

The Bay Area's Water Security Can't Wait

Support California WaterFix - the Plan to Repair California's Aging Water Distribution System to Protect Bay Area Water Reliability

Problem

Two-thirds of drinking water for the Bay Area flows through the state's main water distribution system - which brings water from the Sierra Nevada Mountains through a system of aging levees, canals and pipes to our region. In fact, millions of water users in the Bay Area rely on water that flows through this main water distribution system through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. For example:

- The Alameda County Water District, which serves 344,000 people in southern Alameda County, receives 40% of its supply from this source.
- Zone 7 Water Agency, which serves 245,000 people in the Livermore-Amador Valley, imports 83% of its water from this source.
- Santa Clara Valley Water District receives 95% of its drinking water and 40% of its overall supply from this source.

Experts warn the current system is outdated and at risk of collapse in the event of a major earthquake or flood, which could cut off water supplies for more than a year and cost our economy billions of dollars. Without action to fix this system, Bay Area water supplies are at risk of disruption, contamination, sea water intrusion and further water supply cutbacks.



Solution

The plan to repair California's water system, known as California WaterFix, will address the severe vulnerabilities in our water infrastructure and secure our local water supplies. This plan was drafted after nearly a decade of extensive scientific review and analysis by the state's leading water experts and conservationists. It has received input from scores of leading scientists and engineers, and has undergone unprecedented public review. It would:

- Protect water supplies by delivering them through a modern water pipeline rather than relying solely on today's old, deteriorating levees.
- Increase the safety of our water system by fixing aging infrastructure and building a water delivery system that is able to better protect water supplies during earthquakes, floods and natural disasters.
- Improve the ability to move and store water so we can capture it for dry years.
- Restore more natural water flows in rivers and streams to reduce impacts on endangered fish and wildlife.

Importantly, this plan is not about moving more water from North to South. Our state's water distribution system already moves water – though very inefficiently – to regions throughout the state. Instead, this fix is about creating a more reliable way to secure and deliver the same amount of water.

The quality of life and economic prosperity of our region depend on a reliable, secure water supply. We must fix our deteriorating main water distribution system before it's too late. To learn more about how California WaterFix will benefit our region and to join on to support, visit <http://watersecurityca.com/bay-area/>.