

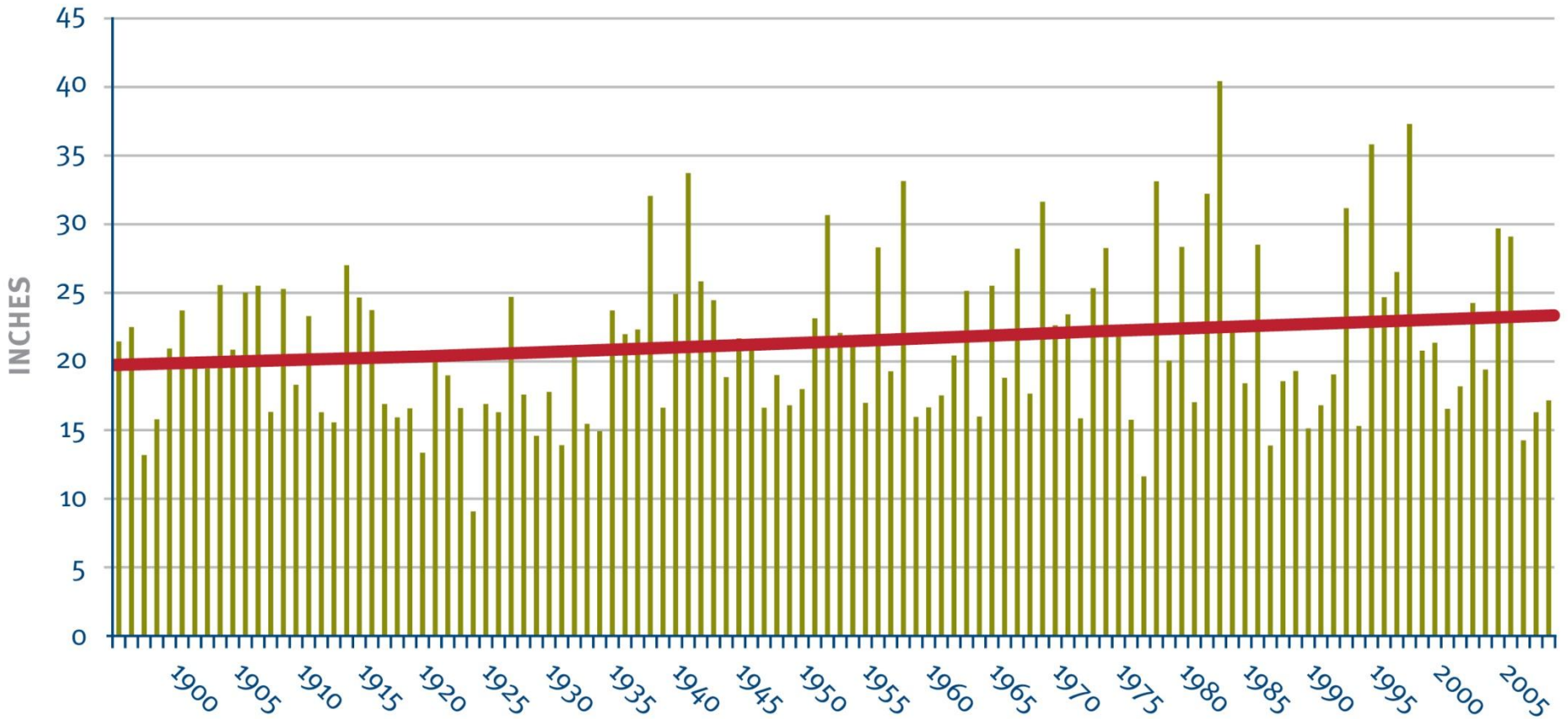
# The Delta Plan

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# The Problem: Water Supply vs. Demand



SOURCE: Precipitation from Western Regional Climate Center, 2006

# The Problem: Water Supply vs. Demand (cont'd)

- Water conservation has room for improvement
- California has been using more water than nature provides
- Overusing groundwater in key regions is a major problem
- The Delta ecosystem is in trouble
- Flood Risk in the Delta is very high
- Delta ecosystem must be improved to ensure reliable water supplies

# Delta Stewardship Council

- California's Delta has long been a battleground for many competing interests
- Efforts in recent years have yielded only incremental progress toward a comprehensive solution
- Bipartisan passage of the Delta Reform Act of 2009 and companion legislation set forth groundbreaking new state policy



# Legislative Mandate for the Delta Plan

State policy for the Delta:

*“Coequal goals means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals must be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place.”*

*State Water Code §85054*

# Delta Stewardship Council (cont'd)

- 🌊 The Delta Reform Act created the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) to develop a legally enforceable Delta Plan, guided by the coequal goals
- 🌊 Independent state agency with seven members statewide with diverse backgrounds
- 🌊 Delta Stewardship Council to adopt a legally enforceable Delta Plan to achieve those goals no later than Jan. 1, 2012





# What is the Delta Plan?

- 🌊 Delta Plan seeks to achieve the coequal goals through long- and near-term actions
- 🌊 Coequal goals will be achieved in manner that is mindful of:
  - *Those who live, work, and recreate in the Delta region*
  - *Other statewide efforts to ensure the state's water supply reliability*



# What is the Delta Plan? (cont'd)

-  Delta Plan draws upon existing state and federal laws and policies and ongoing programs to chart a course needed to achieve the coequal goals
-  The Delta Plan is:
  - ***Foundational***
  - ***Adaptable***
  - ***Practical***
  - ***Enforceable***



# Delta Plan Highlights (cont'd)

## Water Resource Management

- Must live within our means
- Diversify and augment local and regional water supplies
- Complete BDCP
- Conservation, technology, wastewater recycling, stormwater capture, local storage, ground water remediation, interregional planning, desalinization and more

# Delta Plan Highlights (cont'd)

## Water Reliability and BDCP

- Exported water supplies are at risk
- Some water users are dependent on Delta water supplies without alternatives
- Investment in ecosystem to aid species recovery
- BDCP addressing these issues – needs to be completed



# Delta Plan Highlights (cont'd)

## Delta Flow Objectives

- Flow criteria needed to protect the ecosystem
- Needed to determine reliable levels for urban and agriculture allocations
- Set flow objectives will allow for conveyance options to be considered



# Delta Plan Highlights (cont'd)

## Ecosystem Restoration

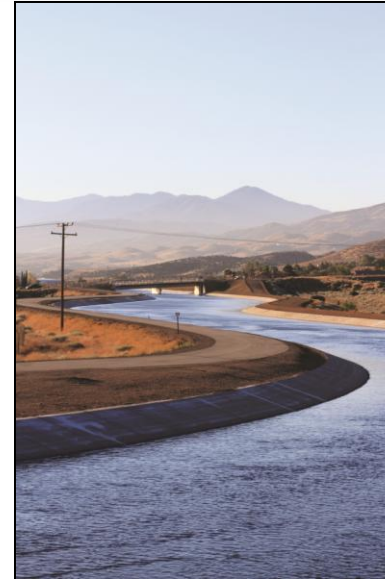
- 150 years of human modification
- Plan envisions a healthy ecosystem that supports viable populations of native species
  - A More Natural flow regime
  - Adequate habitat for native species
  - Other Stressors



# Delta Plan Highlights (cont'd)

## Reduce Flood Risk

- Reduce risk to people, property and state interests in the Delta
- Require land use be connected to standardized levels of flood protection
- Increase public awareness
- 200-year level of protection for new development
- Locally controlled levee assessment district



# Delta Plan Highlights (cont'd)

## Improve Water Quality

- Salinity – levels negatively impact fish and degrade water quality for agriculture and municipal uses
- Drinking Water Quality – the Delta receives soils and sediments from many sources that degrade drinking water supplies
- Environmental Water Quality – pollutants that impair the Delta ecosystem are discharged into the Delta from numerous nonpoint sources

# Delta Plan Highlights (cont'd)

## The Delta as an Evolving Place

- Economic Sustainability – economic development planning must occur while achieving the coequal goals
- Land Use and Resource Management – there must be an orderly and balanced process for conservation and development within the Delta
- Natural, Agricultural and Cultural Heritage must be protected and enhanced while achieving the coequal goals

# Delta Plan Highlights (cont'd)





## Financial Plan

- Achievement of the coequal goals requires a significant and sustained investment
- Requires legislative action











# Summary

-  14 proposed regulatory policies are included in the Draft Delta Plan, 58 recommendations
-  Encourages state and local agencies to implement local and regional projects
-  Is dependent on other plans which are coming and will be updated as new information is available
-  Sets direction necessary to achieve the coequal goals

# Next Steps

-  Complete environmental review process
-  Analyze alternatives, including those presented by other organizations
-  Develop specific financing options
-  Submit Delta Plan to the Office of Administrative Law
-  Complete final plan and present it to the legislature by Jan. 2012
-  Begin near-term actions