English YouTube stream:
youtube.com/@BoardWebSupport
Spanish & English streams:
video.calepa.ca.gov
To provide comment:
bit.ly/speaker-card-form

Welcome to the Salton Sea Management Program Annual Workshop!

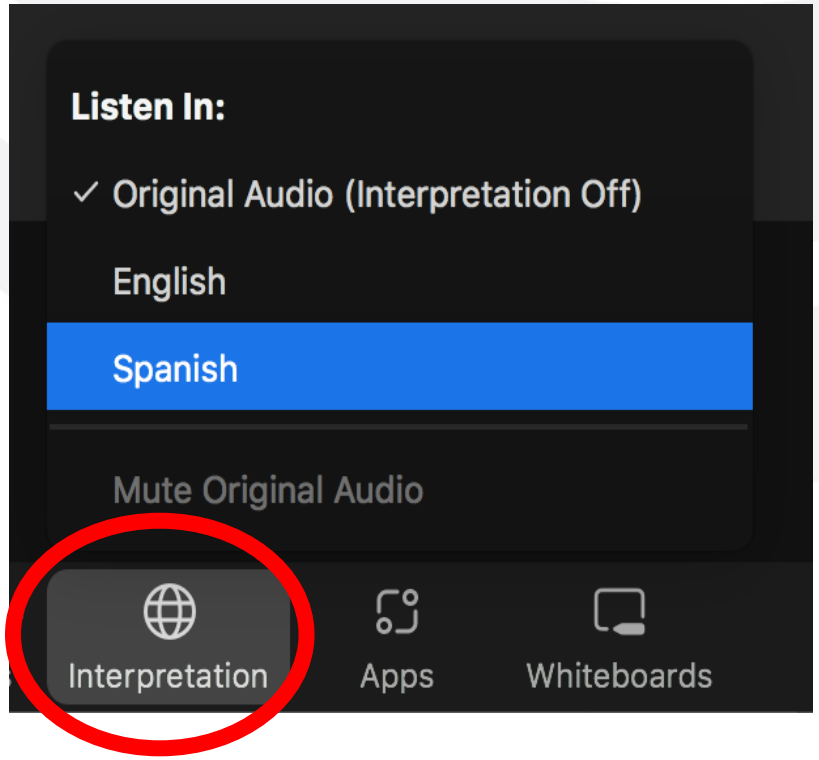
May 22, 2024
waterboards.ca.gov/saltonsea

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

Live interpretation is available in Spanish

English and Spanish streams/
video.calepa.ca.gov

To hear Spanish audio on Zoom, click the "Interpretation" globe button on the toolbar to switch audio channels



English audio will be on "Original audio"

To join Zoom: bit.ly/speaker-card-form

If you are in person, please raise your hand for a headset or if you have technical difficulties

Opening remarks

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Secretary Wade Crowfoot

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY (CNRA)

Tribal or elected officials

The State Water Board's Role in the Salton Sea Management Program

Stephanie Holstege
Senior Environmental Scientist
State Water Board

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

State Water Board Salton Sea Workshop

Seminario de la Junta Estatal de Agua sobre el lago Salton

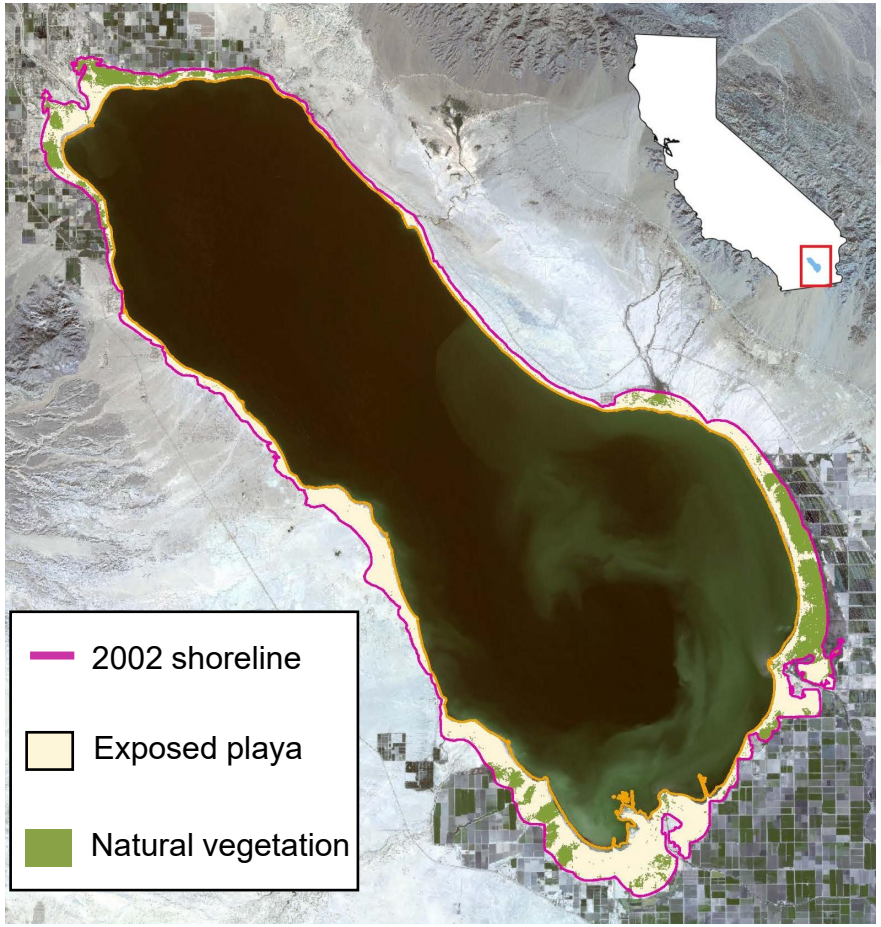
Overview

- Workshop Agenda
- Conditions at the Salton Sea
- Background of Board Actions
- Stipulated Order
- Annual Report
- Long-Range Plan
- Written Comments

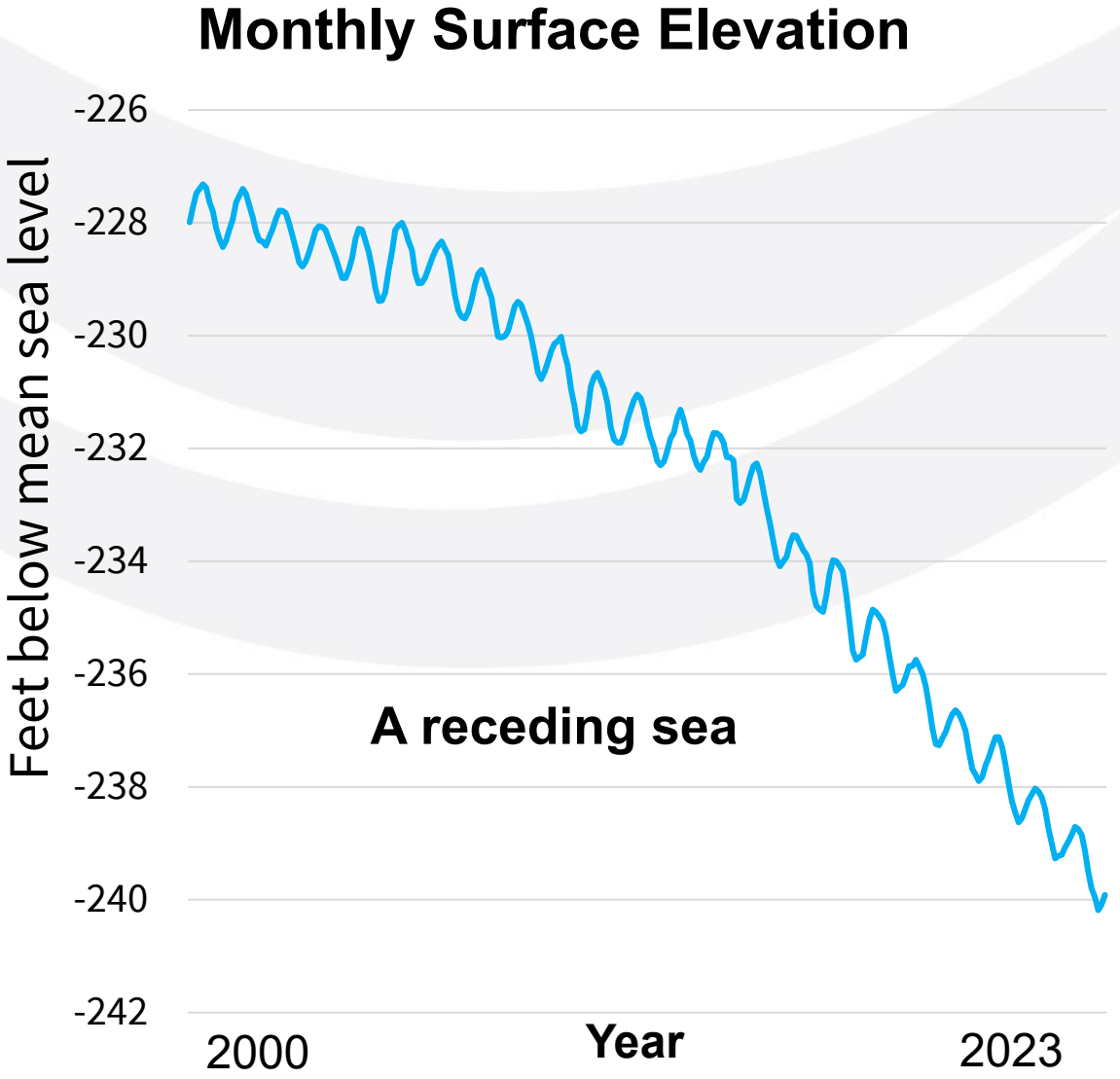
Workshop Agenda

9:00 AM	Opening Remarks
9:20 AM	Elected officials or their designated representative
9:35 AM	Water Board staff presentation
9:45 AM	Salton Sea Management Program Phase 1 Update
11:30 AM	Public comment
12:30 PM	Break
2:00 PM	Panel 1: Overview of Local Agencies' Partnership Salton Sea Projects
3:15 PM	Panel 2: Feasibility Study
4:30 PM	Public comment
6:30 PM	Board Member discussions and closing comments
~7:00 PM	Adjourn

Conditions at the Salton Sea

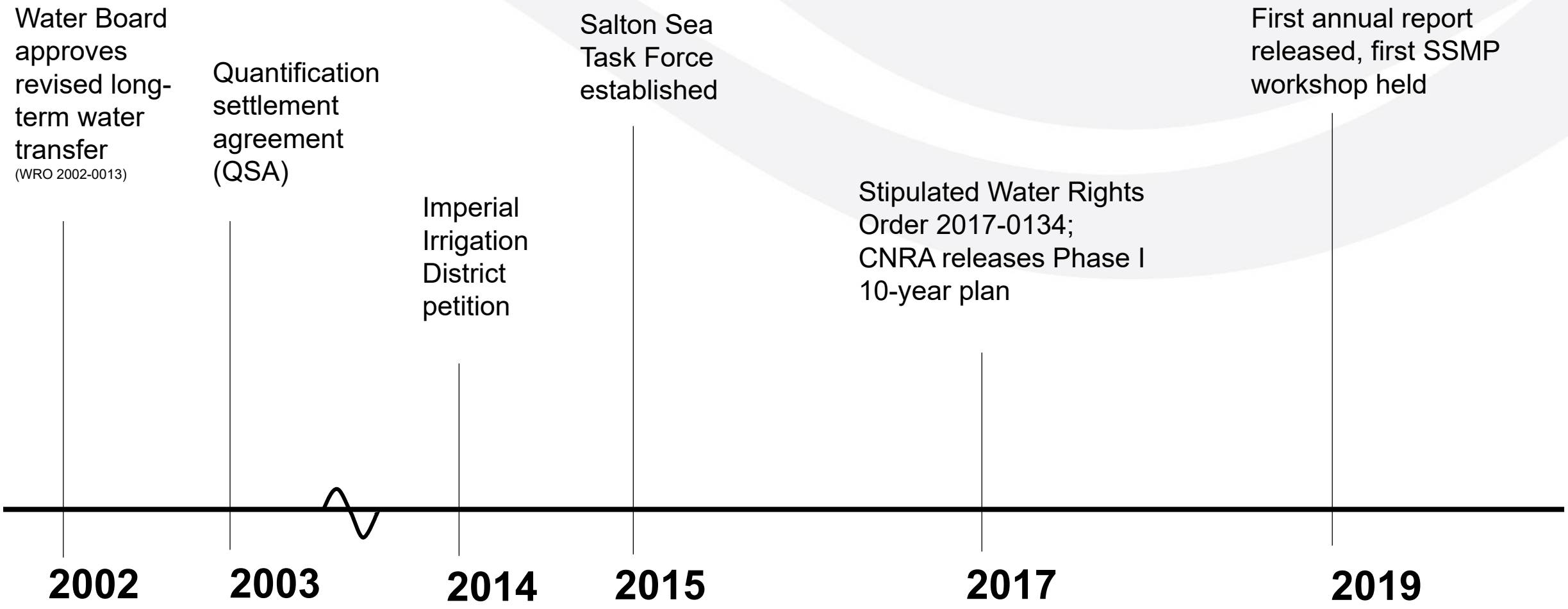


Net exposed playa: 17,190 acres (27 square miles)



Change from 2003 baseline elevation: -11.4 feet

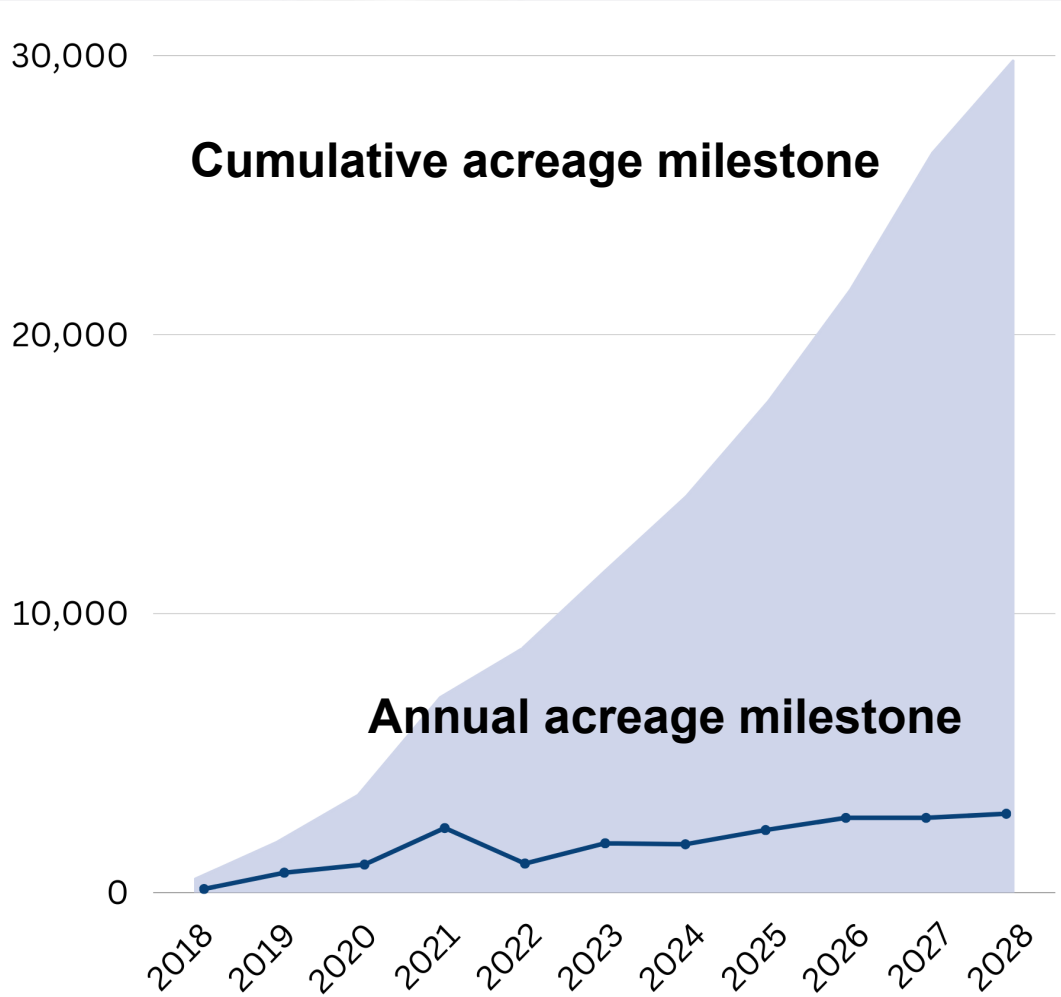
Background of Board Actions



Stipulated Order: Conditions 24 & 25

Year	Annual acreage milestone	Cumulative acreage milestone
2018	500	500
2019	1,300	1,800
2020	1,700	3,500
2021	3,500	7,000
2022	1,750	8,750
2023	**2,750**	**11,500**
2024	2,700	14,200
2025	3,400	17,600
2026	4,000	21,600
2027	4,000	25,600
2028	4,200	29,800

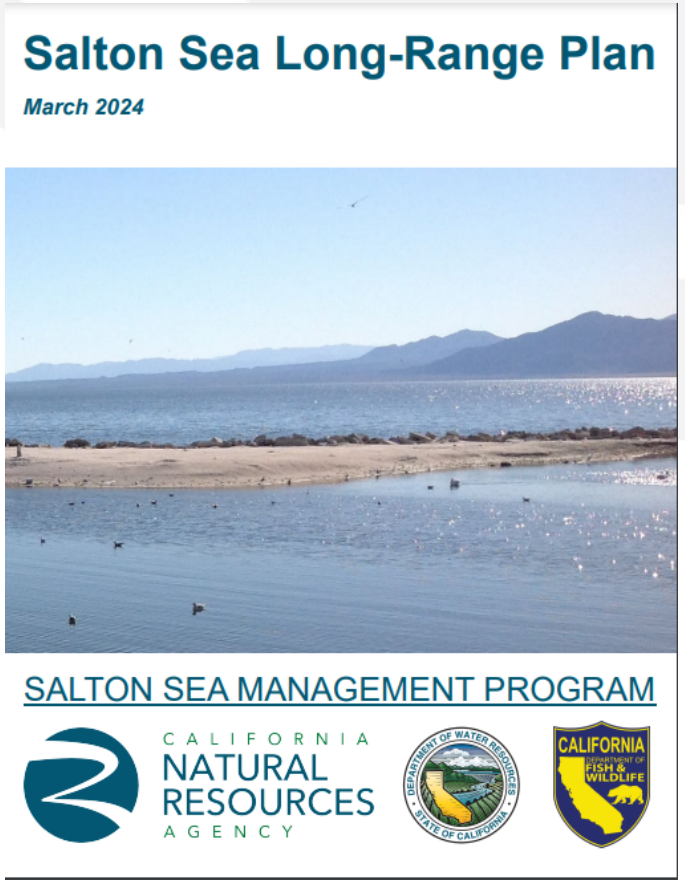
Total acres to be completed by the end of 2028: 29,800



Stipulated Order: Condition 26

CNRA will develop subsequent 10-year phases of the SSMP

CNRA will complete long-term plan by no later than December 31, 2022



Stipulated Order: Condition 28

Requirement to Hold a Public Workshop

Public forum of Board meetings provide opportunity for public input and brings transparency of the SSMP before the public

Required Annual Report from California Natural Resources Agency

- Completed projects and milestones achieved
- Amount of acreage of completed projects
- Upcoming projects
- The status of financial resources and permits
- Any anticipated departures from the annual milestone targets
- Progress toward development of the long-term plan

Salton Sea Management Program's Annual Report

Year	Annual acreage milestone	Cumulative acreage milestone	Habitat Acres Completed	Interim Dust Suppression Acres	Dust Suppression Acres Completed	Cumulative Reported Acres
2018	500	500	-	-	-	-
2019	1,300	1,800	-	-	-	-
2020	1,700	3,500	-	755	-	755
2021	3,500	7,000	22	500	-	1,277
2022	1,750	8,750	15	25	290	1,607
2023	2,750	11,500	130	319	414	2,445
		Cumulative:	167	1,599	704	2,445

Written Comments

Written comments on the annual report were due by May 13th. The Water Board received 8 comment letters which are available on our website or by request.

Stephanie Holstege

Senior Environmental Scientist, State Water Board

Stephanie.Holstege@waterboards.ca.gov

waterboards.ca.gov/saltonsea

CALIFORNIA
Water Boards

Salton Sea Management Program

2024 Annual State Water Resources Control Board Workshop

May 22, 2024

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES • STATE OF CALIFORNIA •

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

Presentation Overview

- SSMP General Overview
- SSMP Project Delivery
- Partnerships and Community Engagement
- Planning and Next Steps

Salton Sea Management Program

Key Priorities of the Salton Sea Management Program

- Drive the implementation of the Phase I: 10-Year Plan.
- Work with federal partners and the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) to develop and complete the *Imperial Streams & Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study* to identify actions for long-term restoration of the Sea.
- Strengthen partnerships and institutionalize inclusive community engagement.

What is Happening to Improve Conditions?

- 29,800 acres of restoration by 2028 under State Water Board Order 2017-0134
  - 50% acres of habitat restoration projects
  - 50% acres of dust suppression projects
- As of 1/1/24:
  - 704 dust suppression acres completed & 167 aquatic habitat acres completed
  - 1,599 acres of interim dust suppression completed
  - 5,809 acres under construction
- Collaborative efforts with the SSMP are in planning to implement projects.
- The SSMP Team continues to work with the Corps and the federal cooperating agencies to complete the NEPA EA for the Phase I: 10-Year Plan.

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

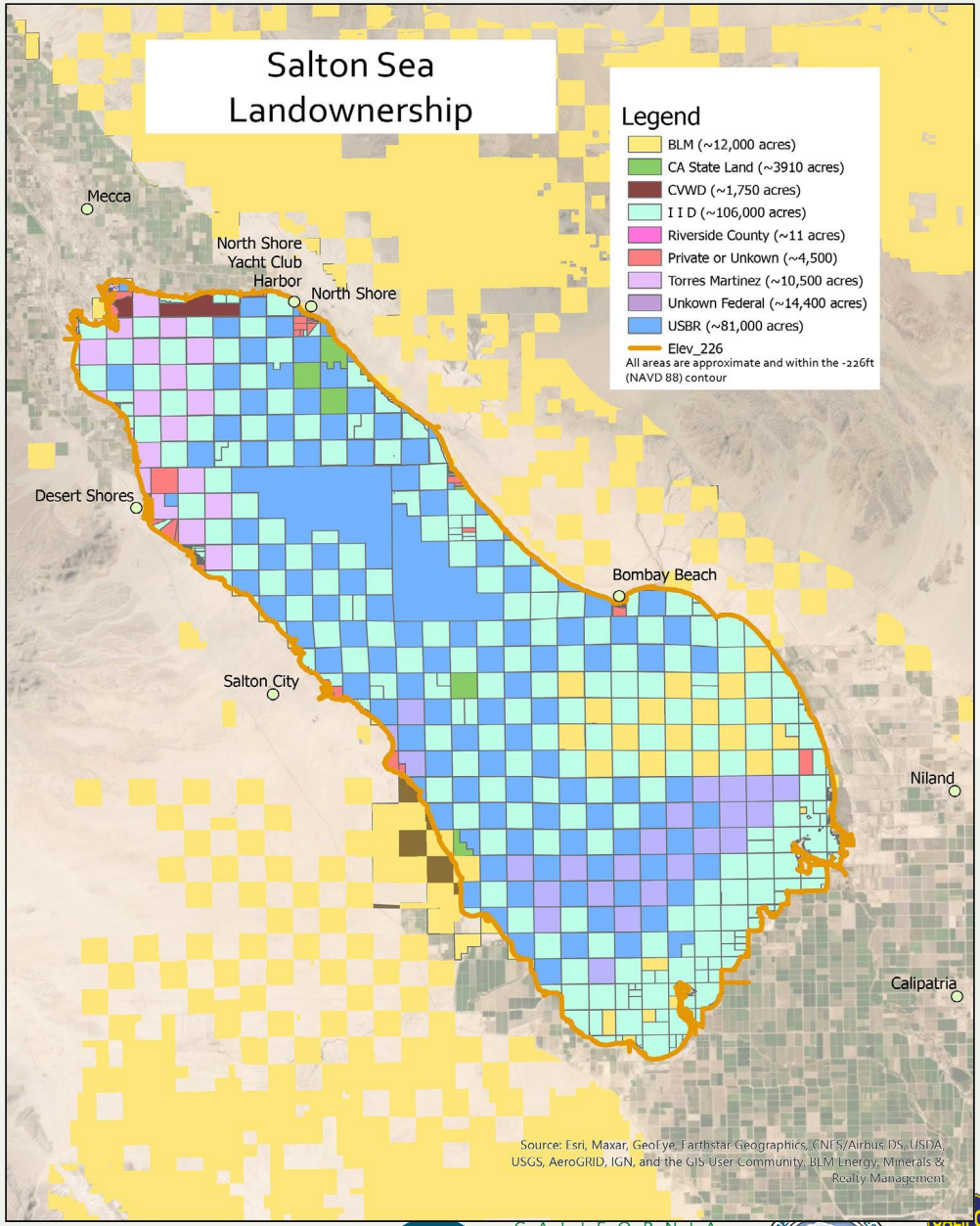
Annual Report on the Salton Sea Management Program

March 2024

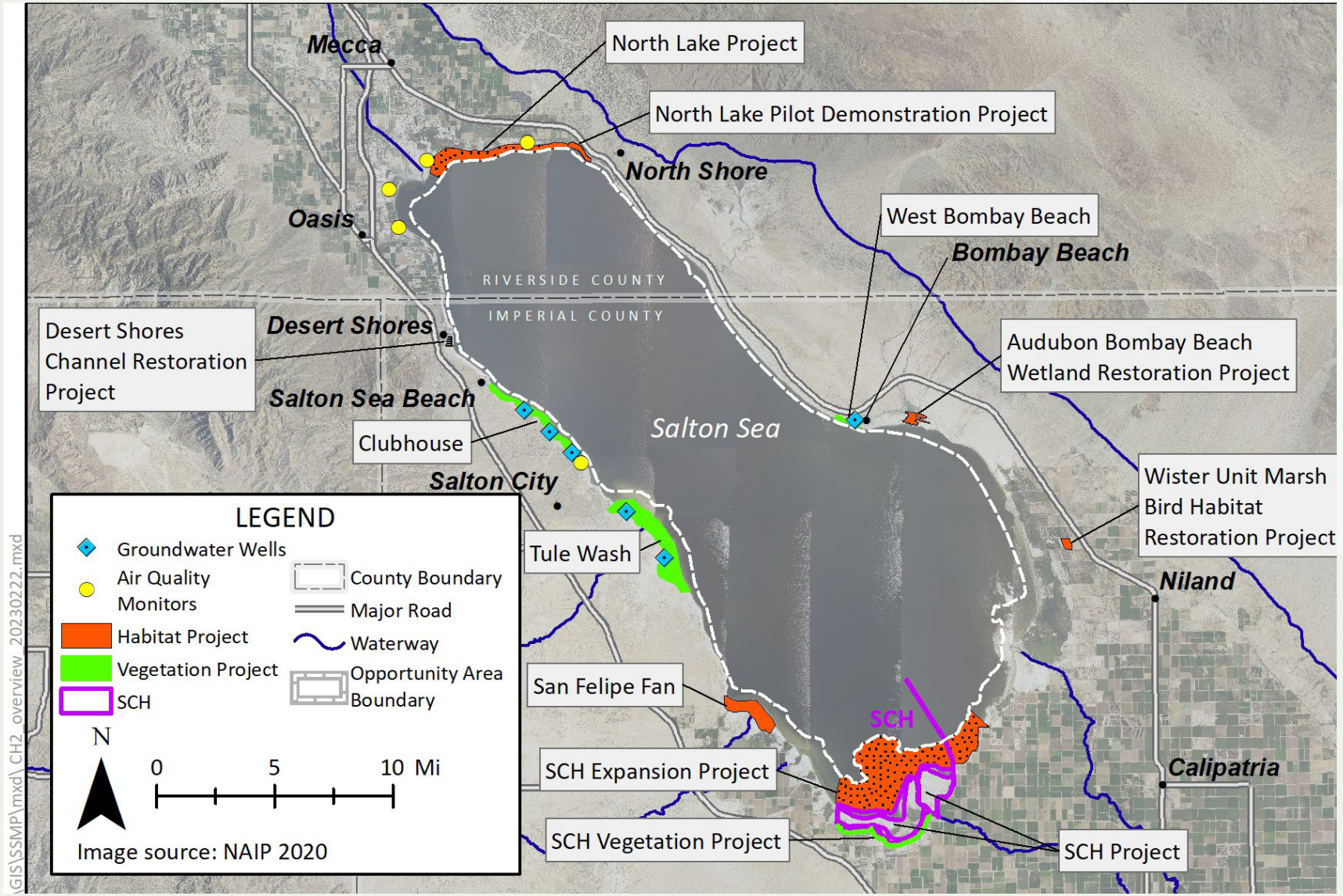
SSMP Project Delivery

Land Access Remains an Important Driver of Project Timelines

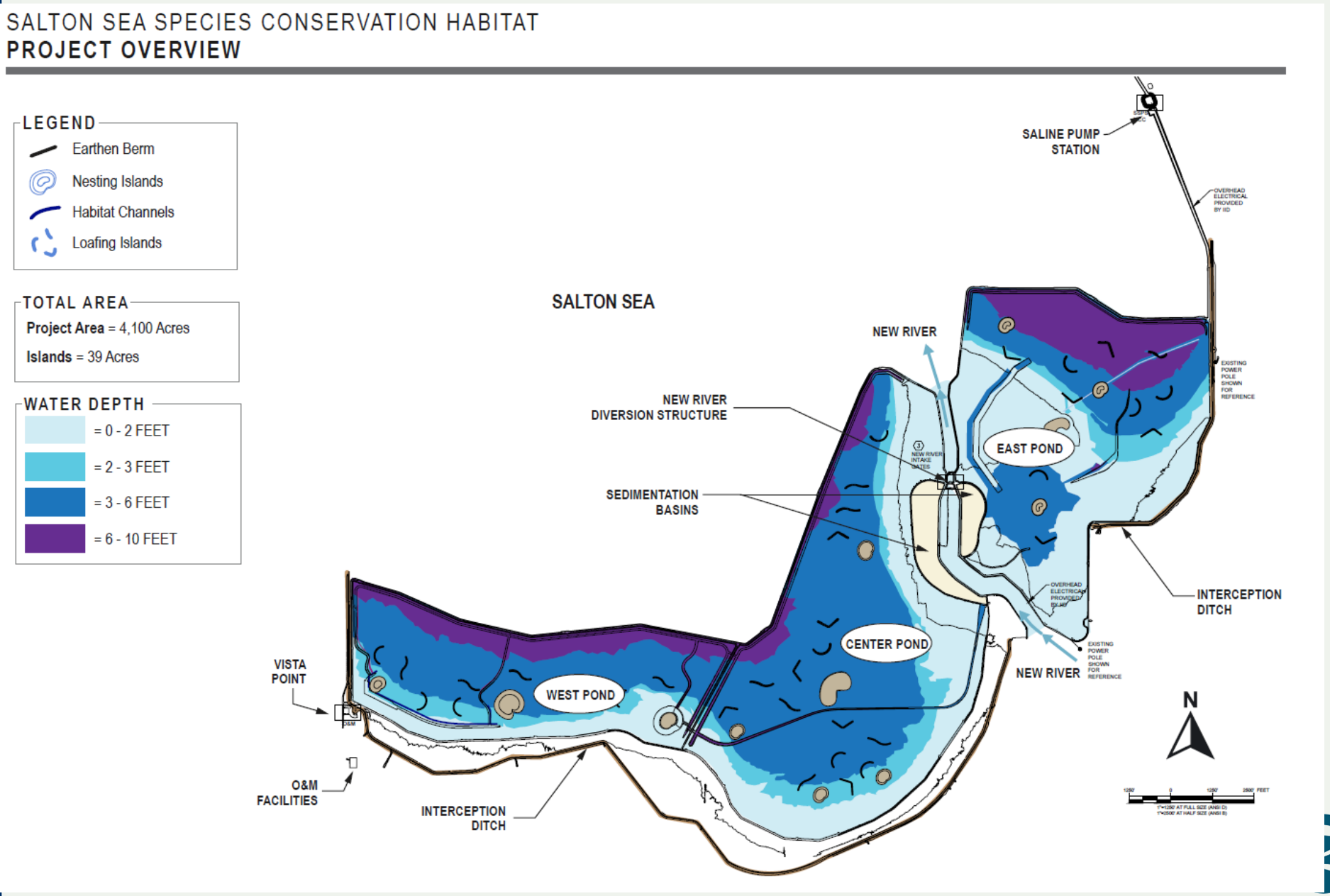
- Collaboration with landowners is critical to land access.
- Lack of state-owned lands and the checkerboard land ownership creates some challenges affecting planning and project delivery
- The **Salton Sea Commitments Agreement** includes establishment of programmatic land access agreements with the Department of Interior, IID, and CVWD to implement projects timely at the Sea.



Projects in progress at the Salton Sea



Species Conservation Habitat Project (4,100 Acres)

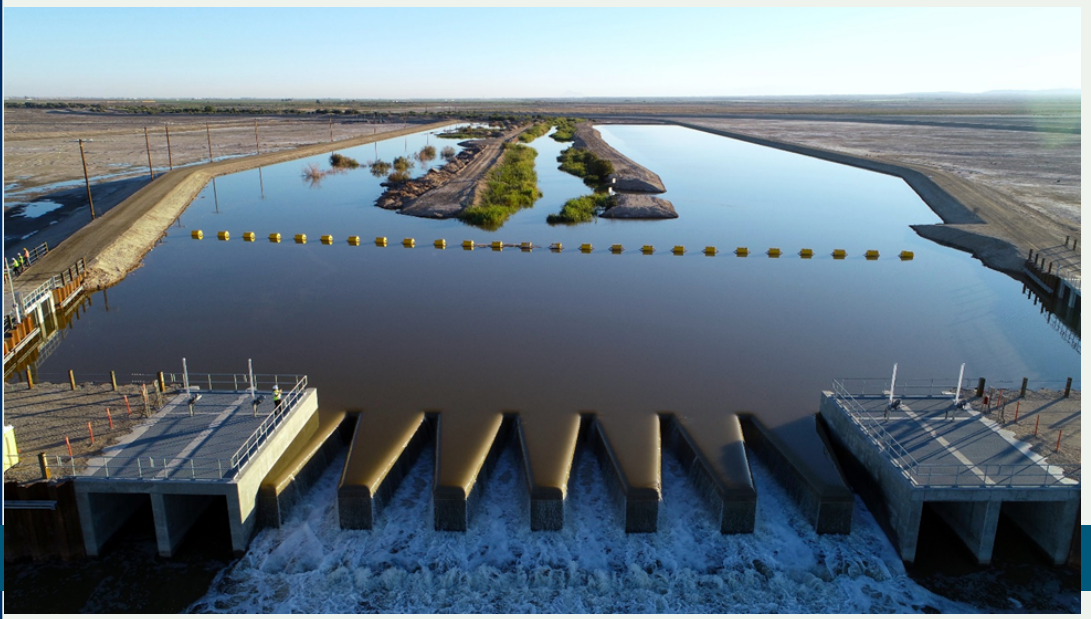


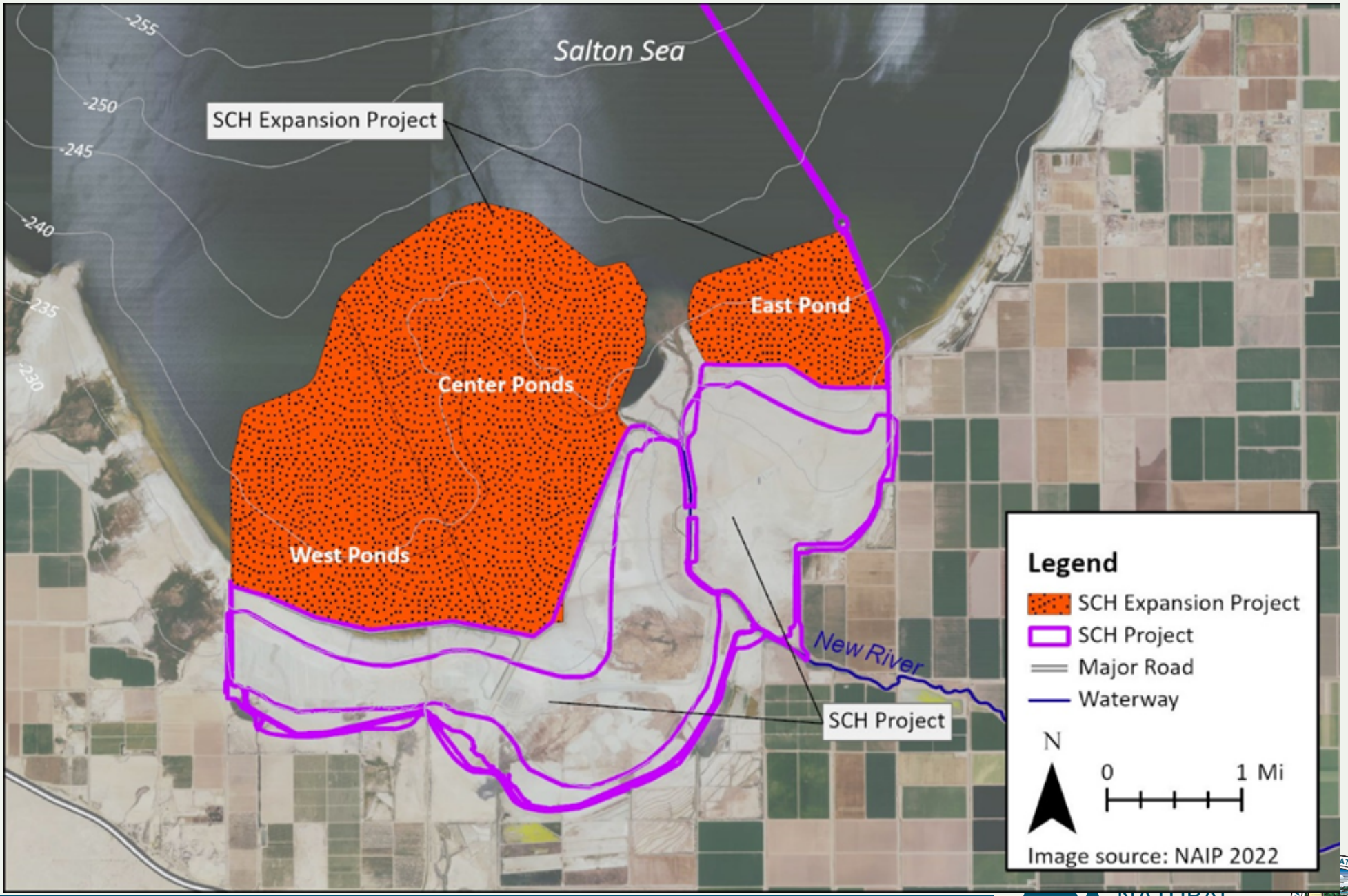
- First major habitat project of the state's 10-Year Plan.
- Protects air quality and provide critical habitat for birds and fish at the Salton Sea.
- Reduces dust emissions by covering exposed lakebed with water.

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Species Conservation Habitat Project Site Features

Species Conservation Habitat Project Site Features





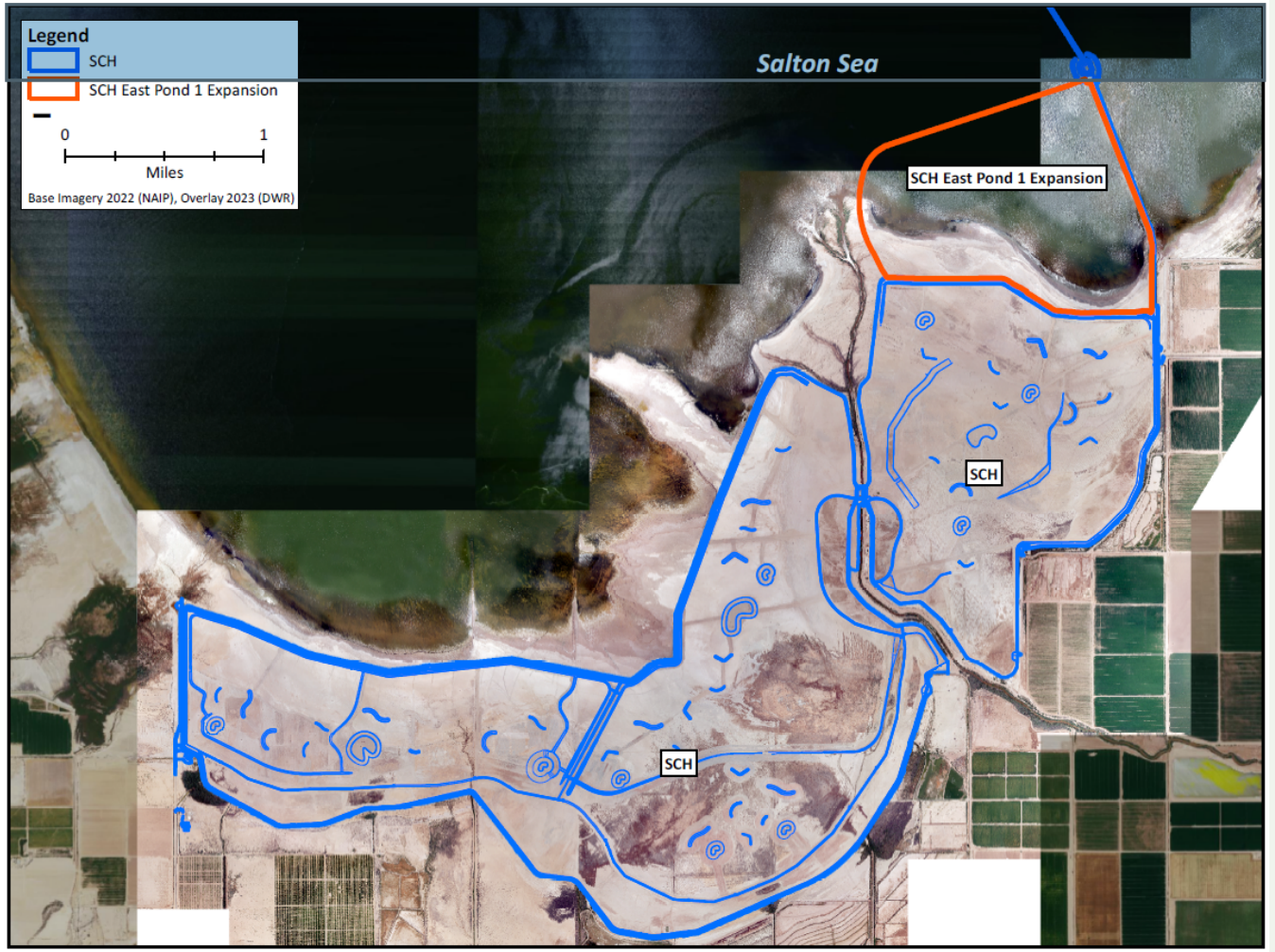
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE

SCH Expansion: East Pond 1 and future expansion

SCH Expansion of East Pond 1

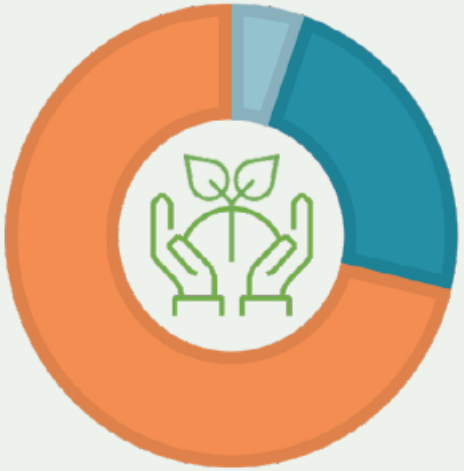
- Will add ~750-acre pond to SCH
- SCH will stay dry until construction is complete
- Permitting and design are in process



CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Vegetation Enhancement Projects

- As plants grow and when the projects are completed, they will establish vegetation on about **1,709 acres** of exposed playa.
- Create interim dust suppression with use of grass bales
- Foster growth of existing vegetation with wind protection, water and fertilizer



This set of projects aims to establish vegetation on:

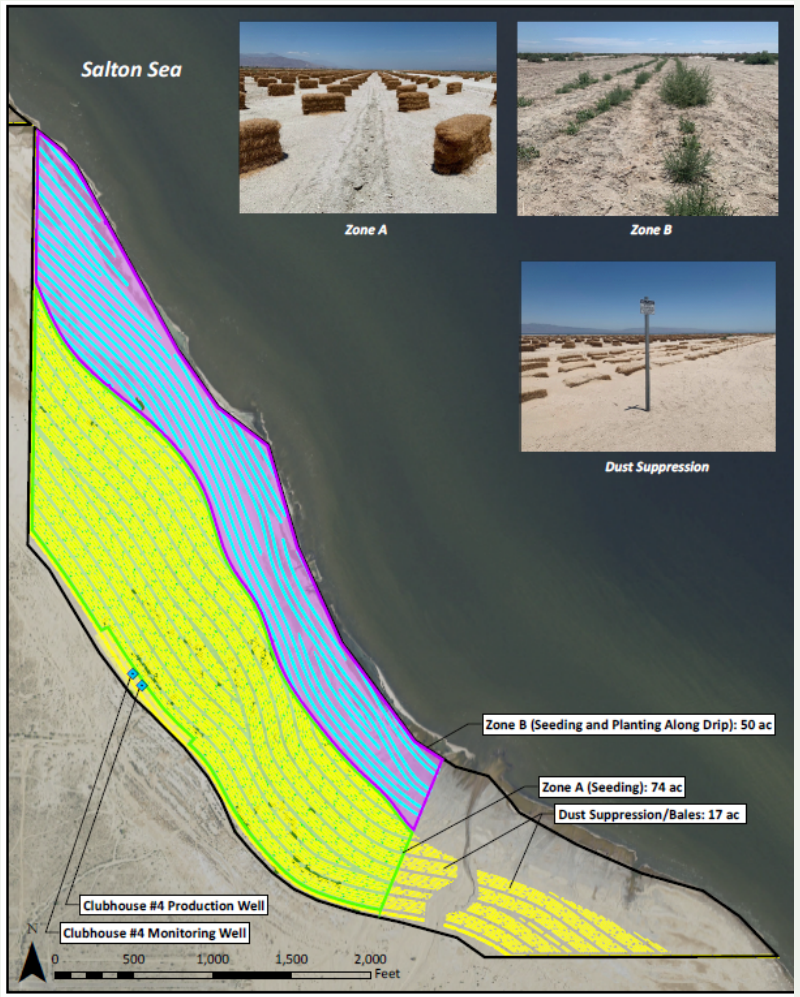
1,217 acres at Tule Wash

399 acres at Clubhouse

93 acres at Bombay Beach

Example: Clubhouse B

Total Acreage: 167 Acres
Completed Acreage: 124 Acres
Interim Dust Suppression Acreage: 92 Acres



CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Vegetation Enhancement Project: Air Monitoring

Clubhouse – C: Stormwater Spreading Features During an Event

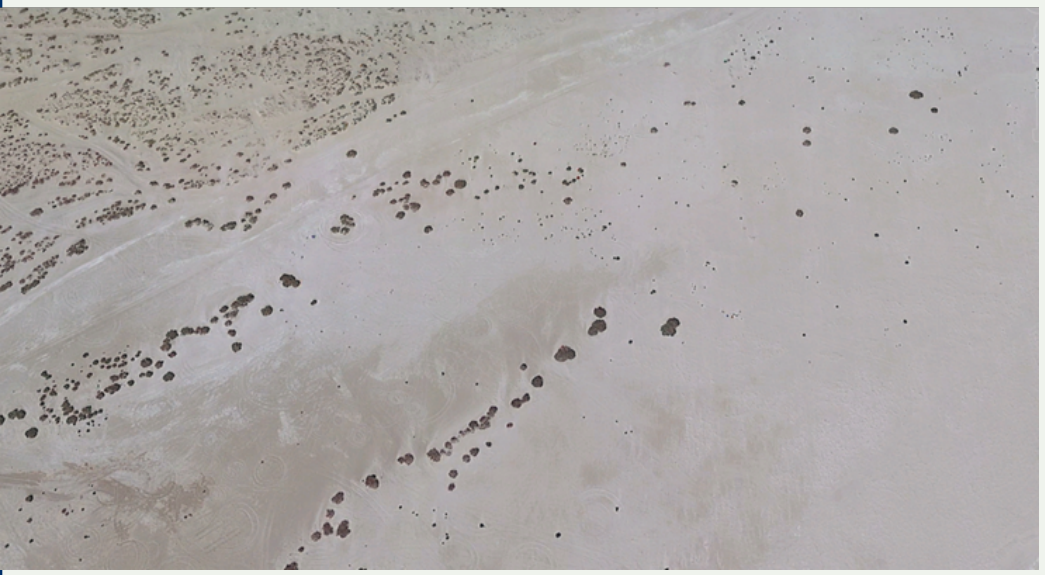
Vegetation Enhancement Projects

Veg. site early in construction

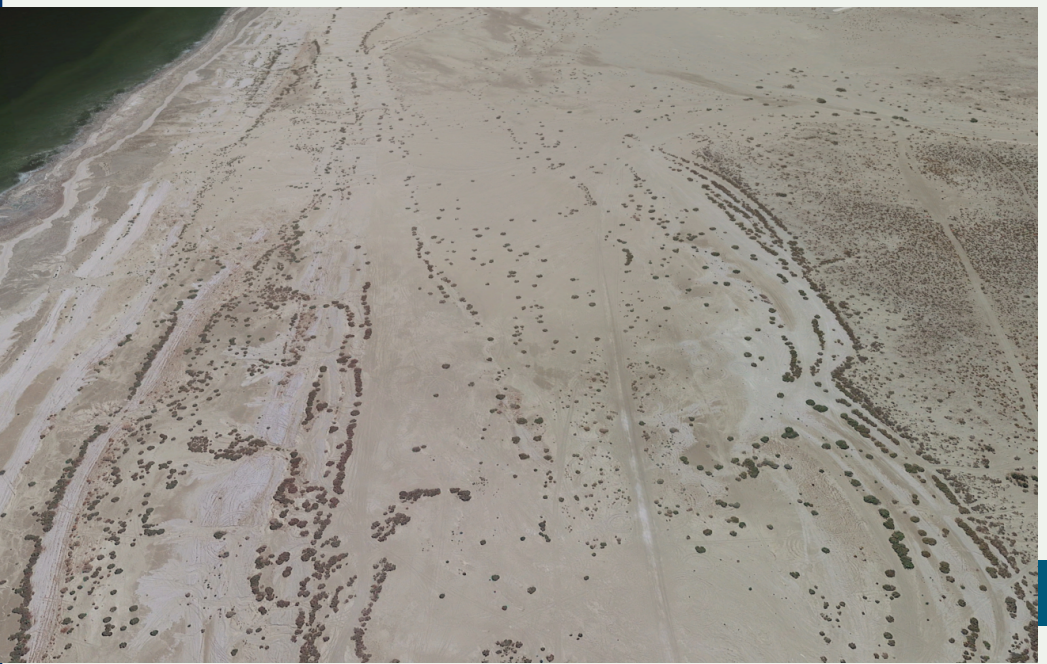
Veg. site after seeding/planting after a growing season

Vegetation Enhancement Projects

Veg. site Aerial View Before and Current



Clubhouse B



Clubhouse A

Projects in Planning Phases

Collaborative Projects:

- North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project (160 acres)
- Desert Shores Channel Restoration Project (30 acres)
- Audubon Bombay Beach Wetland Enhancement Project (564 acres)

SSMP Projects:

- SCH Expansion Project (7,000 acres of aquatic habitat)
- Vegetation Enhancement Expansion to IID Parcels on Clubhouse and Tule Wash (382 acres of vegetation enhancement/dust suppression)
- San Felipe Fan Project (660 acres of vegetation enhancement/dust suppression)
- North Lake Project – Full Lake (1,615 acres of aquatic habitat and Wetland restoration)
- Wister Unit Marsh Bird Habitat Restoration Project (150 acres of bird habitat)
- SCH Vegetation Project
  (537 acres of vegetation enhancement/dust suppression)

2023 Acreage Reporting and Cumulative Acreage

Year	SWRC 2017-0134 Year End Milestone	SWRC 2017-0134 Cumulative Milestone	Land Access Secured	Total SSMP Acres Under Construction in Each Year	Habitat Acres Completed*	Interim Dust Suppression Acres**	Dust Suppression Acres Completed***	SSMP Cumulative Reported Acres to SWRCB
2023	2,750	11,500	1,000	4,960	130	319	414	2,445
		Cumulative:	**6,809**	**5,809**	**167**	**1,599**	**704**	**2,445**

* Aquatic habitat is complete when wetted
** Immediate and ongoing dust suppression within the footprint of habitat or dust suppression projects under construction. These acres will become dust suppression acres completed or habitat acres completed and will not be double counted in cumulative reporting.
*** Vegetation enhancement is complete when planted/seeded and site has irrigation

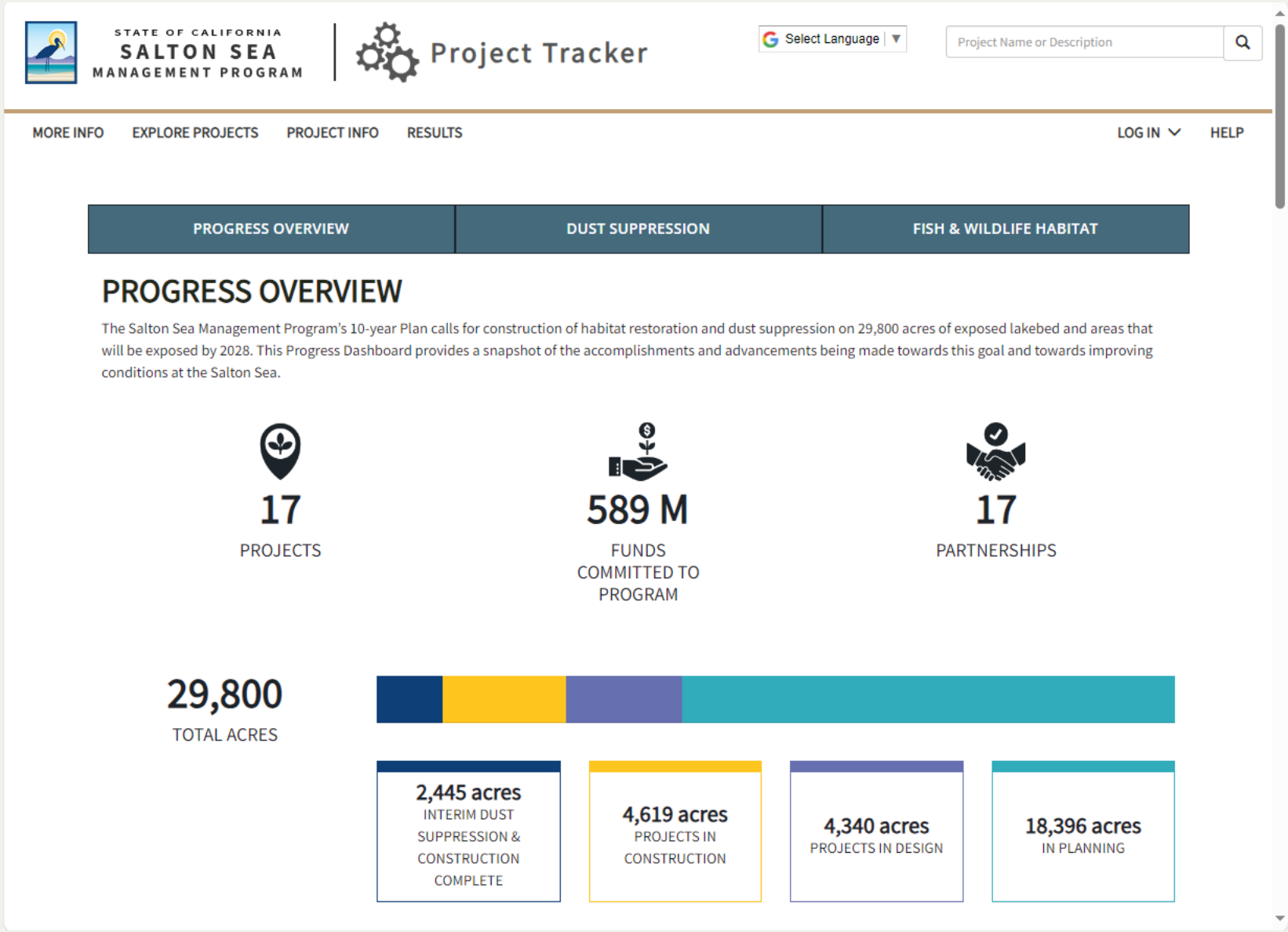
Projects:

- 414 acres vegetation completed in 2023 (171 acres at Clubhouse and 243 acres at Tule Wash)
- Major construction completed on SCH.
- 130 habitat acres consist of:
  - 100 acres in the east and west sedimentation basins at SCH
  - 30 acres submerged at the south end of the diversion structure on either side of the New River Diversion Channel within the SCH footprint.

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

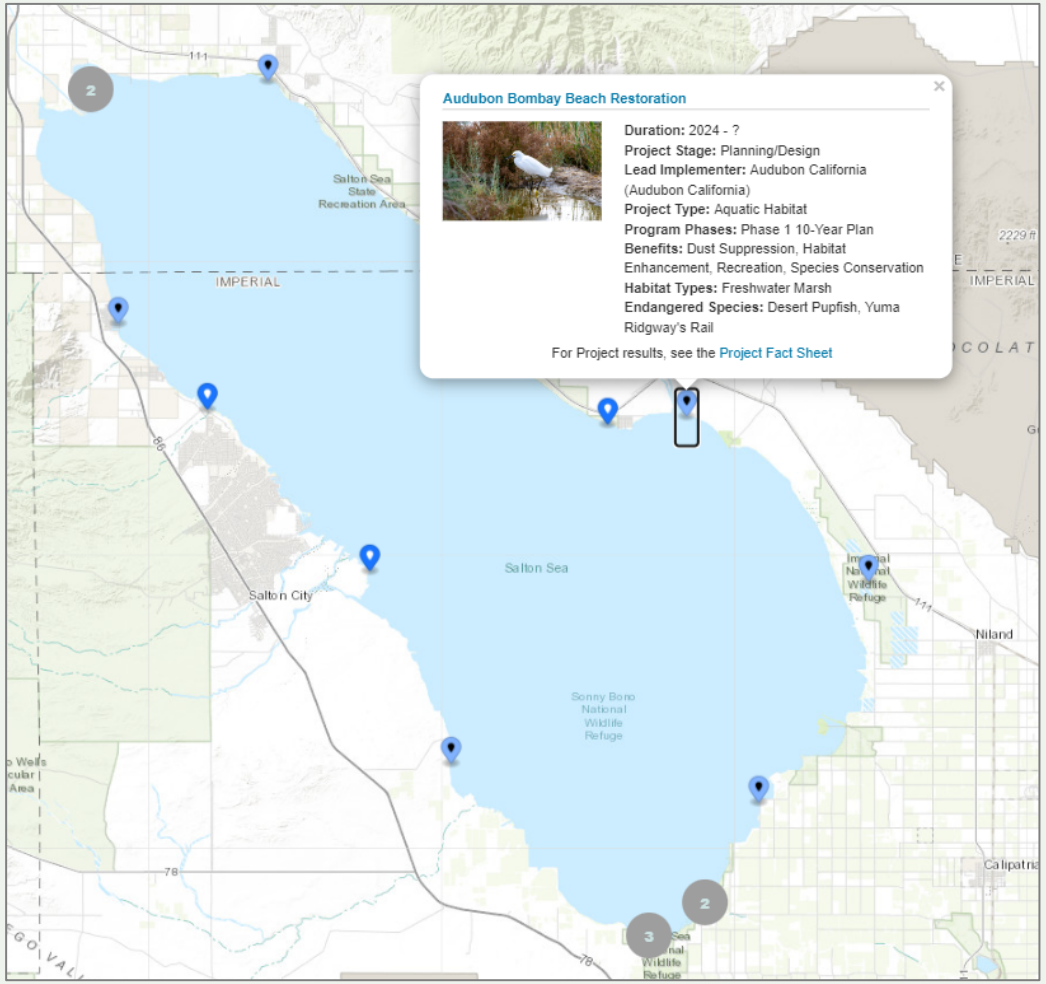
SSMP Project Tracker

- Provides details and fact sheets on SSMP Projects
- Dashboard provides a snapshot of SSMP progress for Phase I 10 Year projects.
- Updated twice a year



www.saltonsea.ca.gov

Project Map and List



Currently Viewing 17 out of 17 Projects

Download Table

Project Name	Project Primary Contact	Lead Implementer	Project Stage	Planning / Design Start Year	Implementat Start Year	P
Audubon Bombay Beach Restoration	Melinda Dorin	Audubon California	Planning/D...	2020	2024	
Bruchard Road	Melinda Dorin	DWR	Constructio...	2019	2020	
Clubhouse Vegetation Enhancement	Steven Garcia	DWR	Implement...	2021	2021	
Desert Shores Channel Restoration	Melinda Dorin	Salton Sea Authority	Planning/D...	2020	2024	
New River East	Steven Garcia	DWR	Constructio...	2019	2020	
New River Improvement	Eddie Pech	DWR	Implement...	2021	2023	
New River West	Steven Garcia	DWR	Constructio...	2019	2020	
North Lake Alternative H Site	Evon Willhoff	SSMP	Planning/D...	2022	2024	
North Lake Pilot Demonstration	Evon Willhoff	Riverside County	Planning/D...	2021	2024	
North Lake Project Planning Area	Evon Willhoff	DWR	Planning/D...	2021	2027	
San Felipe Fan Restoration	Melinda Dorin	DWR	Planning/D...	2023	2024	
SCH Vegetation	Melinda Dorin	DWR	Planning/D...	2022	2023	
Species Conservation Habitat (SCH)	Melinda Dorin	DWR	Implement...	2011	2020	

Partnerships and Community Engagement

Partners

- Alianza Coachella Valley
- Audubon California
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- California Air Resources Board
- California Energy Commission
- California State Parks
- Coachella Valley Water District
- Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Comite Civico Del Valle
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Farmworkers Institute of Education and Leadership Development
- Imperial Irrigation District
- Imperial County
- Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
- Konkuey Design Initiative
- Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
- Loma Linda University School of Public Health
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Pacific Institute
- Riverside County
- Salton Sea Action Committee
- Salton Sea Authority
- Salton Sea Coalition
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Save Our Sea/EcoMedia Compass
- Sierra Club California
- South Coast Air Quality Management District
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Geological Survey

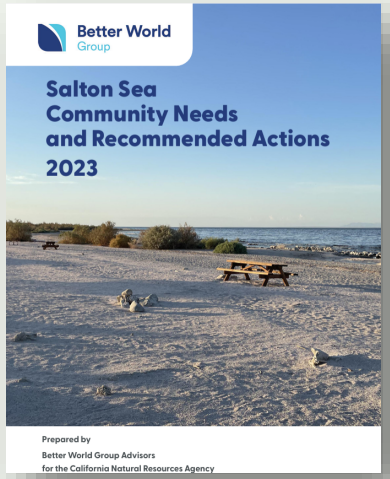
Emphasis of Project Tours and Participation at Partner Meetings

- Salton Sea Management Program team has put a strong emphasis on showcasing the restoration work being undertaken by the SSMP at the Salton Sea.

- Roadshow presentations at City Council meetings and partner meetings with SSMP updates.

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

The Salton Sea Community Needs Reports



	1. Community engagement, capacity building, and coordination
	2. Early, often, and meaningful tribal consultation for all communities
	3. Equitable outdoor access and recreation at the Sea
	4. Public health
	5. Inclusive and sustainable workforce development
	6. Expanded transportation access
	7. Climate action
	8. Broadband access for all communities

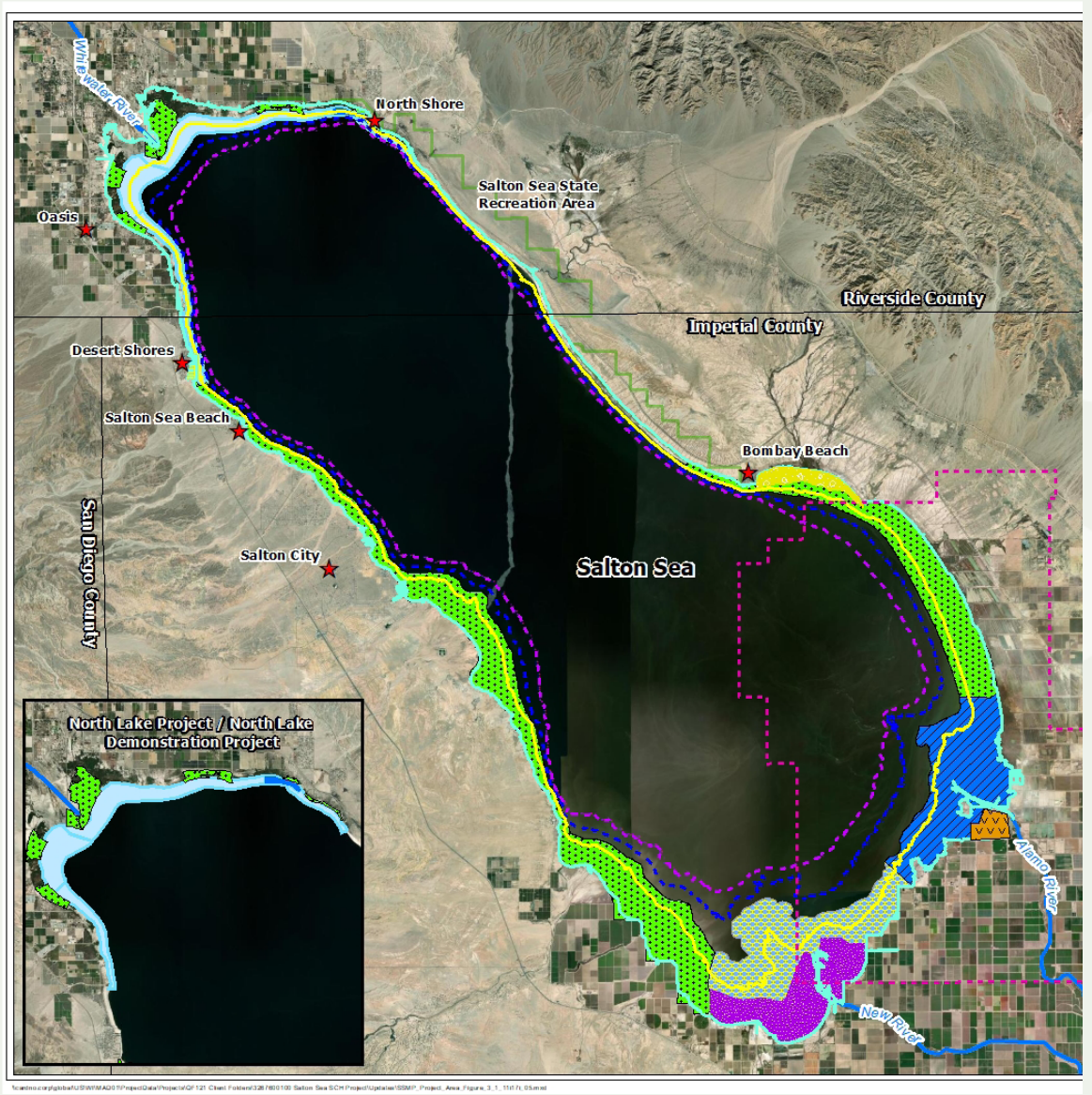
Developing the Reports

- Informed by the community's lived experience and expertise.
- Reviewed public comments and reports from over the last decade on the Salton Sea.
- Convened a Salton Sea Regional Community Benefits Working Group.
- Direct community outreach and engagement.
- Draft released earlier this year for 60-day comment period. SSMP held three workshops.
- Final report to be released in June 2024

Planning

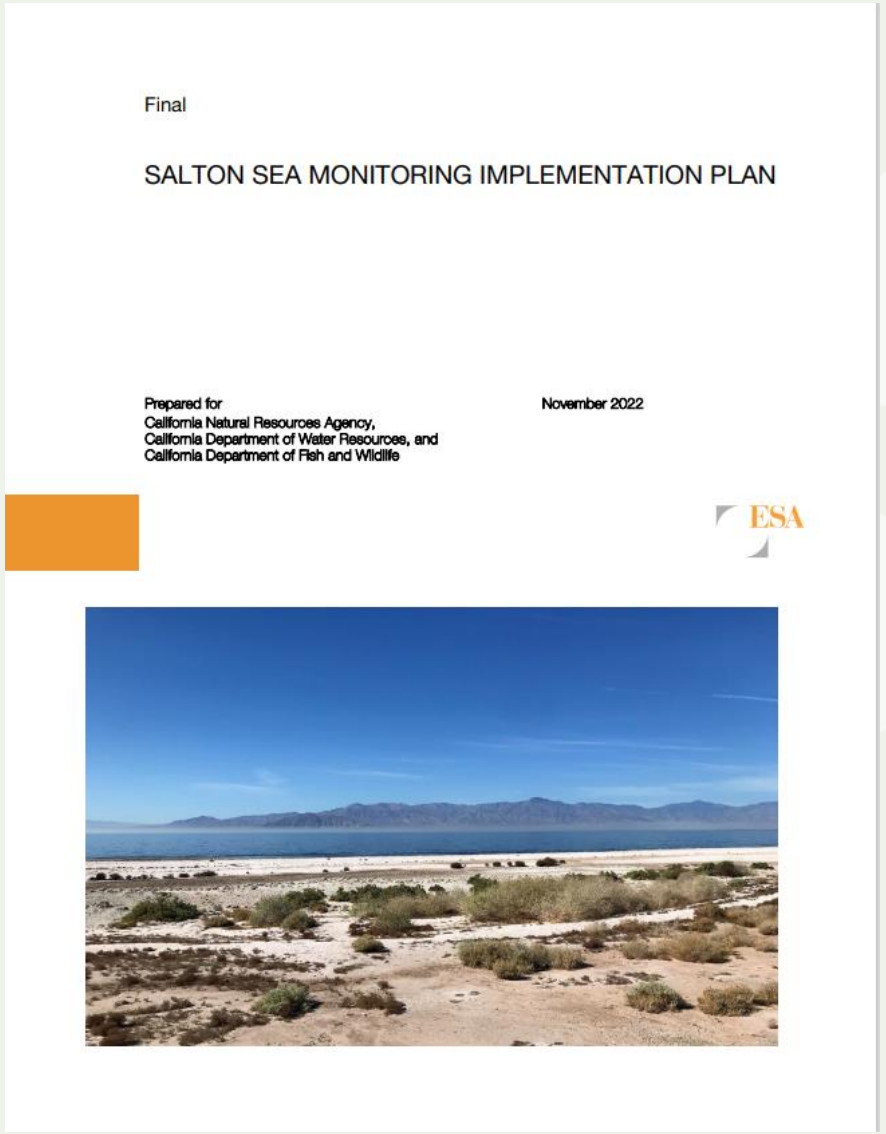
Environmental Planning

- The SSMP Team continues to work with the Corps and the federal cooperating agencies to complete the NEPA EA for the **Phase I: 10-Year Plan.**
- Draft Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was released in April 2024.
- Revised final EA is planned for release in Summer 2024.



Monitoring Implementation Plan (MIP)

- Regional-scale monitoring plan for Salton Sea ecosystem
- Describes monitoring activities to measure conditions of water, air quality, land cover, biological resources, and socioeconomics
- Provides a framework for future project-scale monitoring plans
- Posted at SSMP Website in English and Spanish


Final

SALTON SEA MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Prepared for
California Natural Resources Agency,
California Department of Water Resources, and
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

November 2022

ESA

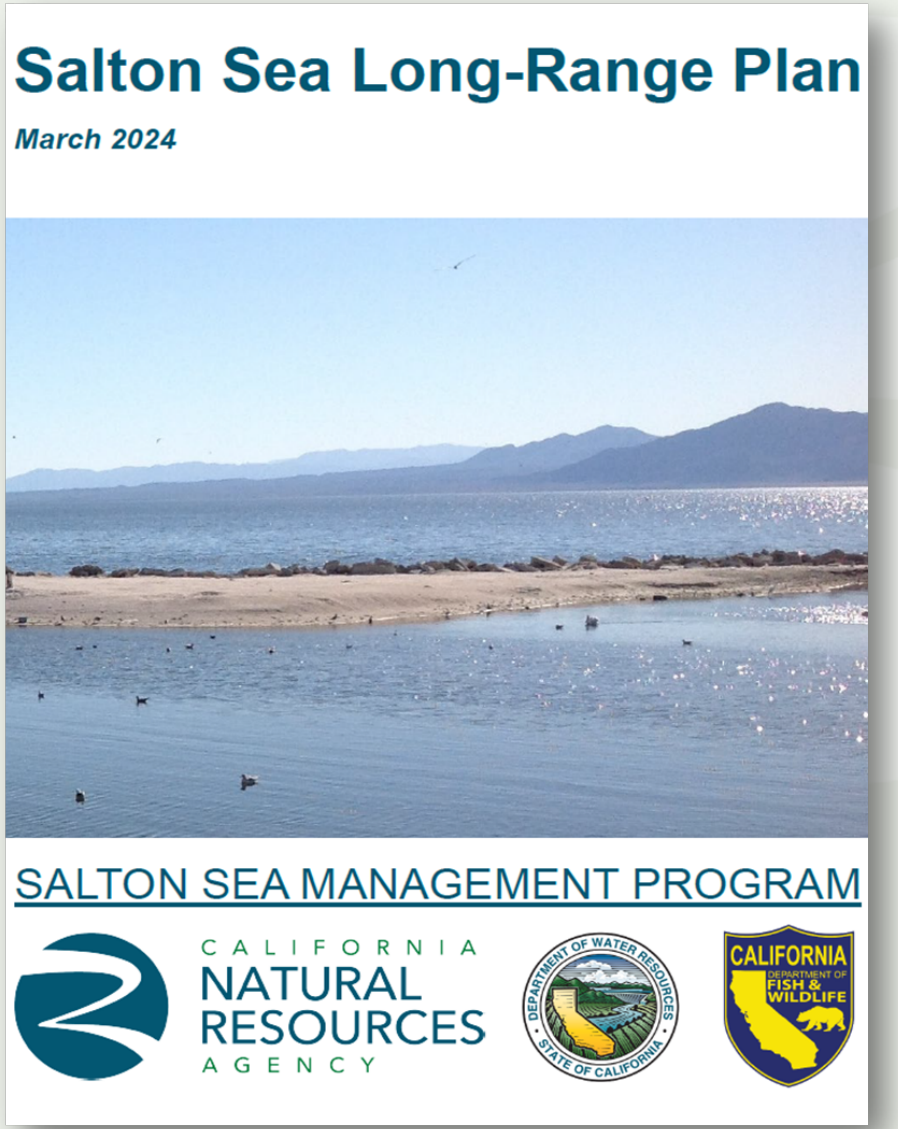
MIP Annual Work Plan 2024

- First Work Plan
- Requested Information (Voluntary) in Nov 2023 from over 30 agencies
- Received information on 39 different survey/monitoring efforts
- All 6-resource areas in the MIP are represented
- Developing a place to hold the data collected in one location
- In October 2024, we anticipate meetings to determine the needs for 2025 and to start discussions on information gaps

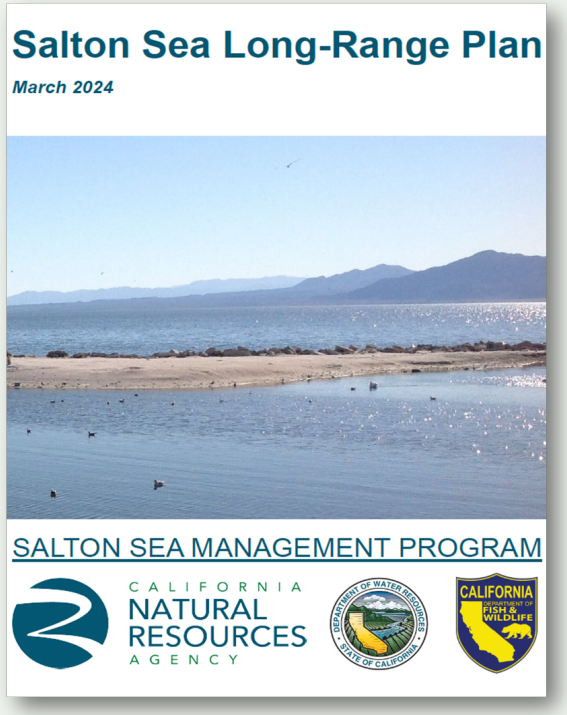
CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

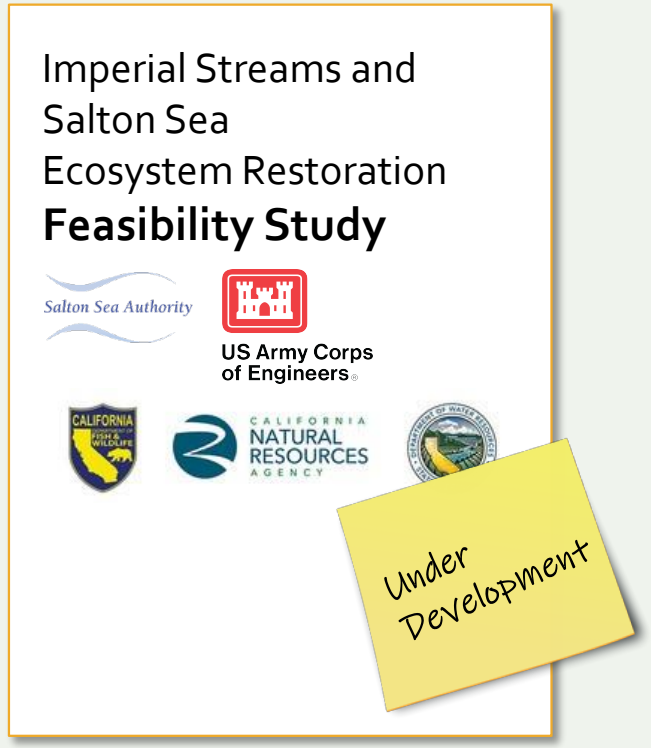
Phase 2: Long-Range Plan

- The Salton Sea Management Program prepared the Long-Range Plan (LRP or Plan) to comply with State **Water Board Revised Order** WR 2002-0013.
- Developed with support from Tribal leadership, community-based organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies, the draft plan identifies concepts for long-term restoration of the Sea beyond the scope of the SSMP's Phase 1: 10-Year Plan.
- Received public comments in 2023 and finalized earlier this year



Imperial Streams & Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study





LRP informs the development of a Feasibility Study - (Environmental Review)

CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

Funding and Next Steps

Funding Status

- $516.45 million to date in State funding authorized for Salton Sea-related activities
- $250 million in federal funding commitments in the 2022 Salton Sea Commitments Agreement
  - In December 2023, the State received $70 million in Federal Funding from Reclamation for SCH expansion of East Pond 1.
  - An additional $175 million in Federal funding available contingent on IID further conservation actions
- $65 million in State General Fund proposed in 2024-2025 for planning and implementation of next set of projects identified for 24-25.

Next Steps

- Complete the Phase I: 10-Year Plan Environmental Assessment this summer.
- Advance land access, planning, design, permitting and implementation of identified next projects.
- Continue to work with partner landowners to expedite and develop programmatic land access agreements.
- Continue to accelerate expansion of the SCH with federal funding and phased commissioning.
- Continue to support the USACE on the Salton Sea Feasibility Study.
- Advance opportunities identified in the SSMP and Community Needs Report.

Thank You!

Learn more about multiple engagement opportunities and sign-up for updates at:

www.saltonsea.ca.gov

Email the SSMP team at:

cnra-saltonsea@resources.ca.gov

Public Comment

Lunch break

Panel 1: Overview of Local Agencies' Partnership Salton Sea Projects

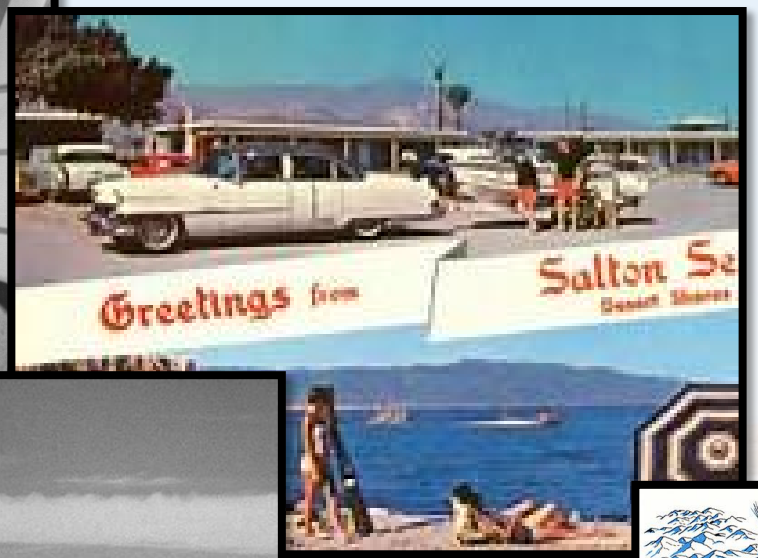
Patrick O'Dowd, Salton Sea Authority
Jessica Humes, Imperial Irrigation District
Frank Ruiz, Audubon California

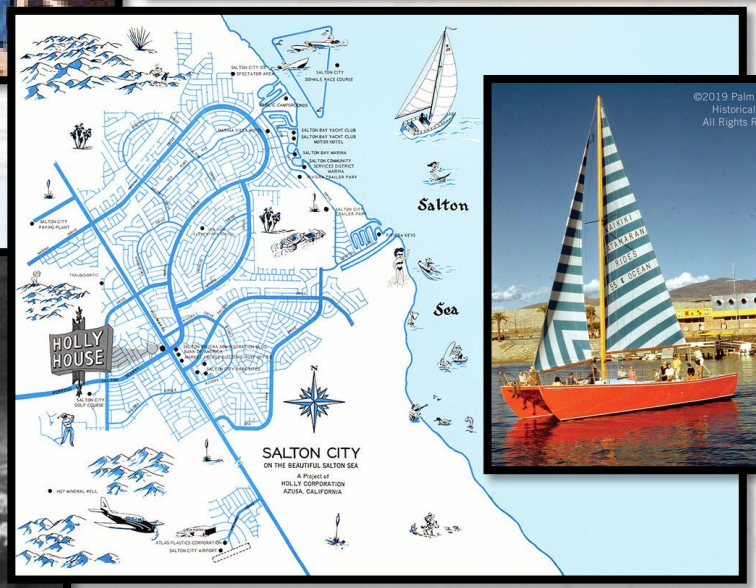
The Salton Sea

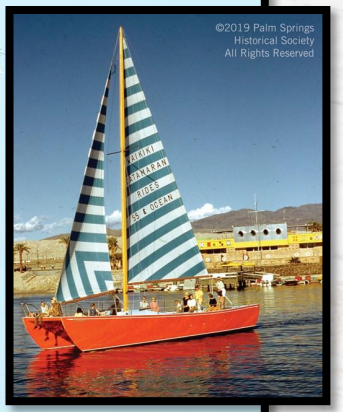
Local Projects

G. Patrick O'Dowd,
Executive Director
www.SaltonSea.com

Salton Sea Authority



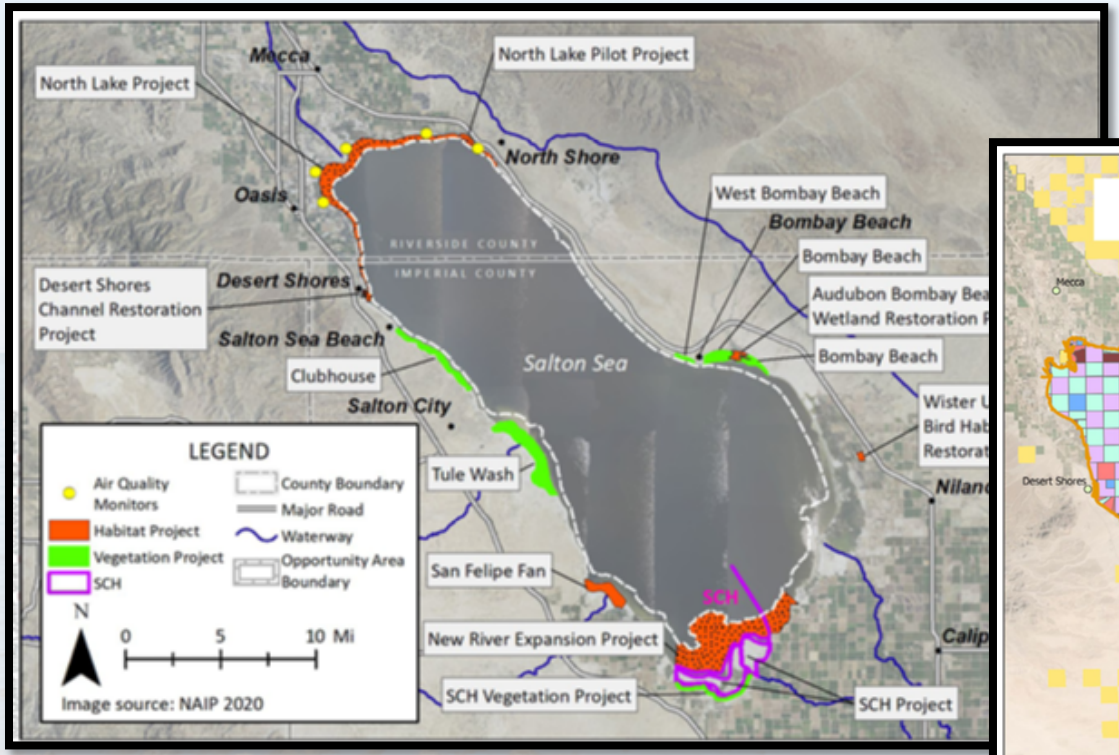


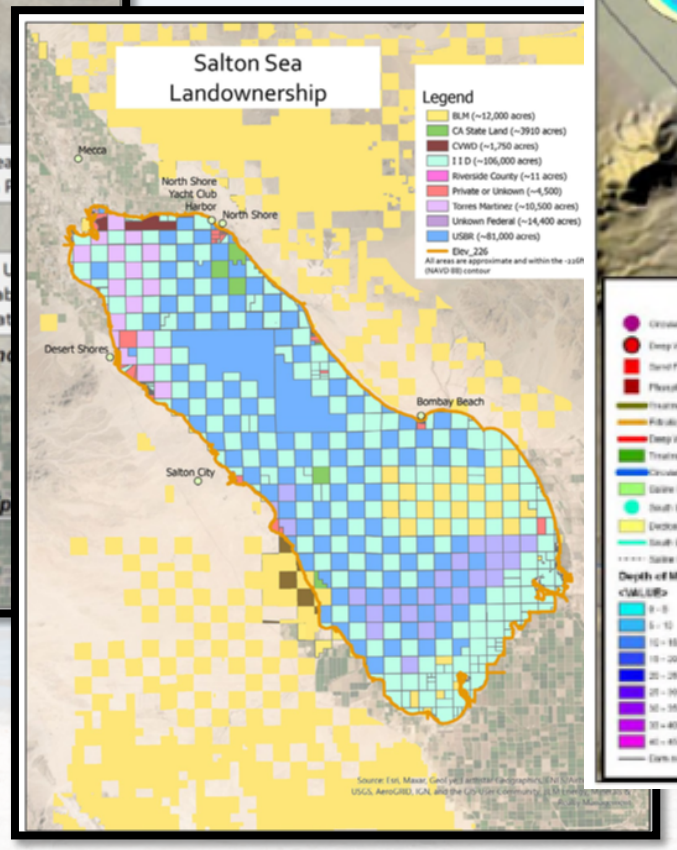


Salton Sea Authority

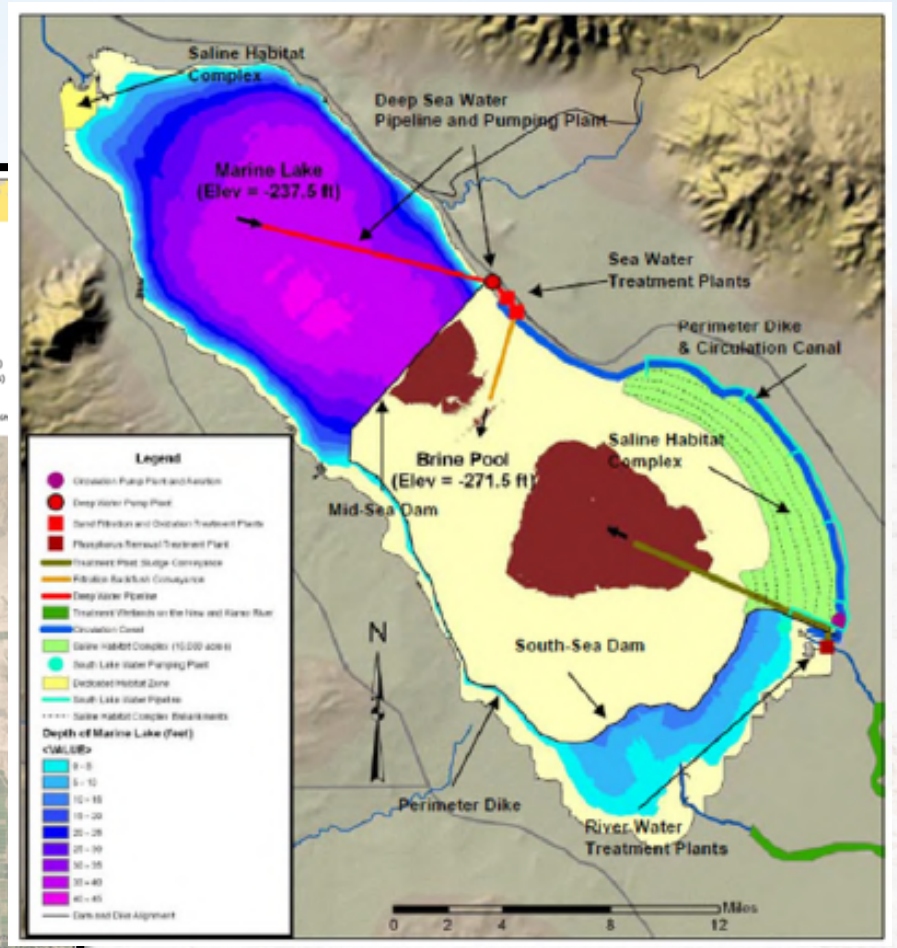
Salton Sea Authority

10-Year Plan





Long Range Plan

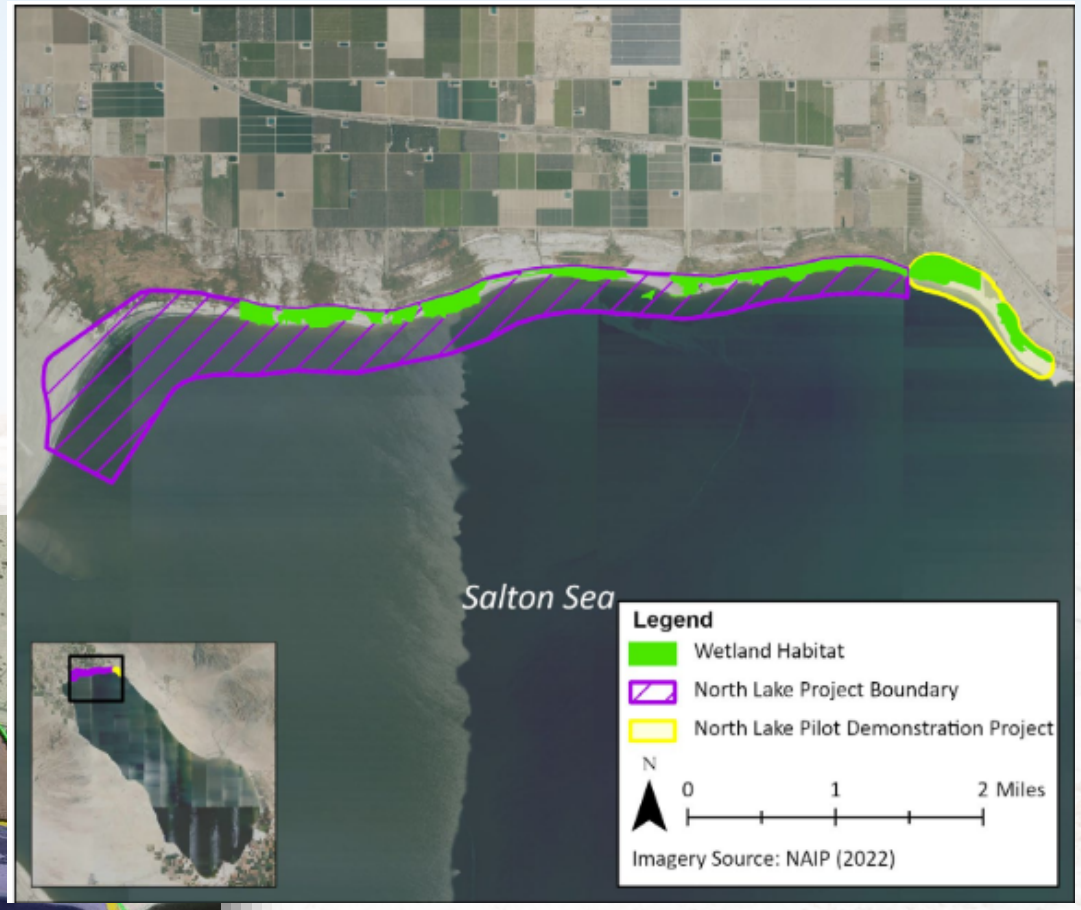


Salton Sea Authority

Desert Shores- Channel Restoration Project

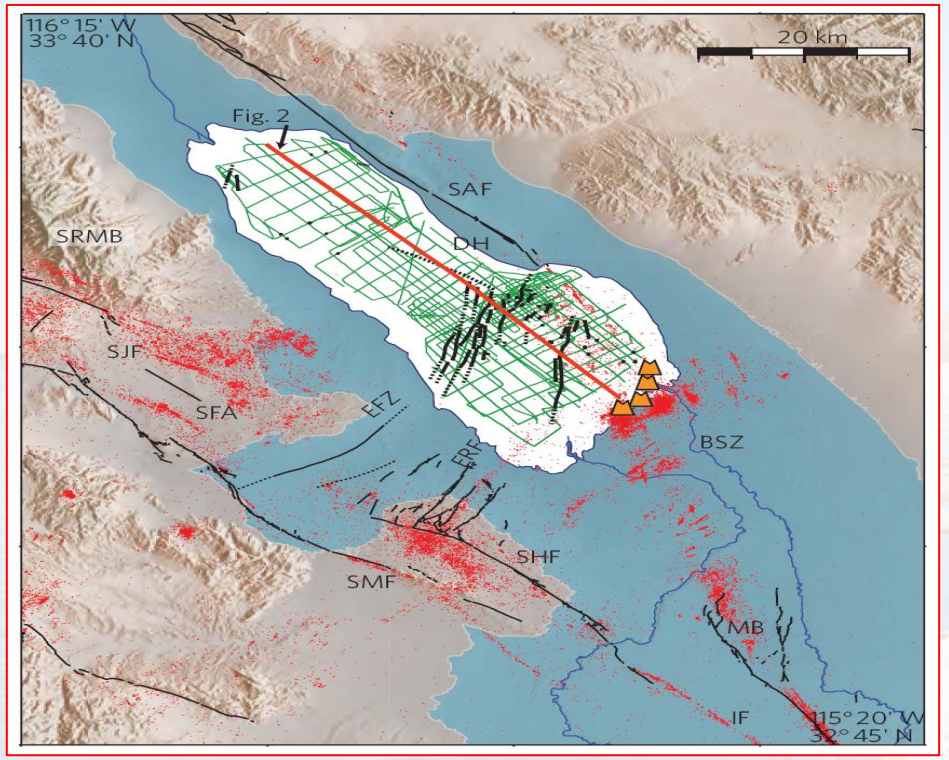
Salton Sea Authority

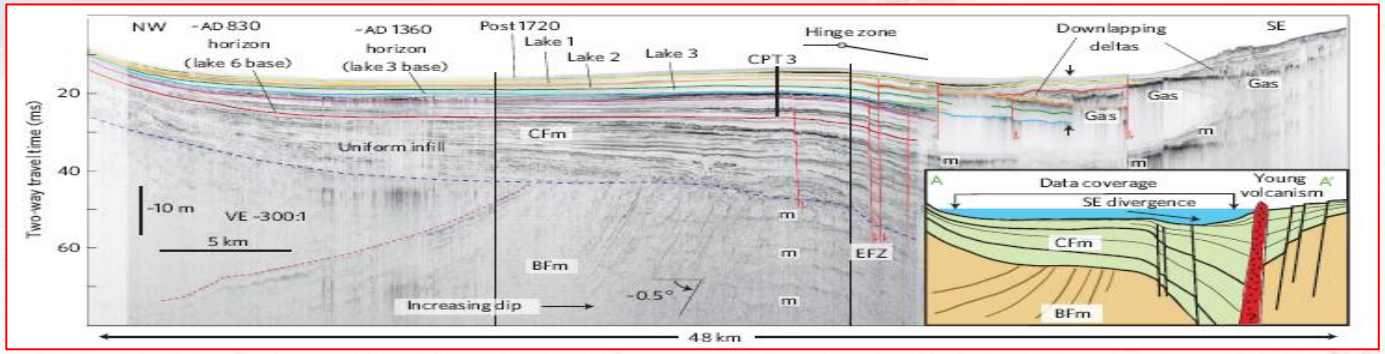
North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project



Salton Sea Authority

Site Conditions





Salton Sea Authority H_2O

Health, Habitat, Opportunities

Salton Sea Authority

Salton Sea Authority

Salton Sea Authority

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QSA Environmental Mitigation

Jessica Humes
Environmental Project Manager, Sr.

QSA Environmental Mitigation

- Final EIR/EIS
- Draft Habitat Conservation Plan
- Incidental Take Permit
- Biological Opinion
- Funded through the QSA Joint Powers Authority

QSA Environmental Mitigation

- Burrowing Owl Conservation Program
- Desert Pupfish Conservation Program
- Managed Marsh Complex
- Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program

Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program

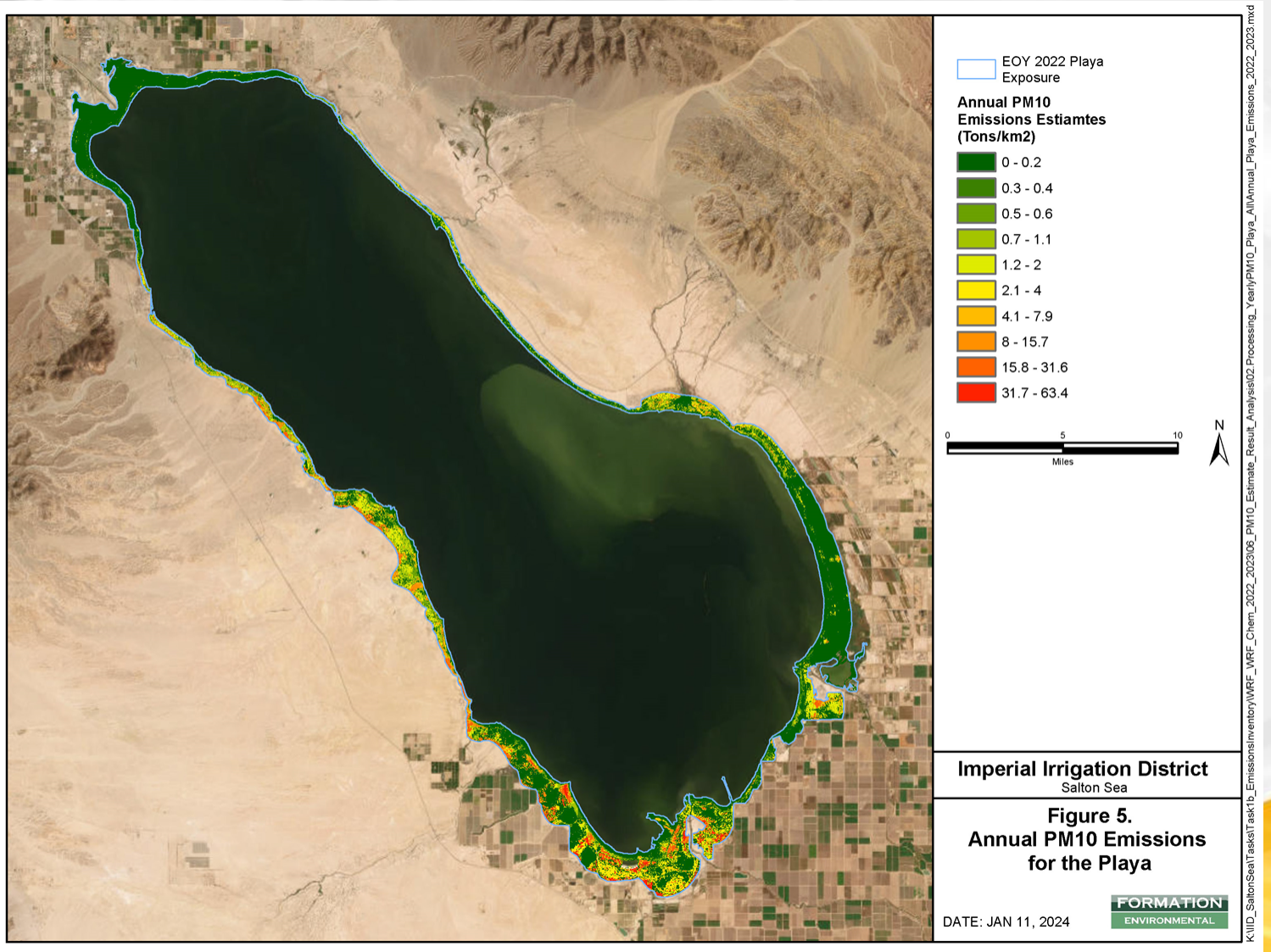
Comprehensive, science-based, adaptive program to proactively detect, locate, assess, and identify options to mitigate dust emissions from exposed Salton Sea playa

Emissions Estimate

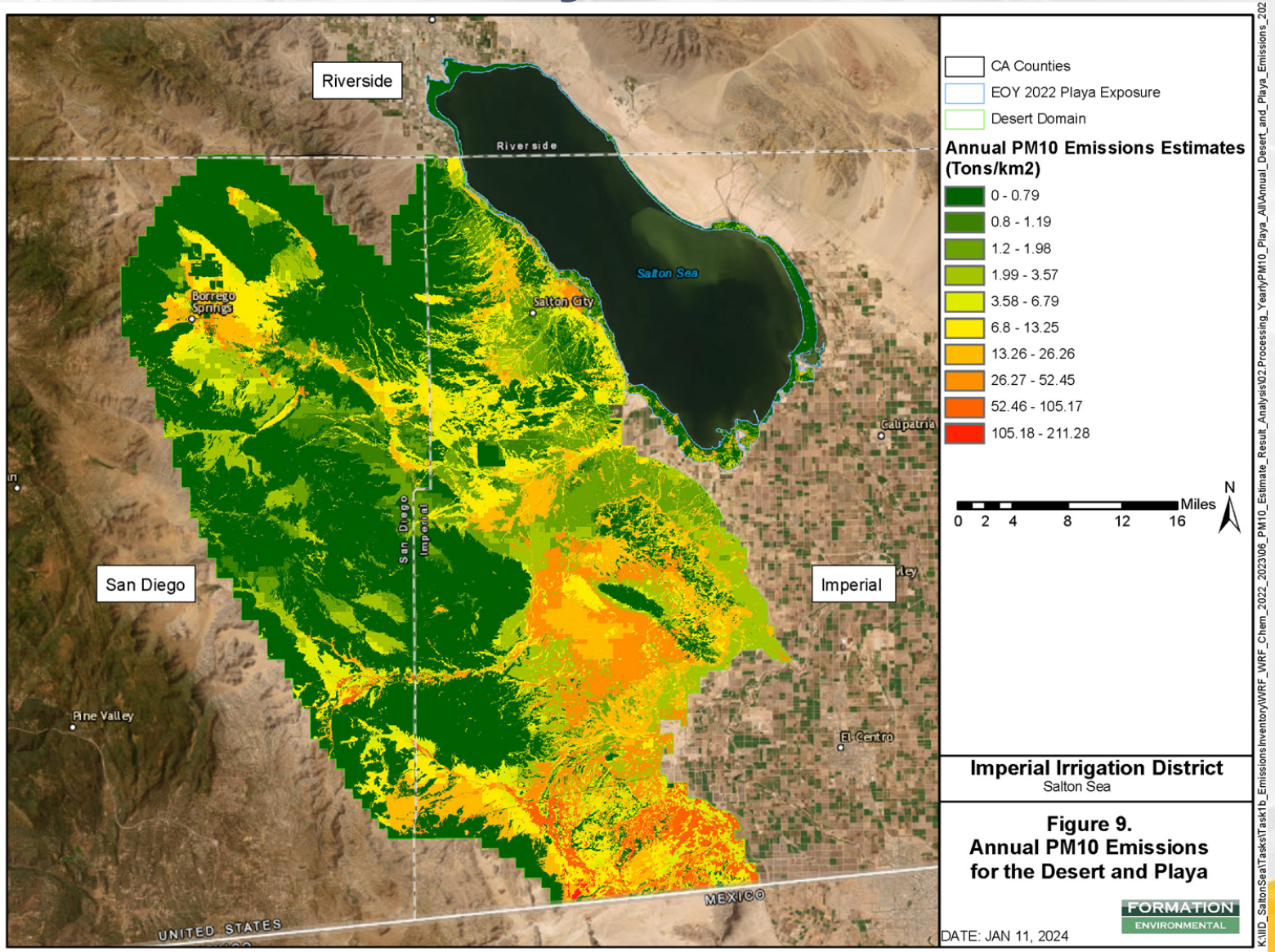
Objectives:

- Where and when do dust emissions occur?
- How much dust is being emitted?
- Where do the dust plumes go?
- Which areas of the playa need to be prioritized for dust control?

Annual PM10 Emissions for the Playa

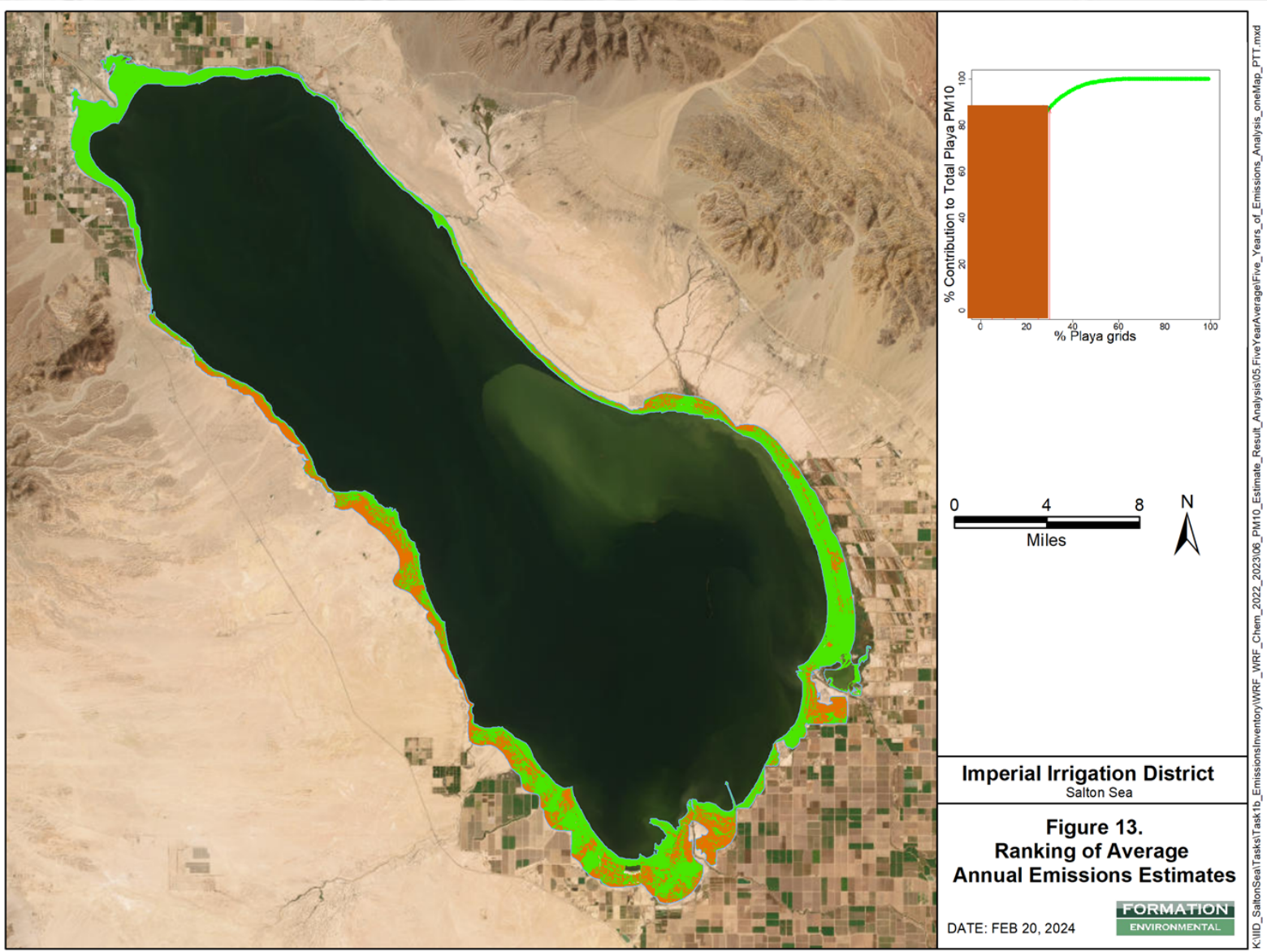


Annual PM 10 Emissions for the Desert and Playa



Ranking of Average Annual Emissions Estimates

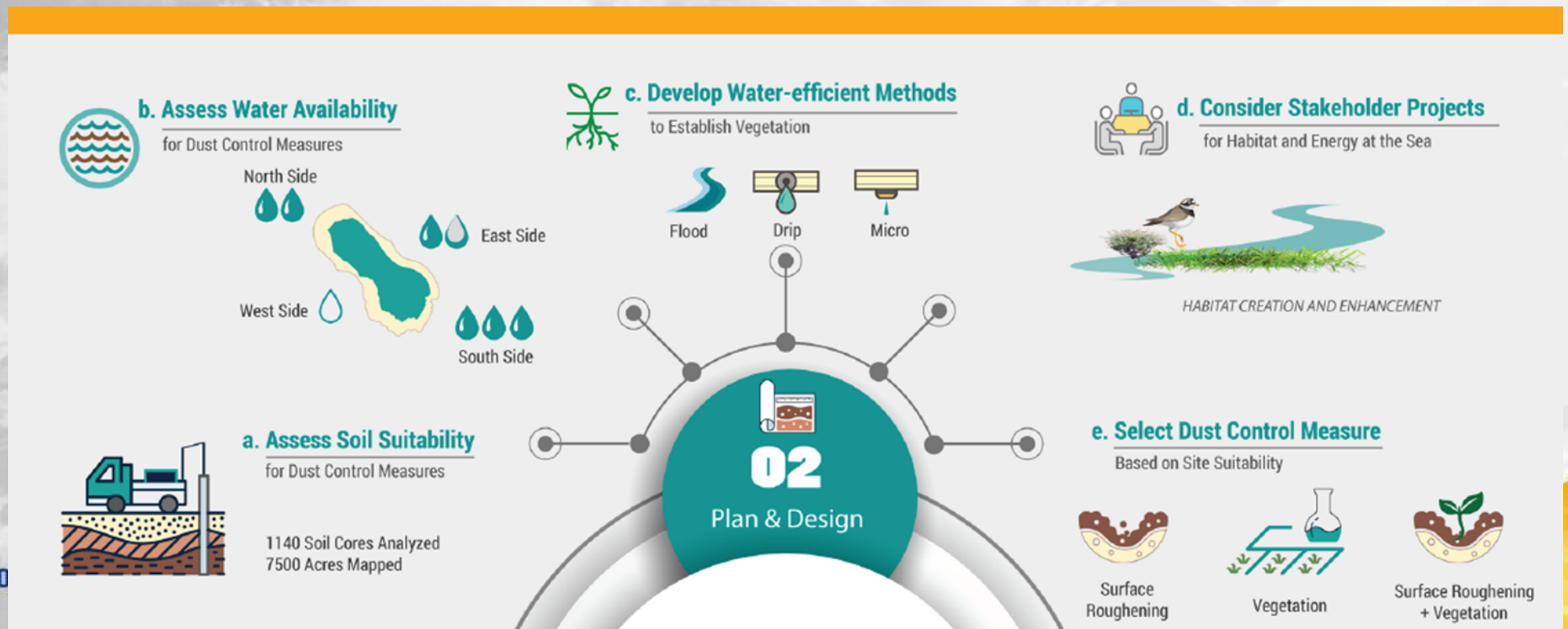
Playa Percentage	Area (ac)	Percent of Total PM_{10} Emissions
5	1,530	30
10	3,060	49
15	4,590	63
20	6,110	73
25	7,640	81
30	9,170	88



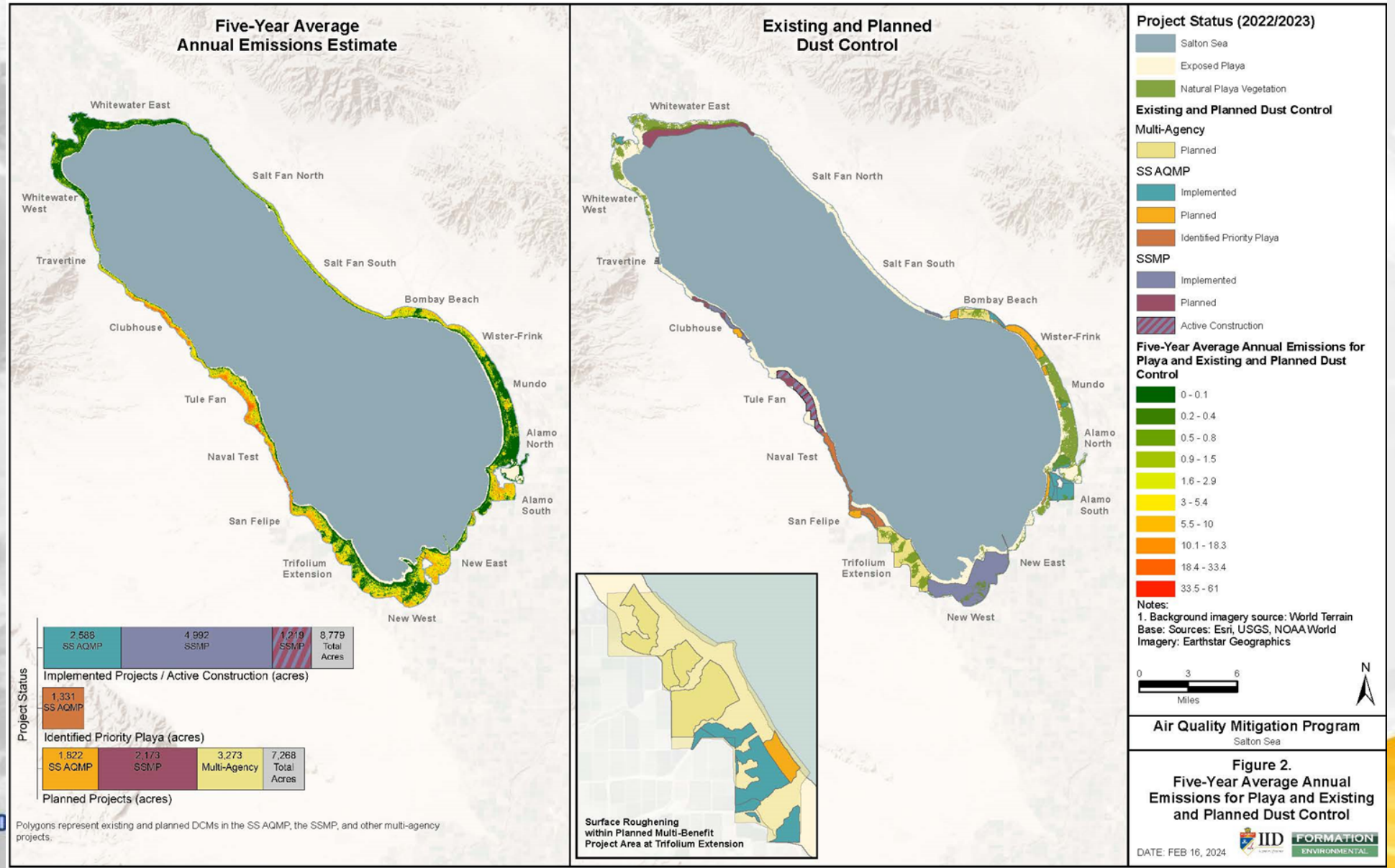
Plan and Design

Annual Proactive Dust Control Plans

- Identify priority playa areas based on emissions estimate results



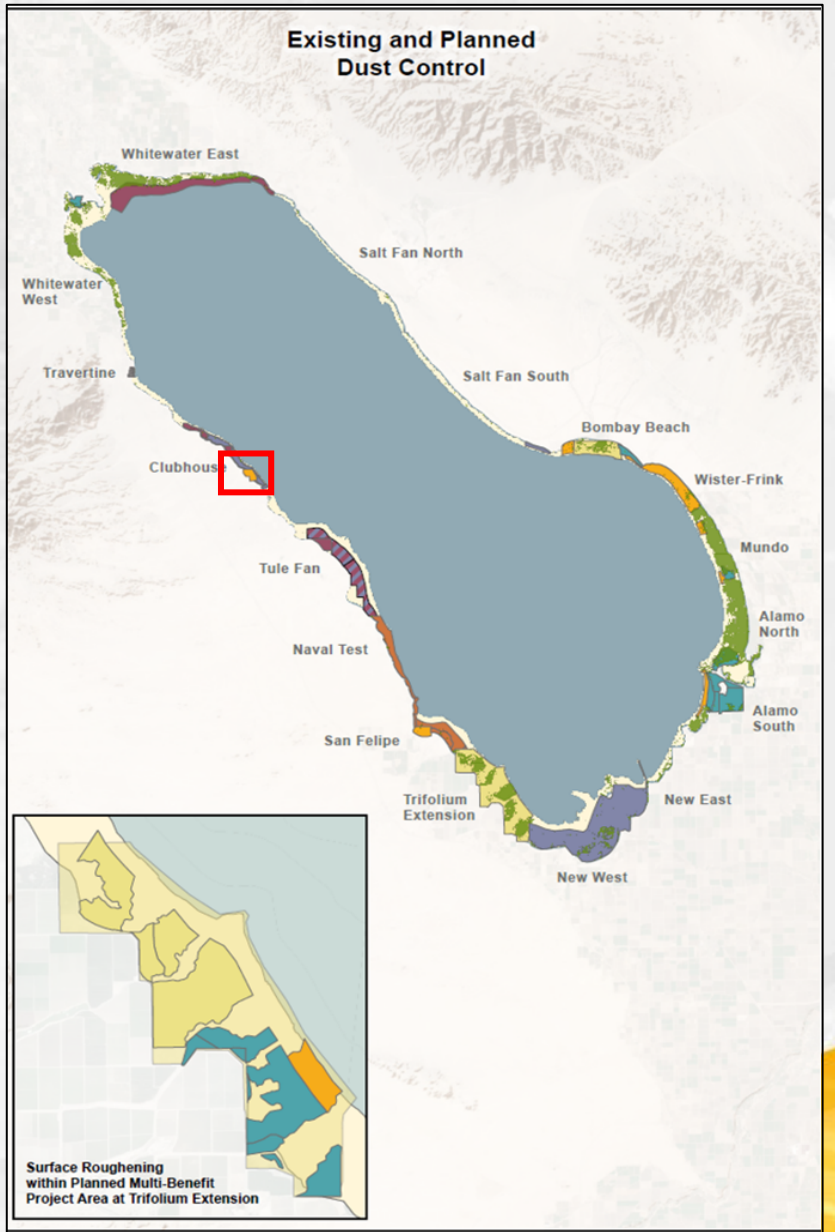
Five-Year Average Annual Emissions for Playa and Existing and Planned Dust Control



Implement and Monitor

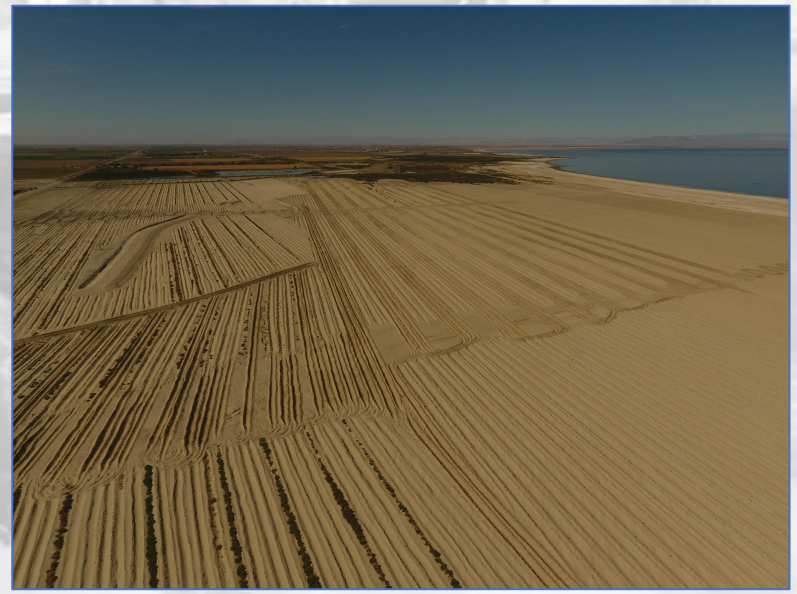
- Implement Projects
- Performance Monitoring
- Recommendations for maintenance activities

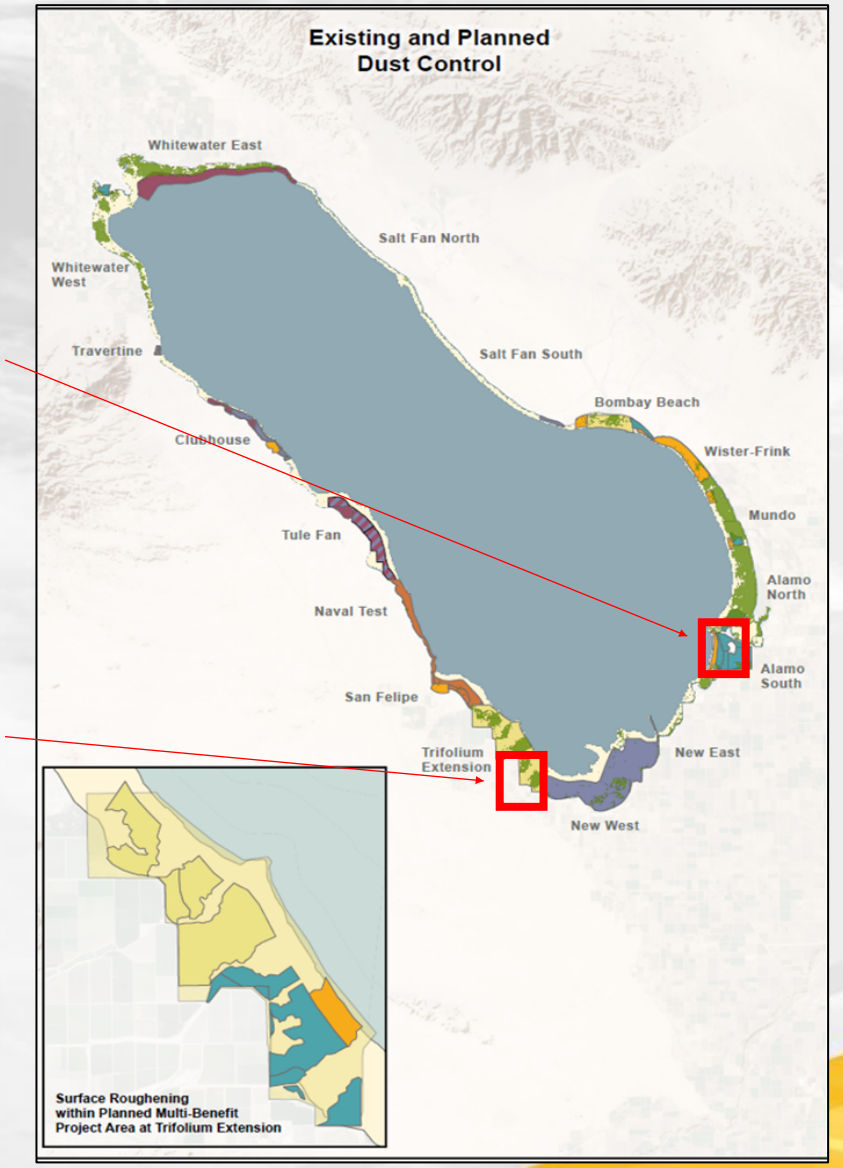
Existing and Planned Dust Control



Existing and Planned Dust Control Continued

Existing and Planned Dust Control Continued





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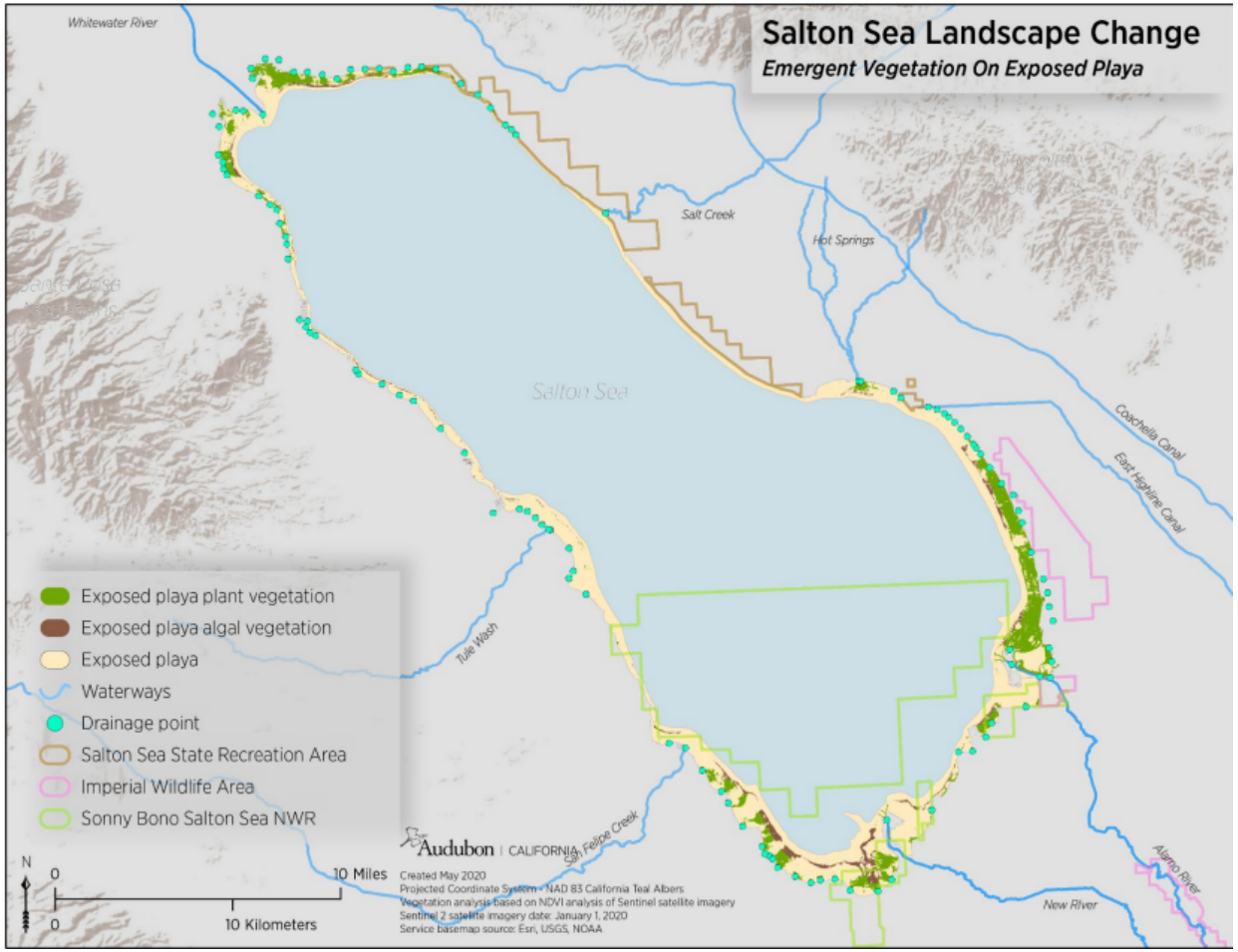
Audubon
Bombay Beach
Wetland Project
A MULTI-BENEFIT HABITAT ENHANCEMENT &
DUST CONTROL DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

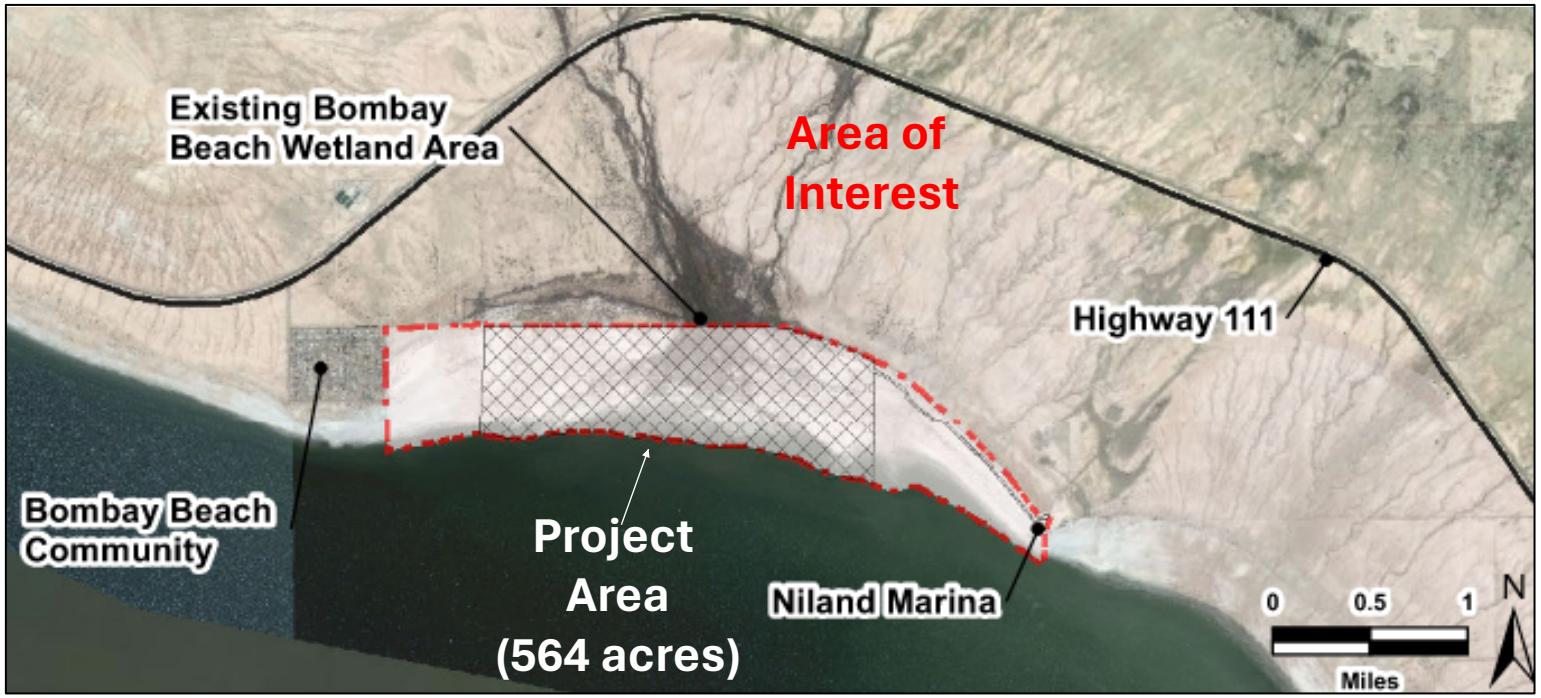
Wetland Enhancement at the Salton Sea



Emerging wetland areas (green) around the Salton Sea in January 2020

- Critical bird habitat along Pacific Flyway
- Environmental and public health issues
- Habitats are vulnerable to:
  - **Erosion** from intense storms.
  - Invasion by non-native **Tamarisk**.
  - **Wetland drainage** from erosion.
  - Groundwater level **decline.**

Audubon | CALIFORNIA



Project Location

Bombay Beach Wetland (BBW) Project

Images of various types of habitat at the Bombay Beach Wetland

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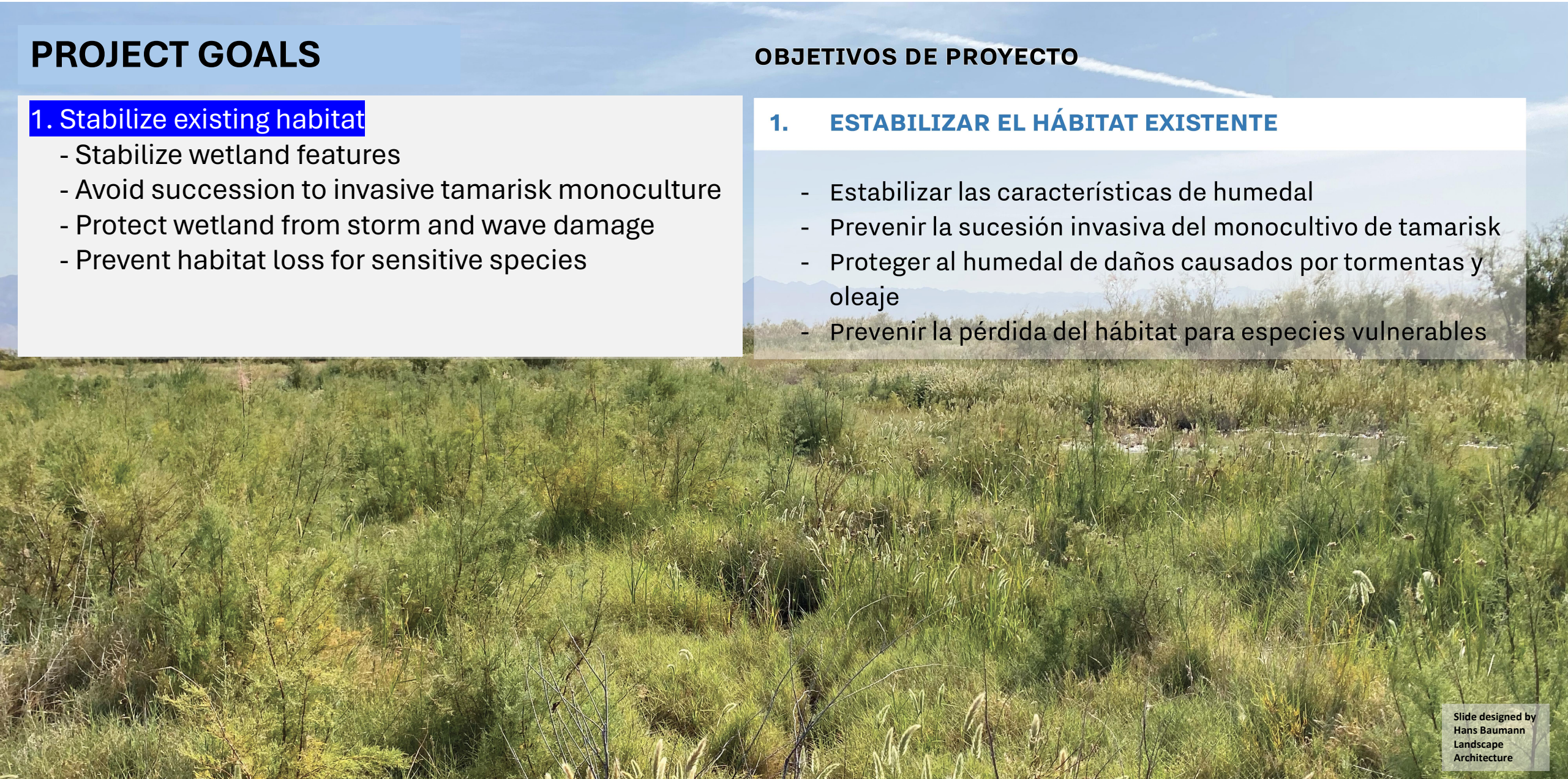
PROJECT GOALS

1. Stabilize existing habitat
   - Stabilize wetland features
   - Avoid succession to invasive tamarisk monoculture
   - Protect wetland from storm and wave damage
   - Prevent habitat loss for sensitive species

OBJETIVOS DE PROYECTO

1. ESTABILIZAR EL HÁBITAT EXISTENTE

   - Estabilizar las características de humedal
   - Prevenir la sucesión invasiva del monocultivo de tamarisk
   - Proteger al humedal de daños causados por tormentas y oleaje
   - Prevenir la pérdida del hábitat para especies vulnerables



Slide designed by Hans Baumann Landscape Architecture

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PROJECT GOALS

1. Enhance existing habitat
   - Expand habitat area where possible
   - Anticipate natural processes and succession
   - Provide habitat for target species
   - Optimize water use

OBJETIVOS DE PROYECTO

2. MEJORAR EL HÁBITAT EXISTENTE

- Expandir el área del hábitat donde sea posible
- Anticipar los procesos naturales y la sucesión ecológica
- Proporcionar hábitat para especies seleccionadas
- Optimizar el uso del agua

Slide designed by
Hans Baumann
Landscape
Architecture

Audubon | CALIFORNIA

PROJECT GOALS

3. Dust control and reduction
   - Target high-dust areas
   - Promote native plant species
   - Increase vegetation coverage
   - Utilize available water for dust control

OBJETIVOS DE PROYECTO

3. CONTROL Y REDUCIÓN DEL POLVO

- Enfoque en áreas de alto contenido de polvo
- Promover especies de plantas nativas
- Incrementar cobertura de la vegetación
- Utilizar el agua disponible para controlar el polvo

Slide designed by
Hans Baumann
Landscape
Architecture

PROJECT GOALS

4. Community Benefits

- Improve local air quality
- Incorporate public access
- Outdoor recreation
- Introduce opportunities for education/learning

OBJETIVOS DE PROYECTO

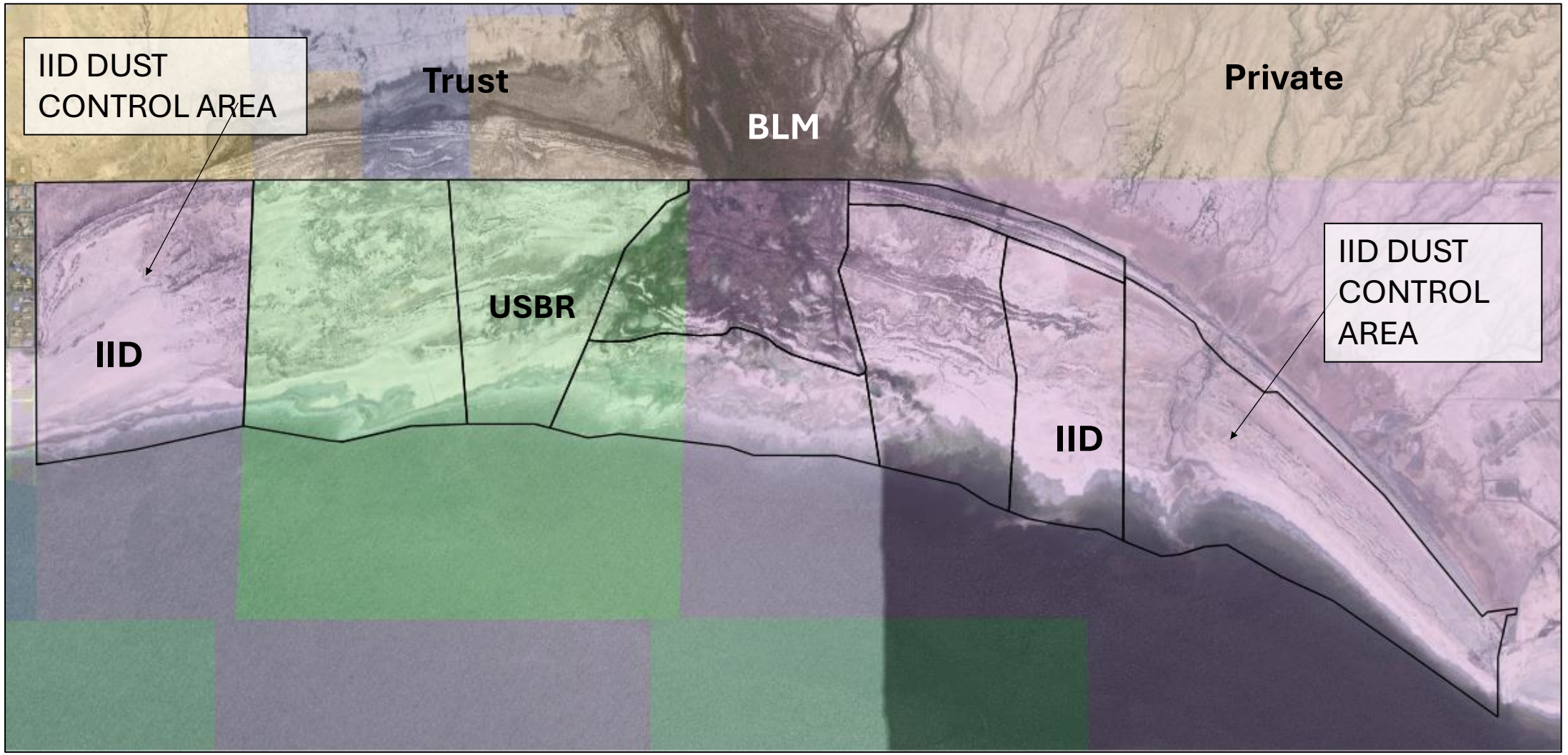
4. BENEFICIOS PARA LA COMUNIDAD

- Mejoramiento local de la calidad del aire
- Incorporación de acceso público
- Recreación al aire libre
- Introducción de oportuniades de educación/aprendizaje

Watershed features

Land Ownership

Audubon | CALIFORNIA



Preliminary (35%) Design

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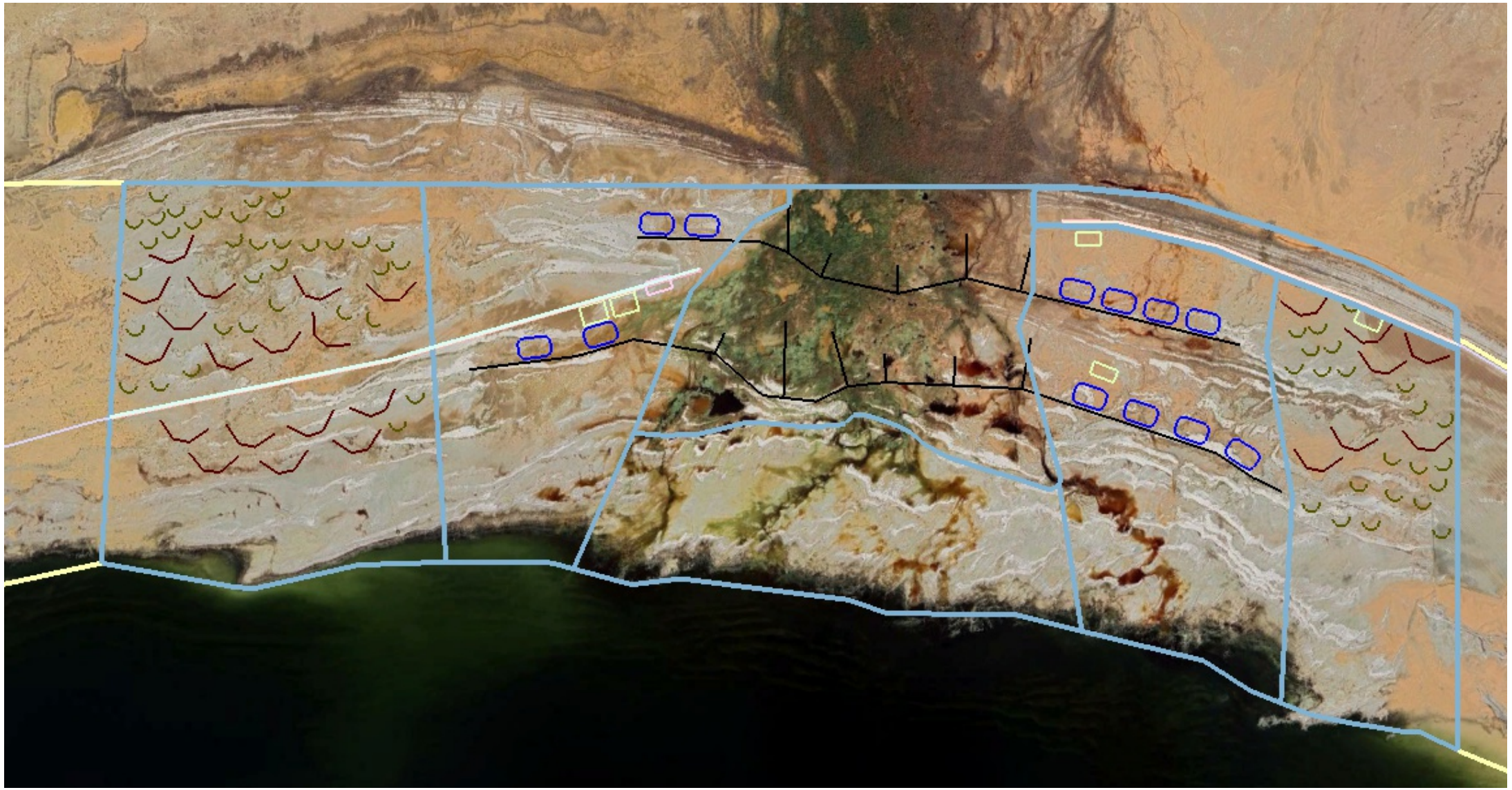
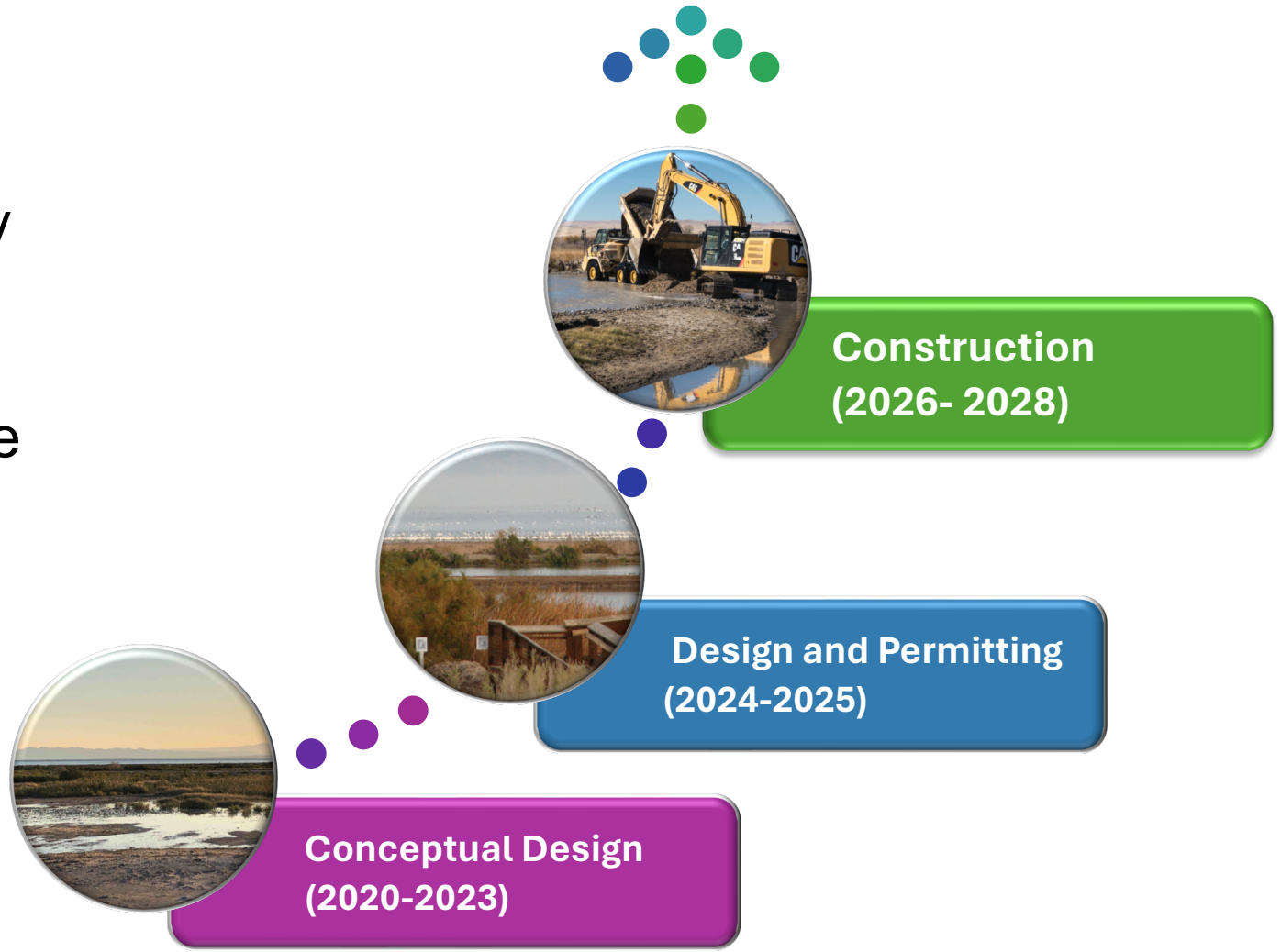


Implementation Plan , Schedule & Partners

- Project design and permits funded to date by United States Bureau of Reclamation
- Partners include CA State SSMP Team, IID, USBR, CA State Parks



Questions?
Audubon
Thank you!

Panel 1 Q&A

Panel 2: Feasibility Study

Corrie Stetzel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Evon Willhoff, Department of Water Resources
Patrick O'Dowd, Salton Sea Authority

Salton Sea Authority

Salton Sea Authority

Legislative Milestones

SEC. 3032. SALTON SEA RESTORATION, CALIFORNIA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) SALTON SEA AUTHORITY.—The term "Salton Sea Authority" means the joint powers authority established under the laws of the State by a joint power agreement signed on June 2, 1993.

(2) SALTON SEA SCIENCE OFFICE.—The term "Salton Sea Science Office" means the office established by the United States Geological Survey and located on the date of enactment of this Act in La Quinta, California.

(3) STATE.—The term "State" means the State of California.

(b) PILOT PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall review the plan approved by the State, entitled the "Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Preferred Alternative Report and Funding Plan", and dated May 2007 to determine whether the pilot projects described in the plan are feasible.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), if the Secretary determines that the pilot projects referred to in subparagraph (A) meet the requirements described in that subparagraph, the Secretary may—

(I) enter into an agreement with the State; and

(II) in consultation with the Salton Sea Authority and the Salton Sea Science Office, carry out pilot projects for improvement of the environment in the area of the Salton Sea.

(ii) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall be a party to each contract for construction entered into under this subparagraph.

(2) LOCAL PARTICIPATION.—In prioritizing pilot projects under this section, the Secretary shall—

(A) consult with the State, the Salton Sea Authority, and the Salton Sea Science Office; and

(B) take into consideration the priorities of the State and the Salton Sea Authority.

(3) COST SHARING.—Before carrying out a pilot project under this section, the Secretary shall enter into a written agreement with the State that requires the non-Federal interest for the pilot project to pay 35 percent of the total costs of the pilot project.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (b) $30,000,000, of which not more than $5,000,000 shall be used for any one pilot project under this section.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Salton Sea and Tributaries, Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego Counties, California

RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Resolved by the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the United States Senate, The Secretary of the Army is hereby requested to review the reports of the Chief of Engineers contained in the preliminary examination report on flood control for all streams in San Diego and Imperial Counties, California, flowing into Salton Sea, dated July 15, 1943, and other pertinent reports to determine advisability of Federal participation in providing improvements for flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and other water and land related resources for Salton Sea and the vicinity including all tributaries with a view towards restoration and protection of the environment, and improvements to public health and safety for Salton Sea and Tributaries, Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego Counties, California.

Chairman

Barbara Boxer

Ranking Minority Member

Adopted: 4/28/16

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7575

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 30, 2020

Received

AN ACT

To provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

(e) SALTON SEA, CALIFORNIA.—In carrying out the program to implement projects to restore the Salton Sea, California, authorized by section 3032 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1113; 130 Stat. 1677), the Secretary is authorized to carry out a study for the construction of a perimeter lake, or a northern or southern subset thereof, for the Salton Sea, California.

Salton Sea Authority

Signing Day

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
AND
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
AND
THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
FOR THE
IMPERIAL STREAMS SALTON SEA AND TRIBUTARIES FEASIBILITY STUDY, CA

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into this 16th day of December 2022, by and between the Department of the Army (hereinafter the "Government"), represented by the District Commander for Los Angeles District (hereinafter the "District Commander") and the California Department of Water Resources and the Salton Sea Authority (hereinafter the "Non-Federal Sponsors"), represented by the Director for California Department of Water Resources and the Executive Director for Salton Sea Authority.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement, which shall become effective upon the date it is signed by the District Commander.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

BY: _____
Julie A. Balten
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

DATE: 16 December 2022

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

BY: _____
Cindy Messer
Lead Deputy Director

DATE: 16 December 2022

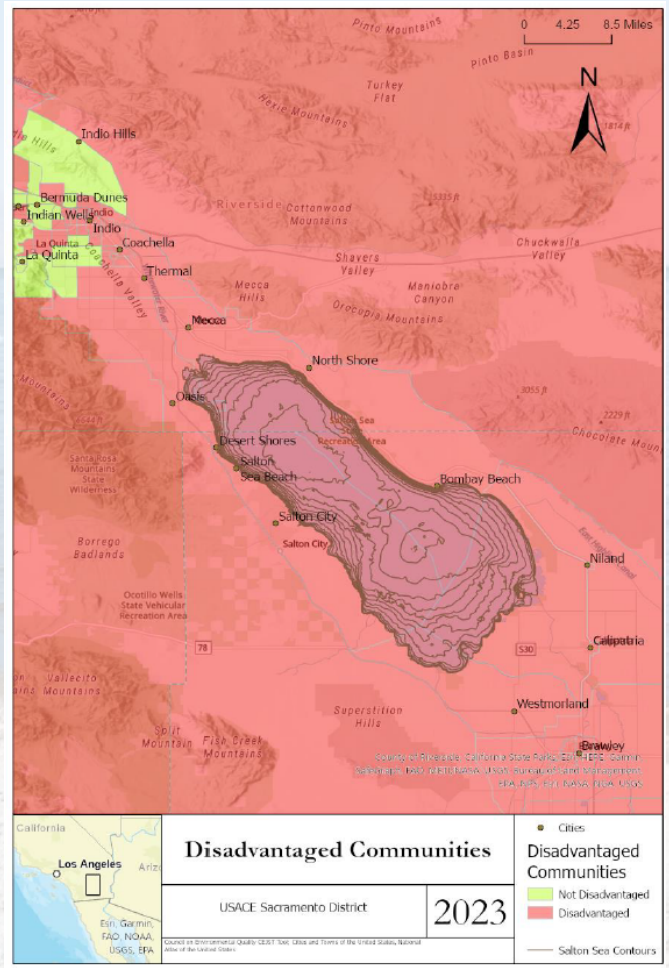
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

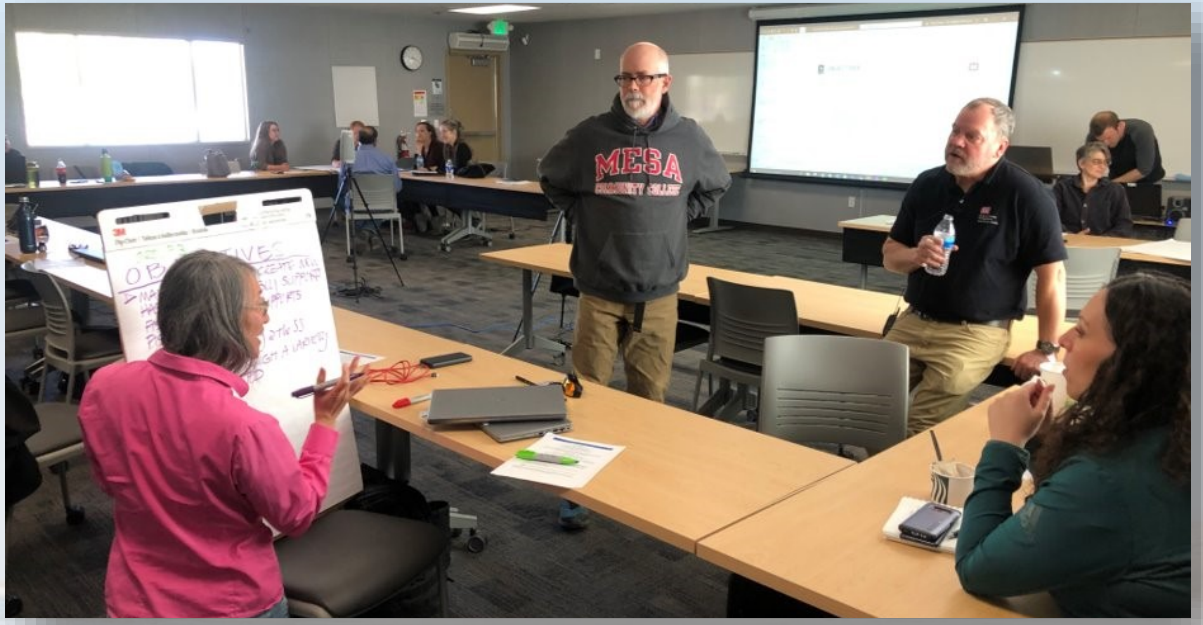
BY: _____
G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director

DATE: 16 December 2022

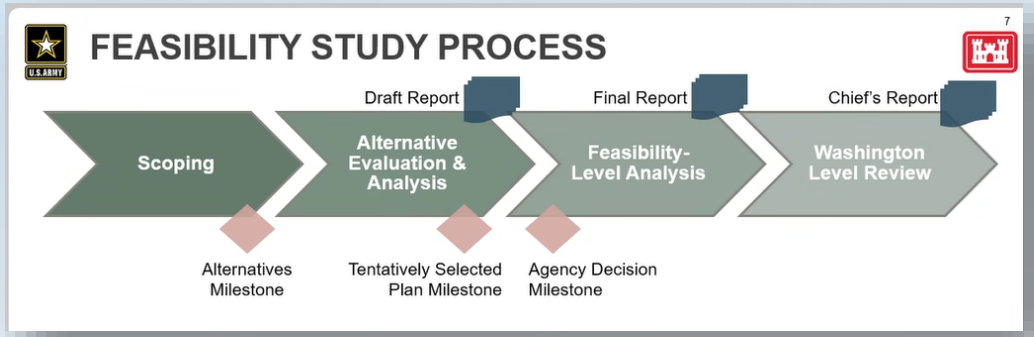
Salton Sea Authority

Work in Progress

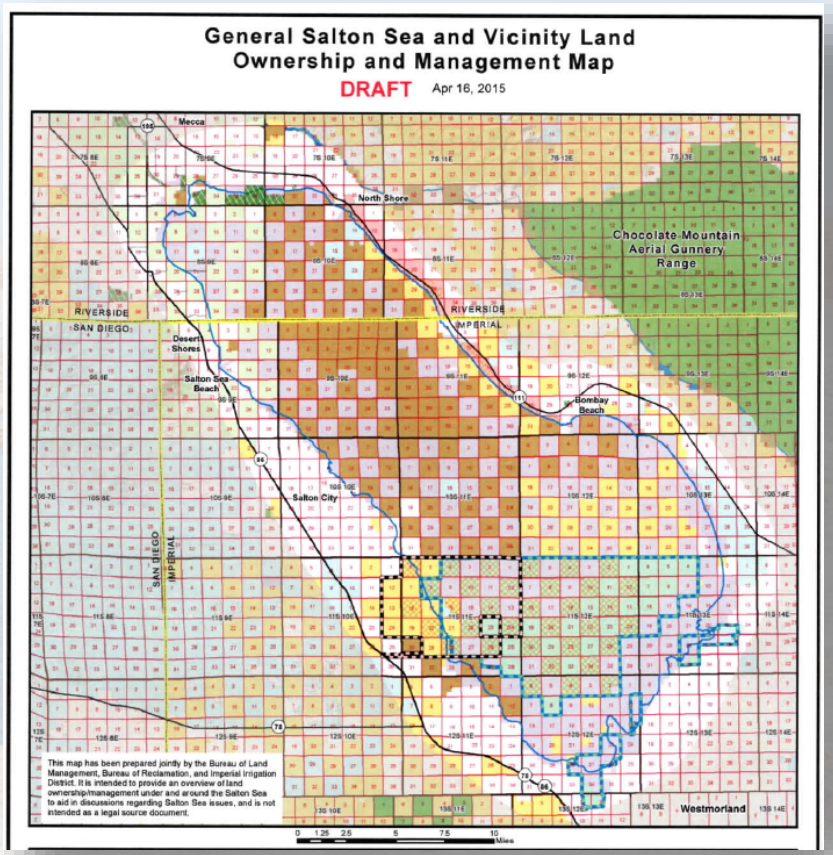




Salton Sea Authority



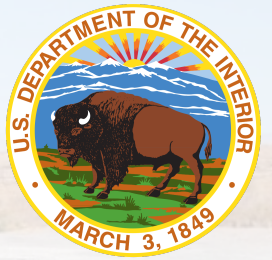
Next Steps

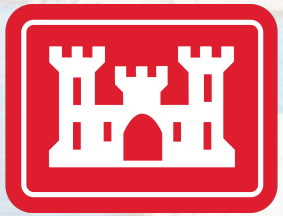


WRDA 20XX

Salton Sea Authority

“All of Government” and more…



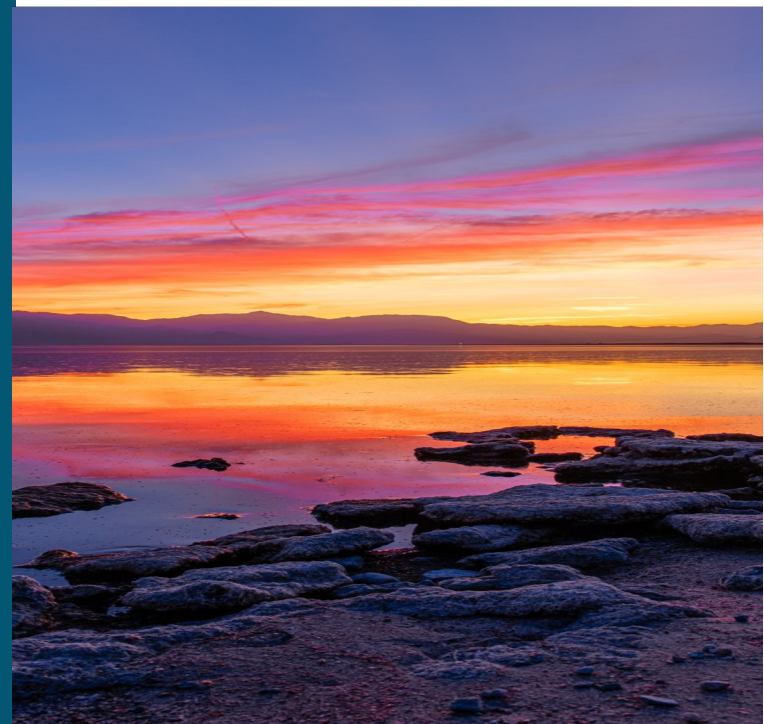


Salton Sea Authority

Salton Sea Management Program

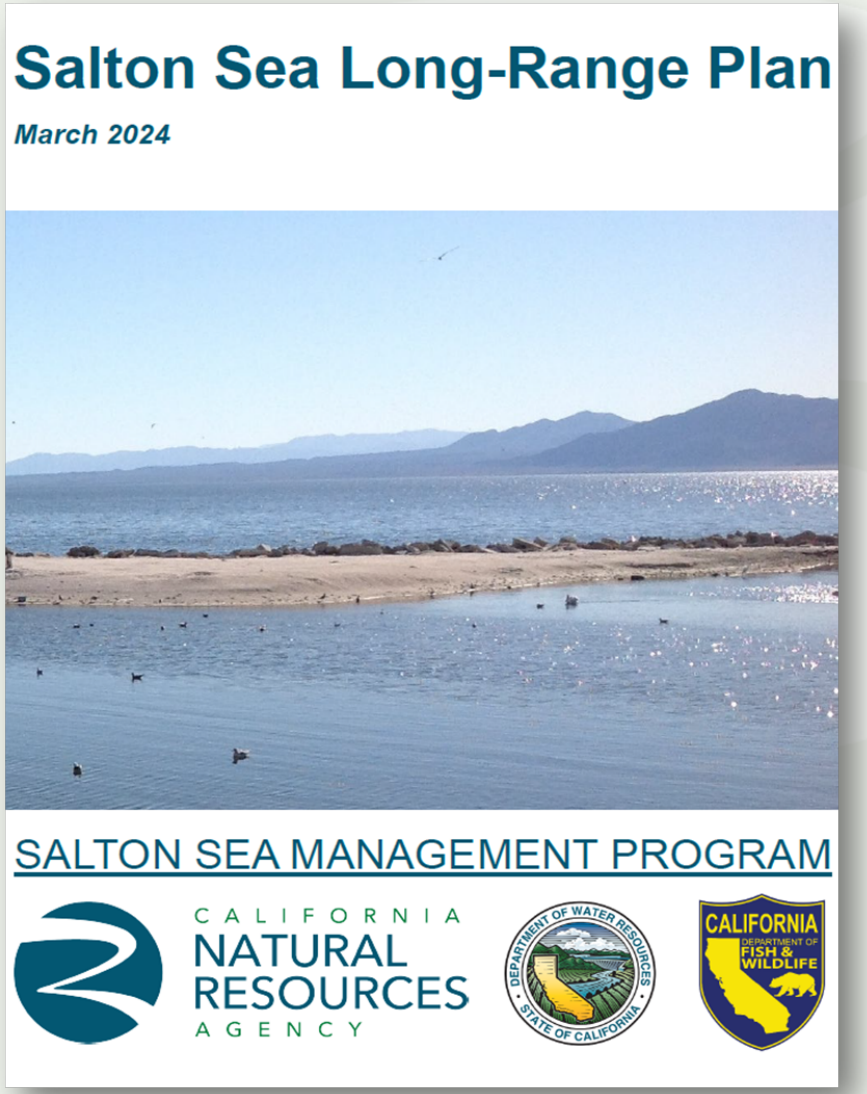
Panel 2: Imperial Streams & Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

Evon Willhoff | May 22, 2024

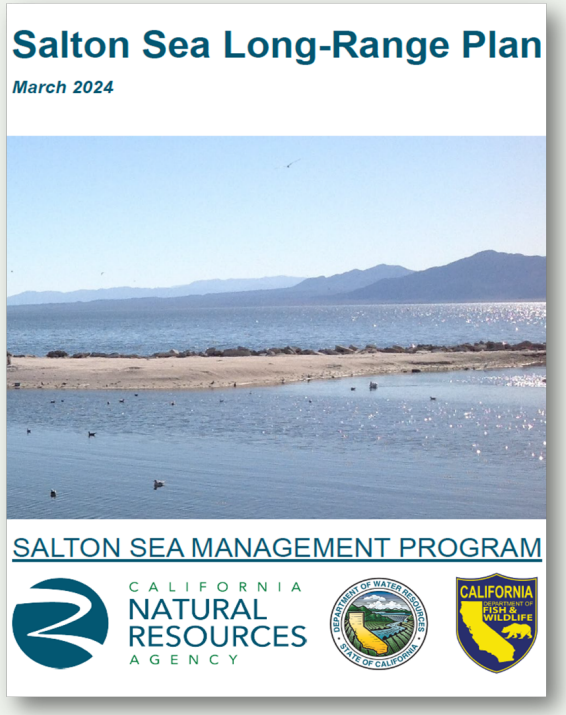


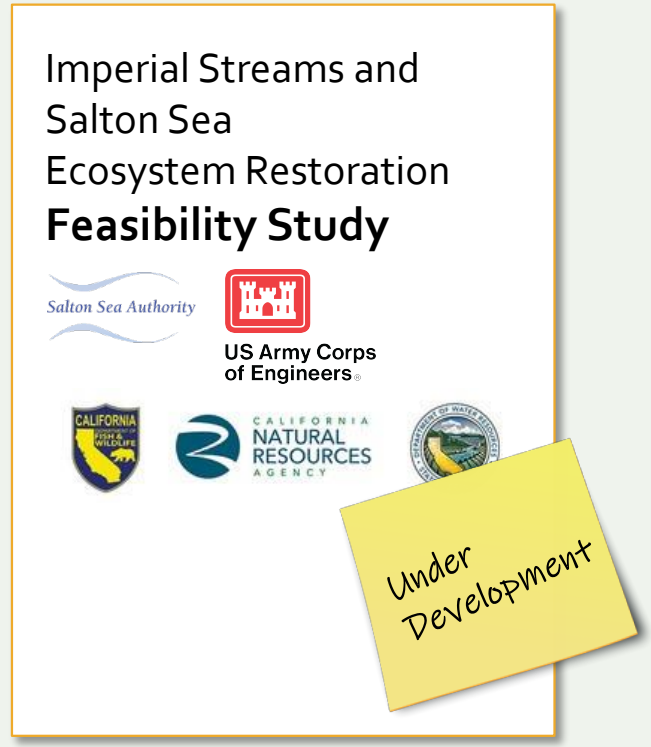
Phase 2: Long-Range Plan

- The Salton Sea Management Program prepared the Long-Range Plan (LRP or Plan) to comply with State Water Board Revised Order WR 2002-0013.
- Developed with support from Tribal leadership, community-based organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies, the draft plan identifies concepts for long-term restoration of the Sea beyond the scope of the SSMP's Phase 1: 10-Year Plan.
- Received public comments in 2023 and finalized earlier this year



Imperial Streams & Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study





LRP informs the development of a Feasibility Study - (Environmental Review)

Thank you

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROGRAMS

- Regulatory Program
- Military Program
- **Civil Works Program**
  - ➢ Primary Project Purposes:
    - – Navigation
    - – Flood Risk Management
      - ○ Coastal Storm Risk Management
    - – **Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration**
  - ➢ Associated Project Purposes:
    - – Water Supply
    - – Hydropower
    - – Recreation

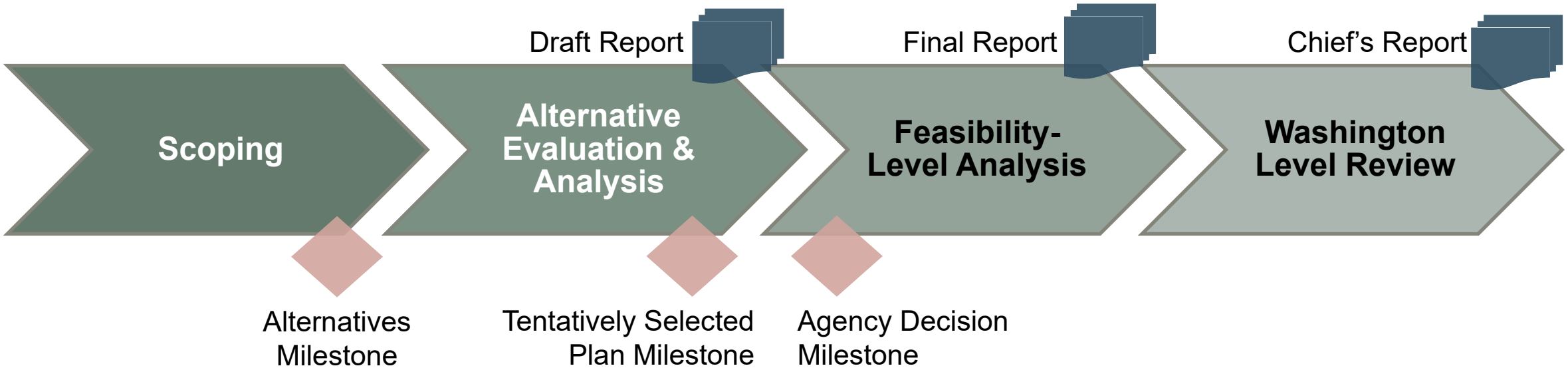
ENGINEER REGULATION 1105-2-103

"The objective of ecosystem restoration is to restore degraded ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic processes to a less degraded, more natural condition."

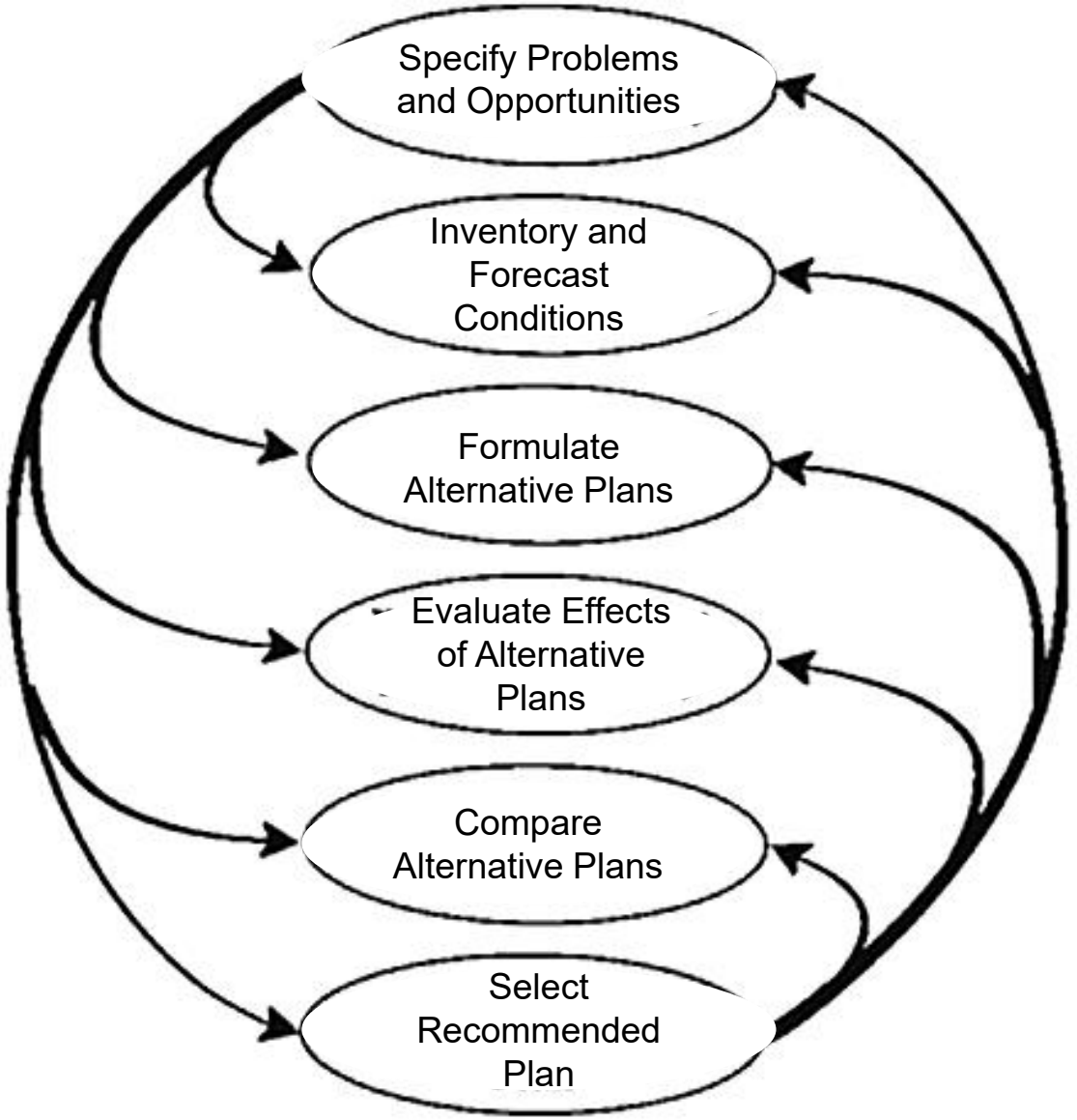
“Similar to other project purposes, the value of ecosystem restoration outputs shall equal or exceed their cost."

“Key assumptions … should also include reasonably foreseeable actions by USACE, other public, and/or private entities in the expected future without project condition.”

FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS



USACE PLANNING PROCESS



WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014

"To the extent practicable, a feasibility study initiated by the Secretary… shall—

1) *result in the completion of a final feasibility report not later than 3 years after the date of initiation;*
2) *have a maximum Federal cost of $3,000,000; and*
3) *ensure that personnel from the district, division, and headquarters levels of the Corps of Engineers concurrently conduct the review required under that section."*

IMPERIAL STREAMS SALTON SEA STUDY

- Authorized by 2016 Resolution of the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works
- "…*improvements for …**ecosystem restoration**, and other water and land related resources for **Salton Sea and the vicinity including all tributaries** with a view towards restoration and protection of the environment, and **improvements to public health and safety**…*"
- Feasibility Cost Share Agreement signed 16 December 2022
- Alternatives Milestone achieved August 2023

STUDY OBJECTIVES

- **Improve the quality, quantity, and complexity of aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitat** to support increased populations and diversity of fish and wildlife, including migratory and resident birds and threatened and endangered species
- In conjunction with aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitat restoration, **reduce the surface area of exposed emissive seabed** to reduce the harmful effect of dust storms
- In conjunction with aquatic ecosystem restoration, **improve recreation opportunities** to benefit local communities, as well as support job creation and local tourism

PLAN SELECTION

- **National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) Plan**
  - Plan that reasonably maximizes aquatic ecosystem restoration benefits compared to costs
  - Serves as the basis for cost sharing (65% Federal / 35% Local Sponsor)
  - Usually the plan recommended to Congress for implementation
- **Maximum Total Benefits Plan**
  - Plan that reasonably maximizes total net benefits across all benefit categories (social effects, national and regional economic development, environmental quality)
- **Locally Preferred Plan (optional)**
  - Must still be economically justified
  - Cost above NER Plan paid fully by Local Sponsor

Panel 2 Q&A

Public Comment Part 2