

# Role of a Non-Partisan Research Agency

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## Congressional Research Service : a legislative branch agency

### What is CRS?

- Independent research agency at policy making level (e.g., legislative)
- CRS helps Members of Congress and their staff through each stage of the legislative process
- Provides balanced, unbiased, and non-partisan analysis

### Key tenets:

- Independent
- Objective, neutral: No recommendations
- Non-Partisan
- Honesty and Integrity
- “360 view”
- Legislative Branch

### Products and services:

Timely information and analysis

Factual information

Authoritative and balanced reference material

Probing and innovative analysis

Pro/con analysis

Institutional memory

### Delivery mechanisms:

- Reports, issue briefs
- Confidential memoranda
- Telephone consultations
- Briefings and in-person consultations
- Seminars and workshops



More information:

<http://www.loc.gov/crsinfo/>

## Water Resources Examples

California Bay-Delta  
Complex science and  
policy issues:

- species water needs
- water management & social needs
- contributions to species decline

- Klamath River
- Columbia River

Summary Bay-Delta Standards												
Contained in D-1641												
CRITERIA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>FLOW/OPERATIONAL</b>												
• Fish and Wildlife												
SWP/CVP Export Limits				1,500cfs								
Export/Inflow Ratio	65%		75% of Delta Inflow					65% of Delta Inflow				
Minimum Delta Outflow								3,000 - 8,000 cfs				
Habitat Protection: Outflow			7,100 - 29,200 cfs									
Salinity Starting Condition												
River Flows:												
@ Rio Vista										3,000 - 4,500 cfs		
@ Vernalis - Base			710 - 3,420 cfs									
- Pulse										+28TAP		
Delta Cross Channel Gates			Closed									Conditional
<b>WATER QUALITY STANDARDS</b>												
• Municipal and Industrial												
All Export Locations												≤ 250 mg/l Cl
Contra Costa Canal												150 mg/l Cl for the required number of days
• Agriculture												
Western/Interior Delta												Max 14-day average EC mmhos/cm
Southern Delta			1.0 mS		30 day running avg EC 0.7 mS					1.0 mS		
• Fish and Wildlife												
San Joaquin River Salinity					14-day avg; 0.44 EC							
Suisun Marsh Salinity	12.5 EC		8.0 EC		11.0 EC					19.0 EC		15.5 EC