



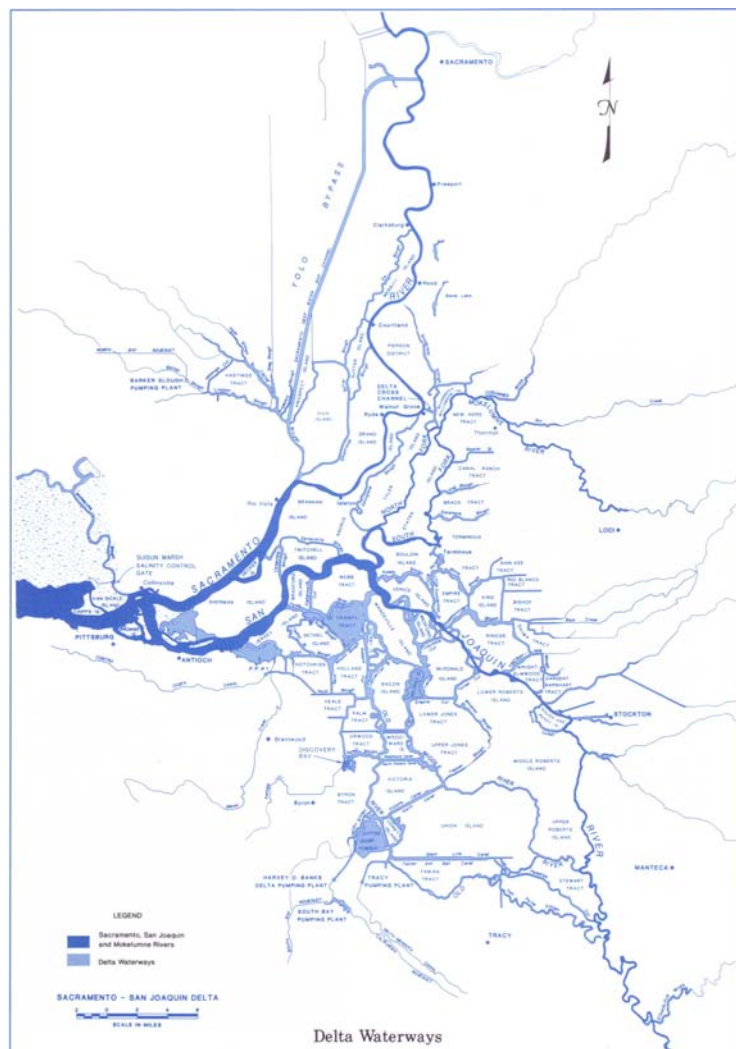
# DELTA WETLANDS PROJECT

## THE DELTA

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta “is crucial to the state's overall water picture - it is the heart of California's two largest surface water delivery projects, the State Water Project (SWP) and the federal Central Valley Project (CVP). ... Two-thirds of the state's residents rely on the Delta for at least a portion of their drinking water<sup>1</sup>.”

The Delta is the state's most important fishery habitat. An estimated 25 percent of all warm water and anadromous sport fishing species and 80 percent of the state's commercial fishery species live in or migrate through the Delta. Populations of several species – including Chinook salmon – have declined because of a combination of drought, entrainment in pumping facilities, poor water quality and non native species that compete for food. Two of four Sacramento River Chinook salmon runs, the winter-run and spring-run, and the Delta smelt (a small fish found only in the Delta) are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)<sup>2</sup>.

The Delta supports road, rail, gas and electric infrastructure and is economically important to the region and the state.



Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Atlas

Department of Water Resources

<sup>1</sup> The Layperson's Guide to the Delta, Water Education Foundation, 2004

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*