

**Memorandum**

Date : May 9, 1994

To : Bay-Delta Oversight Council  
Attn: Victor Pacheco  
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From : Department of Boating and Waterways

Subject: Introduced Species

We appreciate the opportunity to review the briefing paper which discusses introduced fish, wildlife and plants into the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta.

The waterhyacinth plant has been a problem in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta for many years and, in addition to being a serious economic problem to the Delta, has a significant negative impact on fish and wildlife habitat. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has requested the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) to work in specific areas to eliminate this impact. The DBW also agrees with DFG's comments that studies should be undertaken to better understand the significance of not only waterhyacinth but other introduced species on the estuary's fish, wildlife and plants.

In addition to the waterhyacinth which has become a problem, there are at least three other non-native species that have already become a problem, or we believe have the potential of becoming a problem. They are Egaria (*Elodia densa*), Parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) and Waterprimrose (*Ludwigia uruguayensis*).

The elodea has made a significant impact on the Delta and is expanding its area very rapidly. Its presence has a serious input on vessel traffic as well as irrigation water transport.

Parrot feather and Waterprimrose both have negative impacts on vessel traffic and water transport and also provide an excellent mosquito habitat. Because of the limited budgets of our mosquito control districts, this problem is becoming more noticeable.



Larry Thomas, Supervisor  
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