

Delta Vision Task Force
Questions To Be Answered by DWR and Experts
July 17, 2007

- What is the position of the state and/or DWR regarding protection and preservation of the Bay-Delta Estuary?
- Is the position of DWR to acquiesce to an inevitable inland salt sea? If not, what actions and measures does DWR plan to prevent the Estuary from becoming an inland salt sea?
- What is known about the environmental conditions necessary for healthy [indicator] species in the Bay-Delta Estuary? What is the scientific evidence and documentation? Use 3 species as exemplary: salmon, smelt and striped bass. Answer the following questions for each species:
 - What are the freshwater and water quality needs of these species?
 - How much fresh water of what temperature and at what times is needed for the health of these species?
 - Taking the notion of fluctuating conditions (but nevertheless continue to assume an estuarine ecological system), what is the frequency of freshwater flows and how much water is needed for the health of the species?
 - What is known about life cycles and freshwater needs, null zones, habitat, etc. of each species?
 - How much saltwater and for what durations can each species endure?
- What are the average flows in the Sacramento River today (dry, normal, wet) and what has been the pattern over the last 20-25 years?
- The levees define areas that take up space, such that there is less freshwater needed to maintain the Estuary (dynamic freshwater-salt water continuum) and provide water of sufficient quality for exports. If DWR has a different perspective on this function of the levees, then what is it and why? Please also answer the following questions:
 - If the catastrophic failure projected occurs, how long will it take to restore the estuarine ecosystem and how much water will it take?
 - In other words, to what extent are the levees (not the islands, but the levees) serving a function of helping preserve the supply for exports?
 - What impact will an extended saltwater condition have on the fisheries and ecosystem?
- Under the DWR scenarios for a large isolated transfer facility, what is the plan for releasing freshwater to maintain the Estuary?