

This report, required by Water Code section 85086(c) (2009 Delta Reform Act) in 2010, suggests the flows that would be needed in the Delta ecosystem if fishery protection was the sole purpose for which its waters were put to beneficial use. In keeping with the narrow focus of the legislation, this report only presents a technical assessment of flow and operational requirements to provide fishery protection under existing conditions.

We know however, that there are many other important beneficial uses that these waters support such as municipal and agricultural water supply and recreational uses. The State Water Board is required by law to establish flow and other objectives that ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses. In order for any flow objective to be reasonable, the State Water Board must consider and balance all competing uses of water in its decision-making. More broadly, the State Water Board will factor in relevant water quality, water rights and habitat needs as it considers potential changes to its Bay-Delta objectives. Any attempts to portray the recommendations contained in this report as an indicator of future State Water Board decision-making ignores this critical, multi-dimensional balancing requirement and misrepresents current efforts to analyze the water supply, economic, and hydropower effects of a broad range of alternatives. This report represents only one of many factors that will need to be balanced by the State Water Board as it updates the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan. For more current information on the State Water Board's Bay-Delta Plan update efforts, please visit [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/bay\\_delta/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/).