



DELTA WETLANDS PROJECT

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM FISHERY IMPROVEMENTS

The permits and biological opinions provide many important protections for the Delta; such as the 10-day delay for initial diversions and the 5-day ramping requirements. While some of these benefits may be ascribed to project-specific mitigation, they still provide a broad array of multi-species benefits, beyond their targeted purpose.

- Final operations criteria establish operating constraints on diversions to storage that are consistent with ERP target flows in the Delta (e.g., 10-day delay, 5-day ramping, April-May prohibition)
- Final operations criteria establish temperature criteria on discharges from storage
- Final operations criteria require up to 20,000 acre-feet of environmental water that can be used to improve Delta hydrology (e.g., spring pulse flows)
- Reservoir and habitat islands contribute to the aquatic foodweb by discharging water into the Delta with high food value, invertebrates, and small fish
- 92 unscreened agricultural diversions in the Delta will be screened or eliminated
- Chemical usage and contaminant loading from existing agricultural practices will be reduced or eliminated on 20,000 acres in the Delta
- Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund will be established (including \$700,000 to initially fund the account) for the restoration and maintenance of shallow-water tidal habitat in the Delta