



Where Does California Water Come From?

The Bay-Delta comprises two major water systems: the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. It is the largest natural estuary on the west coast of both North and South America, and drains water from approximately 40% of California.



This water begins as freshwater runoff and snowmelt from the northern Sierra Nevada and southern Cascade mountain ranges that make their way to small rivers and tributaries before emptying into the south-flowing Sacramento River and the north-flowing San Joaquin River.

