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## Conceptual Operational Plan Alternative A - Extensive Demand Management

*This alternative will implement an extensive program of demand management including water conservation, water reclamation, and land retirement actions in all water service areas dependent on the Bay-Delta watershed. These actions will result in substantial water savings and an overall reduction in diversions from the Delta. The water saved will be used to improve water supply flexibility, reduce drought period water shortages, and for environmental needs such as increased instream flows and Delta outflows.*

### Operational Assumptions

- An average of approximately 3 - 3.5 MAF could be saved annually through expanded water conservation (water pricing structures, urban "Best Management Practices" and agricultural "Efficient Water Management Practices"), water reclamation investments, and permanent retirement of marginally productive agricultural land.
- Establishment of a long-term water bank and temporary land fallowing will save an additional 1 to 2 MAF during dry and critical years for transfer.
- The various demand management mechanisms produce water savings at different times of the year. Some water savings occur year round but the major portion occurs during the late fall, summer, and early fall. The water is available for storage ("banking") or other uses only at the time it is saved.
- This conceptual operational plan is founded on the assumption that the saved water will be used for the benefit of the environment and the water users.

### Water Supply

#### *Average and Wetter Years*

- The water savings would result in significantly reduced diversions from the Delta in spring period with reduced entrainment effects on fisheries.
- The water saved would be used for several purposes. A portion would be used to augment Delta outflow for the fishery. A portion would be exported to south of Delta surface and/or groundwater storage to augment water supplies. The remaining portion could remain in upstream surface storages, conveyed to groundwater storage, or used for consumptive demands. To the extent that the upstream storages are full, Delta outflow would increase.
- Delta diversions would be somewhat reduced during the summer period depending on

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how the water is portioned between storage, use, and Delta outflow during that period.

- The saved water remaining in upstream reservoirs by late fall could be carried over for the next years use if reservoirs were below flood storage levels. Reservoirs above flood control limits would release water for export.
- Considering the magnitude of the assumed water savings, the overall reduced export that will occur, and the available storage that is available to reregulate the conserved water, substantial increases in Delta outflow will occur. This increased Delta outflow would likely exceed 2 MAF annually and Delta diversions would be reduced by a like amount. The operations will strive to make the best use of these flows with the following priority: 1) increase the April 15 through May 15 outflow; 2) increase the outflow from March 1 through June 30; and 3) increase the number of days of X2.

### *Dry and Critical Years*

- The water savings would result in reduced diversions from the Delta in spring period with reduced entrainment effects on fisheries.
- The water saved would be used for two primary purposes. A portion would be used to augment Delta outflow for the fishery. The remaining portion would be used for consumptive demands.
- Conjunctive use programs and groundwater banking developed in the San Joaquin Valley would be used to offset the reduced export in the spring and to provide water supplies in the summer.
- Temporary land fallowing will provide 1 to 2 MAF for transfer to water users and the environment.
- The overall increase in Delta outflow is likely to be less than 0.5 MAF