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An economic impact analysis using the DPR survey data done by UC Berkeley economists in 1998 concluded that Delta recreation had a sizeable impact on the Delta economy.^{xx} Using regional economic models of the Delta and California, this study estimated that Delta recreation contributed \$587 million (2006 dollars) to the Delta economy in 1995 and supported approximately 8,000 jobs in the Delta. These figures represent about 1.7% of income and 3.2% of employment in the Delta in 1995.

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For the state as a whole Delta recreation contributed just over one billion dollars (2006 dollars) to the California economy and supported approximately 14,000 jobs.

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Recreation

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Written by: David Mitchell

Context Memorandum: Recreation

Iteration 1: June 12, 2007

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Because the surveys upon which the impact estimates were based only counted boaters and anglers, and only if they were registered and licensed, the authors of this report consider the impact estimates to be lower bounds of actual economic impacts resulting from Delta recreation. Other popular Delta recreation activities, such as hunting, wildlife viewing, sightseeing, windsurfing, biking and camping also produce economic benefits to the region and state.

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Context Memorandum: Recreation

Iteration 1: June 12, 2007

1 People recreating in the Delta typically engage in more than one recreational
 2 activity. In recreational surveying, a user-day is counted for each activity a visitor
 3 participates in over the course of a day. Thus if a person visiting the Delta spent part of
 4 the day fishing and part of the day pleasure cruising, that would be counted as two user
 5 days of recreational activity. Surveys show that the Delta currently supports over 12
 6 million user days of recreational activity annually.^{ix} Table 2 shows the estimated number
 7 of user days occurring in the Delta, as derived from surveys of boaters and anglers.^x
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9 **Table 2: Estimated Delta Boating and Fishing User Days**

ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED NO. OF GROUPS	AVG. NO. OF DAYS PER YEAR	TOTAL GROUP DAYS	AVG. NO. OF PERSONS PER TRIP	ESTIMATED TOTAL USER DAYS PER YEAR
Boating	186,000	26.1	4,854,600	2.97	14,418,162
Fishing	169,200	24.0	4,060,800	2.91	11,816,928

*User day estimates for boating and fishing cannot be added together because this would result in double counting. Double counting would occur because most boaters also fished and many anglers also boated.

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12 **Popular Delta Recreation Activities.** The 1996 DPR survey found that fishing
 13 from a boat was the number one recreational activity in the Delta among registered boat
 14 owners and licensed anglers. The majority of surveyed boat owners also reported using
 15 the Delta for pleasure cruising, swimming, and water skiing. Among licensed anglers,
 16 shore fishing and tournament fishing were also popular. Table 3 shows the most
 17 common boating and fishing activities reported by Delta boaters and anglers.^{xi} The table
 18 also shows the top ten recreation activities after boating and fishing that survey
 19 respondents reported enjoying in the Delta. Because the DPR survey only included boat
 20 owners and anglers, survey results most likely under-represent the popularity of non-
 21 boating and non-fishing activities in the Delta such as wildlife viewing, picnicking, land-

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1 *Section 1. Background*

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Recreation Opportunities in the Delta. The Delta provides a wide range of recreational opportunities, including fishing, hunting, boating, camping, picnicking, and nature viewing. With approximately 700 miles of navigable channels, it is one of the largest waterway complexes in the western United States.ⁱ For boaters, the Delta offers a mix of broad, open channels suitable for water skiing and pleasure cruising, and smaller meandering channels, cloaked in riparian vegetation, ideally suited to house boating, swimming, and secluded picnics. The Delta provides world-renowned hunting, fishing, and nature viewing opportunities. The Pacific Flyway passes directly over the Delta. Waterways and islands provide habitat for 230 species of birds, 45 species of mammals, 52 species of fish, 25 species of reptiles and amphibians, and 150 species of flowering plants.ⁱⁱ The Suisun Marsh, the largest contiguous brackish water marsh remaining on the west coast, is home to 158 private duck clubs and a number of public waterfowl hunting areas, including the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area.ⁱⁱⁱ The marsh also supports 80% of the state's commercial and recreational salmon fishery by providing important tidal rearing areas for juvenile fish.^{iv}

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