

Preliminary Alternative #7
 Corresponding to Alternative Formulation Strategy 1A,2B,3A,4B - Minimum

Primary Conflict	Approach to Resolve Conflict
Fisheries and Diversions (Conflict 1)	Increase Fish Productivity (1A) Diversion Modification (1B)
Habitat and Land Use/Flood Protection (Conflict 2)	Preserve Existing Land Use (2A) Create Additional Habitat Area (2B)
Water Supply Availability and Beneficial Uses (Conflict 3)	Reduce Critical Export Area Demands (3A) Enhance Delta Supplies as Inflows (3B)
Water Quality and Land Use (Conflict 4)	Managing Quality of Delta Inflow (4A) Manage Instream/In-Delta Water Quality (4B)
Minimum or Maximum	

Solution Overview

This minimum alternative includes compatible objectives of increasing fish populations and increasing the extent of Delta habitat area. Action choices are not limited by the preservation of existing agricultural land uses, but are constrained in that the impacts of remaining agricultural diversions to fish populations are not proactively addressed. By seeking to reduce critical export demands, this alternative may result in additional water available for beneficial Delta purposes, but will not benefit from increased in-watershed supply increases that may dilute and reduce the temperature of Delta waters. By constraining water quality management to in-water practices (e.g. treatment, dilution), this alternative disallows the management of instream water quality by actions that control source discharges.

Actions Selected

Habitat - This alternative is characterized by minimal actions to improve shallow habitat area, nearshore areas, and levee maintenance practices that may adversely affect existing habitat.

Populations - Modifications to upstream passage obstacles and natural barriers are used to enhance fish populations.

Water Use - By seeking to reduce critical export demands, this alternative will result in additional Delta water available for beneficial uses.

Water Quality - Minimal legal/institutional measures to enforce existing discharge requirements and to "prevent toxic discharges" are included as instream water quality management actions.

Preliminary Assessment

This alternative's implementation would achieve minor improvements in existing Delta habitat, some increase in the areal extent of usable habitat, and modest increases in water quality that accompany exclusively instream water treatment and dilution programs. Its weaknesses are characterized by its constraints to: reducing diversion impacts; increasing in-watershed supplies; and reducing source discharges. Its implementation, because of these constraints and its minimal nature, could result in negligibly measurable benefits. It is doubtful whether this alternative's implementation could fulfill federal Endangered Species Act protections for listed Delta species.