



San Diego County
Water Authority



Claude "Bud" Lewis
Carlsbad Desalination Plant

Resilient by Design: Preparing our Water Future for a Changing Climate

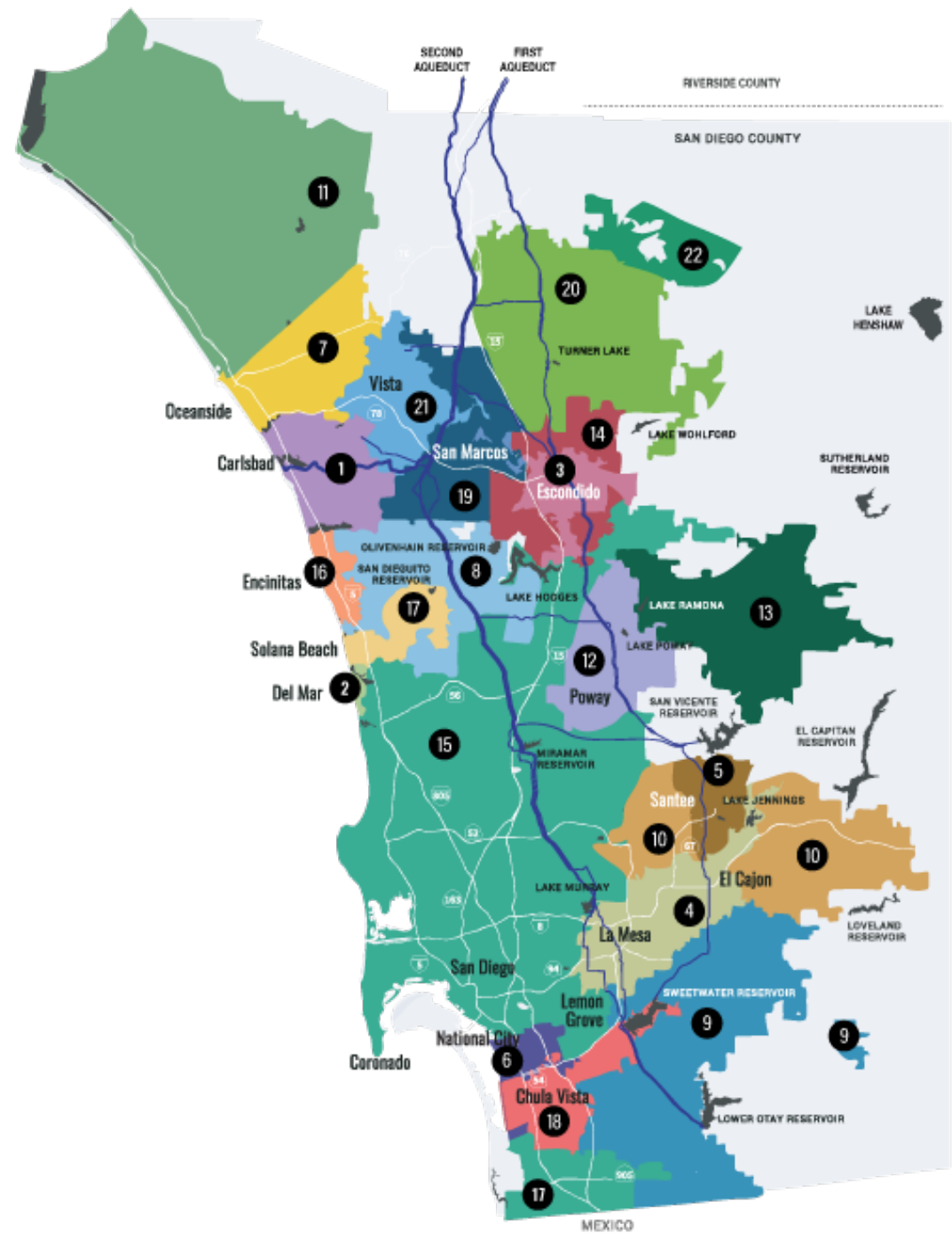
July 17, 2025

Resiliency Advisory Board

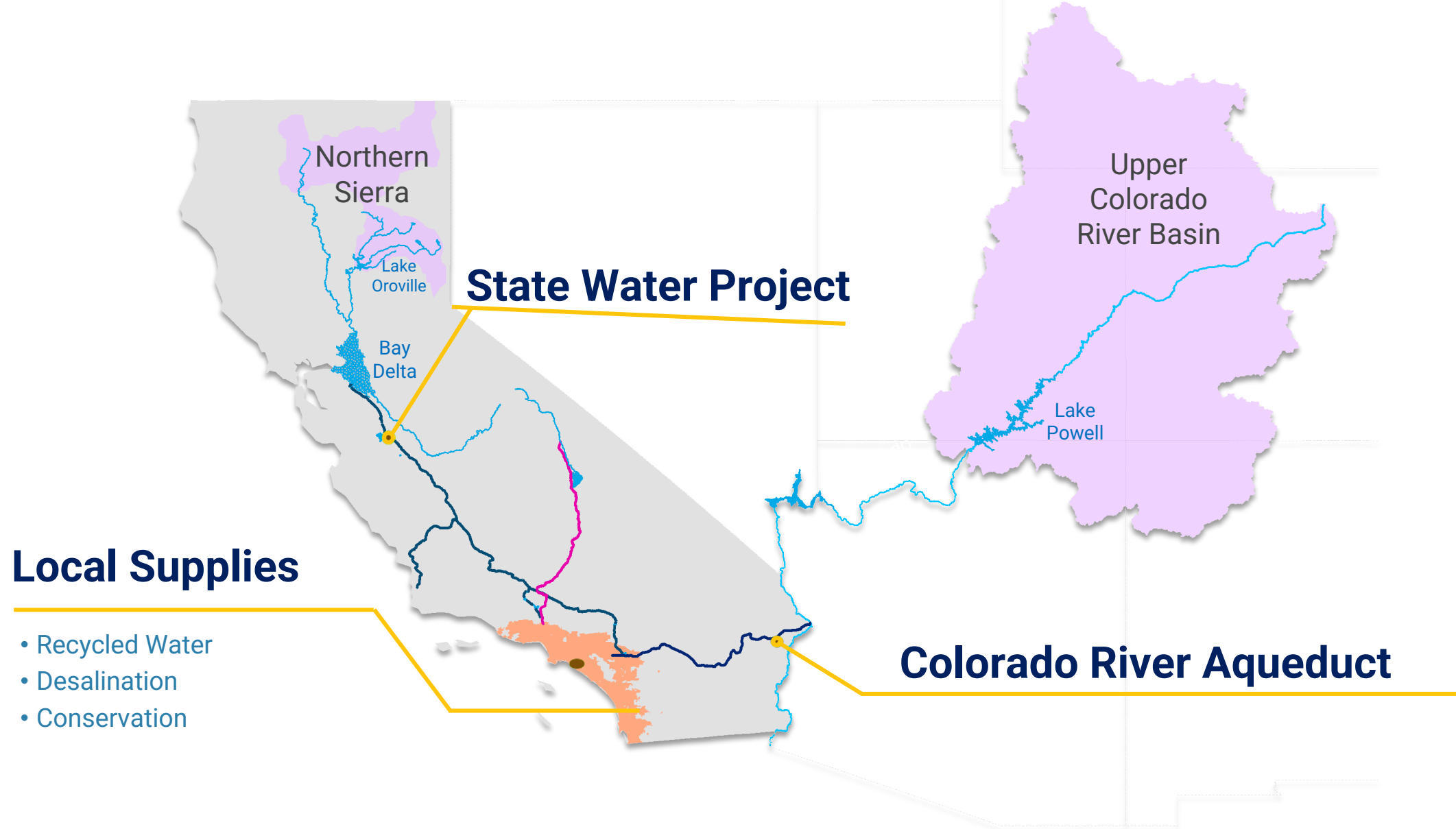
Meena Westford
Director of Imported Water

Serving a Vibrant Region

- ✓ Established in 1944
- ✓ 22 member agencies
- ✓ 34 Board members
- ✓ 3.3 million people
- ✓ \$262 billion economy
- ✓ ~250 employees



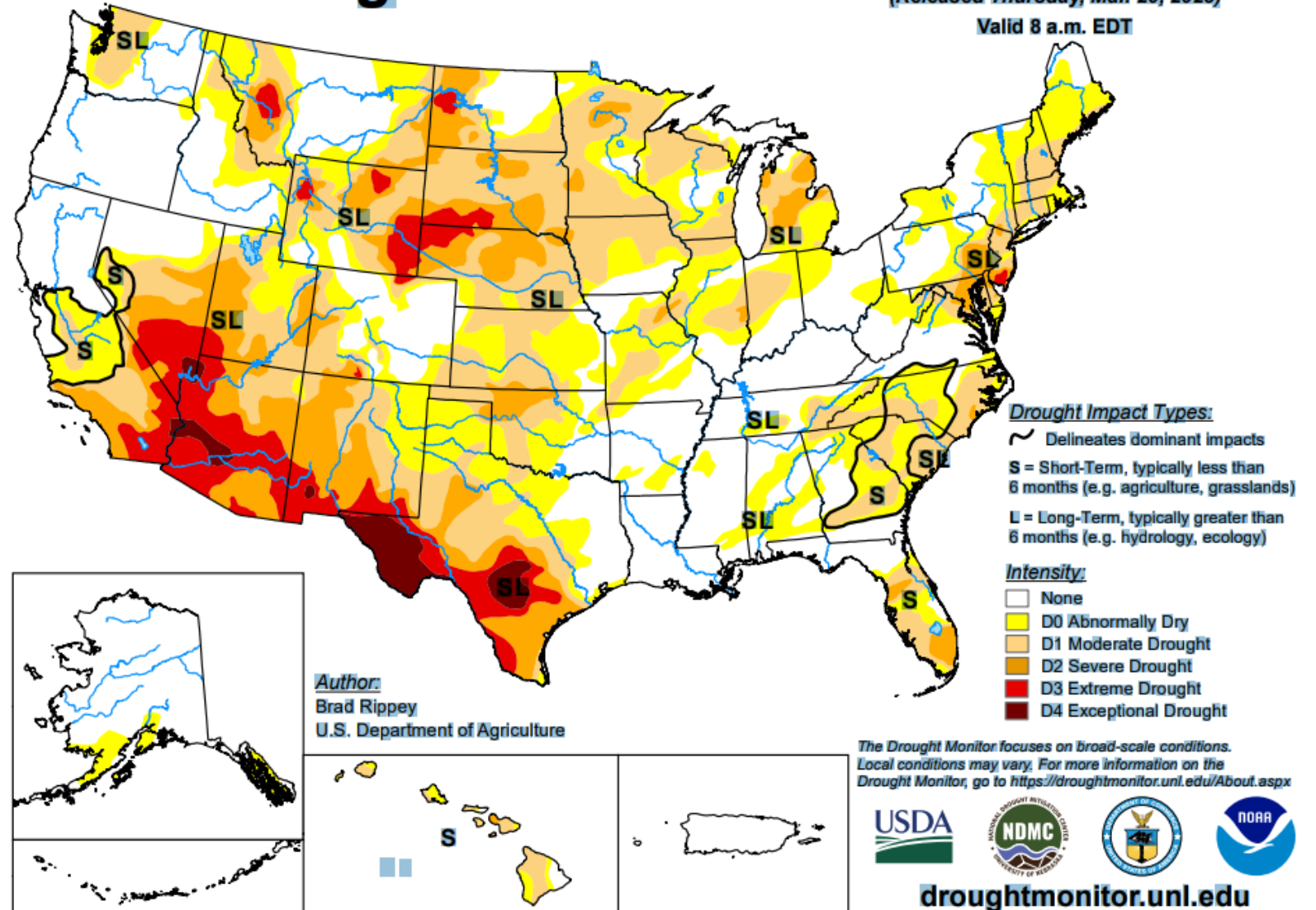
Ain't No Mountain High Enough



Future of Climate Change in the Southwest

U.S. Drought Monitor

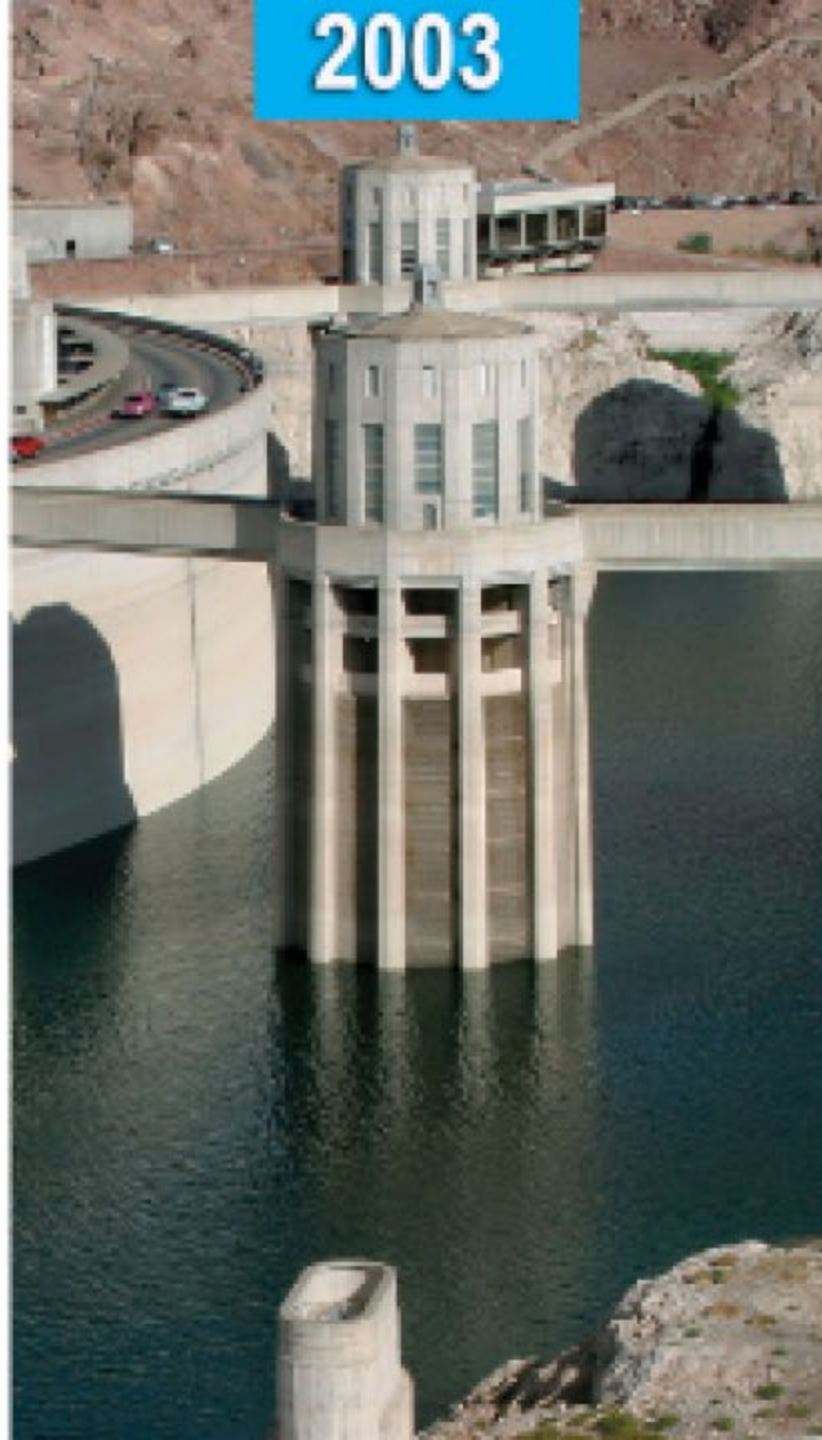
March 18, 2025
(Released Thursday, Mar. 20, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



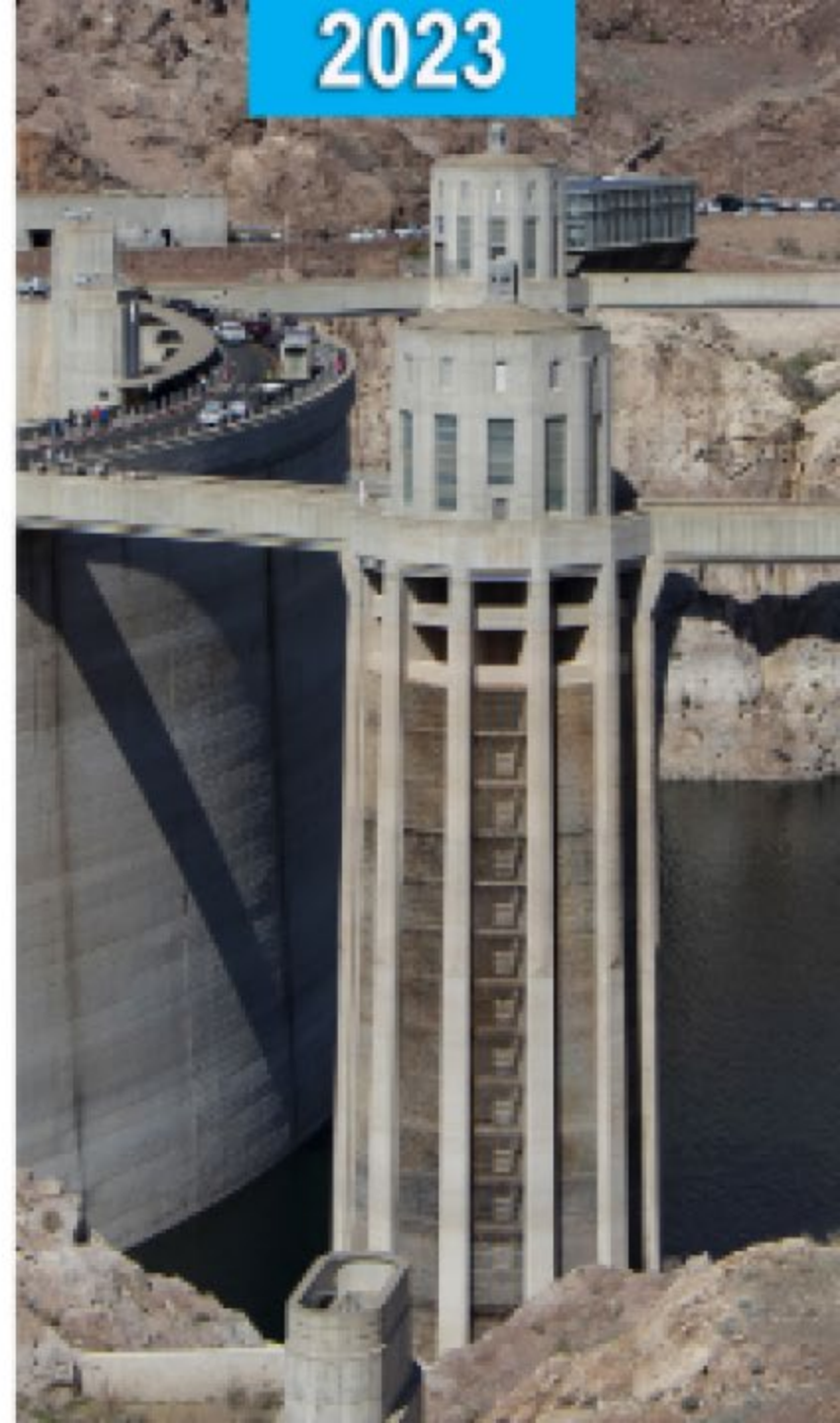
1983



2003

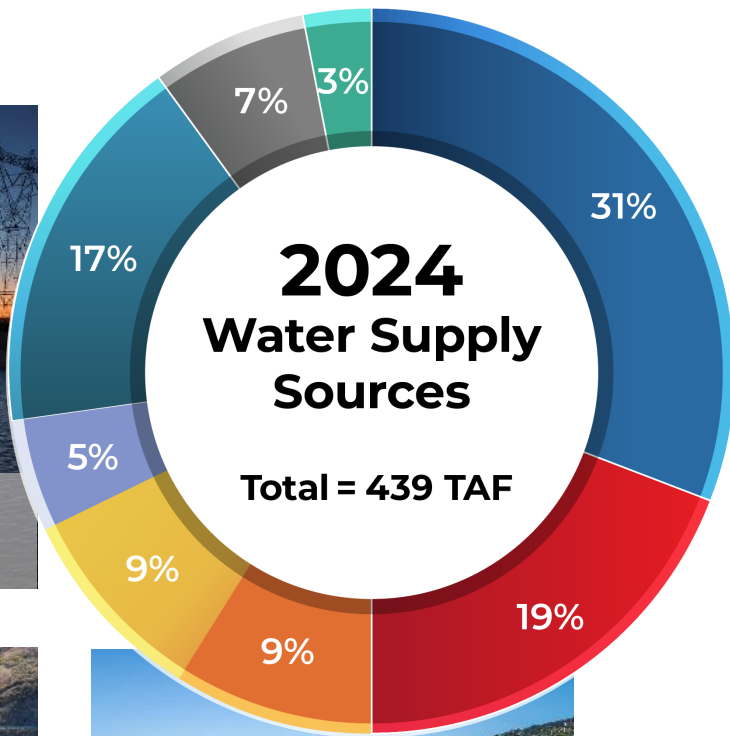
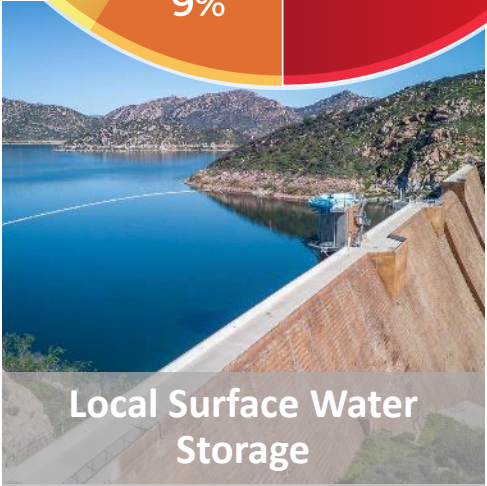
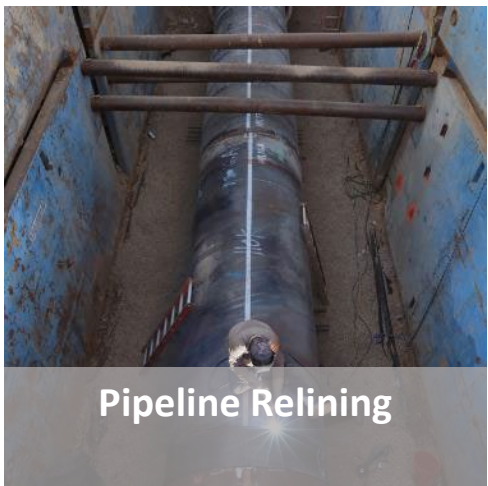
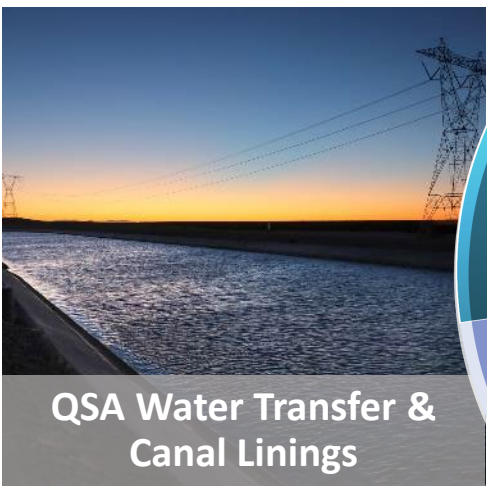
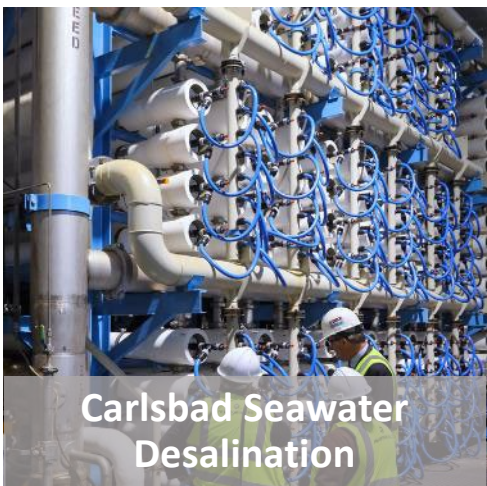


2023



Strategic Investments in Supply Reliability

\$3 billion in new infrastructure creates water security for region



The Backbone of Regional Resilience

▶ Carlsbad “Bud Lewis” Desalination Plant

- ▶ Owned and operated by Channelside Water Resources
- ▶ 48,000-56,000 acre-feet/year
- ▶ Largest, most advanced seawater desalination facility in North America



▶ Colorado River Water Transfers

- ▶ Imperial Valley to San Diego Water Transfers
- ▶ Lining of the All-American Canal
- ▶ 277,000 acre-feet/year



Conserved Water Supplies

Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA)



All-American and Coachella
canal lining projects



Conserved agricultural runoff
and water transfer agreements

Salton Sea: Conservation Can Have Unintended Consequences



Climate Whiplash



After multiple years of drought, 2023 brought above average precipitation, raising reservoir levels statewide.

Climate Change Threatens Water Affordability



Drought



Aridification



Flooding



Extreme Heat



Sea Level Rise



Fire

Securing Tomorrow: Water Supply Reliability Metrics

Demographics



Trends in population, housing, and employment

Climate Change



Industry understanding of climate change impacts and emissions

Local Agency Supply



Trends in local agency supply production and capability

Imported Supply (Risks & Regulations)



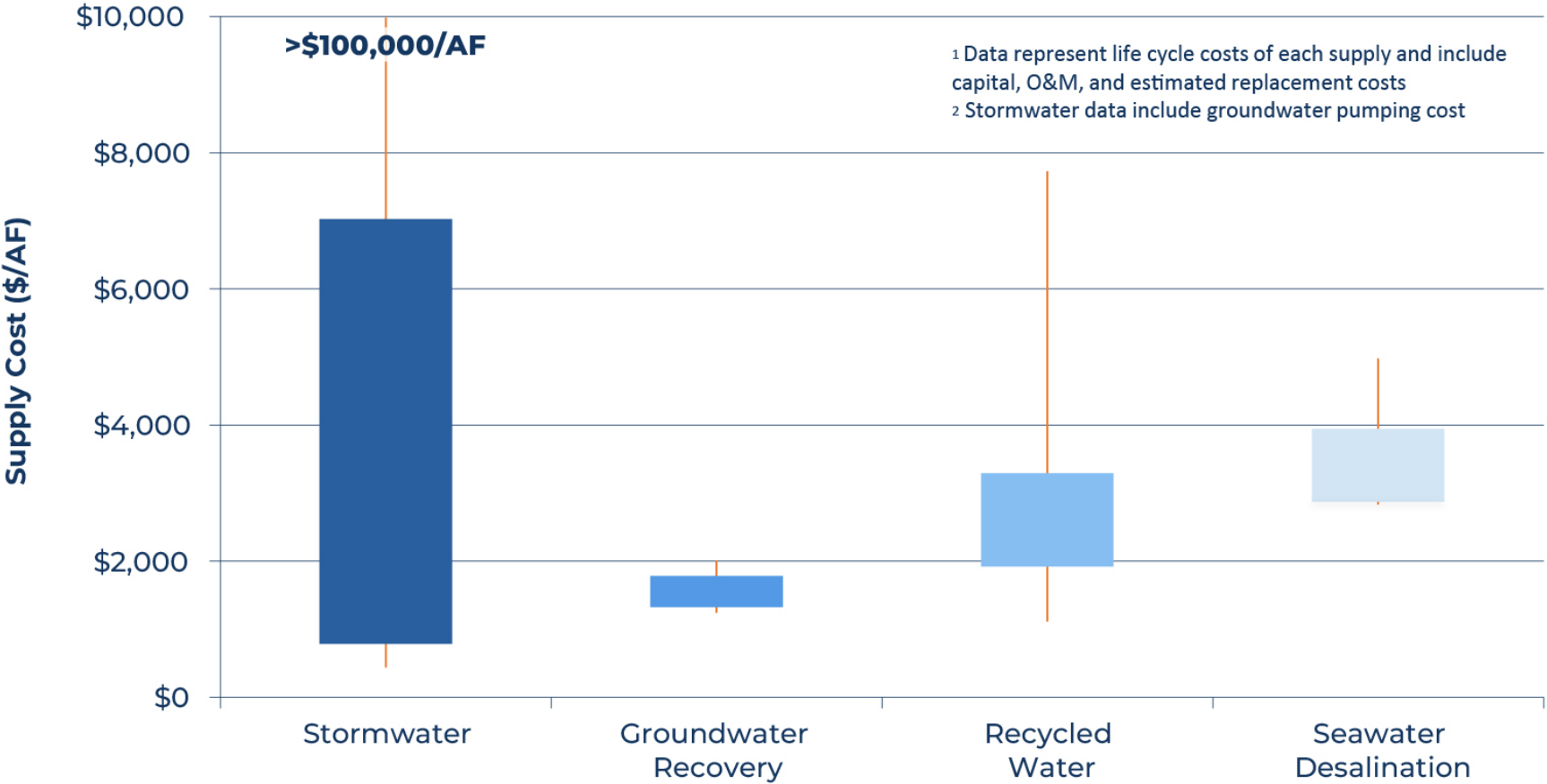
Resulting supply impacts from climate change and regulations

Storage



Storage capability and accessibility

Cost of New Water Supplies



Source: PureWater Southern California, 2023 data

Augmenting Water Supplies for the Entire Southwest

- Looking to augment supplies through water importation
- Identified a near-term demand for imported, augmented supplies
- Process has begun to seek imported supplies

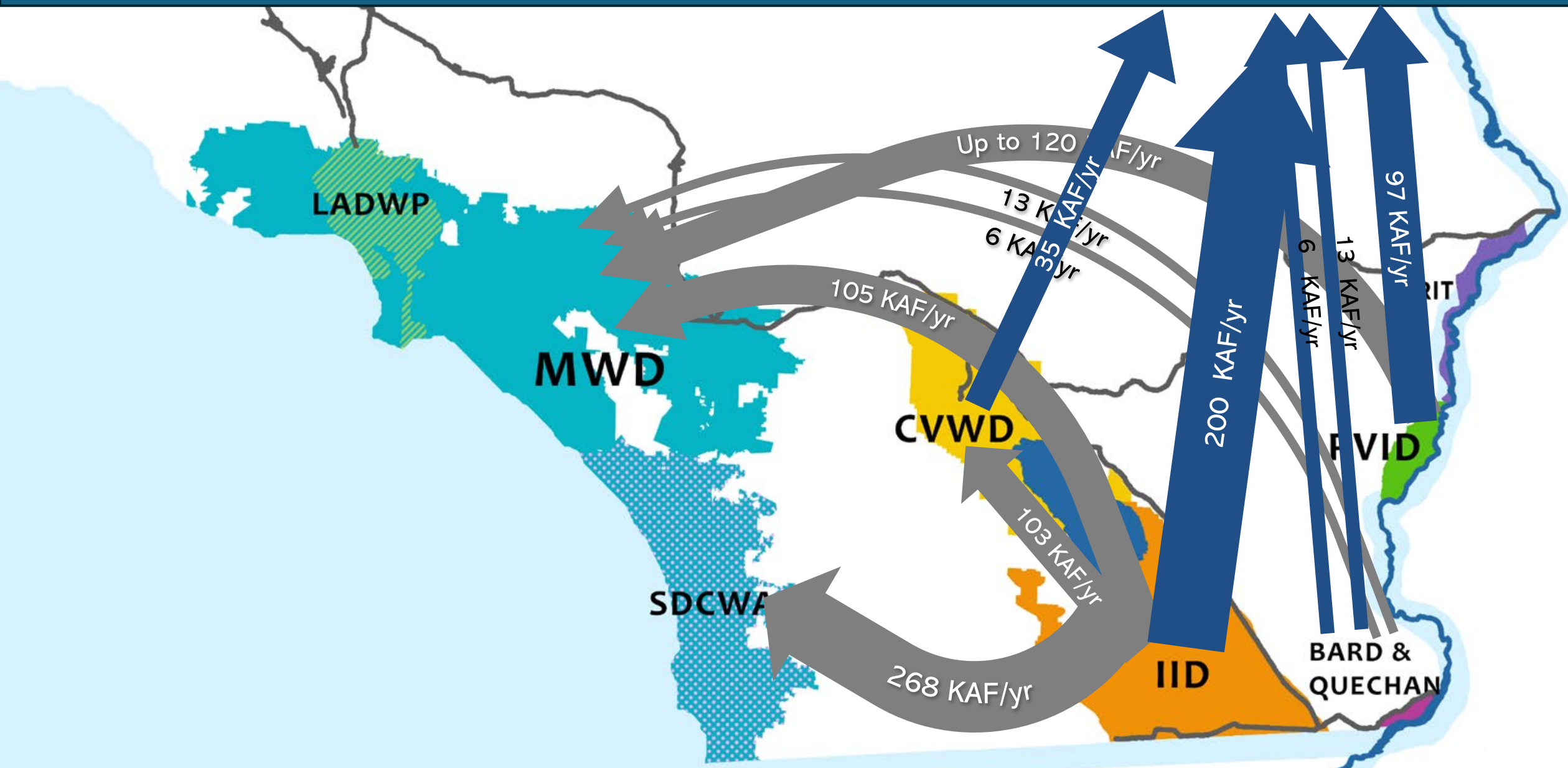


The Law of the River

- The Colorado River Compact (1922)
- 2007 Interim Guidelines
 - Pooled banking in Lake Mead
 - Expires December 2025
- No Existing Framework for transferring water between states
- Exchanges of Water among States set precedent
- Post -2026 Guidelines



California's Colorado River Intra-state Water Transfers



A New Era of Water Management

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Michael Smolens: Let's make a (water) deal!

San Diego County Water Authority opens negotiations to sell some of its surplus to a small district in southern Orange County. It's another step in a new direction for the agency.

THE ORANGE COUNTY
REGISTER

Ocean water from San Diego could stabilize south OC supply, boost desal

Moulton Niguel Water District will consider buying rights to water desalinated in Carlsbad. Deal could also help bail San Diego out of what some call a 'boondoggle.'



VOICE of SAN DIEGO

Can the Ocean Save the Colorado River? San Diego Thinks so.

Thank You!

