



DWR responds to new federal rules on Delta smelt

DWR estimates that a [new Biological Opinion](#) for Delta smelt could cut State Water Project



deliveries in an average year by 20 to 30 percent, and in certain dry years up to 50 percent. The opinion was released this week by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The restrictions in the opinion replace interim measures put in place by a federal judge a year ago. [Read DWR Director Lester Snow's response.](#)

What's a Biological Opinion?

Under Section 7 of the U.S. Endangered Species Act, any federal project or action with a federal connection (State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project are connected) that might adversely affect endangered species requires biological studies by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. After studying the project or action, the federal agencies issue Biological Opinions whether the project or action will jeopardize endangered species. The opinion often requires protective measures for the species and other conditions before allowing the project or action.

Delta Protection Commission sets two public workshops

The Delta Protection Commission has scheduled two public workshops to hear what the public thinks about a draft of an updated Delta Land Use and Resource Management Plan. [You can find the draft plan here.](#) The workshops will be held Wednesday, Jan. 7, in Walnut Grove at the Jean Harvie Community Center and Thursday, Jan. 8, in Stockton at the San Joaquin County Farm Bureau Federation. Both will be held from 5:30 to 9 p.m. An agenda and workshop details will be posted on the DPC website www.delta.ca.gov by Dec. 26.

Sacramento Bee publishes section about Delta debate

Last Sunday's Sacramento Bee published an eight-page special section titled ***The Delta debate: Resurrecting the canal.*** The section, which carried no advertising, was written by Matt Weiser, who routinely covers state water issues for the newspaper. In addition to the printed section [there is an online version](#) that features news stories, an interactive map and photography.

44th edition of State Water Project report now online

Management of the California State Water Project, an annual DWR report, is now online. Bulletin 132 is a series of reports that describe the status of the State Water Project, its operations and water deliveries. Each annual report updates information regarding project costs and financing, water supply planning, power operations, and significant events that affect its management. [Find the bulletin here.](#)

Happy Holidays!

We will not publish Delta eNews next Thursday, Christmas Day. We will, however, publish the following Thursday, New Year's Day 2009. Happy Holidays!

