

Southern California Dialogue

Quantification Settlement Agreement and Water Transfer History
June 23, 2021

DAN DENHAM

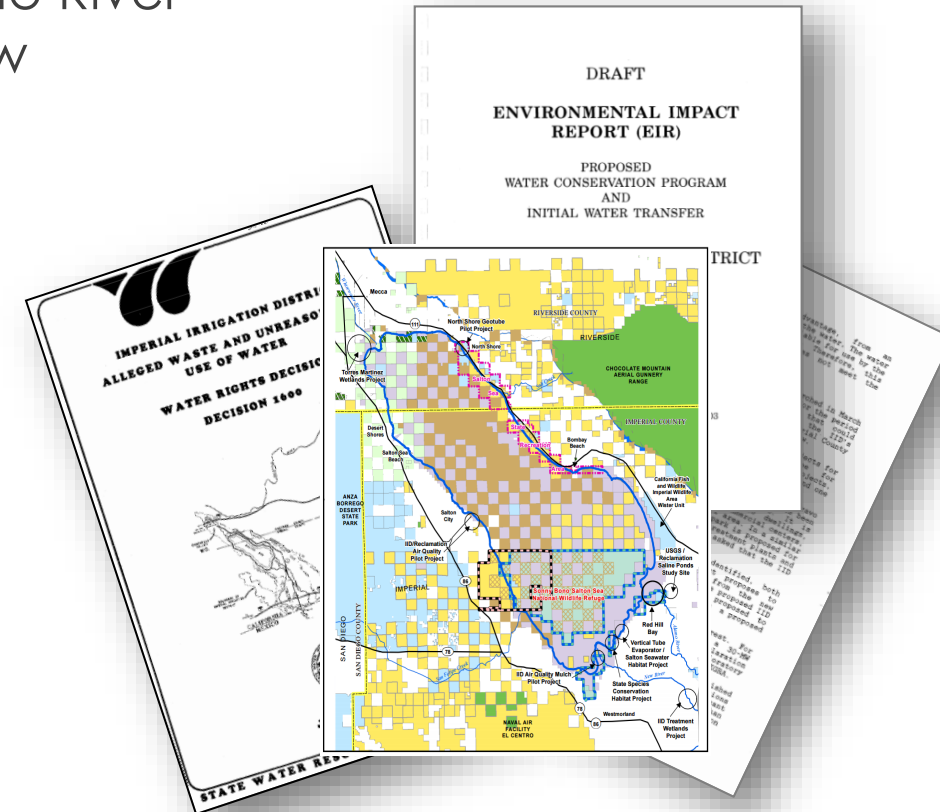
Deputy General Manager



San Diego County
Water Authority

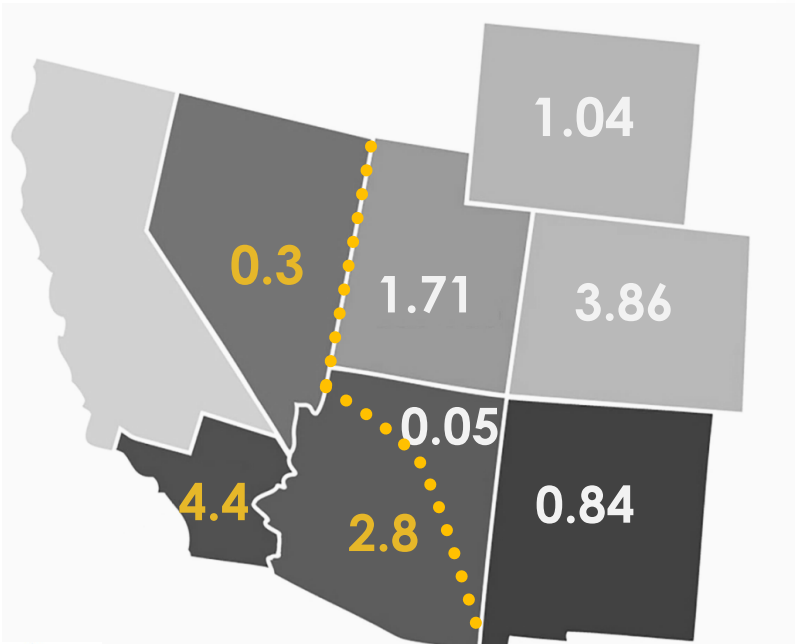
State Water Resources Control Board Actions and the Salton Sea

- ▶ In the late 1970s approximately 1 million AF of Colorado River water entered the Salton Sea as agricultural return flow
- ▶ In 1984 SWRCB determined (**Decision 1600**) water loss could be prevented through reasonable conservation measures; IID developed comprehensive water conservation plan
- ▶ In 1988 SWRCB set a long-term conservation goal at 367,900 AF (**WRO 88-20**), endorsed the idea of conserved water transfer from IID to MWD, and acknowledged unavoidable adverse impacts to the Salton Sea



California's Growing Water Needs

Colorado River Apportionments (million acre-feet)



State to Shut Off Water Delivery to Southland

By VIRGINIA ELLIS
and TED ROHRlich
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

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Grim water outlook is getting even worse

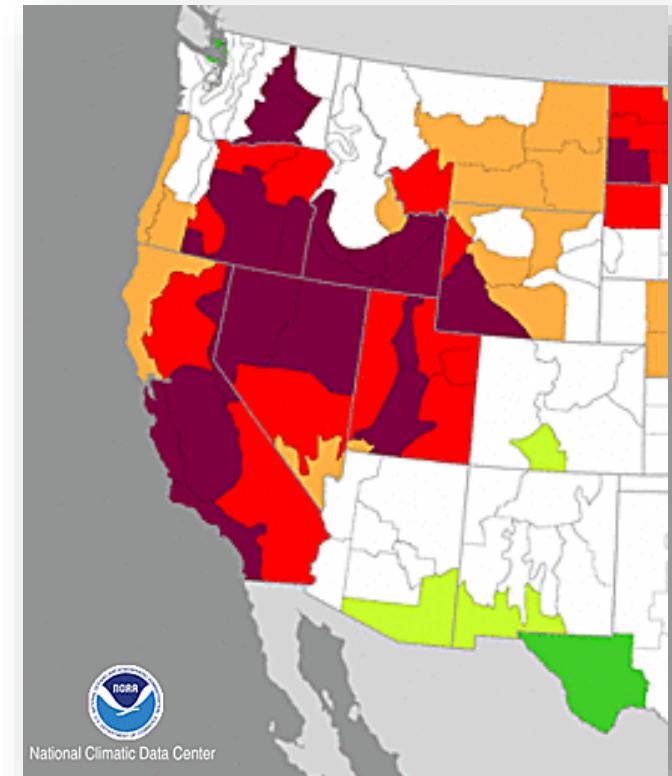
By Steve LaRue
Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — Southern Calif-
ornians are likely to be ordered to cut back
their water use.

Limits on tap water use urged by staff

San Diego County
(VA) will continue
blanket ban of tap
water for lawns and golf course
despite intense
pressure from landscaping contractors
last week.

State Water Project cuts off water to farms; urban slash expected



February 1991



QSA Negotiations

- ▶ By late 1998 discussions regarding the quantification of water rights evolved into negotiations on future transfers/exchanges
- ▶ In 2000 Colorado River Board of CA endorsed soft landing for the Cal 4.4 plan to offset reliance on surplus AZ/NV water
- ▶ Water Authority and IID petition SWRCB in 2002 for change in place of use and point of diversion
- ▶ Unfunded Salton Sea mitigation emerged as watershed issue



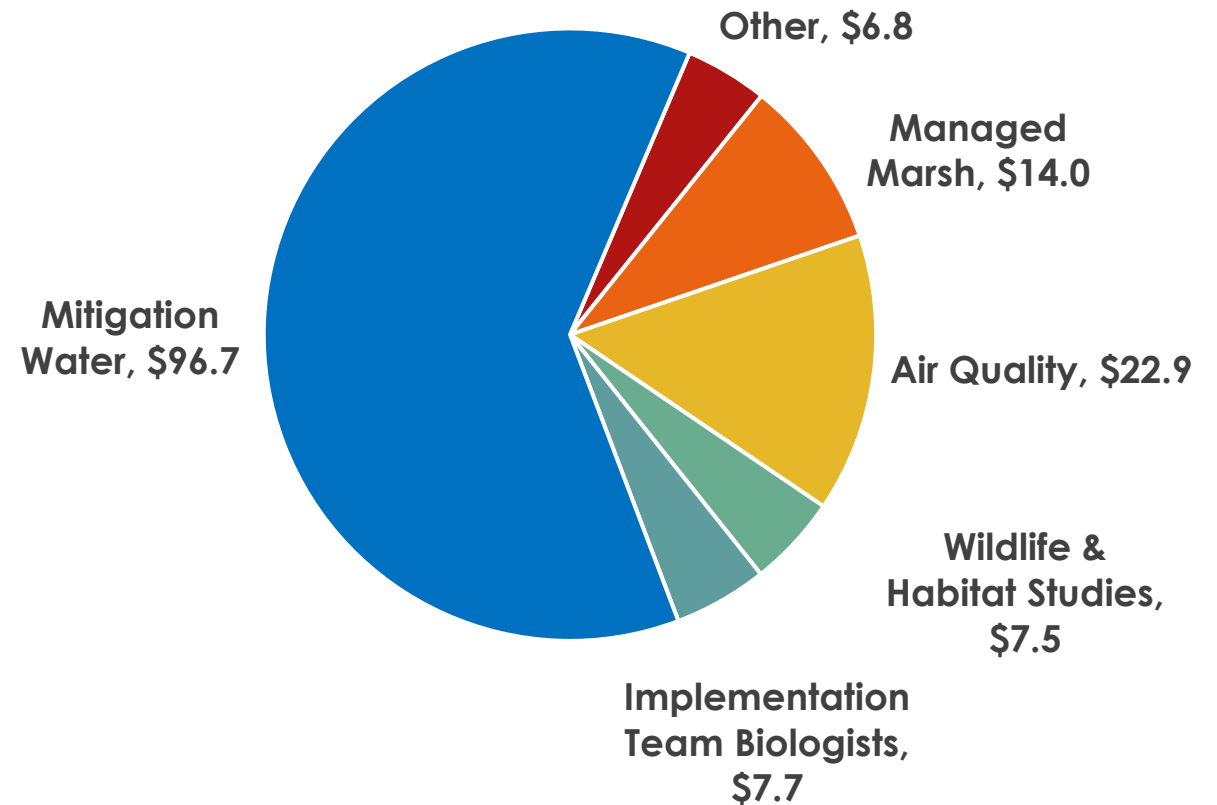
Environmental Compliance & QSA Legislation

- ▶ To resolve Salton Sea issues SWRCB requires extensive “**mitigation**” of the QSA transfers
- ▶ Legislation memorialized funding commitments amongst parties
- ▶ State financial obligation to cover mitigation costs in excess of QSA funding limit is an unconditional contractual obligation
- ▶ State’s “**Restoration**” of the Salton Sea a separate issue from mitigation but the two can complement each other
- ▶ With these environmental responsibilities assigned via contracts and law, the QSA was finalized in 2003



QSA Joint Powers Authority

- ▶ \$156 million spent to date
- ▶ \$136 million planned through 2036
- ▶ Permanent air quality projects on the ground; expected to be largest expense going forward
- ▶ EIR/EIS Mitigation and Monitoring Program
 1. **Access Control**
 2. **Research and Monitoring**
 3. **Emissions Credits**
 4. **Emission Control Measures**



18 Years Later – What Went Right/Wrong?

- ▶ Mitigation vs. Restoration
- ▶ Impact of Natural Desert Environment
- ▶ 2007 Preferred Alternative
- ▶ Minimal Habitat Creation and Habitat Projects
- ▶ Federal Engagement
- ▶ Salton Sea Mitigation Water
- ▶ QSA JPA Coordination
- ▶ Stipulated Order
- ▶ Funding Availability

