

Southern California Dialogue

Quantification Settlement Agreement and Water Transfer History
June 23, 2021

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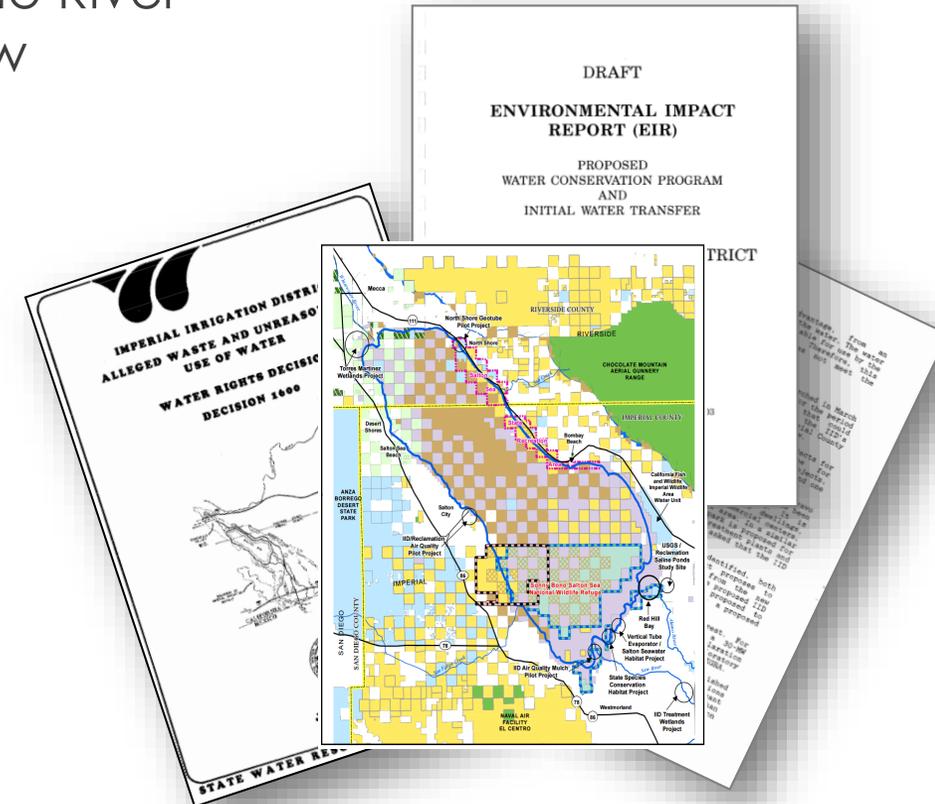
Deputy General Manager



San Diego County
Water Authority

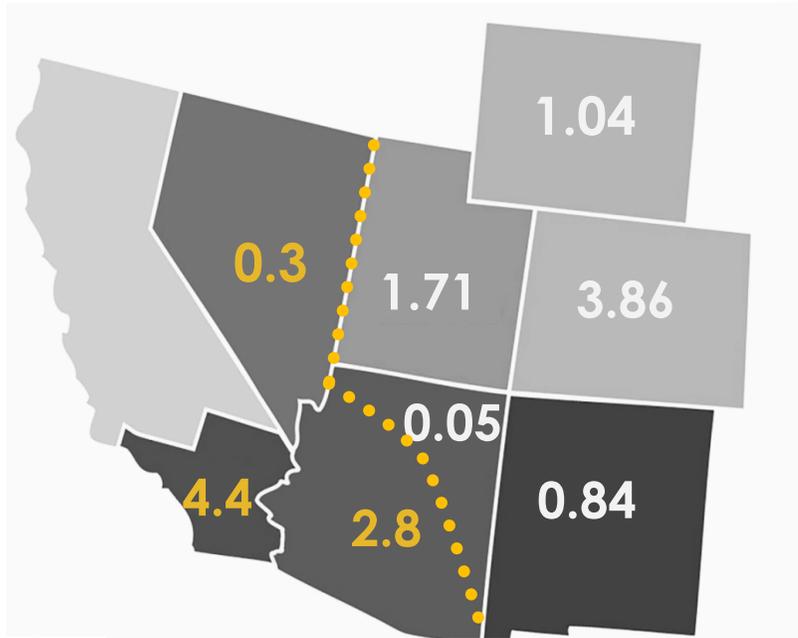
State Water Resources Control Board Actions and the Salton Sea

- ▶ 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

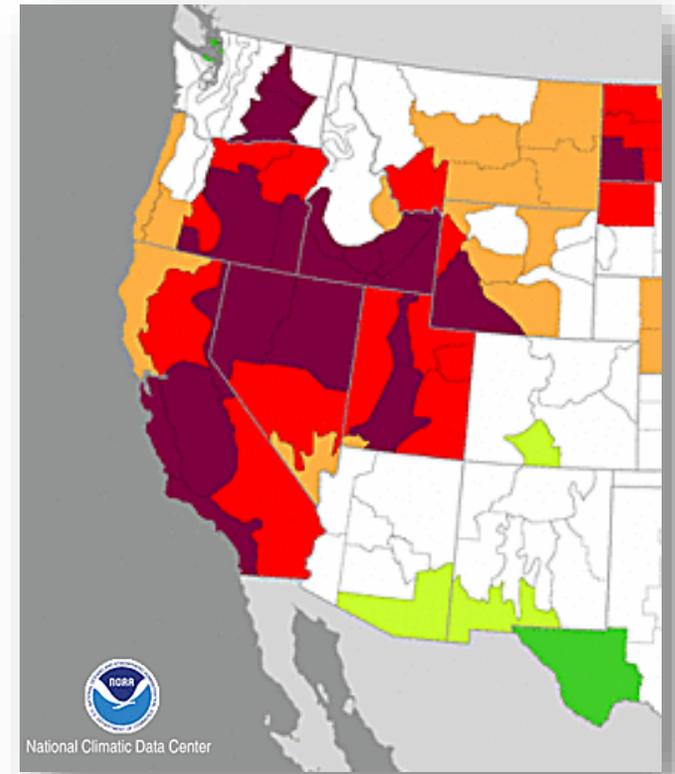


California's Growing Water Needs

Colorado River Apportionments (million acre-feet)



State 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



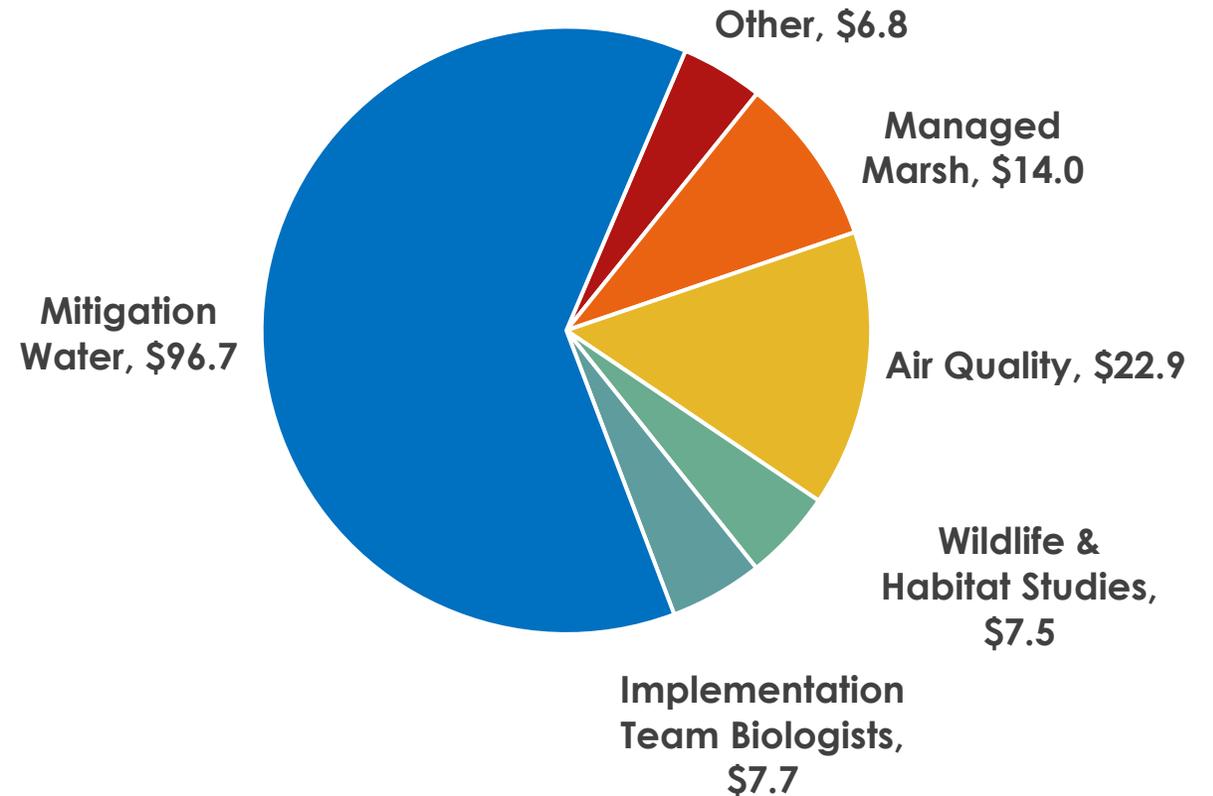
Environmental Compliance & QSA Legislation

- ▶ 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

