

References to “Big Gulp, Little Sip” by Project Proponents

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan: An Overview and Local Perspectives

By Mark Cowin (Director, DWR)

Western City

July 2013

<http://www.westerncity.com/Western-City/July-2013/The-Bay-Delta-Conservation-Plan/>

At the simplest level, the operating rules for any new intakes would tie diversions to the volume of flow in the Sacramento River, **so that when flows are critically low, no water would be diverted.** As flows increase, so could diversions, depending upon the presence of fish and other factors. Intakes of 9,000 cubic feet per second would allow the federal and state water projects to take a **“big gulp” of winter storm flows**, when pumping causes minimal ecological harm. If the intakes are too small, the existing south Delta pumping plants would remain the primary diversion, with all the attendant troubles for fish.

Metropolitan Special Committee on the Bay Delta hears more details on California Water Fix

August 24, 2015 Maven Metropolitan Water District

Maven’s minutes of August 17, 2015 meeting of Metropolitan Water District’s Special Committee on the Bay Delta.

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2015/08/24/metropolitan-special-committee-on-the-bay-delta-hears-more-details-on-california-water-fix/>

[Bay Delta Program Manager Steve Arakawa] Adding the new intake in the north Delta is an added physical feature that adds flexibility to the operations, he said. *“It would have new modern screens with technology as far as how those screens would be designed and operated to make sure that the fish are able to move downstream and not get into the tunnel system,”* he said. *“There would be flexibility to divert water during real high flow periods; particularly once those first flush situations occur, the intake would be able to capture the surplus stormwater that’s coming down the system, and try to capture that for storage so that stored water could be used in dry times, trying to minimize the effects, because of the ability to take that gulp in the big wintertime flows or in the wetter years, and using that same flexibility so that you’re not having to have any impact in the drier times.”*

Opinion

John Laird: Here’s how to protect fish and deliver water to Central Valley farmers

California WaterFix would lessen fish vs. pumping tug of war in Delta

Much more water could be captured for ag and urban use in rainy years

State’s major water projects need significant upgrades

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By John Laird

Fresno Bee

March 17, 2016

<http://www.fresnobee.com/opinion/article66682612.html#storylink=cpy>

This new conveyance system would **give us the flexibility to take big gulps of big storms and lay off the pumping in drier times, when pumping poses more risk to fish and water quality.**

In all, on average, we think California WaterFix could add another couple hundred thousand acre-feet to the supplies of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project. More importantly, it would prevent a serious erosion of deliveries from those projects.

Randy Record: A water system that can't gulp

Ventura County Star

March 19, 2016

Randy Record is chairman of the board of directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

<http://archive.vcstar.com/opinion/columnists/randy-record-a-water-system-that-cant-gulp-2e1a9c99-9e53-3431-e053-0100007f0286-372621951.html/>

In the world of California water, there is a saying about how our statewide system is supposed to work: "**big gulp, little sip.**"

The idea is to pump, move and store water from the mountains and snowpack when Mother Nature makes it available. **But when it is dry, rivers run low and fish need the water, the pumps are turned way down.**

Big gulp, little sip is the underpinning of a functioning California water system. It is the only way we can capture and store water for prolonged droughts. It is the only way we can grow much of the nation's food, create jobs and maintain our quality of life.

This so far has been the year of the **little gulp and lost opportunity**. As a state known the world over as a place of ideas, ingenuity and forward-thinking, California can and must find a way to regain this opportunity and improve our water systems.

Legislative hearing: Pending Delta decisions and their potential economic and other impacts on San Francisco and the Bay Area, part 1

March 29, 2016 Maven Legislative Hearings

<https://mavensnotebook.com/2016/03/29/legislative-hearing-pending-delta-decisions-and-their-potential-economic-and-other-impacts-on-san-francisco-and-the-bay-area-part-1/>

*“There’s been a major concern that somehow the proposed Delta project would take more water than the present time, but in normal or **dry years, no more water would be taken under existing conditions and biological opinions,**” he said. “But if there is a winter of heavy rainfall, once requirements are met for the environment and water supply, excess water could be stored for dry years. To the extent more water is taken, it would really be only under those conditions.”*

*“I can’t overstate the importance of these missed opportunities,” **Secretary Laird said.** “It’s an astonishing fact, but our state of 39 million people with its \$2 trillion economy subsist largely on the bounty of five or six major storms each year. We can build drought resiliency **by taking big gulps in big storms,** and with new infrastructure, we can take advantage of high runoff in the rivers without harming fish or degrading water quality. **We would reduce pumping at other, dryer times when it poses more risk to wildlife and water quality.** But in all, we gain reliability, slight improvement in water supply, and are moving in tandem on ecosystem health.”*

Editorial

Many questions linger in water tunnel project

The Times Editorial Board

Los Angeles Times

December 21, 2016

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/editorials/la-ed-waterfix-20161220-story.html>

In wet times, the tunnels could refill depleted reservoirs, which could then replenish groundwater. **The tunnels’ “big gulp” from the Sacramento River would be reduced to a “little sip” during drought, with available water being reserved to protect endangered fish** while farms and families live off the previous stored supply.

For the migrating fish and for a usable water supply for farms and households, then, the project looks like a good idea.

CALIFORNIA WATERFIX: A HEALTHIER DELTA

ALTERNATIVE 4A, JULY 2017

http://cms.capitoltechsolutions.com/ClientData/CaliforniaWaterFix/uploads/CWF_FS_Protecting_Fish_Final.pdf

ADJUSTING TO SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Based on actual hydrology, **the project will have the ability to export during high flow events – take a big gulp of water – when fish agencies perceive there is no harm to fish.** It will also have specific criteria, including spring outflow targets to improve conditions for fish as they migrate through the estuary.

Council File No. 17-0930
California WaterFix Cost to City Ratepayers
City of Los Angeles Board

August 25, 2017

Pages 1-2

https://ens.lacity.org/opa/importantdoc/opaimportantdoc3249114536_08252017.pdf

The WaterFix is a Sacramento Delta water export system upgrade project consisting of three new water intakes on the Sacramento River north of the Delta. These are tied to three North Tunnels running 14 miles and connecting to twin Main Tunnels running south another 30 miles, to an expanded Clifton Court Forebay and pumping station. The WaterFix will isolate the Sacramento River exports from the Sacramento Delta. The WaterFix will improve water quality and will increase export reliability through operational flexibility accessing both the Sacramento River and the Southern Delta, **using a “big gulp, little sip” water intake strategy. This strategy exports higher volumes during the heavier river flows, such as the springtime runoff period, and lesser exports when needed to minimize Delta environmental impacts.**