



EMWD

Recent California Water Issues

Imported Water Issues

- ◆ The Delta, a key natural estuary and the pathway through which more than 25 million Californians and 2.5 million acres of productive farmland receive their water, is in an ecological crisis that threatens people as well as the environment.
- ◆ A federal court ruling has cut water supplies from the two major water delivery systems in the state by up to one-third to protect the Delta smelt—an endangered fish.
- ◆ Aging Delta levees are at risk — a natural disaster could cripple water deliveries for extended periods of time.
- ◆ Water reserves in the state are extremely low and public demand would not be met during a major disruption to the state's water delivery system.
- ◆ Reduced water supplies are causing some farmers to fallow prime agricultural lands, hurting one of California's most important industries.

Infrastructure Issues

- ◆ California's population is growing rapidly, yet there have been no significant statewide improvements to the aging water storage and delivery systems in 30 years.
- ◆ Quagga mussels, an invasive species that clog water conveyance systems, causing extensive damage have been found in California's waterways. The damage caused by these mussels could cost California billions of dollars and seriously threaten the state's entire irrigation network and canal system.

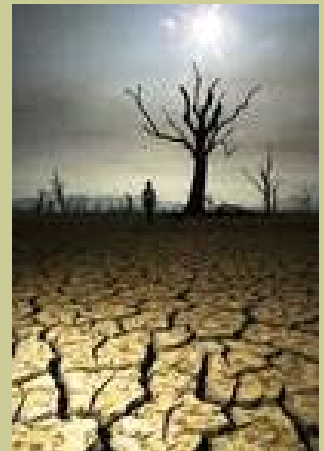
Climatic Issues

- ◆ 2007 is the driest year in California's history and severe drought conditions are inevitable.
- ◆ Climate change is reducing mountain snow packs, a critical source of natural water storage, and may usher in longer droughts and more severe flooding.

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Delta smelt



Quagga mussel

