

Selica Potter - Climate change and Delta plans

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Subject: Climate change and Delta plans

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In the light of projected sea level rises and other effects of global warming, how are the effects of projected climate change being considered in the Delta planning and Delta Visions processes? It seems that if the projected sea level and resulting tidal rises happen that the Delta could quickly become an inland salt water sea. I am sure that global warming was not considered when the peripheral canal was first planned. Have worse case projections been made on the north and salt south intrusions of sea water at higher tides from global warming with the planned "fluctuating" salt lines that are proposed to accompany the peripheral canal? Have any projections been made on the potential loss of groundwater yield that might accompany the effects of reduced fresh water and greater levels of salt water entering the Delta?

Even the Freeport project is designed to reduce fresh water flows into the Delta during dry years. What would be the effects of global warming higher tides and a long term drought be on the Delta and Northern California water requirements? Could salt lines under worse case conditions reach the American River Delta?

I am not writing this in opposition to a peripheral canal. Rather, I feel that conditions have changed since the last canal was planned and some reasonable new science is necessary before a new canal proposal is put on the fast track. I know everyone would like to take credit for getting something done. I just hope what we get done does not show up as a man made disaster. We have the time to inventory the projects on the board and do some failure modes and effects analysis under different projected conditions before funding a project of this importance.

My question is: In the light of projected sea level rises and other effects of global warming, how are the effects of projected climate change being considered in the Delta planning and Delta Visions processes?

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