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Table 2-1 Potential Effects of Climate Change on California's Water Resources and Expected Consequences

| Potential Water Resource<br>Impact   | Expected Consequence  |
|--|---|
| Reduction of the State's average annual snowpack                                     | <ul> <li>Potential loss of 5 million acre-feet or more of average annual water storage in the State's snowpack</li> <li>Increased challenges for reservoir management and balancing the competing concerns of flood protection and water supply</li> </ul>  |
| Changes in the timing, intensity, location, amount, and variability of precipitation | <ul> <li>Potential increased storm intensity and increased potential for flooding</li> <li>Possible increased potential for droughts</li> </ul>   |
| Long-term changes in watershed vegetation and increased incidence of wildfires       | <ul> <li>Changes in the intensity and timing of runoff</li> <li>Possible increased incidence of flooding and increased sedimentation</li> </ul>   |
| Sea level rise   | <ul> <li>Inundation of coastal marshes and estuaries</li> <li>Increased salinity intrusion into the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta</li> <li>Increased potential for Delta levee failure</li> <li>Increased potential for salinity intrusion into coastal aquifers (groundwater)</li> <li>Increased potential for flooding near the mouths of rivers due to backwater effects</li> </ul> |
| Increased water<br>temperatures  | <ul> <li>Possible critical effects on listed and endangered aquatic species</li> <li>Increased environmental water demand for temperature control</li> <li>Possible increased problems with foreign invasive species in aquatic ecosystems</li> <li>Potential adverse changes in water quality, including the reduction of dissolved oxygen levels</li> </ul>                               |
| Changes in urban and agricultural water demand                                       | Changes in demand patterns and evapotranspiration rates   |