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# Create a New Water Management Regime that Benefits Humans, Fish, and Wildlife

Managing water for wildlife will become increasingly challenging in California as freshwater becomes scarcer and floods more frequent. Responding to these challenges through traditional energy-intensive water management strategies such as water pumping and dam construction will only harm wildlife.

Furthermore, such strategies will increase global warming pollution given that water use accounts for 19 percent of the electricity and 30 percent of the natural gas consumed in California, as well as 88 billion gallons of diesel fuel use per year. One of the most effective ways to both combat global warming and protect water for fish and wildlife is to simply use water more efficiently.<sup>109</sup> A new strategy for managing California's water demands is needed to ensure that fish and waterfowl can survive.

- **Water agencies should integrate global warming into California water planning** by choosing demand, supply, and reliability management strategies based upon projected changes to the state's hydrology.
- **Water agencies should aggressively develop and implement sustainable and climate-resilient water management strategies**, including increasing water-use efficiency,

water recycling, and cleaning up polluted groundwater.

- **The State should implement a "water demand neutral" standard for new developments in California** to ensure that all new growth is accommodated without increasing demand on our rivers and streams. The standard should leverage California's significant potential in water-use efficiency, water recycling, and other climate-resilient water supplies.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **GET INVOLVED** in your local agency's update of their Urban Water Management Plan. Urge them to develop climate-resilient local water supplies rather than water transfers or continued reliance on imported water. The next plans must be completed by 2010.
- **CONSERVE WATER** in your home and yard. Check out [www.nwf.org/water](http://www.nwf.org/water) for ideas.



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