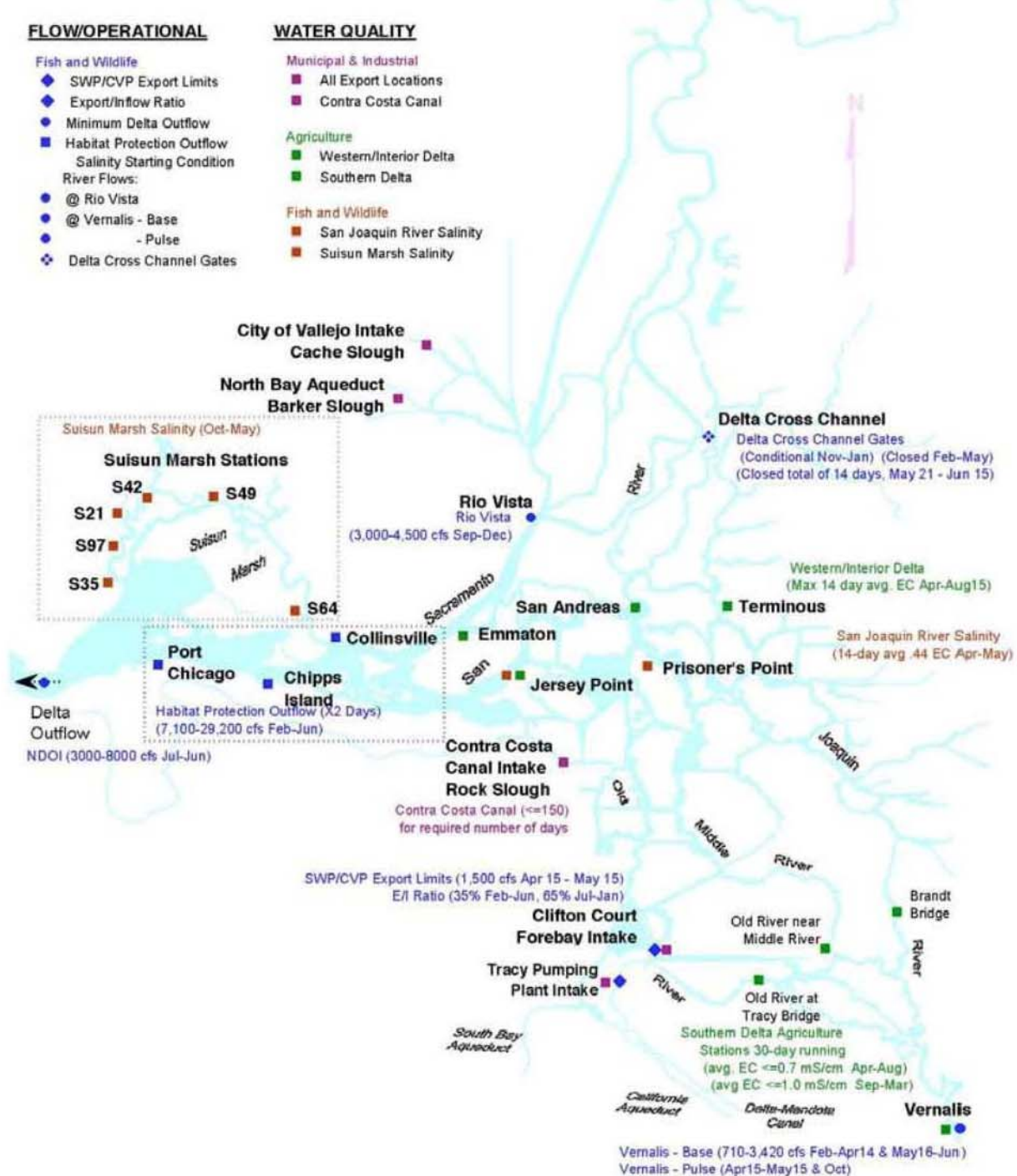
*Channels in red are the man-made “cross-cuts” in the Delta of today
(data from Department of Water Resources Delta Atlas)*

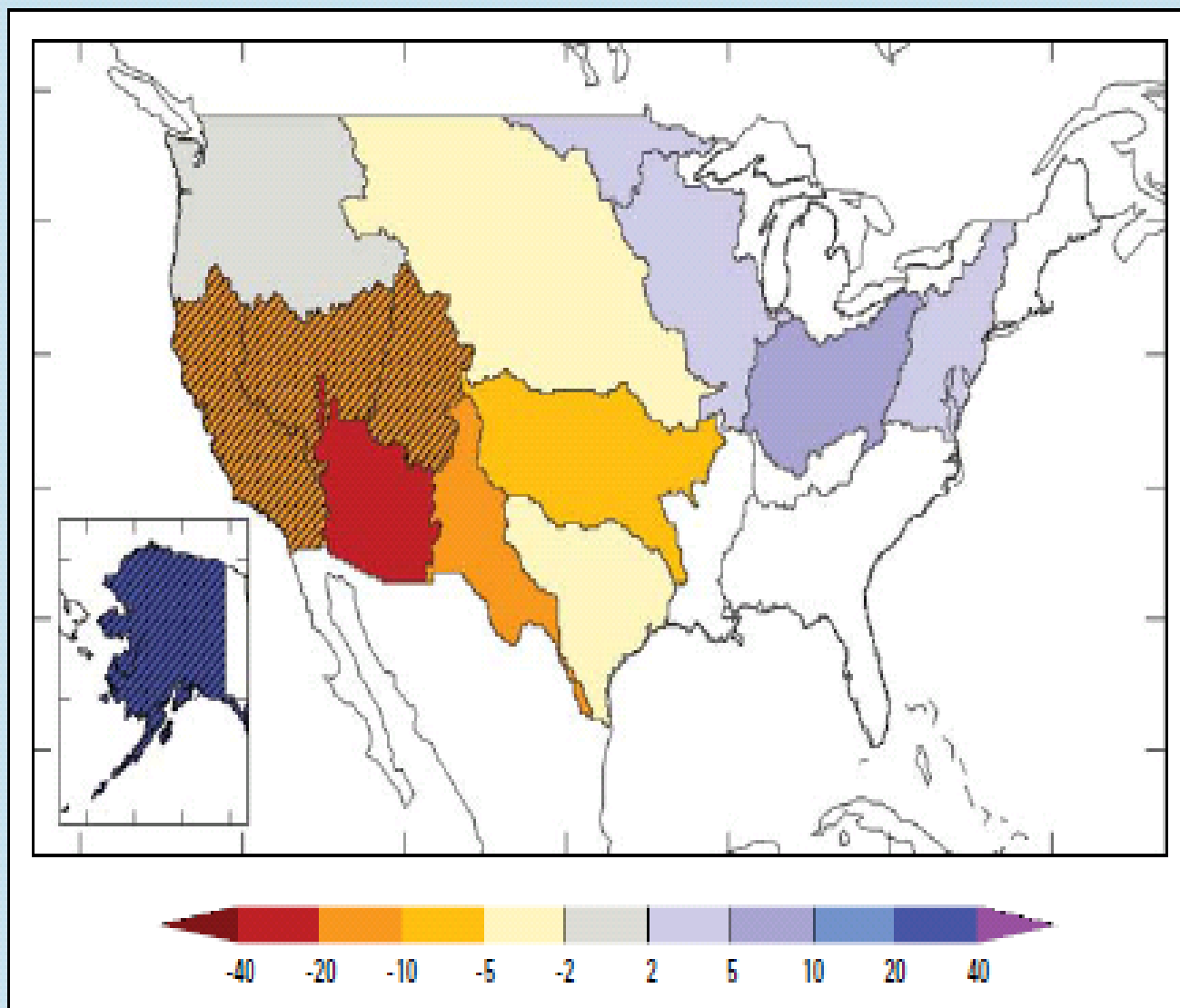
FLOW/OPERATIONAL

- Fish and Wildlife
- ◆ SWP/CVP Export Limits
- ◆ Export/Inflow Ratio
- Minimum Delta Outflow
- Habitat Protection Outflow
- Salinity Starting Condition
- River Flows:
- @ Rio Vista
- @ Vernalis - Base
- - Pulse
- ◆ Delta Cross Channel Gates

WATER QUALITY

- Municipal & Industrial
- All Export Locations
- Contra Costa Canal
- Agriculture
- Western/Interior Delta
- Southern Delta
- Fish and Wildlife
- San Joaquin River Salinity
- Suisun Marsh Salinity





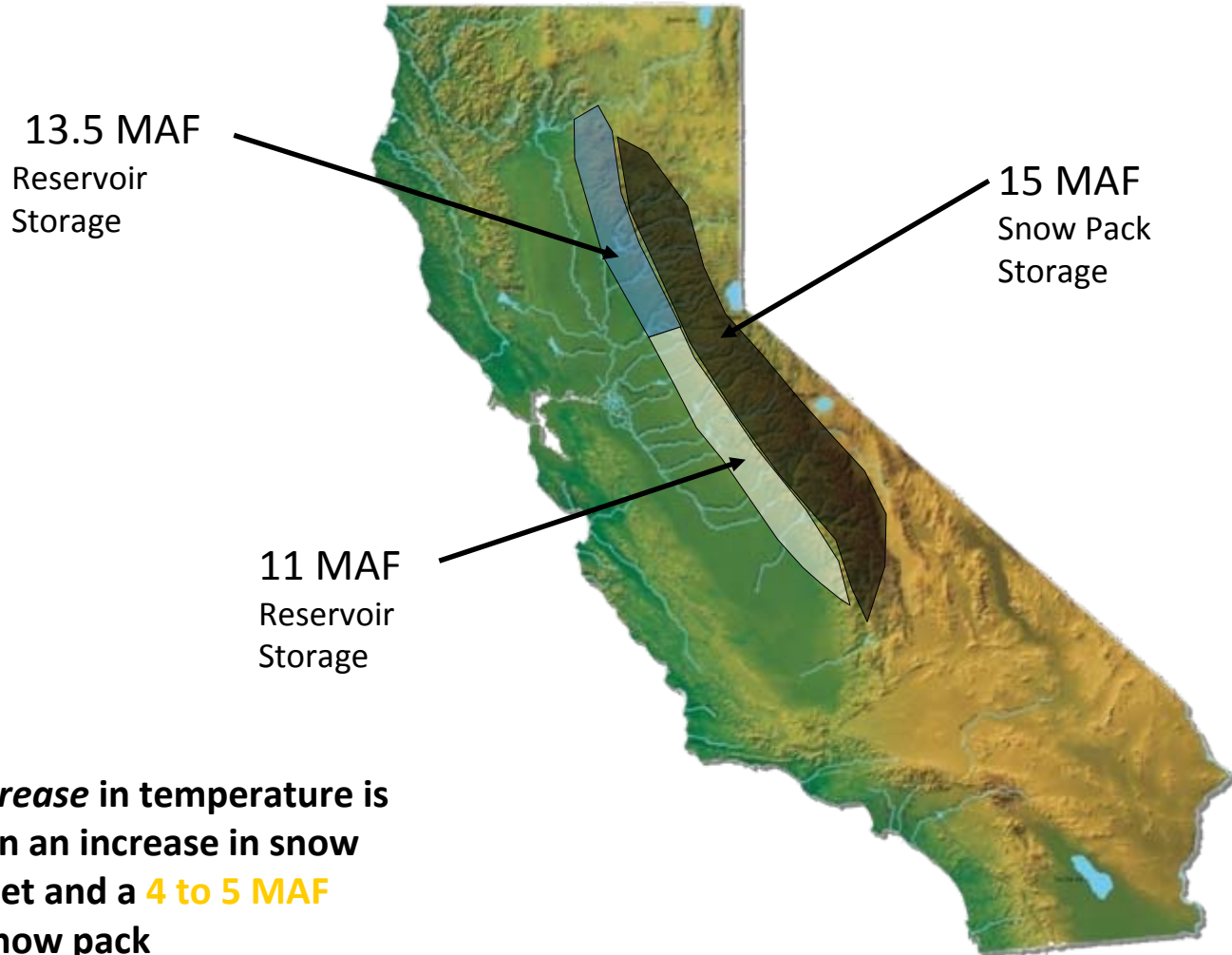
Model-Projected Changes in U.S. Annual Runoff, 2041-2060

Percentage change relative to 1900-1970 baseline. Any color indicates that >66% of models agree on sign of change; diagonal hatching indicates >90% agreement. After Milly, P.C.D., K.A. Dunne, A.V. Vecchia, Global pattern of trends in streamflow and water availability in a changing climate, *Nature*, 438, 347-350, 2005.)

Source: COWI, 2008, contributed by Brad Udell, University of Colorado

FIGURE 23

Expected Storage Capacity Impacts from Changes in Runoff



CLIMATE IMPACTS ON TRANSPORTATION SEA LEVEL RISE SCENARIO



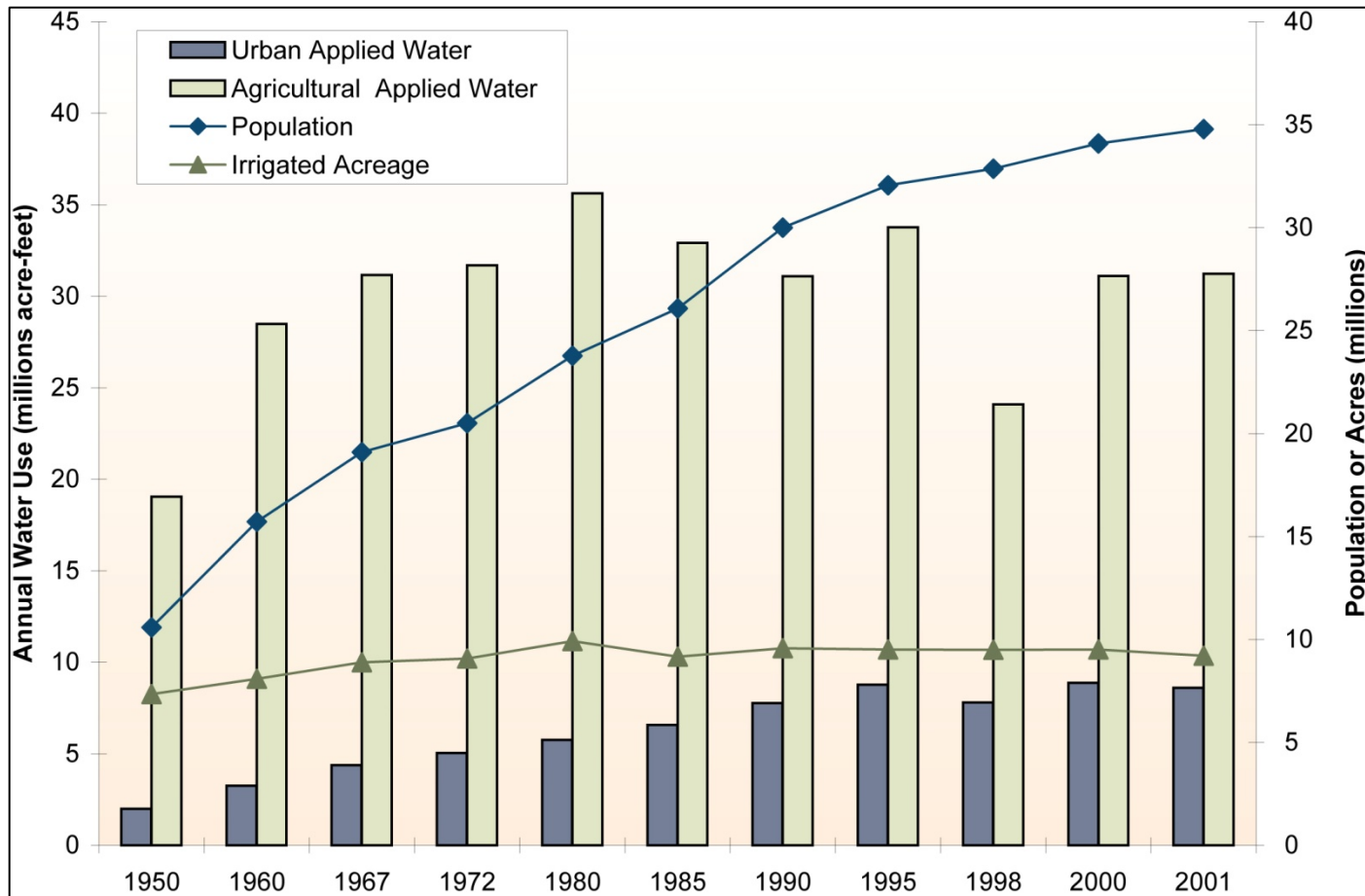
San Francisco Airport

San Francisco Bay Area

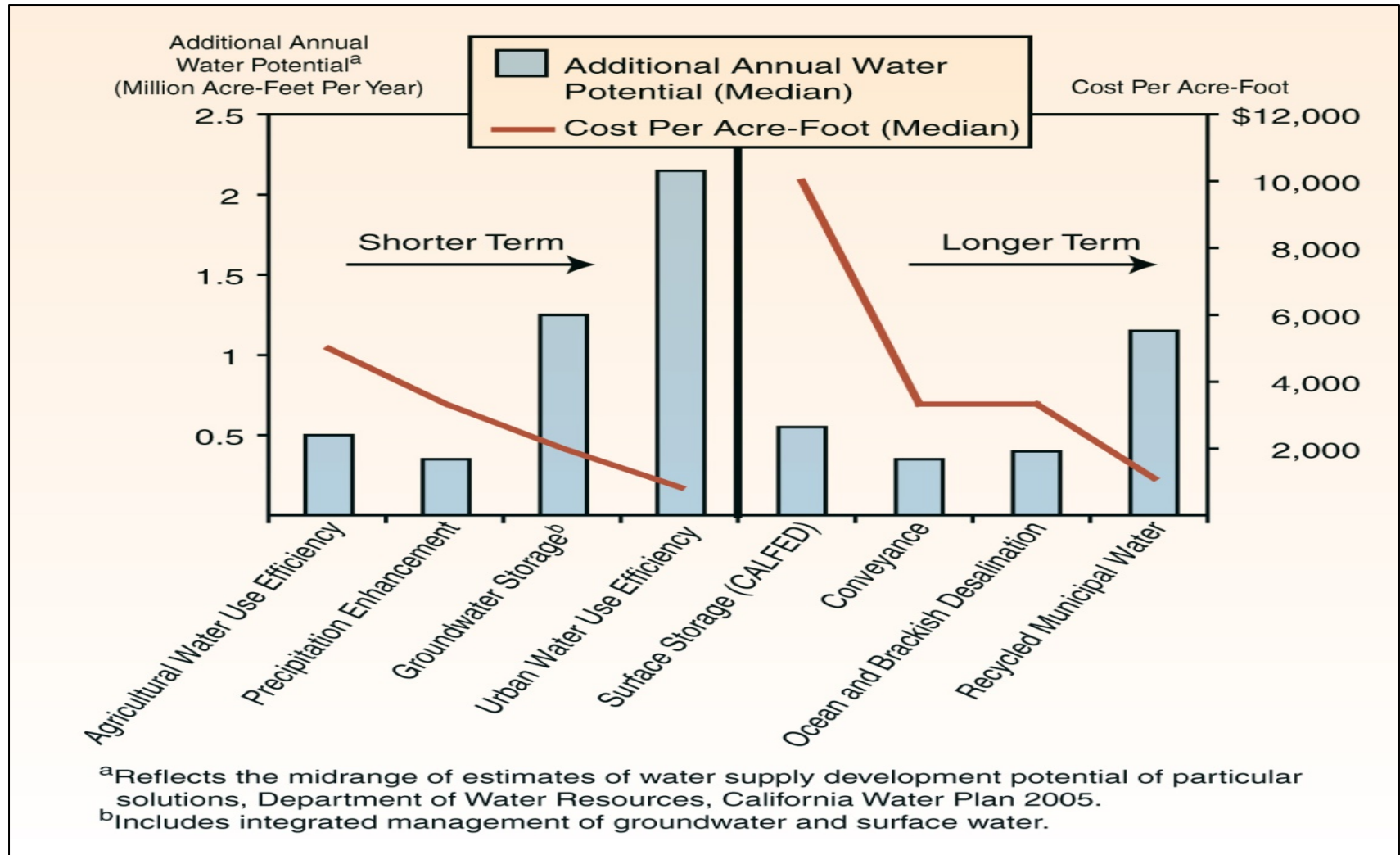


Oakland Airport

Urban and Agricultural Water Use and Drivers



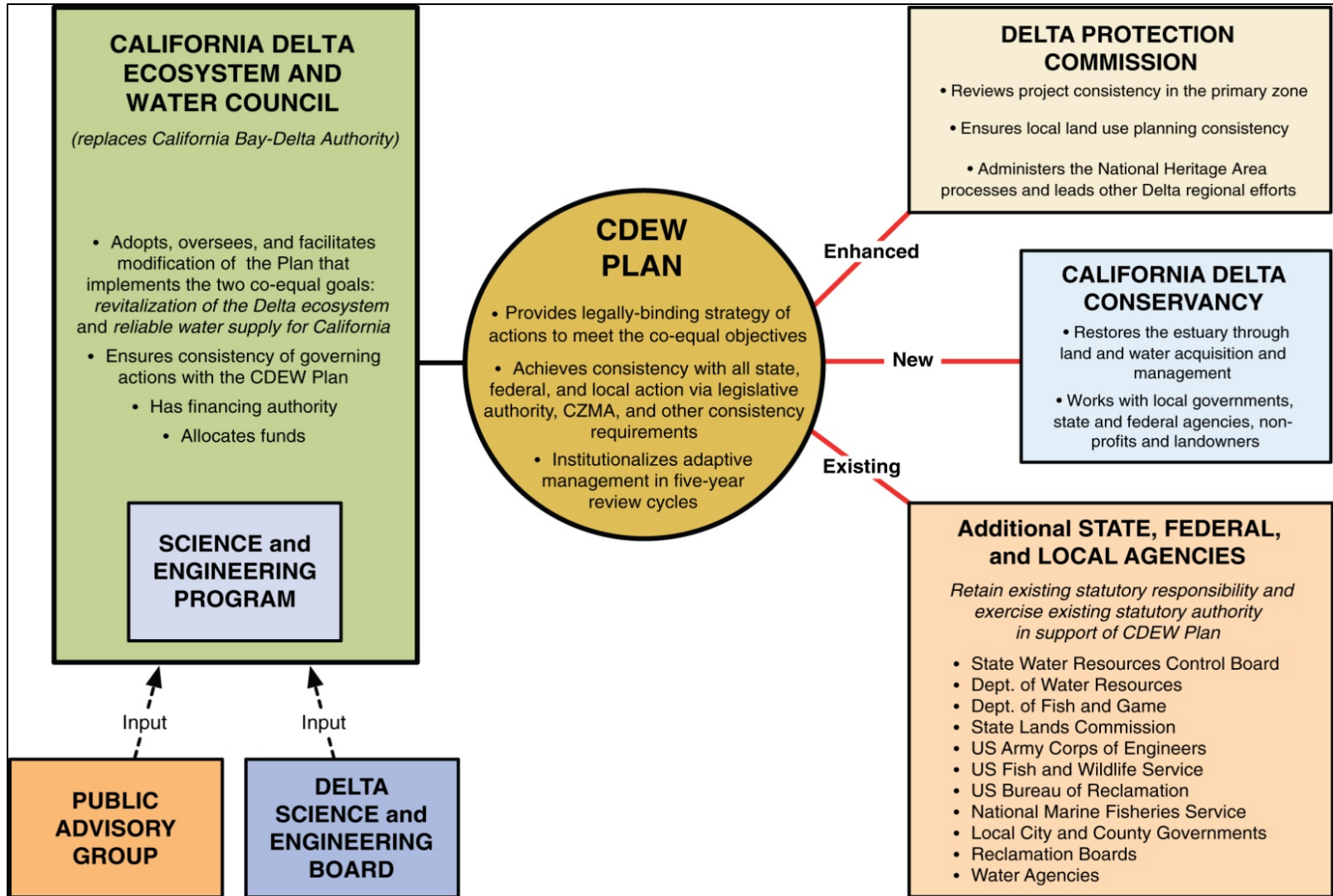
Options for new water supplies



Water policy institutional context

- SWRCB: appropriated water rights in Delta watershed = 8.4 times average annual unimpaired flows, 3.4 times highest
- Ground water not regulated by CA, weak information on surface diversions, weak enforcement
- DFG lacks resources and political support; e.g., calculation of ecosystem stream flows not completed
- DWR has SWP authority and operations, compromising water policy roles
- Bureau of Reclamation projects deliver low price water creating negative impacts and disincentives to change
- Federal roles in flood insurance and levees encourage risk taking
- Legal decisions forcing actions, mostly from ESA now but public trust and reasonable use relevant
- Intense conflict over meaning of water “right”
- Water conservation policies fail in aggregate

TF proposed governance



Multiple Delta policy initiatives

- DV Committee largely endorsed TF work
- BDCP – goal is obtaining permits for water diversion from Delta, focus on changed conveyance as central conservation measure; limited geographically to legal Delta
- Administration – no integrated proposal
- US government – fragmented, flood control policy
- Legislature – many bills, some could result in major changes; no integrated package
- State and local agencies, and stakeholders, push their agendas