



Update on Interstate Streams Issues for Green River Basin Advisory Group

**Presentation by
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Topics For Today's Presentation:

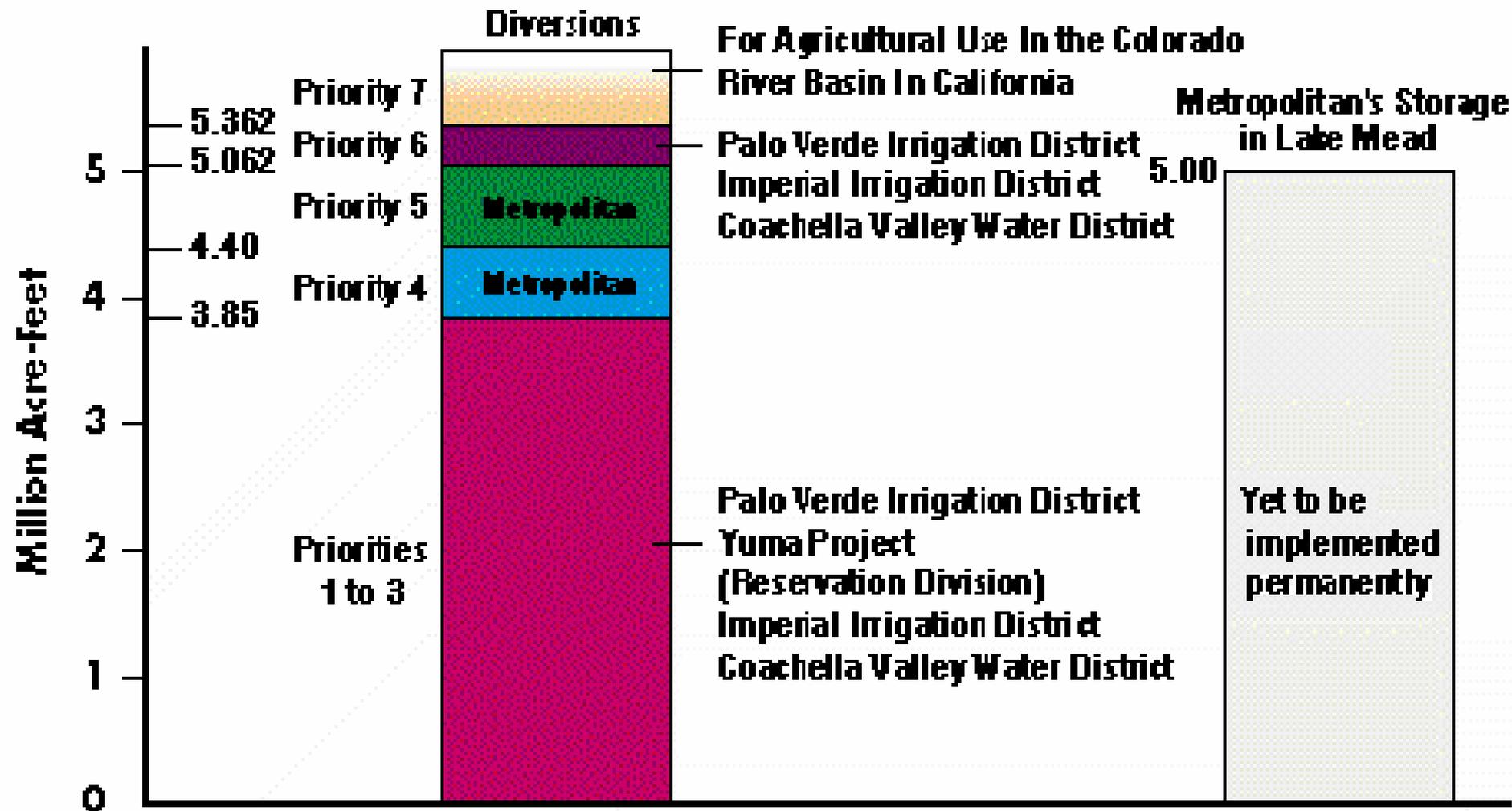
- California's Colorado River Water Use Plan
 - Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) execution needs to occur by 12/31/2002
 - June 14, 2002 House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee and California Senate Agriculture And Water Resources Committee Joint Field Hearing in LaQuinta, CA
- Development of the 2003 Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River Reservoir System
- USBR Process for Five Year Review of the Coordinated Long Range Operating Criteria
- Update on Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Activities
- Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards
 - August 13th Public Meeting in Rock Springs
- Mexico Colorado River Delta Discussions

House Panel Holds Oversight Hearing on California's Colorado River Water Use Plan

- On June 14, 2002, the Water and Power Subcommittee of the House Resources Committee held a field oversight hearing in LaQuinta, CA on "Implementation of the California Plan for the Colorado River: Opportunities and Challenges."
- The hearing was a joint hearing held by both the House Resources Subcommittee and the California Senate Agriculture And Water Resources Committee.
- Testimony was presented by:
 - The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science
 - The Imperial Irrigation District
 - The Coachella Valley Water District
 - The San Diego County Water Authority
 - Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
 - California Department of Water Resources
 - Salton Sea Authority

Allocation of California's Colorado River Entitlements:

WATER CONTRACTS' PRIORITIES



California's *Colorado River Water Use Plan* was published in May 2000. It remains in "draft" format in order to accommodate appropriate changes and adjustments during the 15-year interim period (2002 through 2016) while its elements are put into place.

This is a working draft of California's Colorado River Water Use Plan. It is subject to further editing and revisions based on additional information, comments received and ongoing associated environmental reviews of Plan components. The draft Plan will be finalized following completion of the environmental reviews and the subsequent execution of agreements associated with the Plan which are scheduled to occur before the end of January 2001.

CALIFORNIA'S
DRAFT
COLORADO RIVER WATER
USE PLAN

COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
THE RESOURCES AGENCY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Issues surrounding the Salton Sea Are Closely Interconnected
With and Potentially May Affect Environmental Review and
Compliance Associated with the California Plan

Salton Sea

C1169-300-020855



Testimony of the Salton Sea Authority at the June 14th House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee Field Hearing in LaQuinta, CA

- The Salton Sea Authority (SSA) is not opposed to the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) nor, necessarily, to the transfer of water from the IID to the SDCWA and the CVWD and/or Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.
- The SSA understands the need and generally supports the implementation of the California 4.4 Plan, which is designed to reduce California's use of Colorado River water.
- However, the SSA is deeply concerned about how water will be transferred and the environmental effects of the water transfers. The SSA Board of Directors has adopted the following positions with respect to water transfers:
 - Oppose projects which significantly lower the level of the Sea;
 - Insist that water transfers comply with environmental laws;
 - Urge that water transfers are accomplished consistent with the goals and objectives of full Sea restoration.

Testimony of the Salton Sea Authority at the June 14th House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee Field Hearing in LaQuinta, CA - continued

- The Salton Sea is one of the most important ecosystems in the United States for birds.
- As proposed, water transfers could make restoration of the Salton Sea infeasible and have other significant impacts on the health of the environment and economics of the Coachella and Imperial Valleys.
- Water transfer solutions must properly mitigate impacts on the Salton Sea and address economic and social impacts in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys.
- Restoration is projected to cost about \$250 million, present value, under “current inflows”, and balloon to over \$2 or \$3 billion or more under the reduced inflows envisioned in the Draft EIS/EIR. Whether restoration costs start at \$250 million or \$500 million ... , reduced inflows have a dramatic effect on restoration costs; a Sea that is made smaller and saltier is very difficult to “restore”.

Testimony of the Salton Sea Authority at the June 14th House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee Field Hearing in LaQuinta, CA - continued

- “Conclusions:
 - The Sea is a critical environmental resource. Restoration of the Sea is made extremely costly and, very likely, impractical with major reductions of inflow.
 - The Proposed Project has significant detrimental impacts on the Sea. Those impacts should be avoided, through pursuing conservation alternatives that do not reduce inflows to the Sea, or they should be fully mitigated.
 - The Authority has been diligently testing and demonstrating projects and programs to improve the Sea and, with your continued support, is committed to its restoration.”

Testimony of Bennett Raley, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science at the June 14th House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee Field Hearing in LaQuinta, CA

- Noted the “phenomenal” progress over the last decade towards reducing CA’s Colorado River water use.
- Described California’s 4.4 Plan as critical to southern California, but added, “... while we remain hopeful and resolute in our desire to implement the California Plan, we are increasingly concerned that California water management agencies will not meet one of the critical milestones for implementation of the California 4.4 Plan... We are concerned that [they] may not execute the draft Quantification Settlement Agreement [QSA] by December 31, 2002.”

Testimony of Bennett Raley, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science at the June 14th House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee Field Hearing in LaQuinta, CA - continued

- “The Secretary must make certain determinations ... [about] availability of surplus water in the Lower Colorado River basin. These determinations are to be implemented in the context of the Annual Operating Plan, which is required, by statute, to be finalized by January 1, 2003.”
- “The Department understands that complex legal, policy and economic issues ... have created an unexpected challenge for implementation of the CA 4.4. Plan... However, under the Law of the River, the Secretary must also consider the rights and interests of the other States in the Colorado River Basin, and the obligation to comply with the requirements of the Mexican Treaty of 1944... California has no legal right to the continued use of water in excess of 4.4. MAF in a normal year.”

Testimony of Bennett Raley, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science at the June 14th House Resources Water and Power Subcommittee Field Hearing in LaQuinta, CA - continued

- Perhaps the most visible, most complex, and single most important feature of the CA 4.4 Plan is the voluntary transfer of large quantities of Colorado River water from irrigation to municipal and industrial uses. Absent completion of the QSA, the contemplated water transfers cannot proceed. Absent these water transfers, the California 4.4 Plan will fail... In such an event, the Secretary ... will enforce the Decree in *Arizona v. California* and California may well suffer an abrupt and major reduction in Colorado River water supplies."

Status of the CA Colo. R. Water Use Plan:

- The QSA is the linchpin of California's plan to reduce its annual dependence on Colo. R. water to 4.4 MAFY during years when the Secretary of the Interior makes a "normal water supply" declaration.
- Progress is being made but there are critical issues remaining to be resolved in a short period of time.
- Resolution of Salton Sea issues are critical – CA will likely amend its "Fully Protected Species" state statute to allow incidental take.
- All CA water interests are making concessions.
- Interim Surplus and Shortage Criteria have been implemented.
- The Six States and the Department of the Interior are together on these issues.

2003 Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River Reservoir System

- Development of the 2003 Annual Operating Plan for the Colorado River Reservoir System is “on hold”
 - Waiting to see if CA will be able to complete all NEPA and ESA requirements that must precede execution of the Implementation Agreement for the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA)
- The Colorado River Management Work Group will meet on August 5th.
 - The Basin States want to avoid a fight over implementing the operational reversion to the spill avoidance operation strategy (so-called 70R Strategy) in the event CA is unable to execute the QSA by the end of 2002.
 - The reversion provision is contained within the Interim Surplus Guidelines promulgated by the Department of the Interior on January 16, 2001.

Review of the 1970 Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs

- The 1970 Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs (CLROC) specify that the Secretary of the Interior conduct a formal review of the CLROC at least once every five years.
 - Secretary must consult with the Governor-designated representatives of the seven Colorado River Basin States and other parties and agencies as the Secretary may deem appropriate.
 - Public process which allows the Secretary to modify the CLROC as a result of actual operating experience or unforeseen circumstances.
 - August 2002 *Federal Register* notice of comments received to date, Reclamation's responses and notification of upcoming public consultation meeting and final comment period.

Review of the 1970 Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs - continued

- August 2002 -- *Federal Register* notice of comments received to date, Reclamation's responses and notification of upcoming public consultation meeting and final comment period.
- September 2002 -- Public consultation meeting to "re-consult" with the public on possible revisions to the Operating Criteria
- October 2002 -- End of comment period
- November 2002 – In-depth analysis of additional public comments on possible revisions to the Operating Criteria
 - Draft Reclamation position
- December 2002 – *Federal Register* notice of Reclamation's proposed action
- February 2003 – Secretarial decision and *Federal Register* notice of final decision regarding the Operating Criteria



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

Current High-Profile Issues and Activities

- Proposed language has been submitted to U.S. Congressional committees to amend P.L. 106-392
 - Program participants wish to extend appropriation and implementation authorization period for Recovery Program capital construction projects from 2005 to 2008.
 - This legislation has been introduced as H.R. 5099.
 - The participating States (CO, UT and WY for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and CO and NM for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program) will be seeking the support of their Congressional Delegations.
- Environmental group representation on Program Committees on account of Environmental Defense withdrawing from Program participation.
- Publication of Notice of Availability of final recovery goals for the four endangered fish will occur by the end of July, 2002.



16.8 pound, 37 inch female Colorado pikeminnow removed from Redlands Passageway fish trap on July 3. This female apparently had not been handled previously, as the fish did not have any radio transmitter implant scars or muscle plug scars in its dorsal musculature. Crews could not detect a PIT tag when scanned. The fish's stomach was concave indicating she was probably spent. This is the largest Colo. pikeminnow to date to pass through the Redlands passageway facility since it began operation in late-June 1996. The pikeminnow was PIT-tagged and released about 150 yards upstream from the Redlands Water and Power Company Diversion Dam.

Construction of the fish passage structure at the Grand Valley Irrigation Company Diversion near Grand Junction, Colorado is nearly complete (picture of construction progress from early this spring below)



December 6, 2001 – Signing of the Extension of the Cooperative Agreement document for the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (through September 30, 2013)

Left to right, Michael S. Hacskaylo (WAPA), Governor Jim Geringer, Governor Bill Owens and Secretary Gale Norton sign the extension document in the Colorado State Capitol Building in Denver, Colorado.



Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program

- Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum has conducted review of the water quality standards for salinity in the Colorado River
 - Approved 2002 Proposed *Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards for Salinity in the Colorado River Basin* report at June 4th Forum Meeting
 - Approved, for public review and comment, changes to the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum's *Policy for Implementation of Colorado River Salinity Standards Through the NPDES Permit Program* (subject of Bill DiRienzo's presentation to you earlier today)
 - Upcoming Public Meeting **in Rock Springs** on **August 13th**
 - **Will be held in Room 1302 at Western Wyoming Community College (2500 College Drive) and will start at 7:00 p.m.**

At its June 4th meeting in Silverthorne, CO, the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum approved the proposed 2002 Water Quality Standards review report.

Copies of the proposed “Triennial Review” Report are available here at this meeting for you to take home for your review, reference and files.

2002 Review

Water Quality Standards For Salinity Colorado River System (Proposed)



June 2002

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum

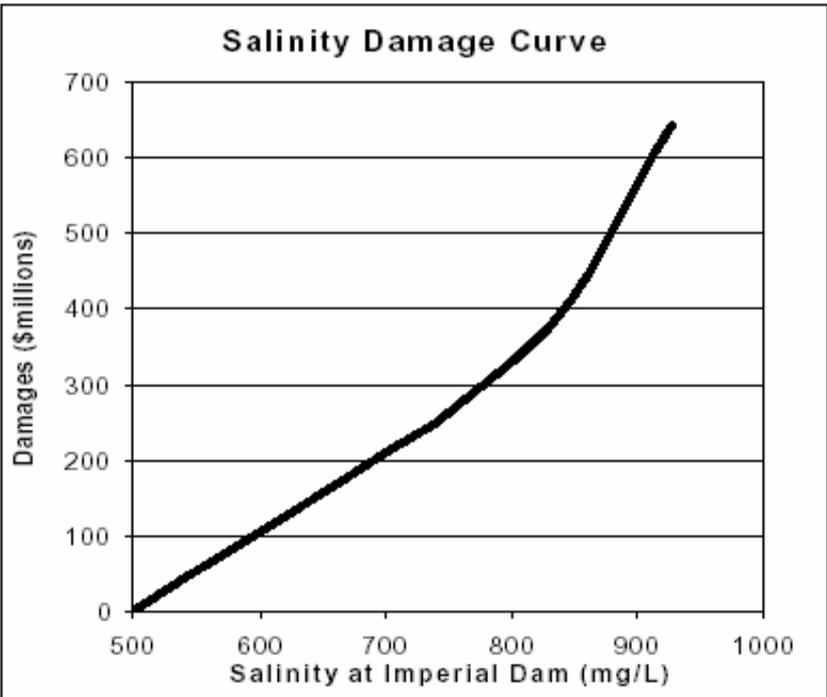


Figure 2-3. Salinity damages in Lower Basin.

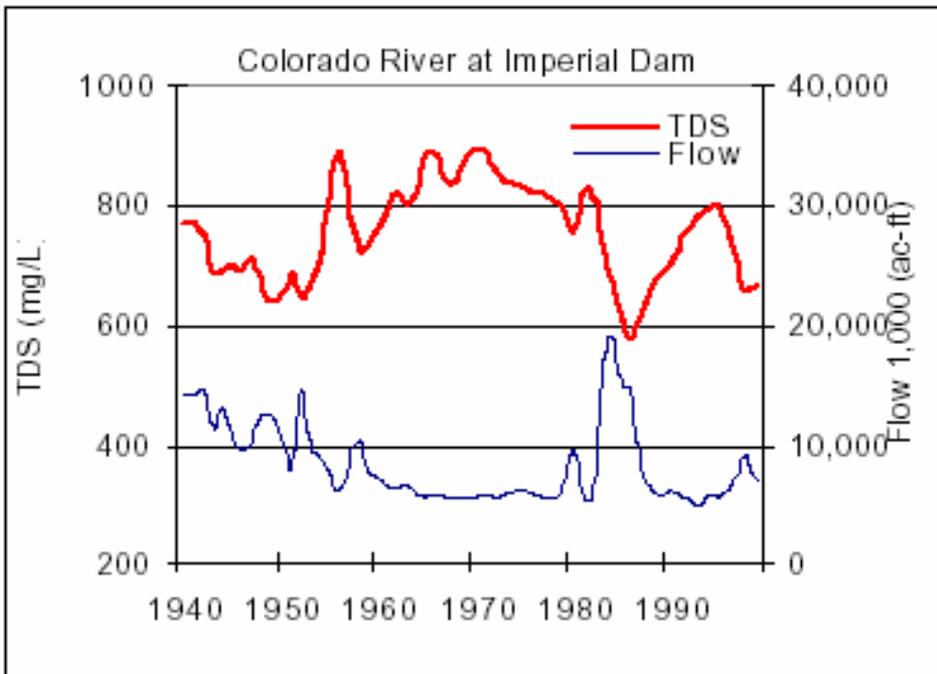


Figure 2-2. Salinity at Imperial Dam.

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program
Plan of Implementation (By 2020)
 Values in Tons of Salt Load Reduction Per Year

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Measures in Place</u>	<u>Potential New Measures</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bureau of Reclamation	482,000	500,000	982,000
U.S. Dept.of Agriculture	318,300	436,700	755,000
Bureau of Land Management	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Unidentified Other Measures	--	63,000	63,000
	800,300	999,700	1,800,000

Colorado River Delta in Mexico Issues:

- Minute 306.
- Binational Symposium held in Mexicali, Mexico in September 2001. Will a second symposium be held?
- Second meeting of the Seven Basin States Colo. R. Delta Technical Working Group held April 30th in Phoenix, AZ. Attempting to develop solutions that respect the current water apportionments.
- Third meeting of the Delta Technical Working Group to be held in Las Vegas on August 2nd.
- Environmental organizations are continuing to seek/believe they have succeeded in making the Colorado River Delta a major environmental issue.
- US/Mexico issues on the Rio Grande River – Basin States wish to avoid linkage with Colo. River issues

Minute No. 306 to the Mexican Water Treaty

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR
UNITED STATES - MEXICO STUDIES FOR FUTURE
RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE RIPARIAN
AND ESTUARINE ECOLOGY OF THE LIMITROPHE
SECTION OF THE COLORADO RIVER AND ITS
ASSOCIATED DELTA

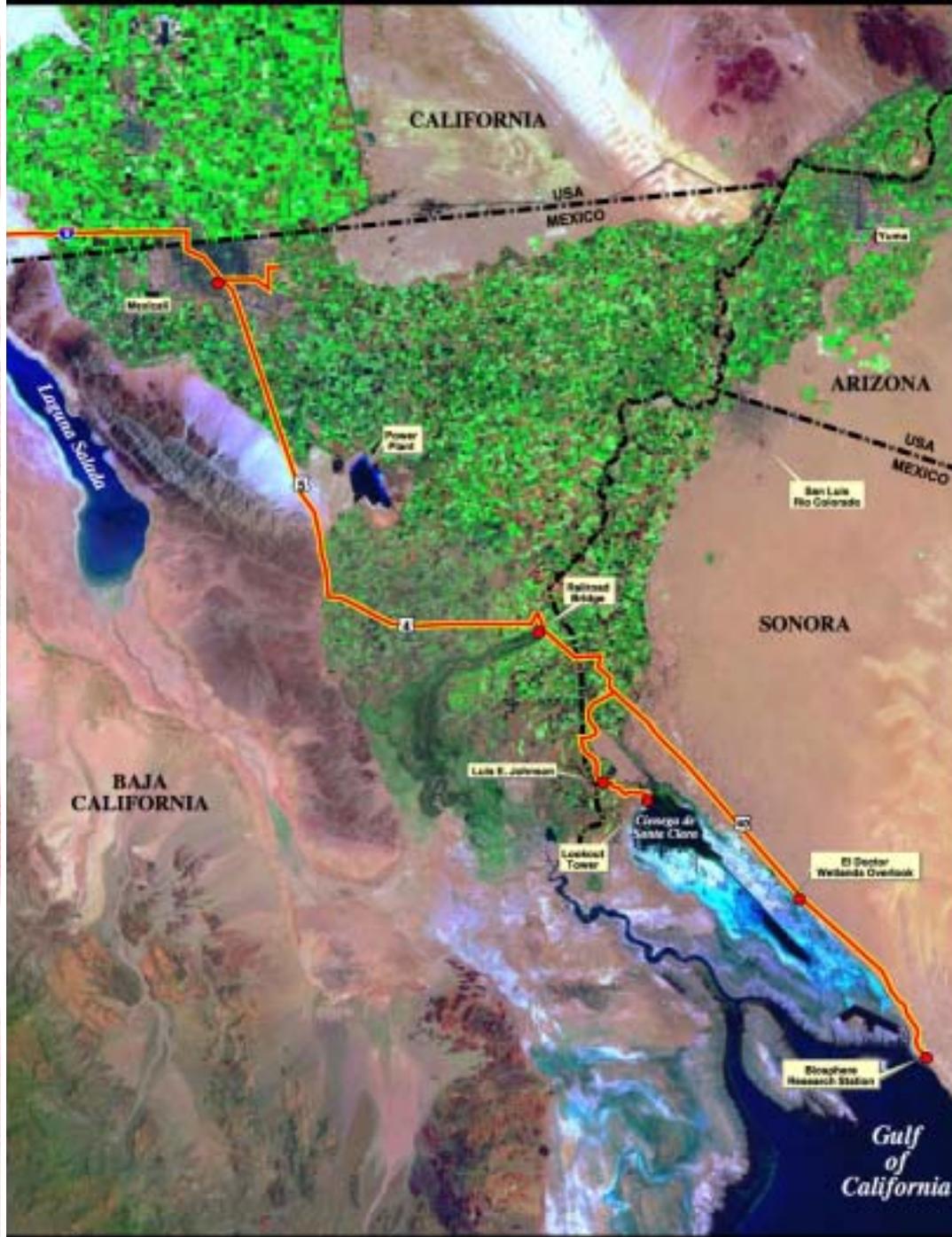
Signed December 12, 2000 by the Commissioners of the
United States and Mexican Sections of the International
Boundary and Water Commission

Minute No. 306 provides :

- The IBWC will establish a framework for cooperation by the United States and Mexico in developing binational studies, including possible approaches to ensure use of water for ecological purposes, and develop recommendations for cooperative projects in recognition of the interests of both governments in the preservation of the riparian and estuarine ecology of the Colorado River boundary segment and delta.
- The IBWC will examine the effect of flows on the existing riparian and estuarine ecology of the Colorado River boundary segment and delta with a focus on defining the habitat needs of species of concern to each country. This work will be carried out through an existing binational technical task force that was established to facilitate studies related to the Colorado River delta and Santa Clara Slough.
- The IBWC will establish a forum for the exchange of information and advice among government and non-government organizations in the United States and Mexico.

Colorado River Basin States' Ad Hoc Technical Committee on the Colorado River Delta

- Next Committee meeting is August 2nd in Las Vegas, NV. Pat Tyrrell and John Shields are Wyoming's committee representatives
- Purpose: Explore means by which to enhance water supplies available within Mexico for environmental, municipal, industrial and agricultural purposes without legal effect upon the permanent water rights of U.S. States or users of water pursuant to U.S. or U.S. state law.
- The Committee is developing a "broad brush" document that will provide an initial list of all of the potential water sources.

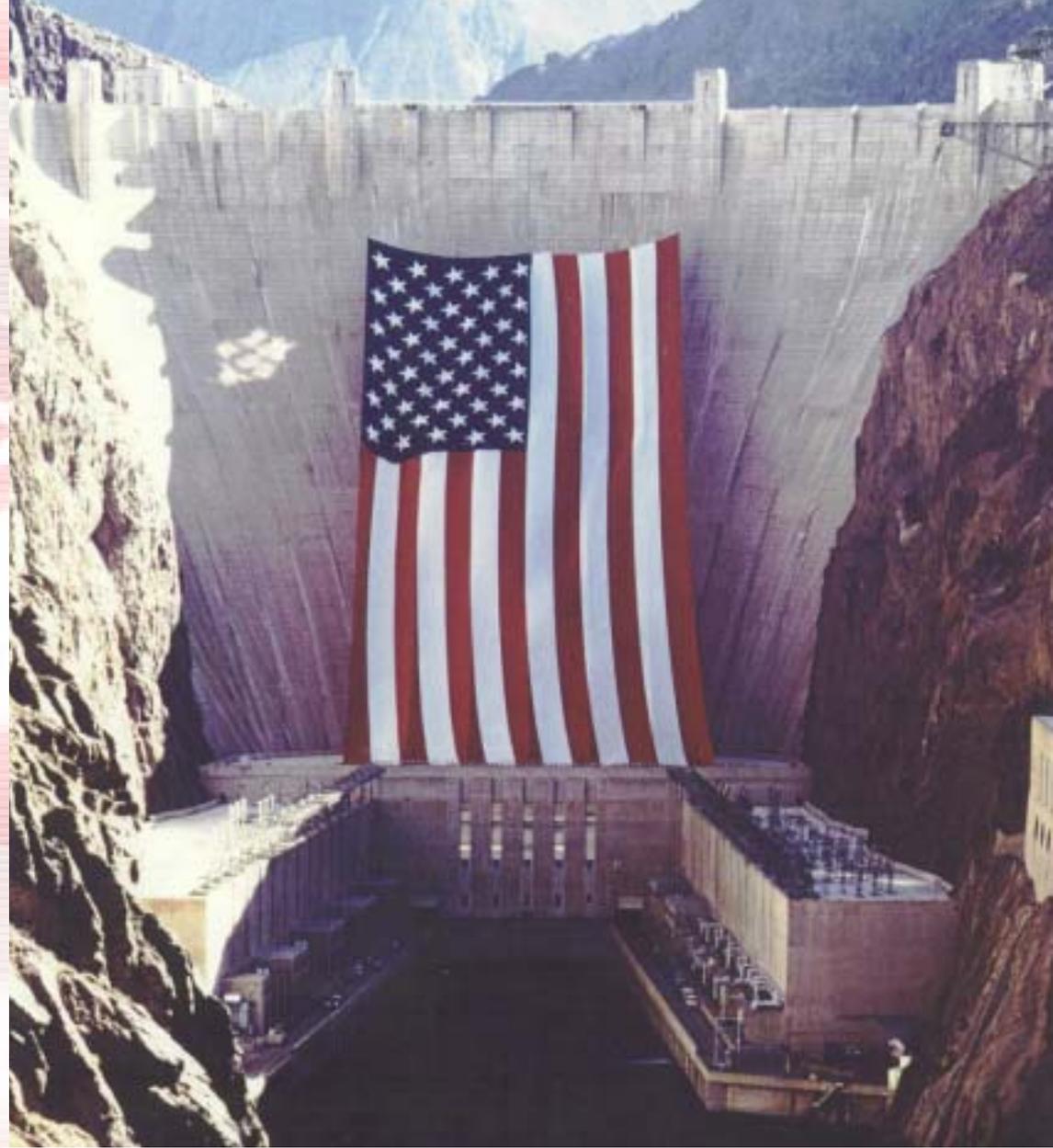


COLORADO RIVER DELTA OVERVIEW

Thank you for your
attention.



Congratulations to
the U.S. Bureau of
Reclamation on their
Centennial!



A Century of Water for the West
1902 - 2002