





Comments by  
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Draft Environmental Impact Report  
South Delta Improvements Program

California Department of Water Resources  
Wednesday, December 7, 2005

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The South Delta Improvements Program offers an opportunity to take positive action in securing a reliable water future for California. This program will solve many of the longstanding water quality and water level problems in the South Delta area. It recognizes the importance of meeting local needs of agriculture while addressing statewide concerns over adequate water supplies and environmental protections.

It is important to recognize the years of study by scientists and researchers that has resulted in the South Delta Improvements Program. In addition to providing immediate results to the Delta's environment and agricultural community, it also opens the door to increased flexibility in the operation of the State Water Project.

The permanent operable gates present the opportunity to improve water quality in the Delta by pooling fresh water behind the gates. Such action would create a safer environment for fish and plant life. Recent concerns have surfaced over several fish species in the Delta. Research leading to the South Delta Improvements Program suggests that the pooling of fresh water will serve a beneficial use to the existence of these species.

The Delta can no longer be looked at as a regional issue. Its future is closely linked to the future of all California. Following a second review period to consider proposed operational improvements to the State Water Project, an increase in water exported from the Delta may result that would serve millions of California residents.

The California Farm Water Coalition is a public education organization committed to the use of water on our State's farms. The action steps lined out in the South Delta Improvements Program offer improved water quality to the farming community in the Delta. This is an important first step.

Viewpoints expressed by SDIP critics exclaiming a "NIMBY" approach should not be allowed to derail this very important action. The California Farm Water Coalition supports the forward movement of the South Delta Improvements Program on behalf of the California Department of Water Resources and related agencies.