



**CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE 2009  
SCENARIO ANALYSIS TECHNICAL APPROACH  
SWAN MEETING  
JUNE 19, 2008**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS**

### **Description**

Water supply and management objectives impact the ability to release water from storage for water quality, fish and wildlife, navigation, recreation, downstream, and other requirements.

### **Representation in WEAP system**

- Minimum in-stream flows are defined using flow requirement objects associated with points on a river or diversion
  - Below major reservoirs (Shasta, Folsom, Oroville)
- Flow requirements are treated as a demand and are satisfied in accordance with the user-defined priority structure
- Environmental Flows only evaluated for Planning Area analysis

### **Sources of data**

- “Flow Recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board”, May 2008
- Unmet Environmental Objectives, Water Plan Update 2005
- CalSim-II flow requirements

### **Outstanding issues**

- Using flow as a surrogate for biological requirements
- Guidance for varying monthly flow requirements by season and water year type