

Today's Topics

- Background on California water
- Historical and current indications of climate change
- Projected climate change impacts to water resources
- Adapting to climate change



DWR's Roles & Responsibilities

Mission statement:
 "To manage the water resources of California in cooperation with other agencies, to benefit the State's people, and to protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments."

- Plan, design, construct, operate, and maintain California's State Water Project, the nation's largest state-built water and power development and conveyance system
- Improve and maintain Central Valley flood management systems and provide statewide flood management financial assistance
- Protect and restore the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
- Educate the public about the importance of water and its proper use
- Regulate the safety of 1200 dams
- Regional water management, focusing on technical & financial assistance to local agencies to advance Integrated Regional Water Management
- Statewide planning, focusing on data and updating the California Water Plan (Bulletin 160 Series)



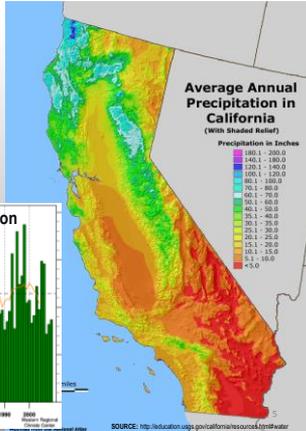
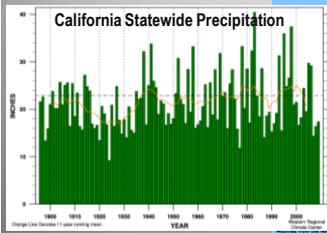
A great deal about California, on its own preferred terms, does not add up.

Joan Didion (2004)

California Precipitation

Variable & Extreme
Over Time & Location

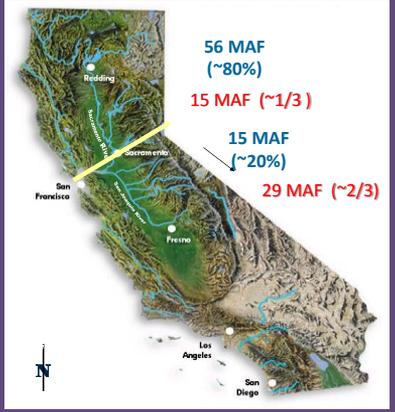
Most precipitation occurs
November - March

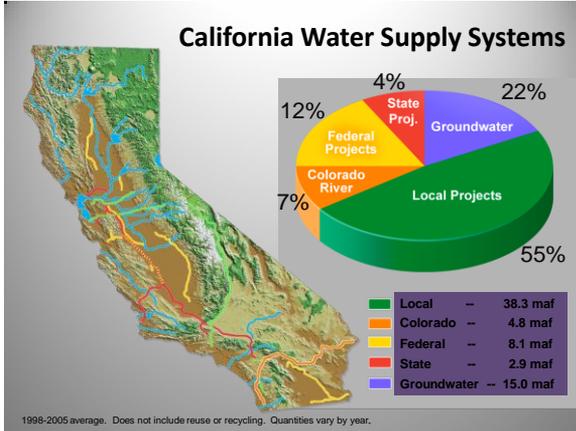


California's Major River Systems

Distribution of Average Runoff

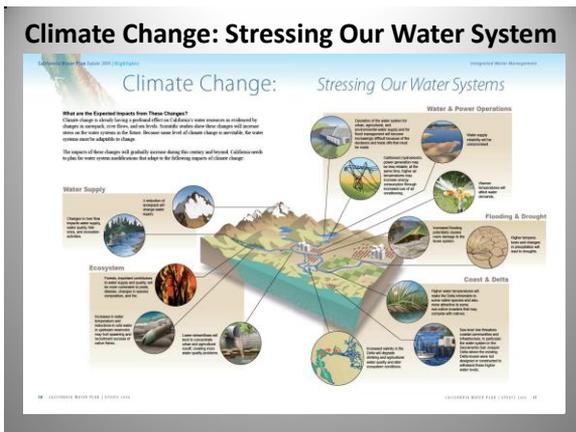
Distribution of Water Use



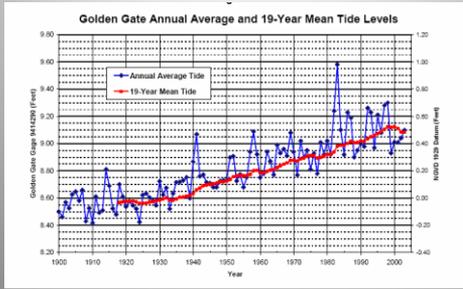


Strong on climate, California is notoriously weak on weather.

Carey McWilliams (1949)



Sea Level Rise

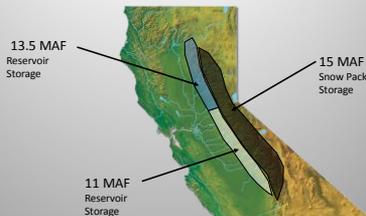


Source: Roos, 2003

In the Next 35 years...

- ❖ 1 - 3.6°F temperature rise
- ❖ 25 - 40 % reduction in snowpack
- ❖ Sea level rise: 5"-24"
- ❖ Less summer/fall runoff
- ❖ More intense wet and dry periods

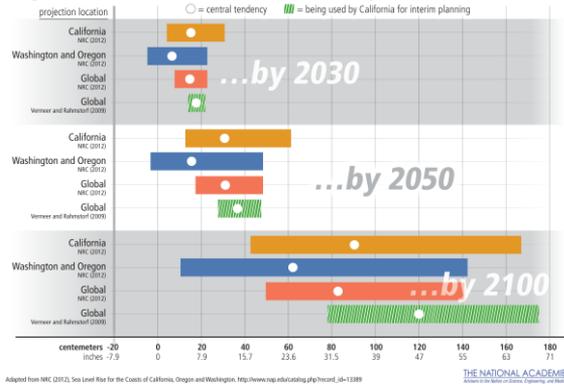
Expected Storage Capacity Impacts from Runoff Changes



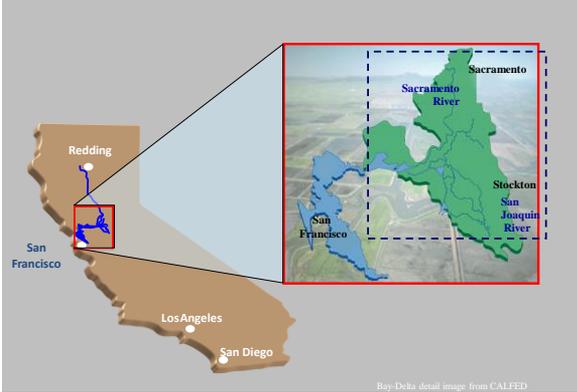
A moderate 3°C increase in temperature is projected to result in an increase in snow elevation of 1500 feet and a 45 to 50% decrease in Sierra snow pack



Regional and Global Sea Level Rise Projections (relative to the year 2000)



What Could Happen to the Bay-Delta Estuary?



Implications of Sea Level Rise in the Delta

- Salinity intrusion degrades water quality, requires additional water to repel the sea
- Habitat changes, losses
- Levee failure
- Inundation
- Interruption of water supplies statewide

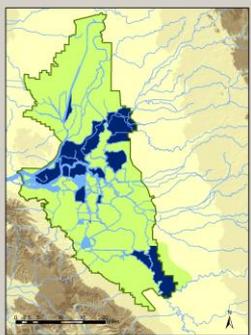


Projected Sea Level Rise



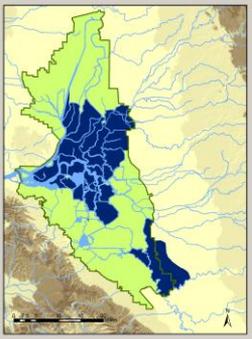
The Delta today.

Projected Sea Level Rise



Areas most at risk in the Delta with 1-foot sea level rise.

Projected Sea Level Rise

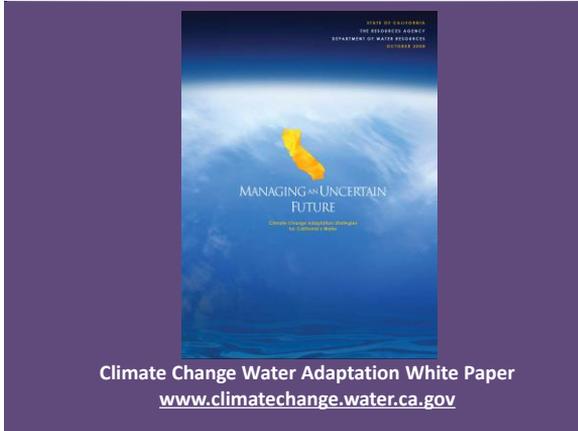


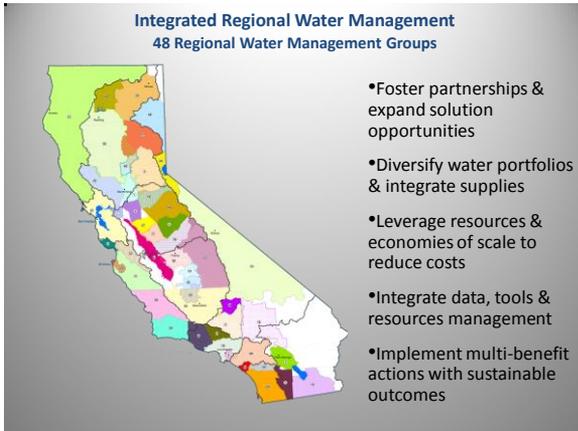
Areas most at risk in the Delta with 2-foot sea level rise.

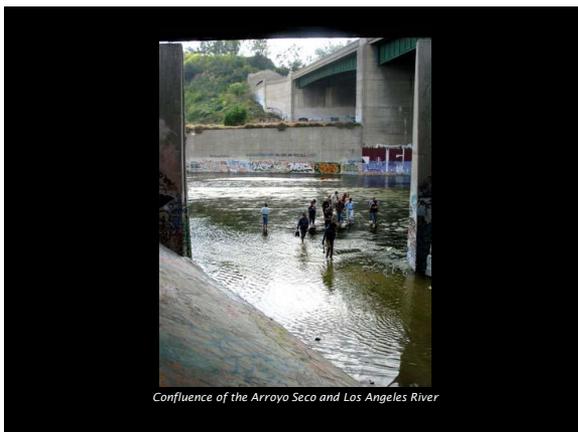


Adapt or flee, now as ever, is nature's inexorable imperative.

H.G. Wells (1945)









Policy guidance for state decision makers

Updates the 2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy

Highlights climate risks, accomplishments, & recommendations in nine sectors

Part of California's integrated strategy to respond to climate change

http://resources.ca.gov/climate_adaptation/

California Water Management and Climate Change

- Climate change presents significant challenges for the management of California's water resources.
- California water managers must focus on mitigation and especially adaptation.
- Climate change responses must be thoughtfully integrated with water supply reliability, environmental protection, public safety, and public health actions.
- We must embrace an entirely new way of thinking about water resources planning and management.



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Technical Resources
-DWR Study on Analysis Approaches
-SLR Guidance

General Information Resources
-IRWM Climate Change Clearinghouse
-Climate Change
-Vulnerability Matrix

Grant Program Guidance and FAQs

<http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange>



