



WELCOME





TODAY'S SESSION IS HOSTED BY **Coachella Valley Water District**

- Formed in 1918 to protect local water sources
- More than 570 employees
- Serving 270,000 people
- Domestic (drinking) water, 94 wells, 67 reservoirs
- Sewer collection and wastewater treatment
- Recycled/nonpotable water for agricultural, golf course and recreational landscape irrigation
- Regional stormwater protection and flood control
- Groundwater basin management and imported water supplies
- Promotes water conservation and customer rebates





Jason Lucas

SENIOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS SPECIALIST,
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT





Water Counts Academy

The Water Counts Academy was formed in 2017 by CV Water Counts, a collaboration of six local water agencies.

The academy's focus is to raise awareness and educate local community leaders and residents about water issues.


Thank you for applying and wanting to learn more about local water!





Meet your CV Water Counts representatives

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) 

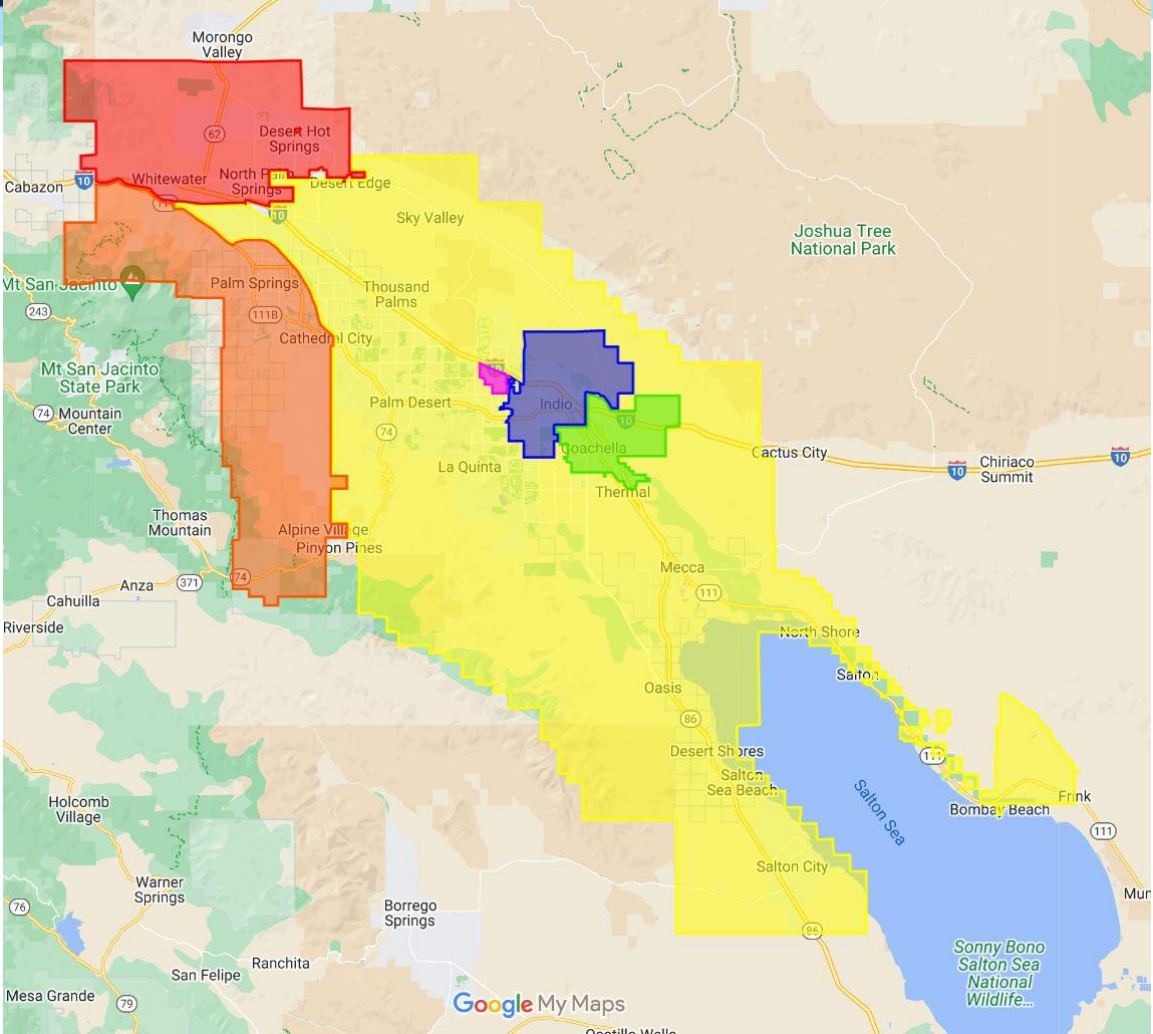
Desert Water Agency (DWA) 

Indio Water Authority (IWA) 

Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) 

Coachella Water Authority (CWA) 

Myoma Dunes Water Company (MDWC) 





Lorraine Garcia

COMMUNICATION MANAGER/PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER,
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT





Victoria Lort

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & CONSERVATION/PUBLIC
INFORMATION OFFICER, DESERT WATER AGENCY





Xochitl Peña

PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER, DESERT WATER AGENCY





Clark Elliott

CONSERVATION MANAGER, DESERT WATER AGENCY





Nisha Ajmani

SENIOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST, DESERT WATER AGENCY





Gloria Hernandez

SENIOR WATER MANAGEMENT ANALYST, INDIO WATER AUTHORITY





April Scott

PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST,
MISSION SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT





Audrey Dean

OFFICE MANAGER, MYOMA DUNES WATER COMPANY





Class Overview

All classes are from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
UCR Extension Campus

SESSION 1: January 28 – Overview, History & Water Supply

SESSION 2: February 4 – Conservation State & Regional Planning

SESSION 3: February 11 – Water Quality

SESSION 4: February 18 – Development & Future Needs

SESSION 5: March 1 – Tour

To receive your Certificate, you must be present at each of the five sessions.

Please sign-in at each session.



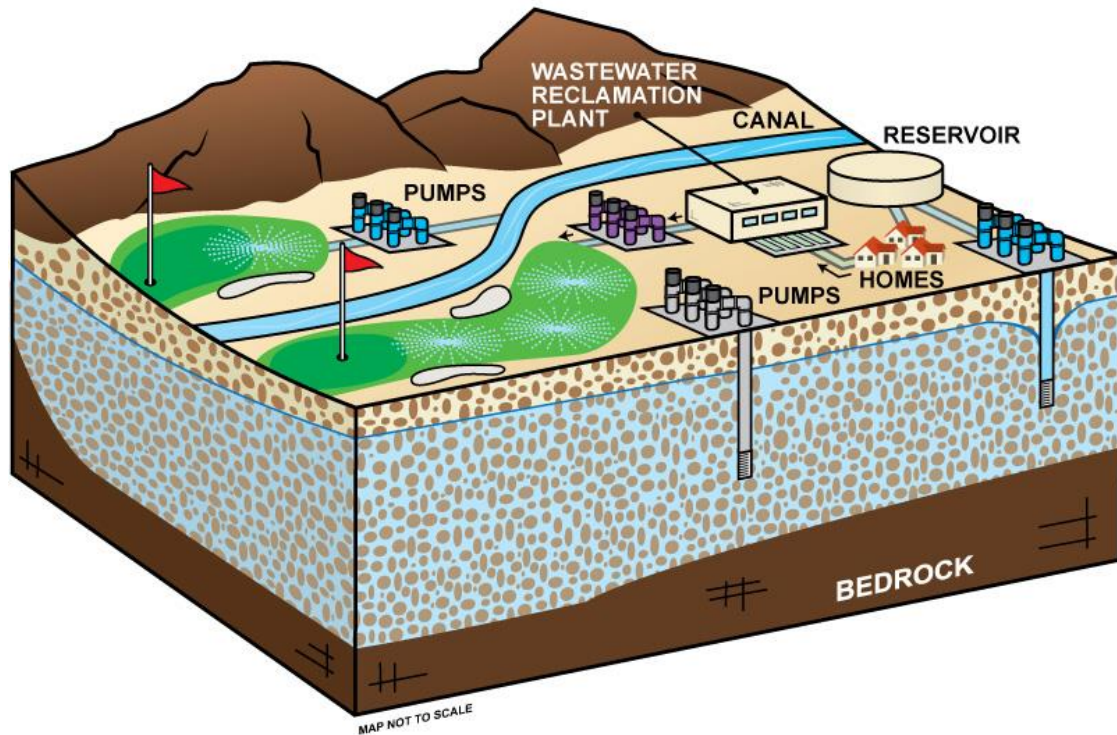


What do water agencies do?

- Public health is a top priority.
- Serve the community with critical services such as drinking water and sewer services.
- Operate and maintain thousands of miles of pipelines and many facilities, day and night, rain or shine.
- Keep the water flowing to homes and businesses every day.
- Manage resources to ensure water for future generations.



Where does our water come from?

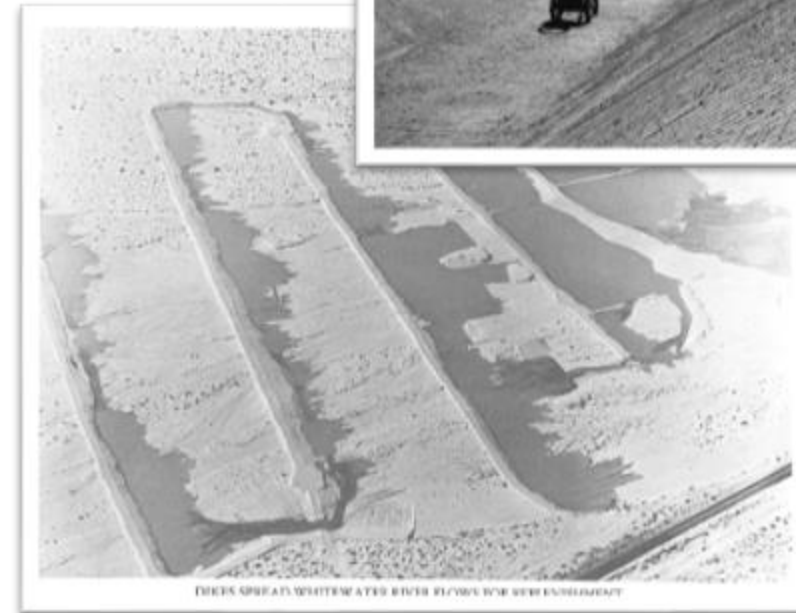


- A natural aquifer that lies underneath the valley floor.
- Filled with water, sand, gravel, and clay sediments.
- The natural layering of these sediments filters and protects the groundwater delivered to customers.



CVWD's first actions

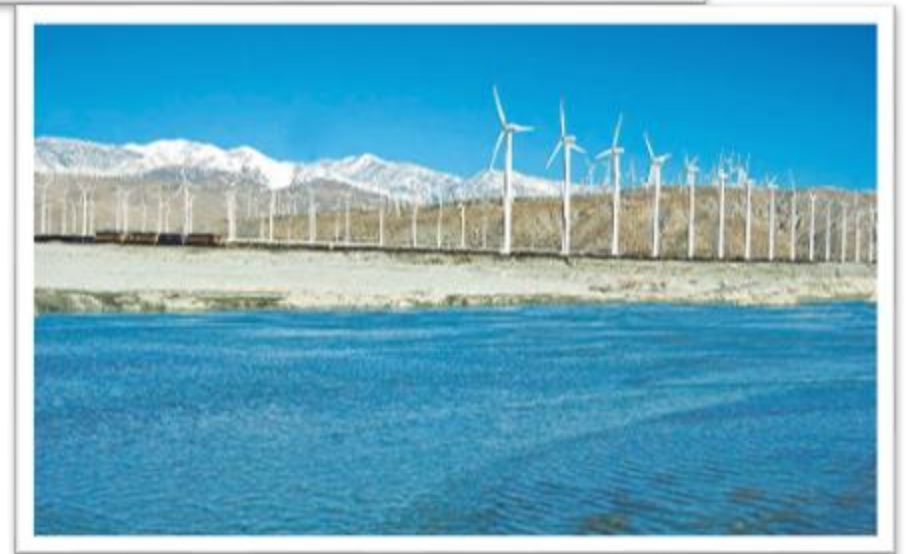
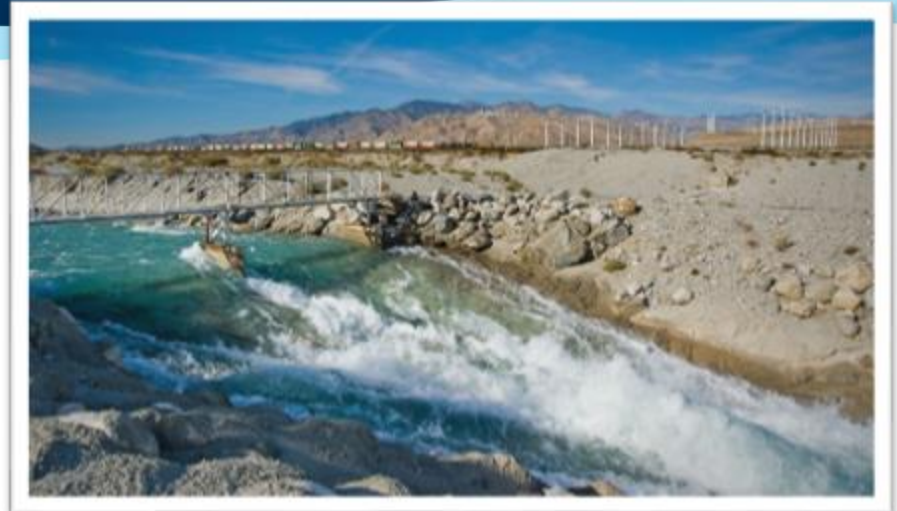
- 1918 – Was formed to protect local water supplies.
- 1920s – Acquired rights to build replenishment ponds at Whitewater to capture natural run-off from nearby mountains.
- 1934 – Contracted with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the Boulder Canyon Project, which included the construction of Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam), the All-American Canal, and the Coachella Branch of the All-American.
- 1949 – Began delivering imported Colorado River water to farms.





Bringing imported water to the west valley

- 1963 – CVWD expanded the Whitewater facility near Palm Springs for replenishment.
 - CVWD and DWA became two of 29 State Water Project (SWP) Contractors to bring imported water from the Sierra Nevada to replenish the groundwater basin.
- 1973 – CVWD and DWA received the first deliveries for replenishment to replace water used by customers in the west valley.





Colorado River Water

- The Coachella Valley wouldn't be what it is today without the 123-mile Coachella Canal.
- Dropping groundwater levels in the early days would have hurt agriculture and prevented the area from becoming a world-class tourist and resort destination.
- CVWD delivers more than 260,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water to local farms today.
- Colorado River water reduces demand on the aquifer and also replenishes the water used by customers in the Eastern Coachella Valley when available.





Robert Cheng

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER,
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



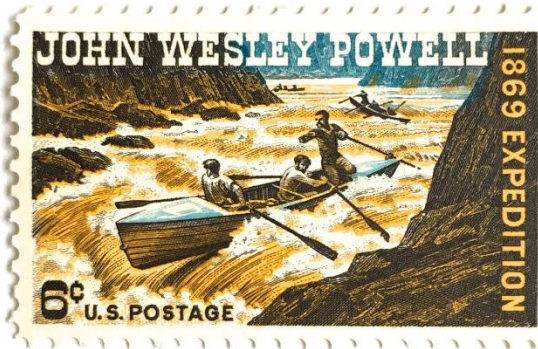
Colorado River update



Robert C. Cheng
Coachella Valley Water District
January 28, 2025



1869 - 1871



1928



Boulder Canyon Project Act

2007

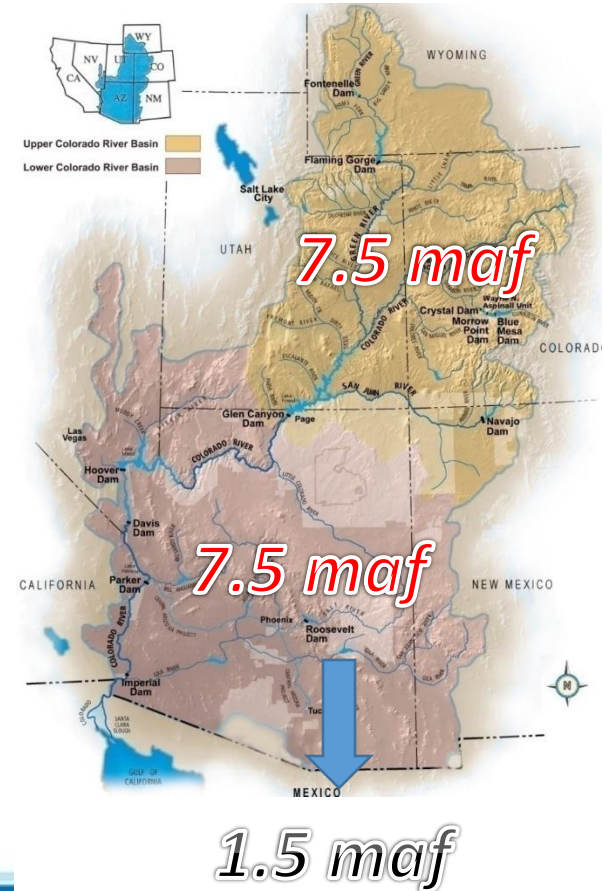
RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead Draft EIS

CR background

- “Hardest working river in the West”
- Supplies 40 M users in 7 states & Mexico
- 15 million af (maf) w/in U.S. & 1.5 maf to Mexico
- CVWD formed in 1918 to obtain federal Colorado River water supply
- ~80% of CVWD’s imported supply

Colorado River Compact 1922



Your water is our promise

Working relationships

- Colorado River issues historically resolved collaboratively through stakeholders
 - ✓ *includes Federal government & Mexico*
- CVWD's long-standing history of working cooperatively with other parties
 - ✓ *2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement*
 - ✓ *2007 Interim Guidelines*
 - ✓ *2019 Drought Contingency Plan*
 - ✓ *Renegotiations of 2007 Interim Guidelines*

California



Basin States



Delivery of water to Mexico
(Minute 32x)



Your water is our promise

2022 – 2023 headlines (short-term issues)

Officials fear ‘complete doomsday scenario’ for drought-stricken Colorado River

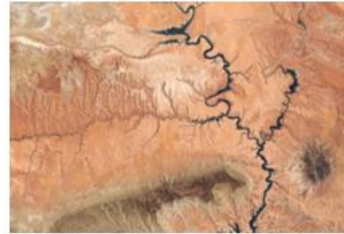
By Joshua Partlow
December 1, 2022 at 6:00 a.m. EST

Feds Will Cut States’ Access to Colorado River Water

STATELINE UPDATE | June 15, 2022 | By: Matt Vasilogambros | Read time: 2 min

Feds will spend billions to boost drought-stricken Colorado River system

KUNC | By Alex Hager
Published September 23, 2022 at 6:16 PM MDT



Killing the Colorado
The Water Crisis in the West

ENVIRONMENT

Growers brace to give up some Colorado River water

BY ALASTAIR BLAND
JANUARY 17, 2023

Twitter Facebook WhatsApp

California takes major step to cut back on use of Colorado River water

By MARIANNE GOODLAND marianne.goodland@coloradopolitics.com Oct 5, 2022 Updated Dec 29, 2022 0

EXTREME WEATHER | Published January 16, 2023 5:44pm EST

Scottsdale, Arizona, cuts off water to suburb in response to Colorado River drought

It's been over two weeks since the water supply was cut off from an unincorporated community outside of Scottsdale. However, the drought is a problem two-decades in the making.

‘The brink of disaster’: 2023 is a critical year for the Colorado River as reservoirs sink toward ‘dead pool’

By Ella Nilsen and Rachel Ramirez, CNN

Published 7:26 AM EST, Fri December 30, 2022

Feds begin ‘expedited’ process to help save drought-stricken Colorado River

By Ella Nilsen, CNN

Updated 4:46 PM EDT, Fri October 28, 2022

SUBSCRIBER ONLY

“We are not going to be afraid to litigate” to protect Colorado’s water rights, AG says

Attorney General Phil Weiser said era of lower basin states over-consuming Colorado River “is over”

UTAH THE WEST ENVIRONMENT

A southern Utah mayor’s water warning: ‘We are running out’

The mayor of Ivins says Washington County needs to address unfettered growth and its impact on drought

By Kyle Dunphey | Jan 23, 2023, 4:04pm PST

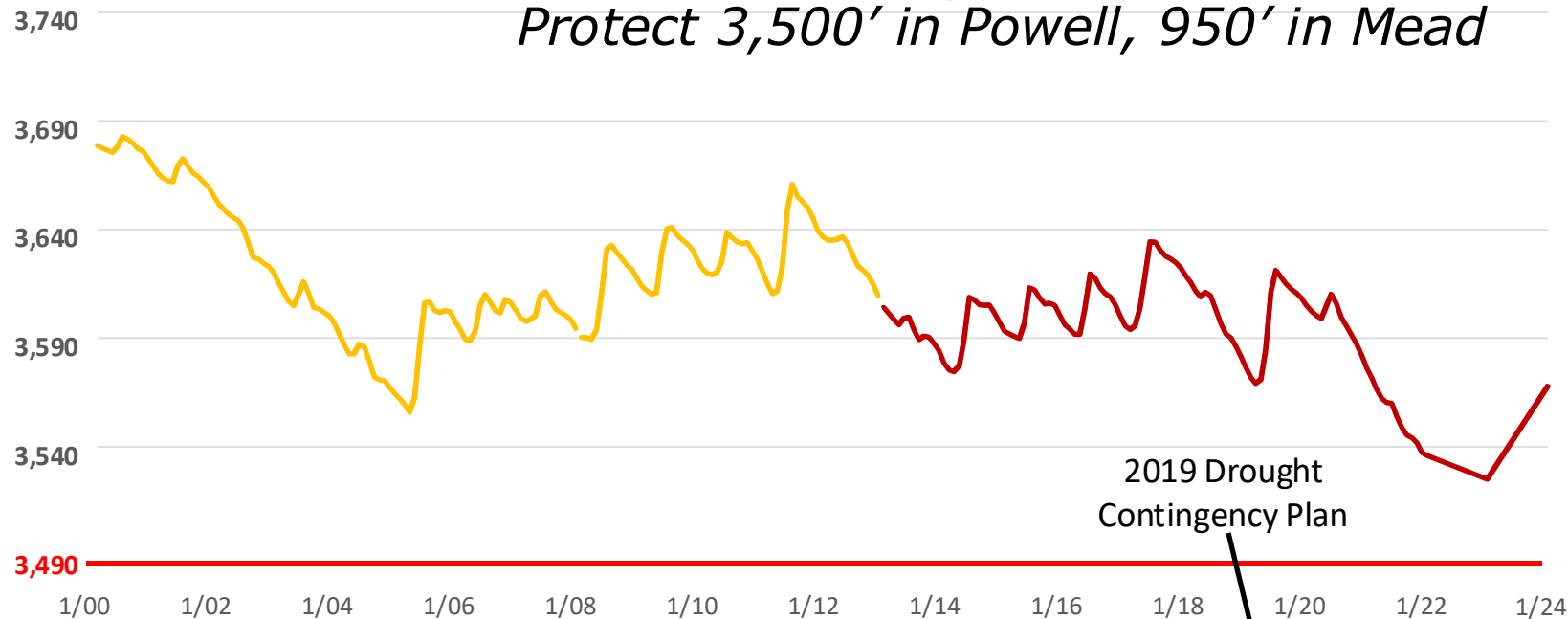
Increasing pressures on Colorado River water in New Mexico

Colorado River cutbacks have led to several consecutive years when New Mexico entities have received far less water than expected.

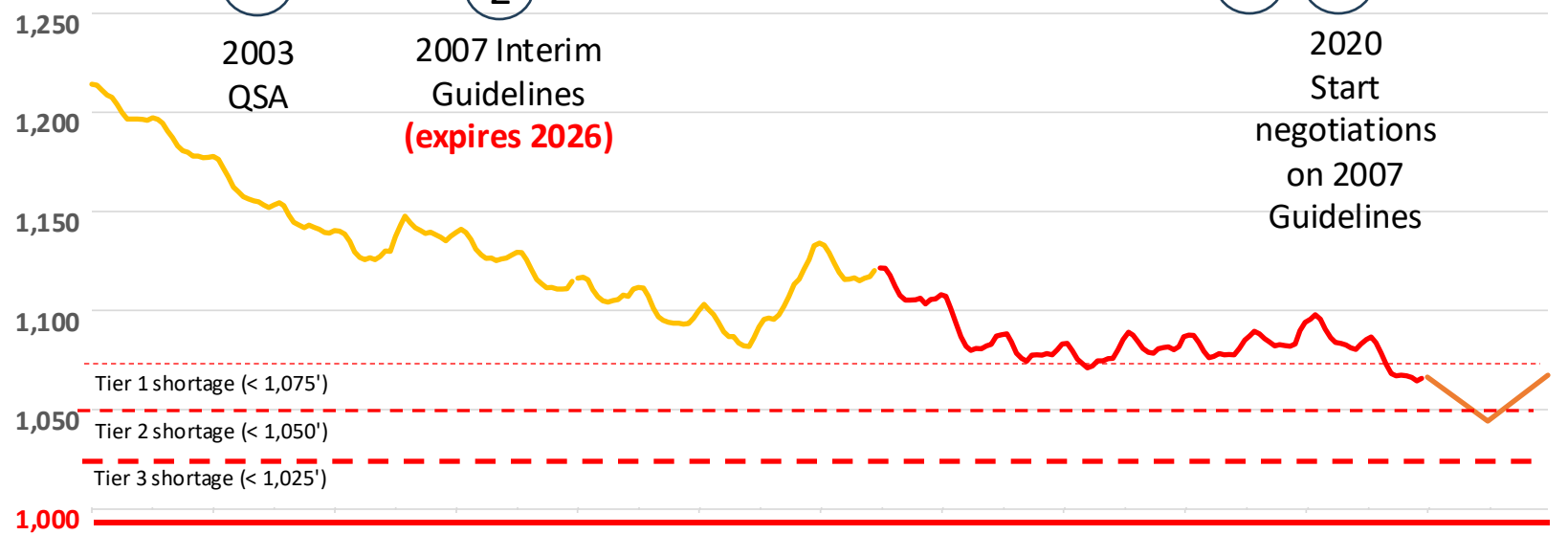
Post-2026 Negotiations update







Protect 3,500' in Powell, 950' in Mead

Lake Powell







Lake Mead



- June 14, '22
 
 - 2- 4 maf/yr additional reductions (2023-26)
- Sept
 
 - CA parties commit to addn'l 400 taf/yr
 - voluntary & compensated
- Oct 12
 
 - \$4 B for drought mitigation
 - Short-term actions open
- Nov 18
 
 - Protection elevations
 - ✓ 3,490' Lake Powell
 - ✓ 950' Lake Mead
- Jan 31, '23
 
 - 6-States Consensus
 - CA
- April 11
 
 - USBR alternatives, up to 4 maf/yr reductions
- May 22

Seven Basin States agree to the submission of a Lower Basin, consensus-based system conservation proposal to protect the Colorado River Basin

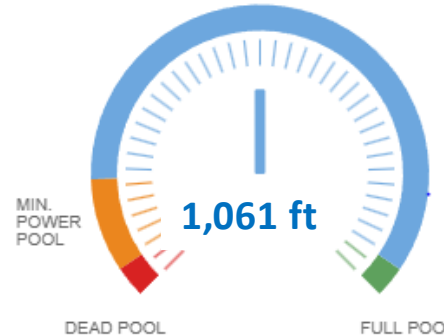
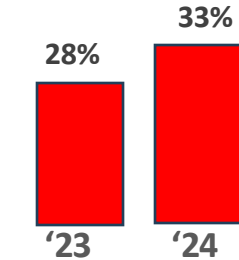
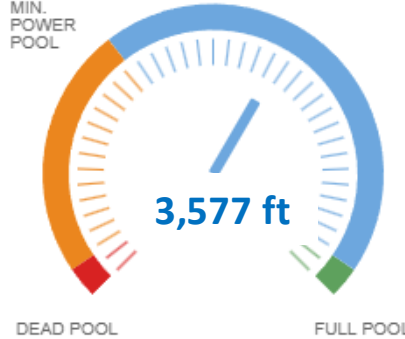
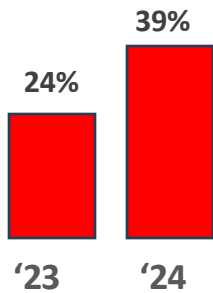
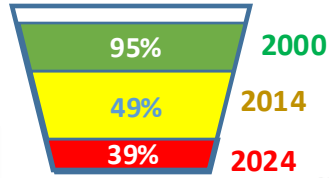
 - Alt proposal for addn'l 3 maf total (2023-26) selected
- May 24
 
 - Long-term actions opens
- Jun 16
 
 - **NOI to prepare EIS for post-2026 CR ops**
- Mar 5, '24
 
 - Reclamation released final SEIS for near-term CR ops (preferred alt)
- May 6
 
 - Secretary of Interior signed ROD for SEIS near-term CR ops

Current state of the River

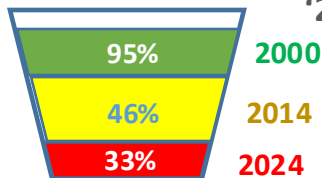
Courtesy of Grist/Amelia Bates



Lake Powell



Lake Mead



Actions

- Federal authorities
 - ✓ *Supplemental EIS (4 maf red'n)*
- Voluntary response (\$4 B)
 - ✓ *LC Conservation program (IRA)*
 - ✓ *LB conservation ~3.22 maf for 2023 - 26 (Bucket 1 agreements)*
 - ✓ *CA contributed 1.2 maf towards 1.6 maf goal*
 - ✓ *Negotiating longer-term agreements (post 2026, Bucket 2)*

Dec '24 total system storage ~42% (24.8 maf)



Your water is our promise

CVWD conservation activities

Short-term actions

- Replenishment Facilities Curtailment
 - ✓ 2022 - 9,083 af conserved (500+ Plan) - *completed*
 - ✓ 2023 to 2026 - 35 taf/yr (up to 140 taf total) conserved (IRA) – *active*
 - ✓ *2026 extension*
- Colorado River Ag Fallowing
 - ✓ 2024 to 2026 – up to 10 taf/yr (up to 30 taf total) conserved (IRA) - *active*
 - 2024 – 1,063 af conserved

Longer-term actions (IRA)

- WRP 4 Upgrade Project
 - ✓ *in progress, agreement signed 12/16/24*
 - ✓ *1,120 af/yr, 30-yr duration*
- Golf Course Conservation Program
 - ✓ *rejected*

Voluntary
Temporary
Compensated



2024 headlines

Biden-Harris Administration Puts Colorado River on Path to Success

Investments from President Biden's Investing in America agenda have staved off crisis in the Colorado River Basin

Alternatives released today lay out necessary steps towards consensus agreement for post-2026 operations

Home >> News >> Politics and Government >> Nevada

'Clear as mud': Feds offer vague window into Colorado River talks

Today's Headlines: Negotiations have yet to produce a deal for the shrinking Colorado River LA Times

Western states don't really want to solve the Colorado River crisis | Opinion

It takes more than saying you have an open door to break the logjam on Colorado River negotiations. Someone actually has to act.



Joanna Allhands

Arizona Republic

Published 12:04 p.m. MT Dec. 11, 2024 | Updated 6:41 a.m. MT Dec. 12, 2024



WATER

Colorado has big dreams to use more water from the Colorado River. But will planned reservoirs ever be built?

Cities, conservancy districts, energy companies own rights for 2.6 million acre-feet of additional water storage on the Western Slope.

Federal Judge Cites Upper Colorado River Basin's Compact Call Risk

By **jfleck** on October 18, 2024

NEWS: WATER

What is behind the high-stakes standoff over the Colorado River's future? State negotiators have their say.



Your water is our promise

Issues to be resolved (simplified)

Lower Basin

- LB's 7.5 maf & MX's 1.5 maf fully used
 - ✓ *consumptive use reduced from 10.7 maf in 2000 to 7.2 maf in 2023 (33%)*
- Total system approach
- LB & MX to reduce up to 1.5 maf
 - ✓ *evaporation loss & rebuild storage*
 - ✓ *based on successful agreement*
- > 1.5 maf of reductions to be shared
- Compact compliance as baseline
 - ✓ *75 maf over 10 years + ½ of MX obligations*

Upper Basin

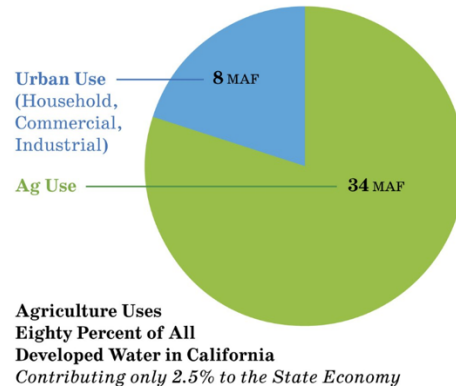
- UB's 7.5 maf not fully used
 - ✓ *increase use from 4.5 maf to 6 maf*
- Disagreement on total system approach
 - ✓ *UB reservoirs should not be used*
 - ✓ *protect Lake Powell at expense of Lake Mead*
- “Hydrologic shortage”
 - ✓ *no sharing of reductions*
 - ✓ *no agreement on compact compliance & share of MX delivery*

Will we make the 2026 deadline?

- New federal administration
- Agreements
- Environmental coverage
- Continued discussions

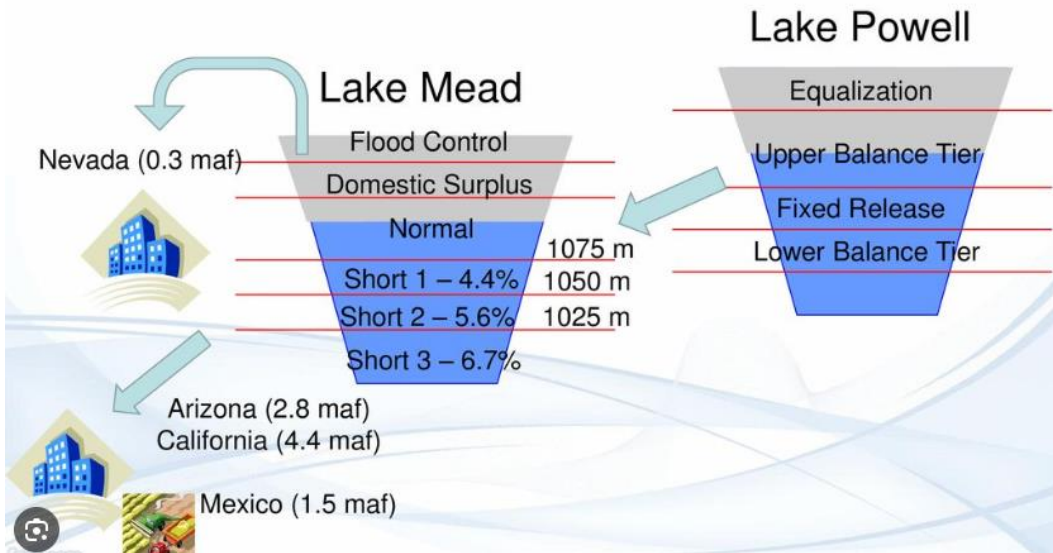


- ✓ *ag & urban*
- ✓ *Intra-CA discussions*
- ✓ *AZ & CA*
- ✓ *Lower Basin & Upper Basin*
- ✓ *US & MX*
- ✓ *Fed/State/Tribal consultations*
- ✓ *NGOs*



Questions?

2007 - Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead





Esther Saenz

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND FUTURE GENERAL MANAGER,
DESERT WATER AGENCY



Water Supply

Groundwater, Streams & Imported Water

Water
COUNTS
ACADEMY

ESTHER SAENZ, FINANCE DIRECTOR
DESERT WATER AGENCY
JANUARY 28, 2025

DESERT WATER



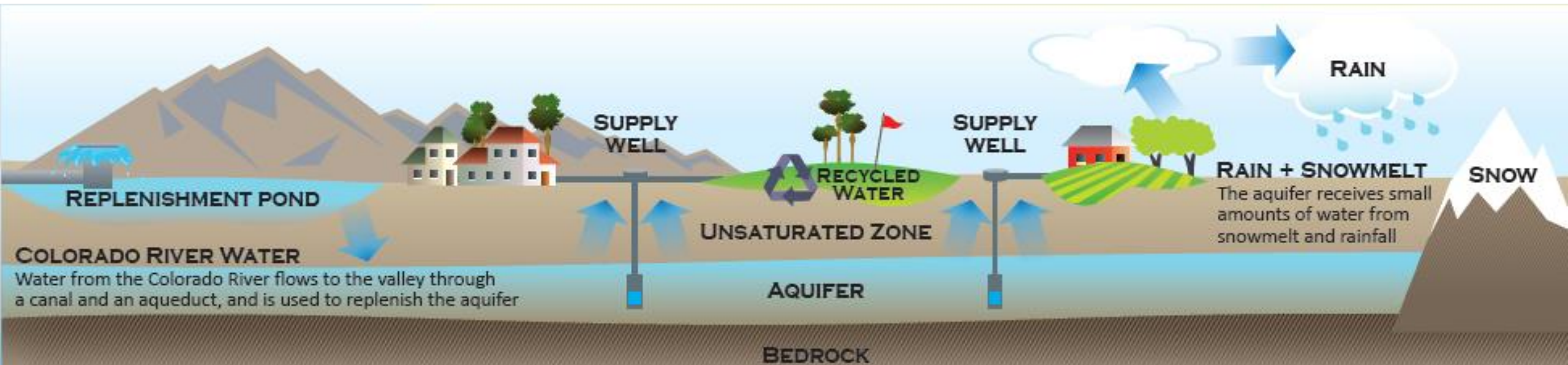
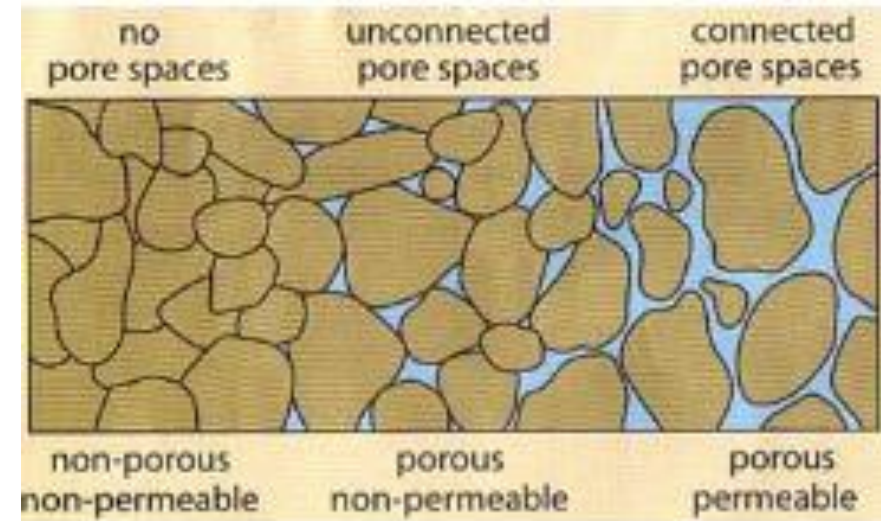
Streams

- Chino Creek, Falls Creek, Snow Creek, Whitewater River
- Less than 1% of supply valley wide

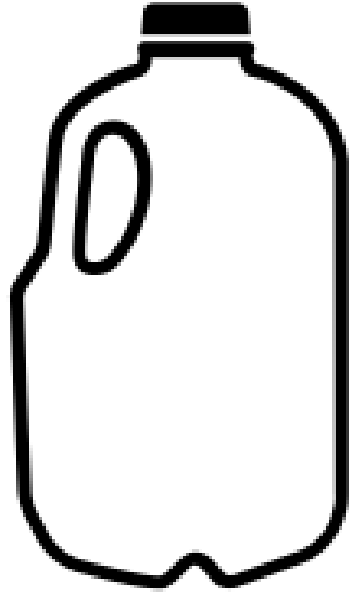


Aquifer

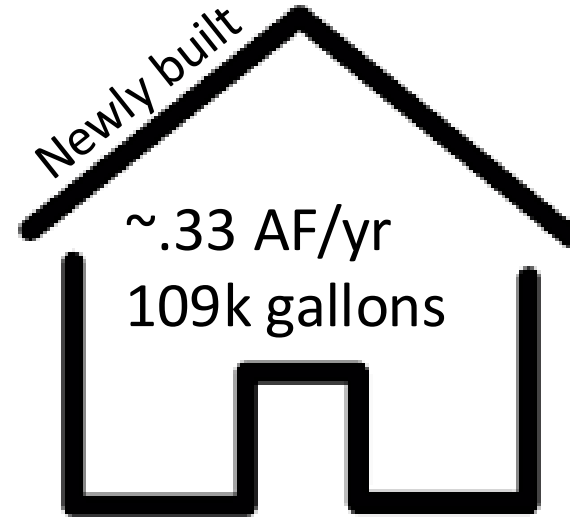
- 39.2 MAF storage capacity in first 1000 ft
- Each year valley uses about .3 MAF of groundwater
- About 130 years worth of water
- Depth to water varies



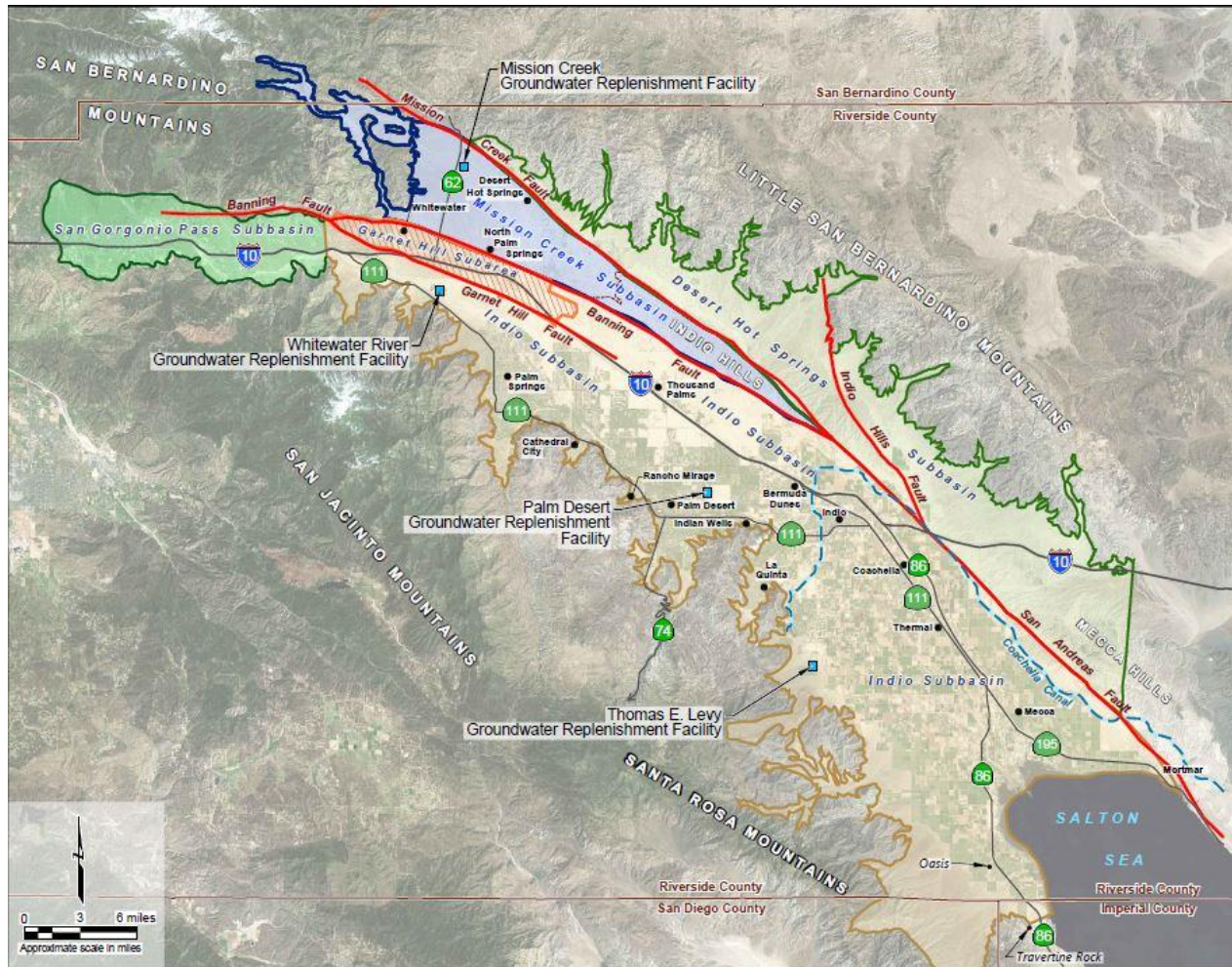
Acre foot







325,851
gallons



Subbasin map



Groundwater Subbasins in the Coachella Valley

	Desert Hot Springs	4.1 MAF
	Garnet Hills Subarea	1 MAF
	Indio/Whitewater River	28.8 MAF
	Mission Creek	2.6 MAF
	San Gorgonio	2.7 MAF



State Water Contractor



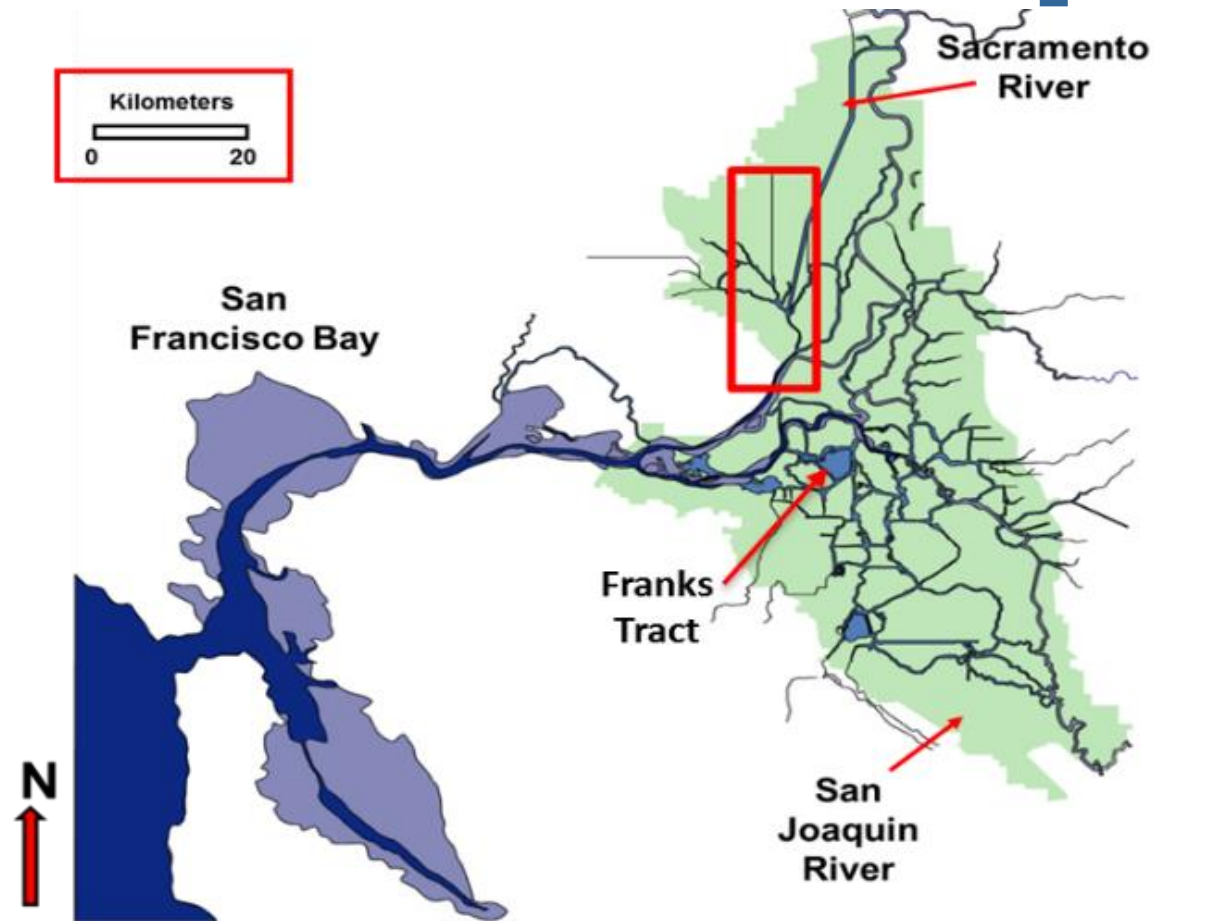
- Two of 29 in the state
- That's why DWA was formed back in 1961
- Work with DWR to maintain statewide system
- Pay to import water



Sierra Nevada



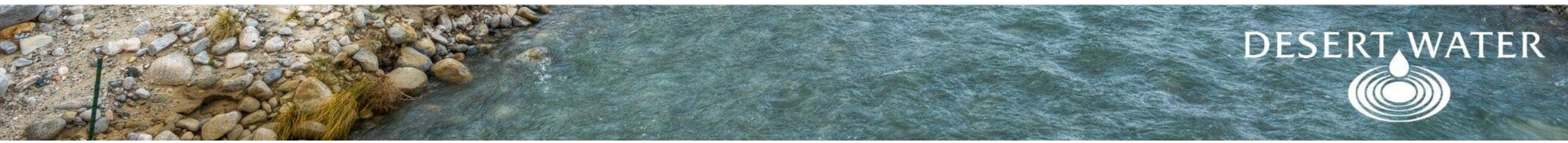
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta



The Delta



- More than 30 million acre-feet flow through each year
- About half the total river flow in the state passes through this region
- Supplies an estimated 7 million acre-feet of water per year to approximately 23 million people

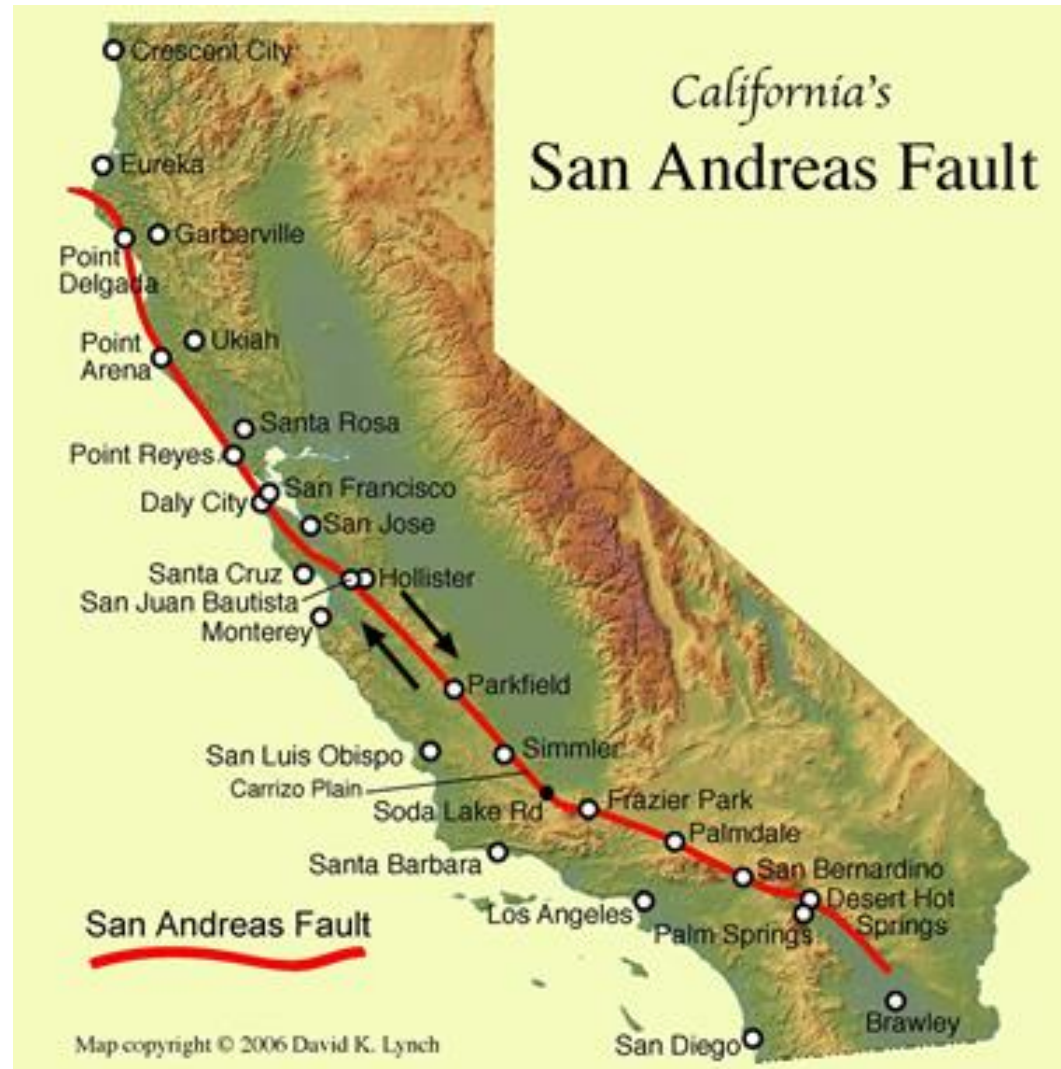


Regulations

DELTA SMELT NEAR EXTINCTION



Earthquakes

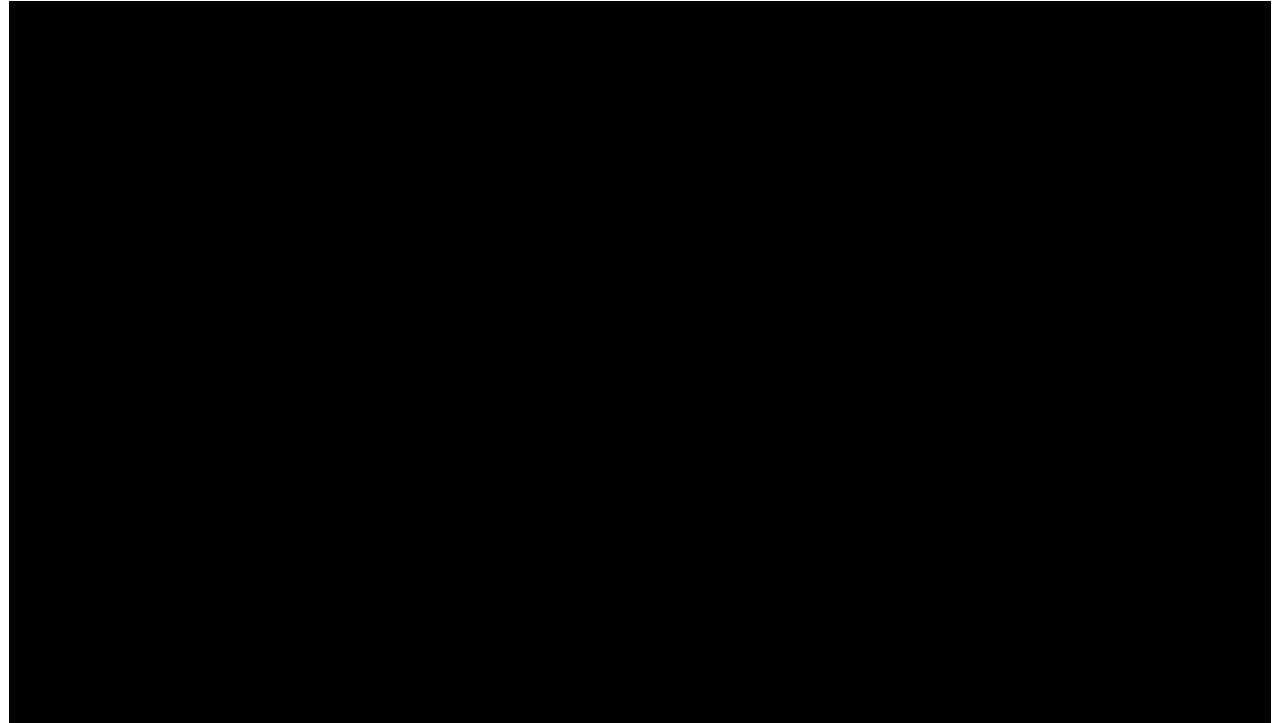


Earthquakes

Typical water flow
snowmelt/
reservoir releases

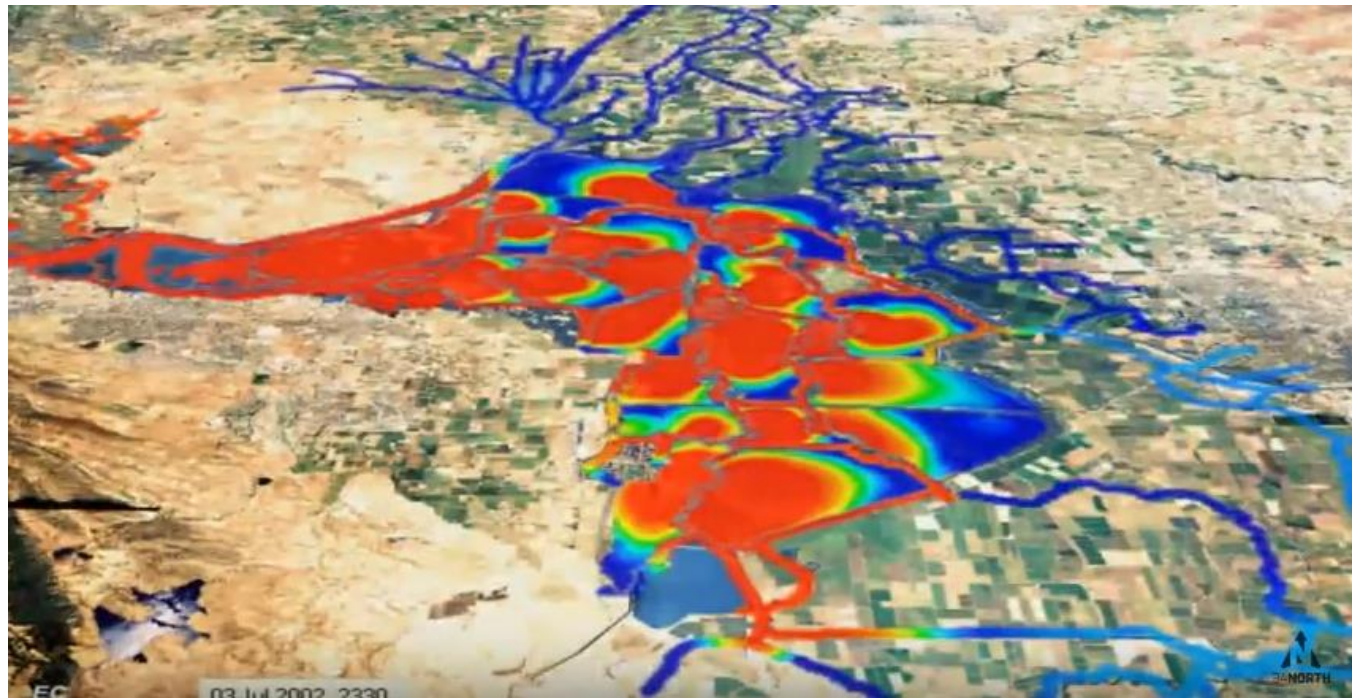


Earthquake
ocean





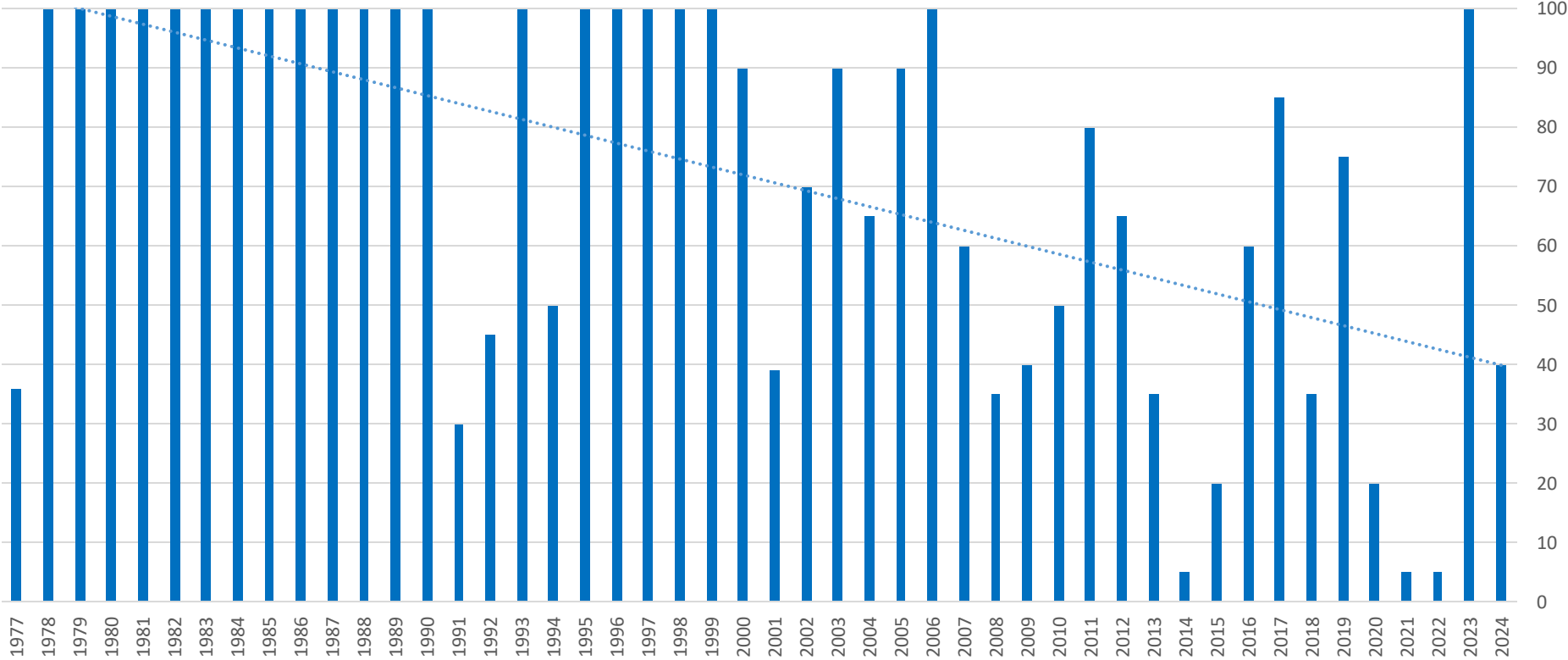
Before



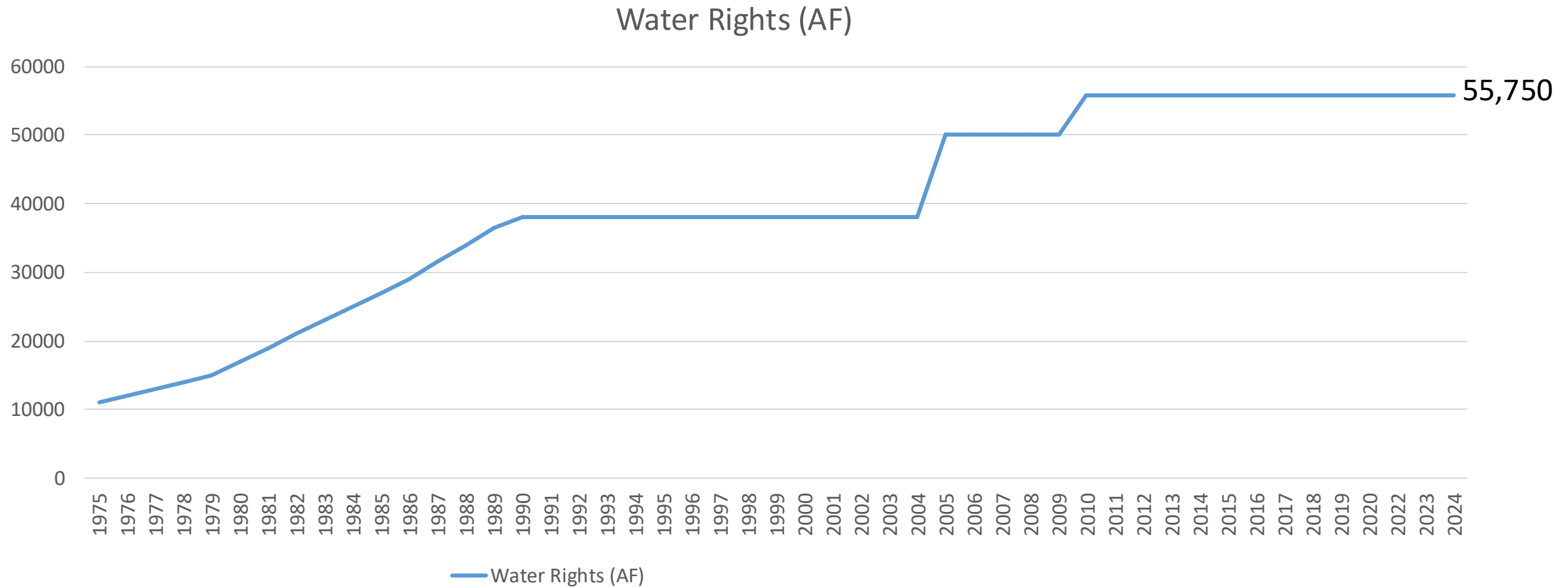
After

State Water Project reliability

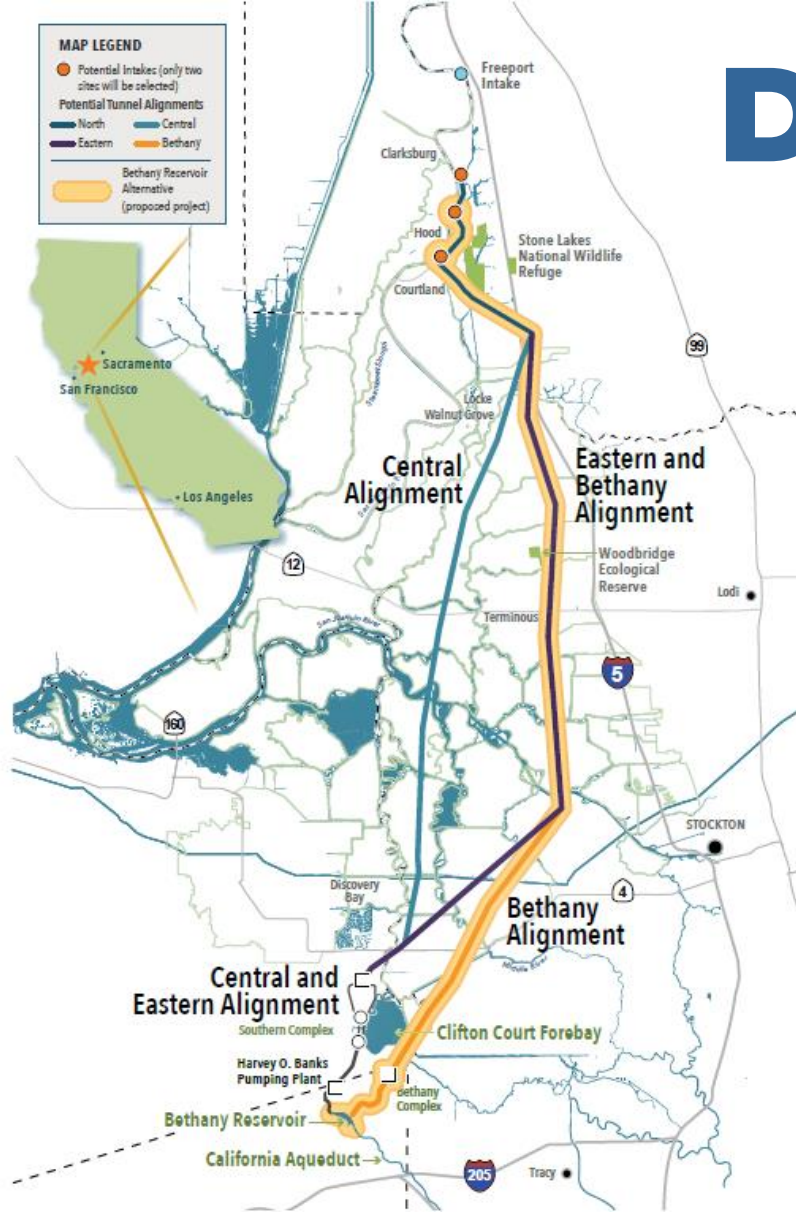
Percent of Water Entitlement (Allocation)



DWA State Water Project imports



Delta Conveyance Project



- Single tunnel
- Increase reliability and deliveries
- Less vulnerable to quakes
- DWR approved the project & certified the final EIR on Dec.21, 2023.
- Won't be completed for decades



Sites Reservoir

Flexible Storage Solution

- Does not rely on snowpack
- Adapts to future climate change
- Fills during more frequent flooding events
- Is ideal for dry year water supply
- Potentially increases overall water supply for domestic and irrigation purposes
- The Bureau of Reclamation & Sites Project Authority certified the final EIR in Nov. 2023
- Construction is projected to start in 2026



DESERT WATER



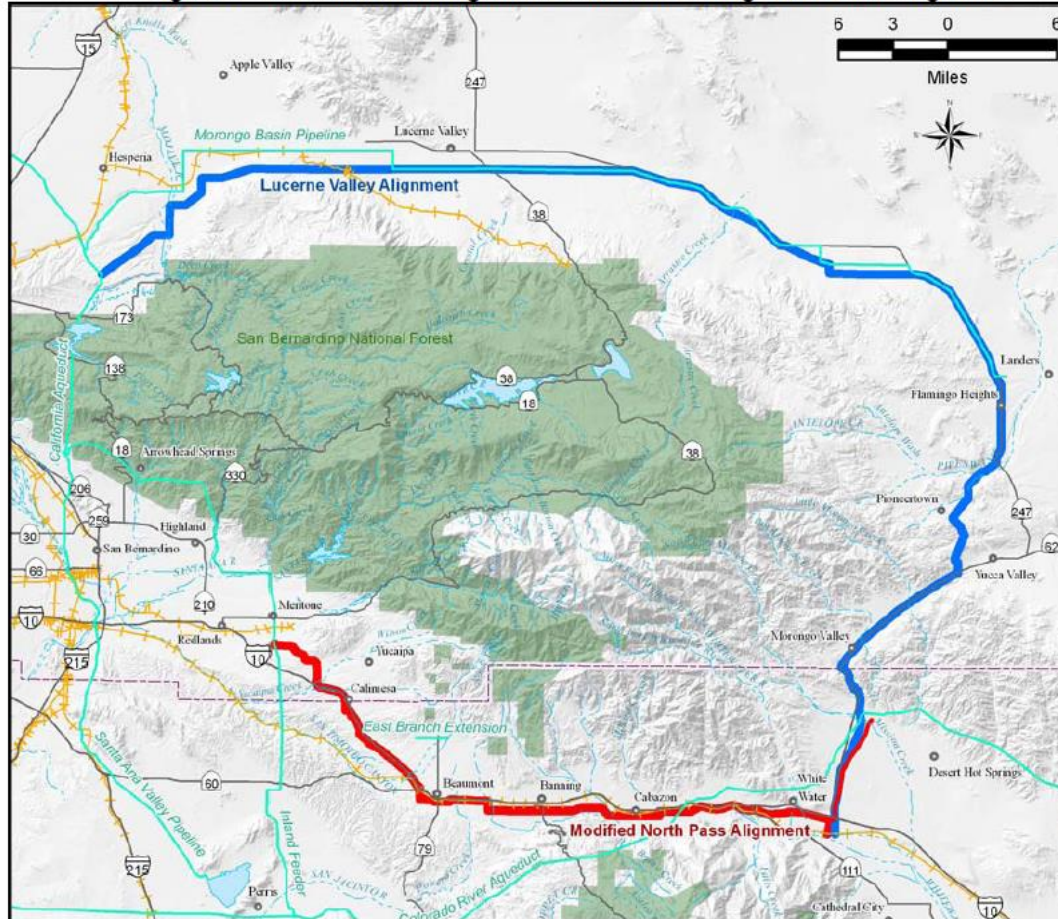
SoCal end point

- Ends at Lake Perris
- Furthest east extension in Beaumont



Possible routes to valley

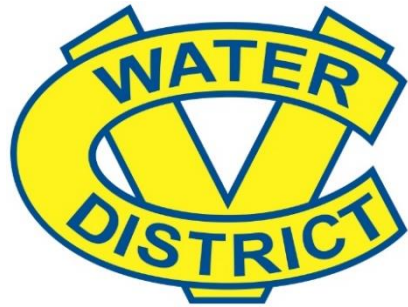
Figure 1-3 SWP Extension Alignments Evaluated During Phase 2 Investigations



- Two routes
 - Lucerne Valley
 - 88 miles
 - San Gorgonio Pass
 - 38 miles
- Would cost about \$1.6B (not adjusted for inflation)



MWD exchange



- Trade Colorado River water for State water
- Avoid building +\$1.6B pipeline
- Saves ratepayer money
- Guaranteed delivery
- Get advanced deliveries to help groundwater levels



Colorado River



- Trade Colorado River water for State water
- Avoid building +\$1.6B pipeline
- Saves ratepayer money
- Get advanced deliveries to help groundwater levels



Water replenishment

- Two west valley facilities for SWP
- One mid-valley location
- One east valley location



Whitewater Hydro



Whitewater River



Whitewater River



Whitewater Groundwater Replenishment Facility



Whitewater Groundwater Replenishment Facility



Thank you!

Esther Saenz
esaenz@dwa.org
760-323-4971



Live Water Wise

It's easy. Repair drips and leaks. A leak as small as the tip of a pen can waste more than 200 gallons per day.

CVWaterCounts.com.

Water
COUNTS





Live Water Wise

It's **easy**. Convert your front or back yard to drought-friendly landscaping and save on average 230 gallons per day.

CVWaterCounts.com.

Water
COUNTS





Live Water Wise

It's easy. Water your yard during non-daylight hours. More water will reach the roots, and less water will evaporate.

CVWaterCounts.com.

Water
COUNTS

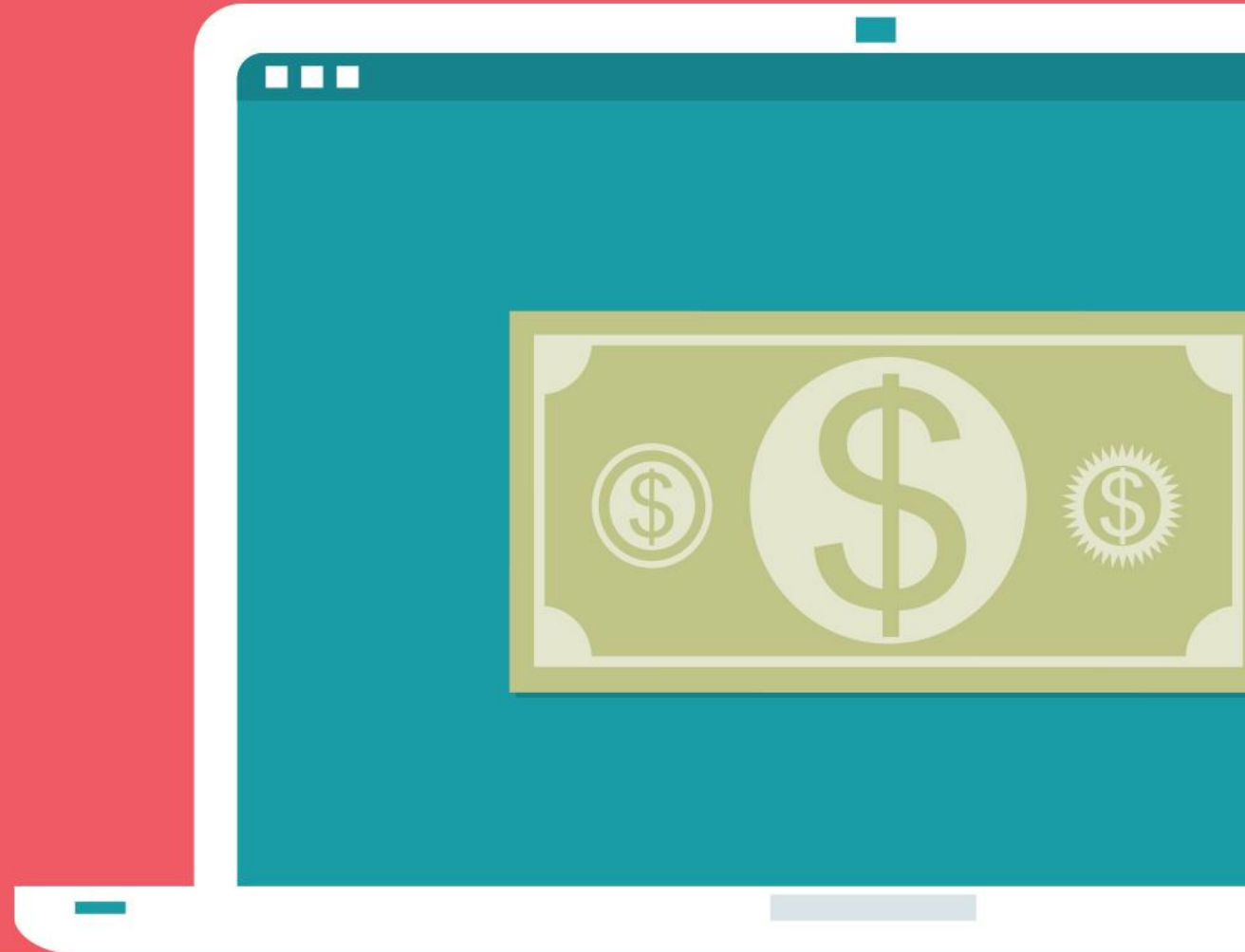


Live Water Wise

It's **easy**. Check with your water agency to see what rebates are available, to save water, money, and beautify your home!

CVWaterCounts.com.

Water
COUNTS





Please watch for and complete our survey. Thank you!

