

Feeling Thirsty? Too Bad

Imagine if you had to get by on only 15 percent of the water you currently use. Well, for many Californians that may be their reality this year. In a stunning development, the state Department of Water Resources has told urban and rural water districts who participate in the State Water Project to expect only 15 percent of their requested amounts next year. This announcement follows on the heels of the release of the Delta Vision Strategic Plan which aims to help the state get out of this mess. The plan works on two concurrent goals: ensuring a reliable water supply for a booming population and repairing the habitat damage wrought as California developed into a world economic power in the past few decades.



The plan now goes to the Delta Vision Cabinet Committee. While much debate surrounds the ultimate water fix, the Bay Area Council has been a centralizing force in a developing consensus that includes:

- A stepped-up commitment to conservation.
- Accelerated completion of the technical studies to finally select the combination of conveyance and storage to meet water security needs.
- A “Manhattan-project” level commitment to restore Delta fisheries.
- A new governance system to make the final project decisions due in 2009 and 2010.

Bay Area Council Water Committee Chair Jim Levine worked on the governance and finance subcommittee of the Delta Vision Task Force and has been leading meetings with government, business and environmental leaders to move the process forward and advocate for sensible solutions. We hope to arrive at the finish line soon.

Proposition 11 Gaining Momentum

[New polling](#), by Council member Field Research, shows Proposition 11 gaining ground with California voters, but it will be tight. [The measure](#) puts the job of drawing legislative districts in the hands of a triple-screened group of citizens, instead of inherently biased legislators. The Council has long supported the measure and has been working on the campaign ever since. This week Council CEO Jim Wunderman did a press conference with the Governor in support of Prop 11.



Article of the Week

BAC Executive Committee member and Healthcare Committee Chairman Lloyd Dean, CEO of Catholic Healthcare West, was profiled in the [SF Chronicle](#).



Quote of the Week

"The VC community is not shutting down this time" - Prominent angel investor Ron Conway in the [Mercury News](#) at a forum comparing this recession to the dot com bust.

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