

# the Delta

Sacramento/  
San Joaquin

# Delta

## FACTS



### Area:

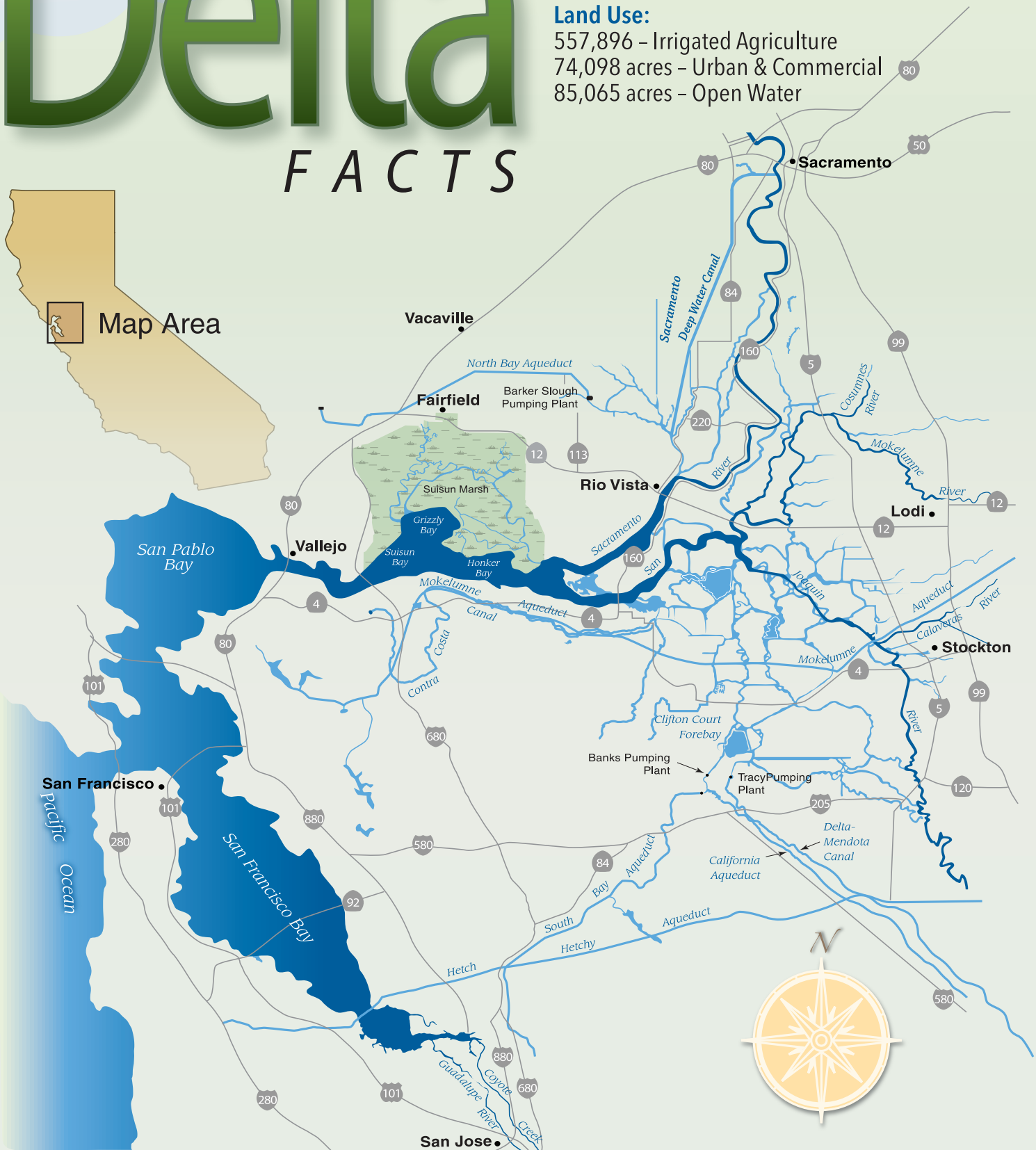
The Delta is the West Coast's largest estuary, with 60 major reclaimed islands and numerous un-leveed channel islands.

### Land Use:

557,896 - Irrigated Agriculture  
74,098 acres - Urban & Commercial  
85,065 acres - Open Water



Map Area



# the Sacramento/ San Joaquin Delta FACTS



The Delta provides habitat for many species of wildlife, supports agriculture and recreation, and is the heart of California's water system.

1. **Land:** The Delta covers 738,000 acres interlaced with hundreds of miles of waterways.
2. **Counties:** Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Yolo and Alameda
3. **History:** The Delta was once a vast mosaic of tidal marshes and riverside forest. Early settlers built levees and drained the land for farming.
4. **Levees (total mileage):** 1,330 miles of levees that protect land from flooding and play a role in the water supplies conveyed through the Delta.
5. **Rivers flowing into the Delta:** Sacramento, San Joaquin, Mokelumne, Cosumnes, and Calaveras
6. **Water exports directly from the Delta:** State Water Project, federal Central Valley Project, Contra Costa Canal, City of Vallejo, Mokelumne Aqueduct, Western Delta Industry, and a little over 1,800 agricultural users.
7. **Water supply:** Supplies freshwater to 27 million people and more than 3 million acres of farmland.<sup>1</sup>
8. **Agriculture:** Crops grown in the Delta include corn, grain, sugar beets, alfalfa, tomatoes, asparagus, cherries, blueberries and a variety of nuts. The Delta's average annual total crop value is approximately \$702 million.<sup>2</sup>
9. **Recreation:** The Delta region is a one-of-a-kind place where a mix of land and water offers diverse and authentic recreation opportunities. Recreation activities include picnicking, boating, fishing, bird watching, camping, and sightseeing.<sup>3</sup>
10. **Wildlife Species:** The Delta is home to more than 55 fish species and more than 750 plant and wildlife species. At least half of the Pacific Flyway migratory water birds rely on the region's wetlands. Of these, approximately 100 wildlife species, 140 plant species, and 13 groups of fish are considered special-status species and are afforded some form of legal or regulatory protection.<sup>4</sup>
11. **Major Fish Species<sup>5</sup>:**\* American Shad (non-native); Bass (Striped, Smallmouth, Largemouth, Spotted) (non-native); Black Crappie (non-native); Chinook Salmon (native); Catfish (Channel, Blue, White, Black Bullhead, Brown Bullhead) (non-native); Delta Smelt (native); Green Sturgeon (native); Hardhead (native); Longfin Smelt (native); Sacramento Splittail (native); Starry Flounder (native); Steelhead Trout (native); Sunfish (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Redear, Green) (non-native); Tule Perch (native)

\*Before fishing in the Delta, always check with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for regulations regarding fish species and specific license requirements for the region.

<sup>1</sup> Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Plan, Chapter 1, 2013

<sup>2</sup> Delta Protection Commission, Economic Sustainability Plan, 2012

<sup>3</sup> California State Parks, Recreation Proposal for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh, 2011

<sup>4</sup> Delta Stewardship Council, Delta Plan, Chapter 1, 2013

<sup>5</sup> California Fish Website, U.C., Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, retrieved 2019

<sup>6</sup> Water Education Foundation, Aquapedia, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, retrieved 2019

