
California's Stake in the Colorado River

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Chairman & Colorado River Commissioner

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The Colorado River Basin

- “Law of the River” guides management
- Apportionments to:
 - *Upper Basin (CO, NM, UT, WY)*
 - *Lower Basin (AZ, CA, NV)*
 - *Mexico*
- The Colorado River supports:
 - *40 million people (50% in CA)*
 - *5.5 million acres of irrigated agriculture*
 - *30 federally recognized tribes.*
 - *4,200 MW of hydropower.*
 - *15 national parks & recreation areas*



The Colorado River Board of California

- State agency charged with protecting California's rights and interests in Colorado River resources
- Board Membership
 - Coachella Valley Water District
 - Imperial Irrigation District
 - Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
 - The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
 - Palo Verde Irrigation District
 - San Diego County Water Authority
 - Department of Water Resources
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Two at-large Public Members
 - President Jordan Joaquin (Ft. Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe) & Frank Ruiz (Audubon Society,



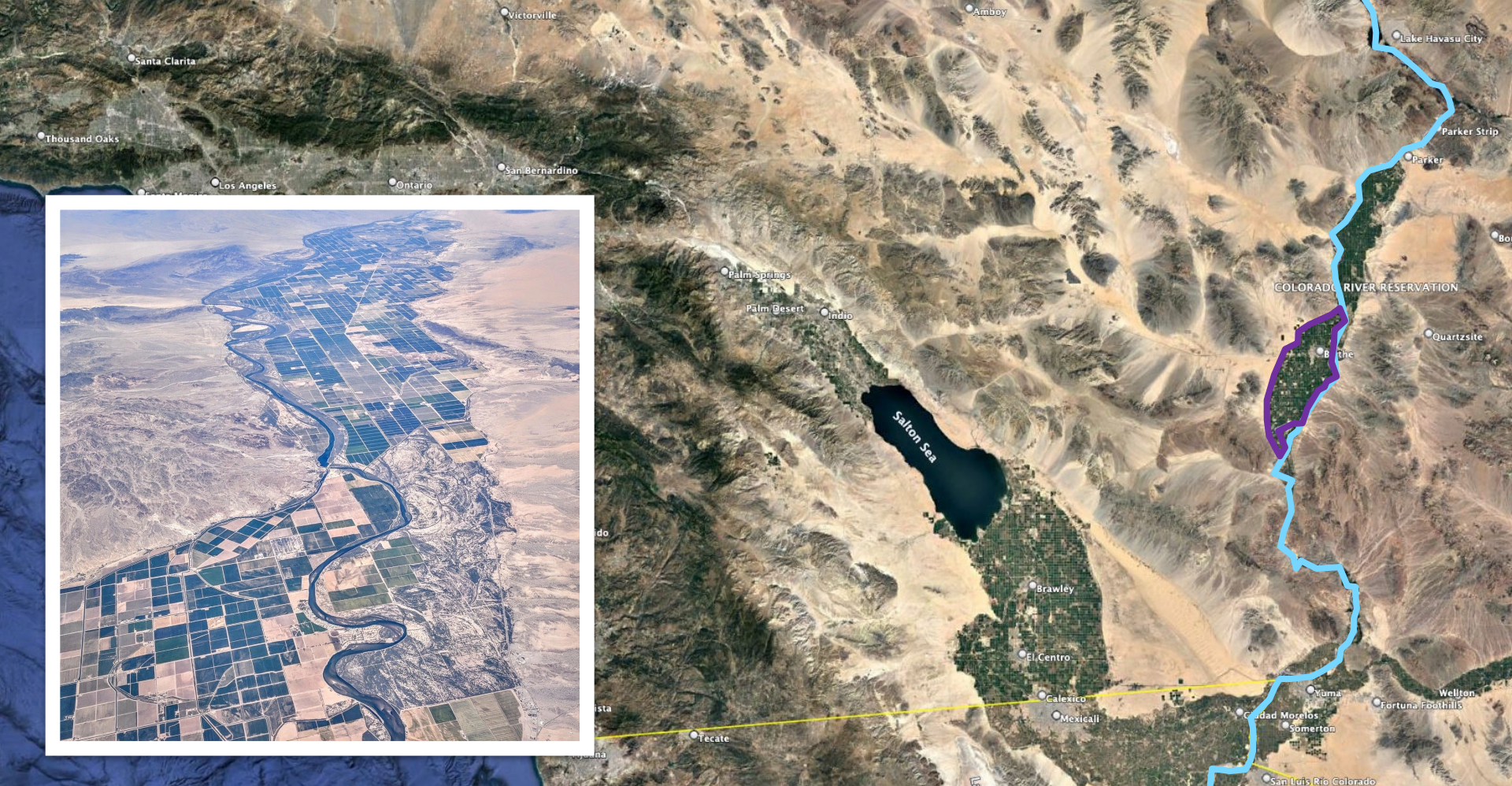
San Diego County
Water Authority



Basin States Process

- Each of the seven Basin States has an appointed Commissioner
 - *The Chairman of the Colorado River Board of California serves ex-officio as California's Colorado River Commissioner*
- Basin States meet to discuss ongoing programs, reservoir conditions and operations, future operating rules, and collaborate with the United States, Mexico, and Basin Tribes

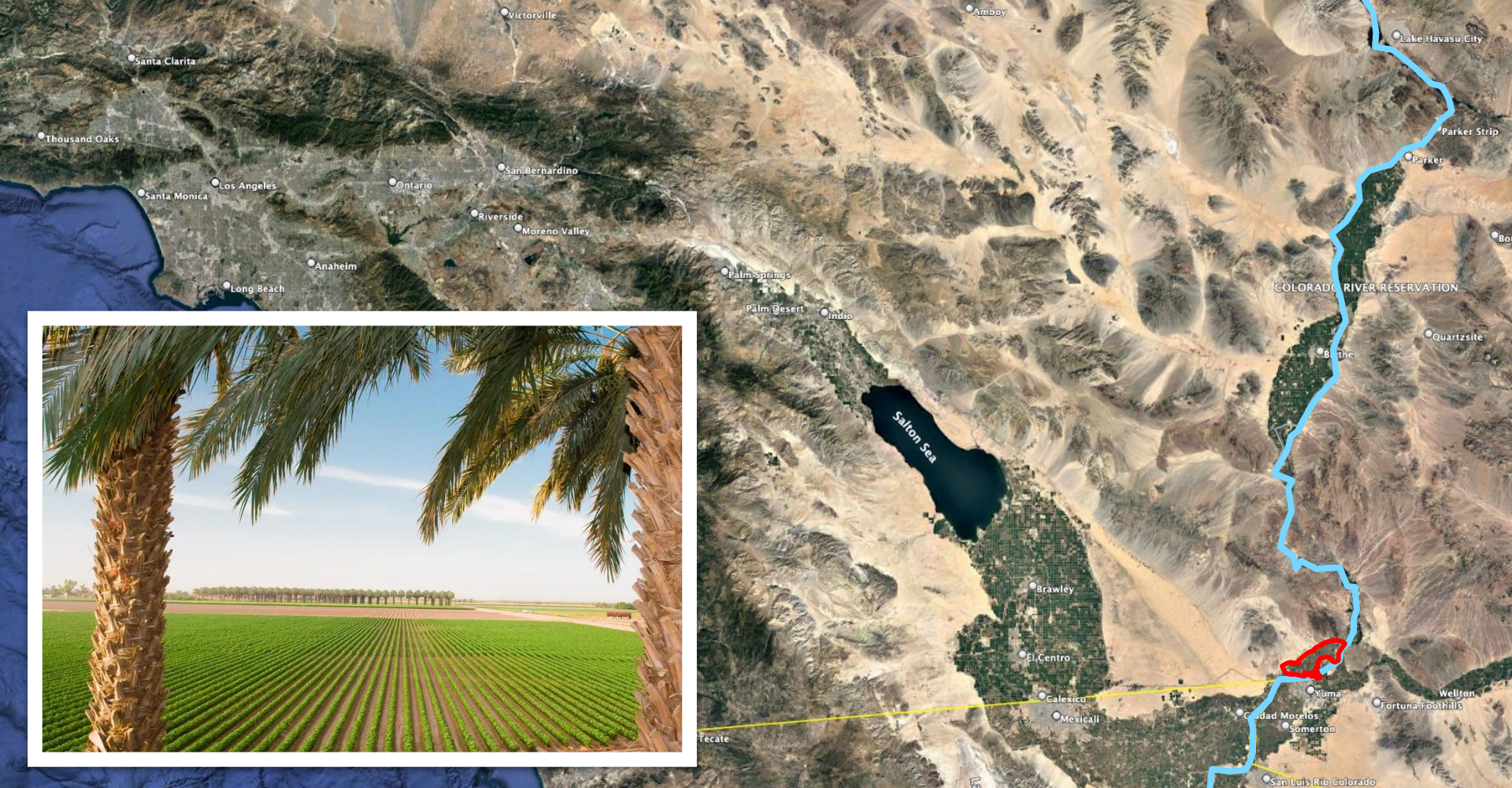




Palo Verde Irrigation District

- Unquantified water right serving approximately 105,000 acres of forage, vegetable, and fruit crops

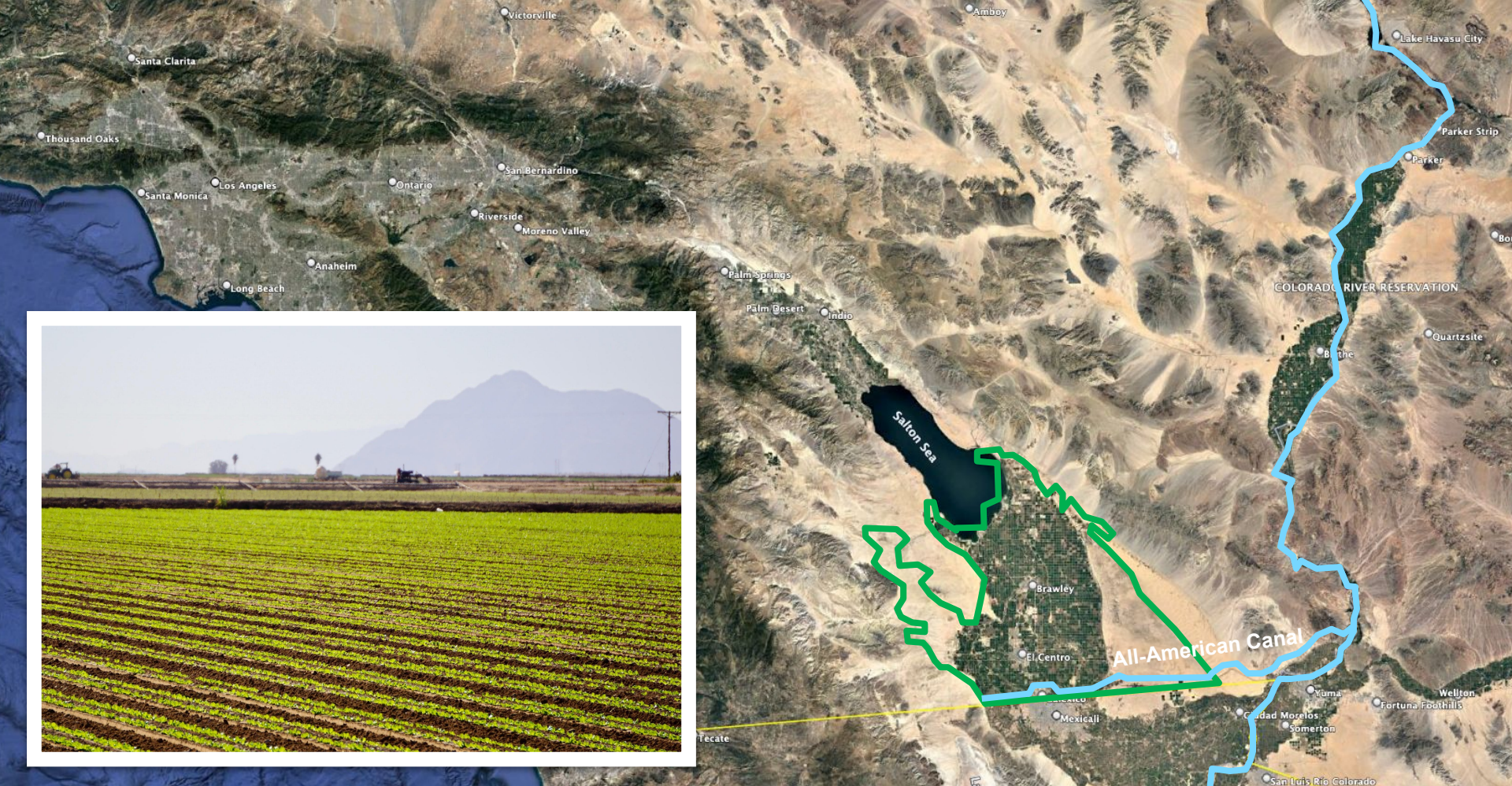




Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe & Bard Water District

- Unquantified water rights serving forage, vegetable, and fruit crops on 7,556 acres in the Indian Unit and 7,120 acres in the Bard Unit





Imperial Irrigation District

- 3.1 MAF water right serving about $\approx 472,000$ acres of forage, vegetable, and fruit crops
- $\approx 500,000$ AFY of water conserved for MWD/SDCWA/CVWD
 - (7.2+ MAF since 2003)

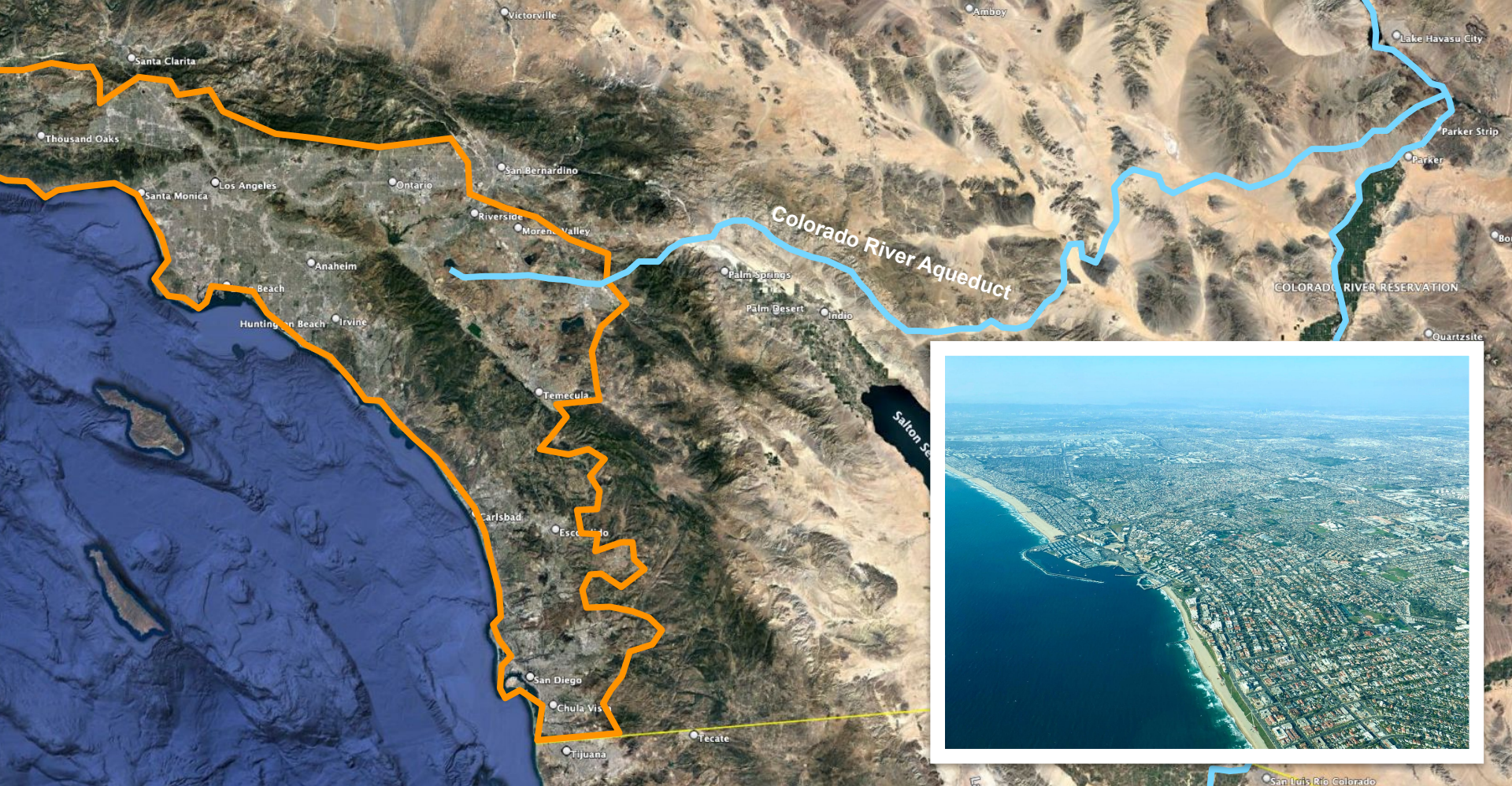




Coachella Valley Water District

- 330,000 AFY water right (+123,000 of transfer water) serving about 63,000 acres of dates, vegetables, fruit, and turf crops





The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

- Regional water wholesaler to 26 member agencies
- Right to 550,000 AFY supplemented with up to 590,000 AFY additional supply potential with conservation, forbearance/fallowing, exchange, and transfer programs



Developing & Limiting California's Rights

- Colorado River Compact (1922)
 - Divided the Basin into the Upper and Lower Basins, each with 7.5 MAF of use
 - Reserved water for Upper Basin development and allowed Lower Basin development to proceed
- Boulder Canyon Project Act (1928)
 1. Ratified the 1922 Compact
 2. Authorized Hoover Dam, Imperial Dam, and the All-American Canal
 3. Apportioned 4.4 MAF to CA, 2.8 MAF to AZ, 0.3 MAF to NV
 4. Assigned contracting to Interior Secretary
 - Contracted with PVID, IID, CVWD, & MWD
- California Limitation Act (1929)
 - Limited CA to 4.4 MAF in “normal” years



Priorities for California's 4.4 MAF

California Seven Party Agreement of 1931

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| 1. PVID (104,500 acres) | } | 3,850,000 AF |
| 2. Yuma Project (CA division, 25,000 acres) | | |
| 3. IID, CVWD and lands to be served by AAC | | |
| 4. MWD | | 550,000 AF |

= 4.4 MAF (California's basic apportionment)

- | | | |
|--|------------|------------|
| 5a. MWD | 550,000 AF | |
| 5b. San Diego city and/or county
(given to MWD) | 112,000 AF | |
| 6a. IID and lands to be served by AAC | } | 300,000 AF |
| 6b. PVID (16,000 acres of adjoining mesa) | | |

= 5.362 MAF total



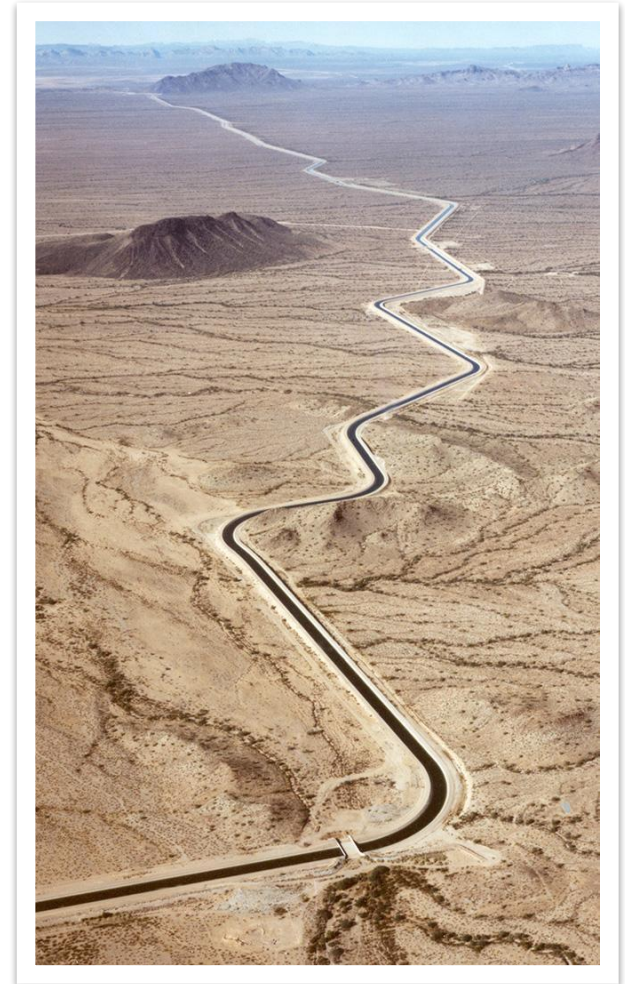
Settling Disputes

- 1944 Mexican Water Treaty
 - Committed 1.5 MAFY of Colorado River water to Mexico
 - Allowed proportional shortage sharing for “extraordinary drought” and “Minutes”
- 1963 Arizona v. California & decrees
 - Settled disputes between Arizona and California over CAP authorization, Gila River, and prior appropriation
 - Enjoined Secretary of DOI to not deliver to states outside entitlements and required reporting
 - Identified present perfected rights and American Indian water rights in the LB



New Paradigm in River Management

- 1968 Colorado River Basin Project Act
 - *Authorized construction of Central Arizona Project, directed SOI to plan augmentation*
 - *Subordinated CAP supply to California in times of shortage*
 - *Required Interior Secretary to develop long-range operating criteria for the river system*
- 1970 Criteria for Coordinated Long-Range Operation of Colorado River Reservoirs
 - *Coordinated operations of Lower/Upper Basin reservoirs*
 - *8.23 MAF annual Powell releases*



2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement

- Completion of AZ's CAP depleted available surplus which CA relied on
- SOI ordered CA to reduce use to 4.4 MAFY entitlement (-800 TAFY)

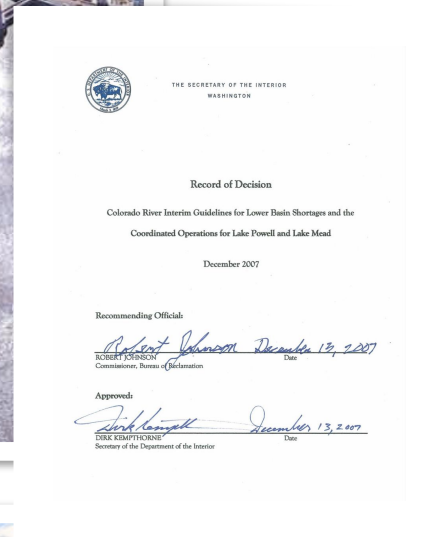
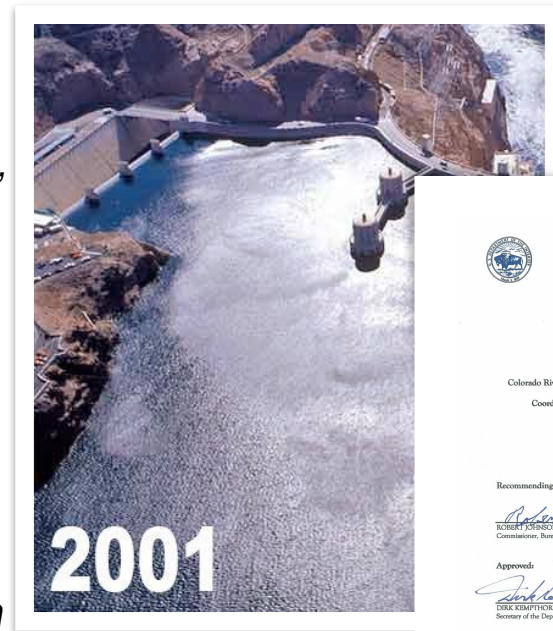
Key Provisions

- Quantifies IID at 3.1 MAF
- Quantifies CVWD at 330 TAF
- Provides for large-scale transfers of conserved water:
 - IID/SDCWA: 200 TAFY
 - IID/MWD: 105 TAFY
 - IID/CVWD: 103 TAFY
 - PVID/MWD: 33-133 TAFY
 - All-American Canal/Coachella Canal Lining projects: 96 TAFY
- State of California assumed Salton Sea mitigation and restoration funding obligations



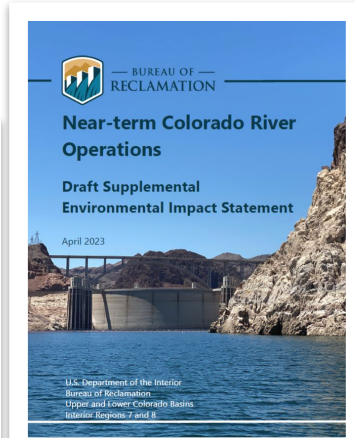
Management Through Collaboration

- 2001 Interim Surplus Guidelines
 - *Basin States Alternative selected for FEIS that allowed CA access to surplus water for “soft landing” in 4.4 Plan — surplus quickly turned to shortage*
- 2007 Interim Shortage Guidelines
 - *Operations Balance Powell/Mead*
 - *Storage and delivery of Intentionally Conserved Surplus (ICS)*
 - *Modified surplus conditions in Lower Division states*
 - *Shortage strategy for Lake Mead and Lower Division states (elevation triggers & reduction volumes)*
- 2019 Drought Contingency Plan
 - *Maintain UB compliance with 1922 Compact*
 - *Additional voluntary storage/shortage in LB*
 - *Incorporate Mexico contributions in shortage*



Events of 2022-2023

- 2-4 Million Acre-Foot Call
- Inflation Reduction Act
 - CA's 400,000 AF Proposal
 - Salton Sea partnership
- SEIS Initiated on 2007 ISG
- Six-State vs. CA Proposals
- Hydrology Improves
- Draft SEIS
 - Lower Basin collaboration



Next Steps and Final Points



- Basin States continue to work toward a consensus-based proposed alternative in final SEIS
- Demand exceeds supply: two decades of drought, climate change, and structural deficit deeply impacting the river system
 - *BIL/IRA funding & hydrology helps*
- California working with in-state stakeholders and Basin partners toward short & long term solutions

Thank You!

