

and Delta hydrodynamics would not substantially alter water quality in the Delta and, therefore, would not contribute considerably to cumulative water quality impacts associated with the SRS or projects implemented to support the SRS. In addition, implementation of projects consistent with the SRS would result in beneficial effects on emigrating juvenile and immigrating adult Chinook Salmon and steelhead by increasing frequency and duration of inundation of floodplain habitat and increasing fish passage opportunities. Juvenile Chinook Salmon and steelhead exhibit increased growth and greater survival when rearing on floodplain habitats, and improving fish passage throughout the Central Valley reduces the likelihood of immigration delays at flood control structures (e.g., Tisdale Weir) and increases the likelihood of adult migrants reaching spawning areas. Although the Proposed Project would result in differences in Sacramento River flows below the confluence with the Feather River and would alter Delta hydrodynamics, these differences would not result in significant impacts on Chinook Salmon, steelhead, or other special-status fish species, and would not considerably contribute to cumulative impacts associated with construction of projects consistent with the SRS.

4.6.2 GROWTH-INDUCING IMPACTS

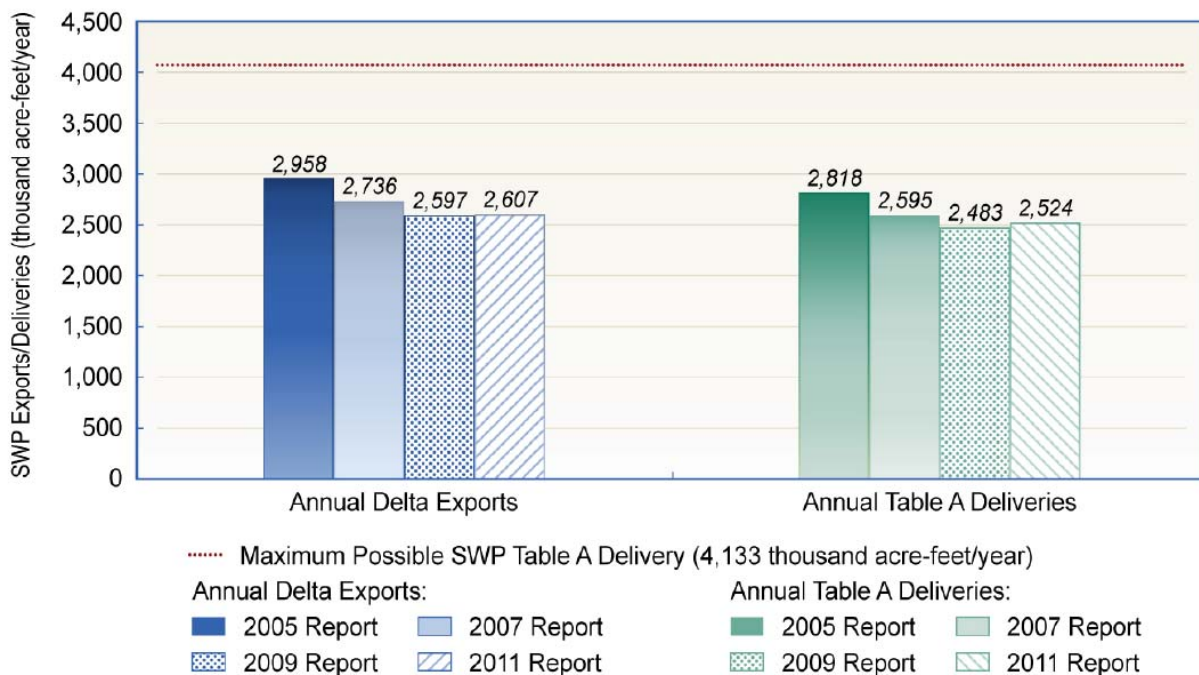
Section 15126.2(e) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires that an EIR discuss the ways in which a Proposed Project could foster economic or population growth, or construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. In addition, an EIR should discuss whether the characteristics of a project may encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment. It must not be assumed that growth is beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment.

4.6.2.1 DIRECT IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The Proposed Project would not include any of the following:

- New construction of water facilities, infrastructure, or other land disturbance
- Expansion of the SWP service area
- Economic or population growth due to construction-related activities in the vicinity of the existing SWP facilities in the Delta or other portions of the SWP service area
- Construction of new facilities or modification to existing facilities that could increase the capacity of the SWP
- Modification or increase to the maximum volume of existing contracted water supplies with the 29 public water agencies receiving SWP supplies

As shown in Figure 4.6-1, SWP exports decreased from the historically higher deliveries that occurred from 2005 through 2011. Therefore, the volume of SWP water deliveries has historically been greater than the volume under existing conditions and has been subject to declines resulting from a combination of drier hydrologic conditions and regulatory restrictions.



Source: DWR 2011

Figure 4.6-1. Trends in Estimated Average Annual Delta Exports and SWP Table A Water Deliveries 2005 2011

Implementation of the Proposed Project would enable improved management of South Delta pumping facilities in response to real-time monitoring. This level of monitoring would enable the SWP to manage facility operations in the Delta to minimize potential impacts on special-status aquatic species when the risk of impact is higher and to relax operational constraints when the risk of impact is lower.

The increased precision of information to manage the SWP would result in improved fish protection and increase SWP water deliveries during periods when pumping would have less impact on special-status aquatic species. As discussed in Section 4.2, implementation of the Proposed Project scenario would potentially increase annual SWP deliveries by 219 TAF (6%) compared to the Existing Conditions scenario. Relative delivery increases would be greatest in above-normal, below-normal, and dry years. In the dry and critical water years, proposed long-term average annual SWP deliveries would increase by 193 TAF (8%), compared to the Existing Conditions scenario. Figure 4.6-2 compares the potential future deliveries under the Proposed Project scenario to those under the Existing Conditions scenario.

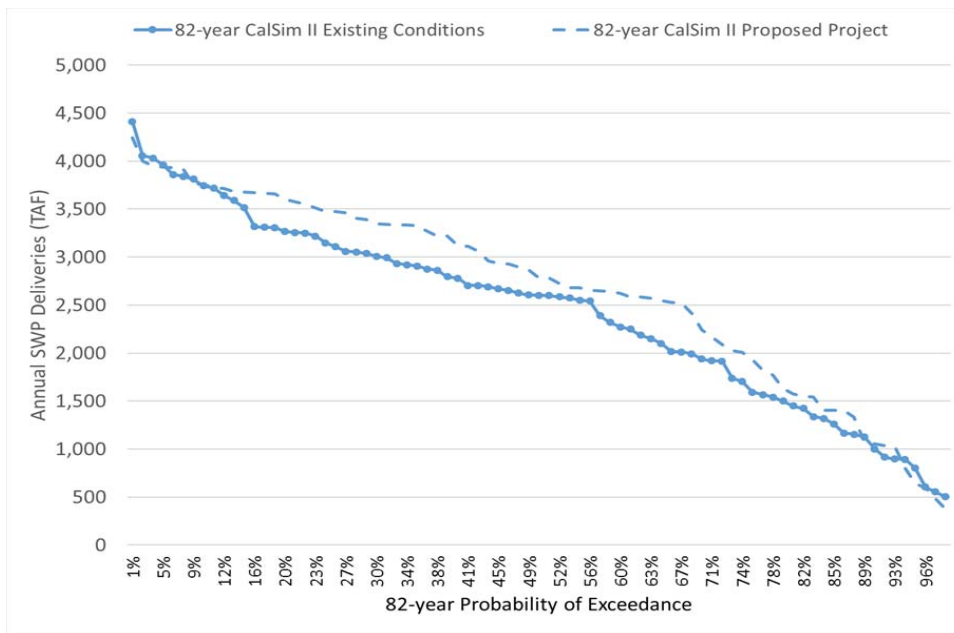


Figure 4.6-2. Probability of Exceedance for Annual SWP Deliveries for Existing Conditions and Proposed Project During 82-Year Model Simulation Period

Figure 4.6-2 presents the 82-year probability of exceedance for annual SWP deliveries for both Existing Conditions and Proposed Project modeled conditions for the 82-year model simulation period. The results of the model show that, during most years, deliveries would increase.

As shown in Figure 4.6-3, actual SWP historical water deliveries between 1996 and 2018 have ranged from less than 500 TAF to more than 3,500 TAF in 2005 and 2006. The CalSim model results shown in Figure 4.6-2 indicate that deliveries would increase with implementation of the proposed long-term SWP operations. However, in many years, SWP deliveries would continue to be limited by drier hydrologic conditions and continuing regulatory restrictions.

In most years, the additional water supply would augment existing limited supplies that routinely are reduced by drier hydrologic conditions or regulatory restrictions. The total south of Delta SWP deliveries would not exceed the contracted maximum water volume of the individual public water agencies. In addition, under the Proposed Project, deliveries are projected to remain within the range of historical deliveries (Figures 4.6-2 and 4.6-3).

4.6.2.2 POTENTIAL OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT TO INDUCE GROWTH

To determine direct growth-inducement potential, the Proposed Project was evaluated to verify whether an increase in population or employment, or the construction of new housing would occur as a direct or indirect result of the long-term SWP operations. If either of these scenarios occurred, the Proposed Project could result in direct growth-inducement within the Public Water Agency (PWA) service areas.

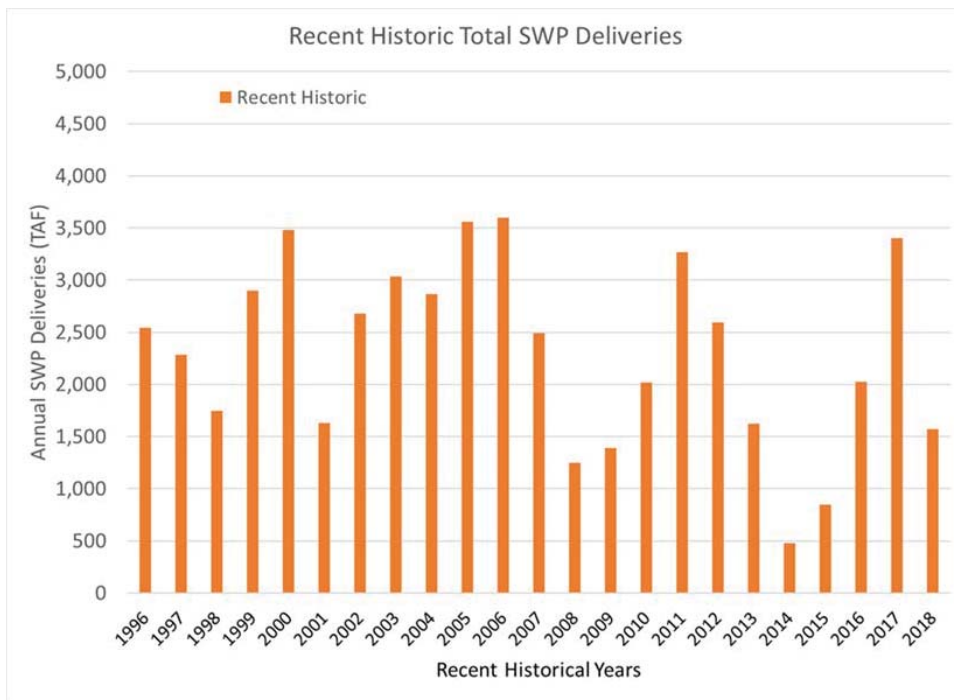


Figure 4.6-3. Historical SWP South of Delta Water Deliveries

The potential increase in future project deliveries is the only project element that might be linked to future growth because the other project elements have only localized impacts. Increased water deliveries would be spread across 24 contracted public water agency service areas south of the Delta. These service areas include both agricultural uses as well as M&I uses. Additional water deliveries could be used for urban growth in areas dependent on this water supply, but these deliveries would not be the single impetus behind such growth. Other important factors influencing growth include:

- financial factors, such as the cost of housing;
- economic factors, such as employment opportunities;
- capacity of public services and infrastructure, such as available services, including wastewater, public schools, and roadways;
- local land use policies; and
- use constraints, such as floodplains, sensitive habitat areas, and seismic risk zones.

Cities and counties have primary authority over land use decisions, and water suppliers (such as the PWAs) are expected and usually required to provide water service if water supply is available. Approval or denial of development proposals is the responsibility of the cities and counties in the study area, and not DWR. Availability of water is only one of the many factors that land use planning agencies consider when making decisions about growth.

While the Proposed Project would increase the potential delivery of water from the Delta, the amount of water available to the individual PWAs would be small relative to the portfolio of water available and would not be enough to indirectly support population growth. The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) is the largest contractor on the State Water Project system. MWD is a regional water

wholesaler that provides water for 26 member public agencies to deliver, either directly or through their sub-agencies, to nearly 19 million people living in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties—an area that supports a \$1 trillion-per-year economy. MWD’s member agencies serve residents in 152 cities and 89 unincorporated communities. Throughout MWD’s service area, approximately 250 retail agencies supply water to the public. MWD imports water via the SWP and from the Colorado River via its Colorado River Aqueduct. About 45% of Southern California’s water supply comes from these two sources. Southern California relies on various local sources to make up the difference. MWD receives about 50% of SWP’s exports, roughly 1.2 MAF in an average year (MWD 2015, 2016a, 2016b). The modeled increase in exports received by MWD, less than 100 TAF (40% to 50% of total exports), would represent less than 5% of MWD’s annual water portfolio of approximately 2 to 2.4 MAF in an average year, and MWD’s imported supplies from the SWP and Colorado River Aqueduct are only 45% of Southern California’s supplies. This illustrates why the potential increase in water delivery is not expected to have a direct or indirect effect on future growth in the PWA service areas.

During the time period from 2006 through 2018, average water deliveries from the SWP have generally been lower than they were in the previous decade due to changes in regulatory requirements and below-normal water years. Despite reductions in water delivery, urban growth within the service areas of the 24 water contractors that receive water from Delta has continued, as shown in Figure 4.6-4 below.

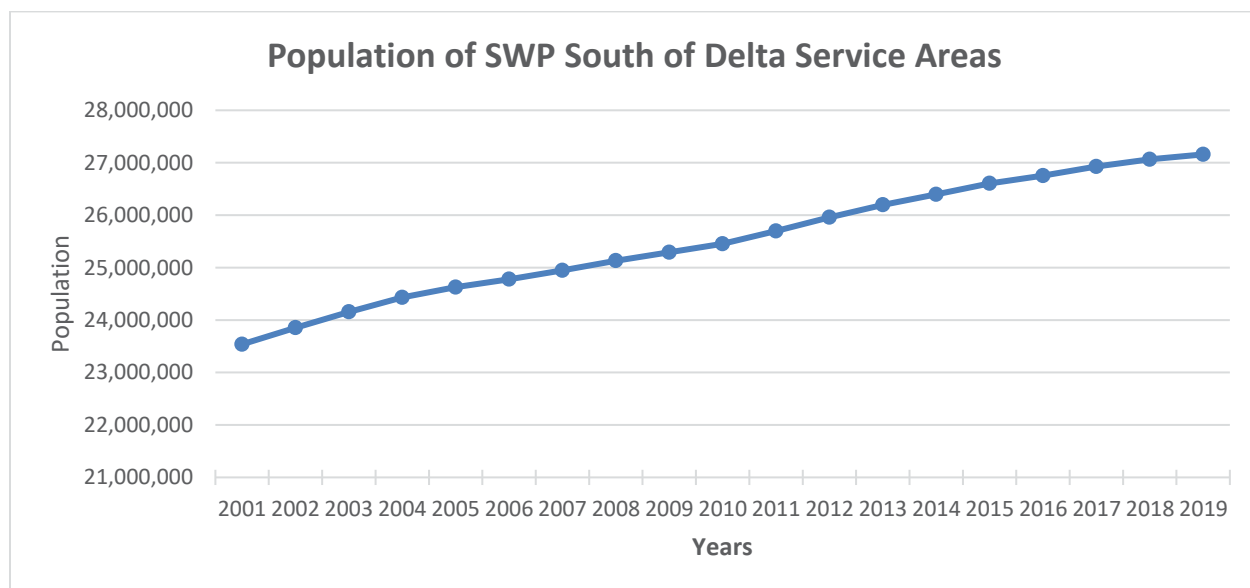


Figure 4.6-4. Population of SWP South of Delta Service Areas

The steady population growth illustrated by Figure 4.6-4 has not been appreciably affected by the annual changes in SWP deliveries shown in Figure 4.6-3. These two figures demonstrate that changes in the supply of water would have had little, if any, impact on population growth in the south of Delta service areas. Based on the absence of a discernable link between water delivery from the SWP and population growth based on historic data, the Proposed Project is not likely to result in a direct or

indirect increase in population or employment. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not growth-inducing and would not induce secondary impacts of growth.