



## Lie of the day

### Water Management: The Delta Smelt Myth

One of the most repeated (and baseless) claims is that maintaining river flows to protect endangered species like the Delta Smelt in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is causing water shortages in Los Angeles.

This is flat-out false. LA's water doesn't even come from the Delta. It's sourced from the Colorado River, local groundwater, and major reservoirs like Castaic Lake.

In fact, reservoir levels are healthy:

- **Shasta Lake** is at 78% capacity.
- **Lake Oroville** is at 71% capacity.
- **Castaic Lake**, a key supplier for LA, is over 70% full.

Blaming environmental protections for water shortages is a distraction from real issues like aging infrastructure in Los Angeles and increased urban demand. The Delta Smelt isn't the culprit, and neither is Governor Newsom.

