

# FLOW PROTECTION RULES

Operation of the new and existing water conveyance facilities will be managed to specific criteria related to:

- OLD RIVER AND MIDDLE RIVER FLOWS**
- HEAD OF OLD RIVER GATE OPERATIONS**
- DELTA OUTFLOW**
- NORTH DELTA BYPASS FLOWS**

To benefit fish, flow criteria will be applied month by month and according to the five water-year types:



## APPLYING WATER DIVERSION OPERATIONS CRITERIA

The most sensitive time of year for Delta fisheries is December through June. Operations would vary depending on the hydrologic condition (e.g., water year type, actual Sacramento River flows, fish presence), but would always include a minimum Sacramento River flow passing intakes before water could be diverted. The criteria also include biologically-based triggers developed to make temporary adjustments to bypass flows to benefit fish species. Under all conditions, operation criteria require gradual ramping up of diversions and do not interfere with major river flows. This graphic illustrates hypothetical operations in December through April.

## EXAMPLE SACRAMENTO RIVER FLOWS AND NORTH DELTA DIVERSIONS

**WET YEAR EXAMPLE** WET  
64,000 cfs (Jan. 21, 2006)  
Maximum Diversion: 9,000 cfs

**9,000 CFS DIVERSION CAP**  
A maximum possible diversion of 9,000 cfs is reached at river flows of 30,571 cfs under proposed operations

**DRY YEAR EXAMPLE** DRY  
6,400 cfs (Jan. 21, 2009)  
Maximum Diversion: 384 cfs

