

The background image is a landscape photograph. In the foreground, there is a dense forest of green trees. A road or path winds through the forest. In the middle ground, a large concrete dam is visible, with water flowing over it. Behind the dam is a large reservoir of blue water. In the far background, there are rolling hills and a prominent snow-capped mountain peak under a clear sky.

Overview of the Central Valley Project

The CVP Is a 400-Mile Water Network

Like the SWP, the CVP stores and moves water across California. It is federally owned, has different customers, and shares the Delta with the SWP

400+ Miles

Redding to Bakersfield

20 Dams and Reservoirs

Nearly 12 MAF of capacity

500+ Miles

Major canals + conveyance

1 Junction

Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta



Data: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; CDFW; Delta Stewardship Council | Basemap © OpenStreetMap contributors



Who They Serve and How Much Water

The CVP primarily serves agricultural users, while the SWP is more focused on urban and industrial demand.

Industry	CVP	SWP
Agriculture	~5.0 MAF	~0.9 MAF
Cities + industry	~0.6 MAF	~1.7 MAF
Urban reach	~6M people	~27M residents
Dominant customer	Agriculture	Cities + industry

Federal Control of CVP Operations

Federal policy can change how water is managed, but it must still operate within California's legal, environmental, and physical constraints.

What federal policy can change:

- Operating plans and project priorities
- Timing of reservoir releases and pumping
- Contractor allocations
- Funding and infrastructure priorities
- How limited water are distributed

Federal policy can shift water deliveries within the CVP, which may also affect Delta operations and SWP allocations.

What federal policy cannot control:

- Overall water availability (rainfall, snowpack, etc.)
- California water quality requirements
- California Environmental protections
- Physical limits on Delta flows
- Coordination between CVP and SWP

The CVP remains subject to California water law and the physical limitations of the broader water system.



Same Delta, Different Systems

The CVP and SWP share parts of the Delta and some infrastructure, but they operate under different ownership, customer bases, and allocation systems.

Category	CVP	SWP
Ownership	Federal (operated by Reclamation)	State (operated by DWR)
Primary Users	Agriculture and regional contractors	Urban agencies and industrial users
Service Area	Central Valley and parts of Bay Area	Northern California to Southern California
Contract Structure	Over 250 contractors over many groups	29 public water agencies
Allocation System	No single CVP allocation table	Annual allocation percentage



Conclusions

The SWP and CVP are separate systems with separate authorities, but due to reliance on the Delta both systems are interconnected.

CVP ≠ SWP

Federal, agriculture focus, 250+ contractors.

Sharing the Delta

Coordinated through the Delta and joint-use facilities.

Federal Oversight

Can alter rules and allocations, not hydrology or governing law.

Bottom Line:

The CVP matters to the SGPWA because both projects operate within the same interconnected system, but changes to the CVP do not directly affect SGPWA supply.

