

Of fish and farmers

Stories

New York Times, [Threatened Smelt Touches Off Battles in California's Endless Water Wars](#)

Fox News, [Sean Hannity exposes the man-made drought in California](#)

NPR, [California's Drought Ripples Through Businesses, Then To Schools](#)

[Donald Trump's take \(optional\)](#)

Questions

Imagine you're an advisor to Gavin Newsom, the Governor of California. Governor Newsom is considering mandatory increases in water flows to the California Delta. This policy would reduce the flow of water to California's Central Valley.

- 1) Describe three costs that might be associated with this policy? How might these costs vary in their importance?
- 2) Describe three benefits that might result from this policy? How might these benefits differ in their value?
- 3) You'd like to encourage the governor to implement an *economically efficient* policy. What does this mean? How would you imagine identifying the efficient allocation of water to the Delta?
- 4) Why wouldn't it make sense to allocate all the water to the Delta?
- 5) Why wouldn't it make sense to allocate all the water to California's farmers?