

# SALTON SEA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

California Natural Resources Agency  
California Department of Water Resources  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife





Indio

Riverside

Salton Sea

Imperial

Brawley

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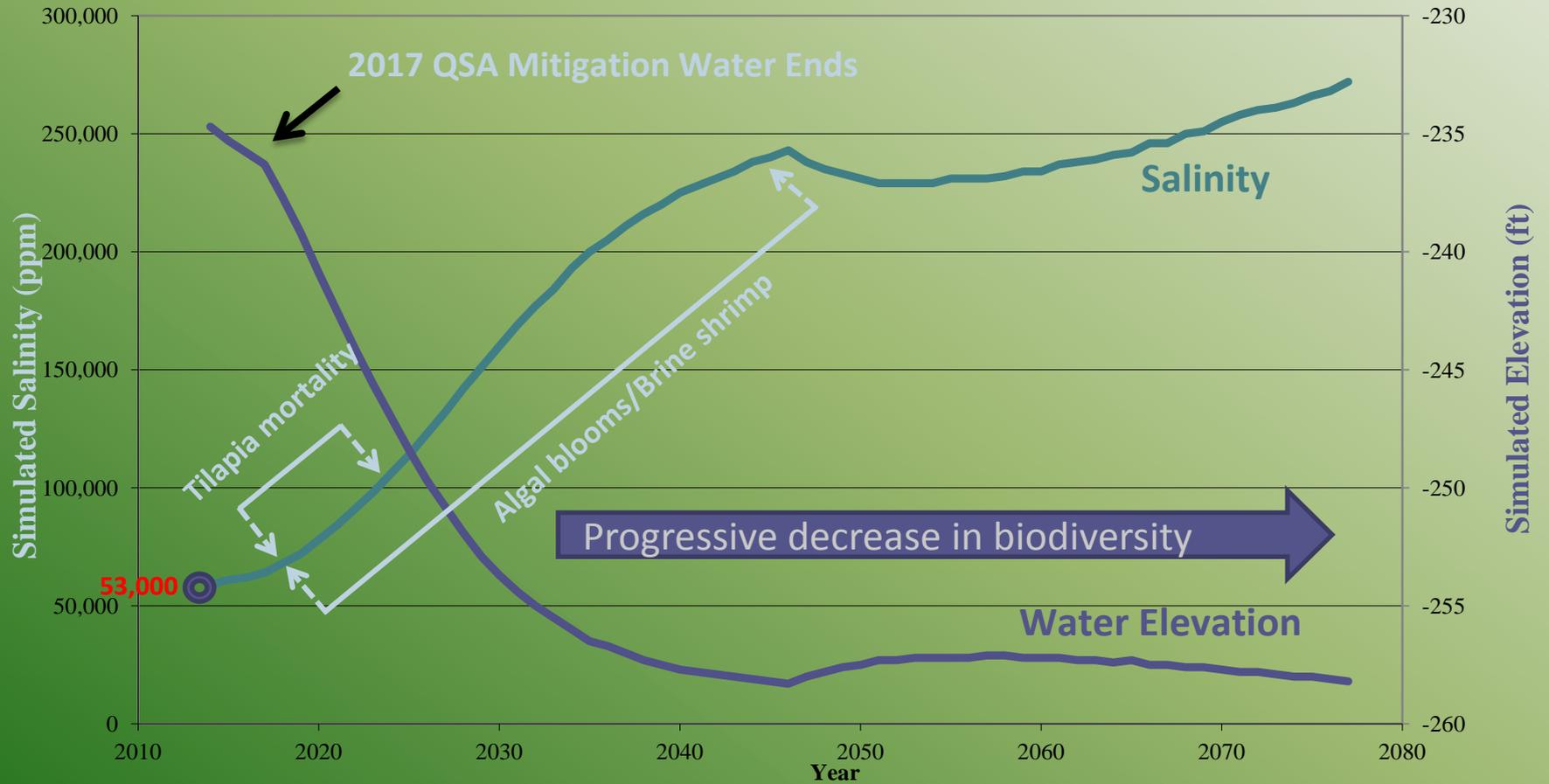
# Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA)

- 2003 Colorado River QSA
  - Collection of agreements governing water use
  - Limits CA apportionment to 4.4 million ac-ft/yr
  - Average annual loss of 800,000 ac-ft/yr for CA
  - Local water agencies agreed to reduce water use per QSA apportionments
  - Outlines water transfers from Imperial Irrigation District to SDCWA and to CVWD

# QSA Effects on Salton Sea

- Reduced inflow by 300,000 ac-ft/yr
  - Elevation will decline from -228 to -246 msl
    - ~54,000 ac of shoreline exposed
    - Increased dust entrainment from wind
    - Loss of recreational facilities
  - Salinity will increase
    - Fishery will collapse at ~60 ppt salinity
    - Piscivorous bird impacts
    - General degradation of water quality

# The Changing Sea



# State Response to Impacts of QSA

- Salton Sea Restoration Act of 2003

“it is the intent of the Legislature that the State of California undertake the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the permanent protection of the wildlife dependent on that ecosystem”

Required Resources Secretary to undertake a study to determine a preferred alternative for restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and to prepare:

- Ecosystem Restoration Plan
- Programmatic EIR by December 2006
- Funding Plan

# State Response to Impacts of QSA

- Salton Sea Restoration Act of 2003

The restoration shall...provide the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration projects; and
- Protection of water quality

# Funding of Salton Sea Actions

- Mitigation
    - \$133m from water agencies\* for environmental impacts resulting from QSA water transfers
  - Restoration
    - Established Salton Sea Restoration Fund
      - \$30m from water agencies\*
      - \$43m from Prop 84
- \* Imperial Irrigation District • Coachella Valley Water District • San Diego County Water Authority

# What we accomplished

- 2007 DWR submitted PEIR to Legislature
- \$8.9 billion Preferred Alternative
  - 7,000 ac Saline Habitat Complex (Phase 1: 2020)
  - 39,000 ac SHC (Phase 2: 2030)
  - 52,000 ac SHC (Phase 3: 2040)
  - 62,000 ac SHC (Phase 4: 2078)
  - 30-40,000 ac Marine Sea
- Not funded

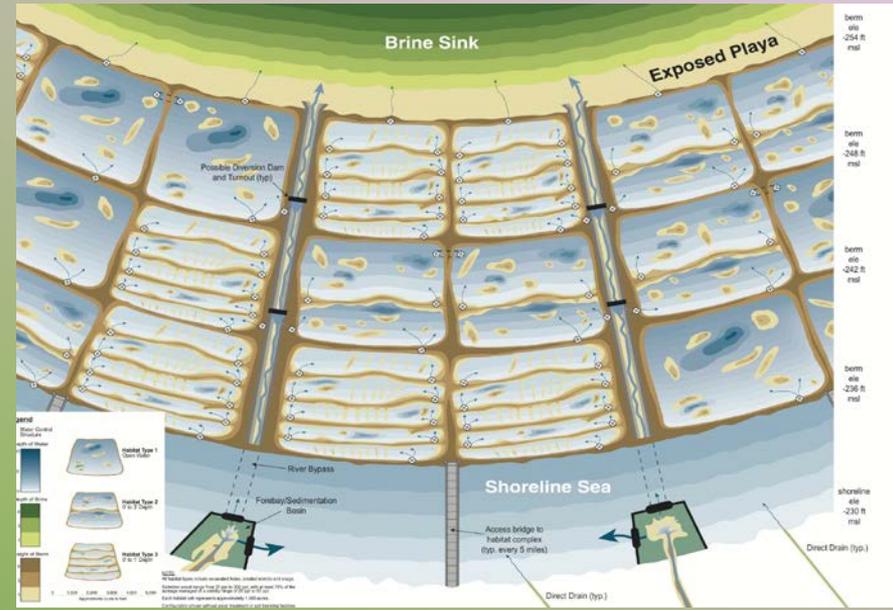
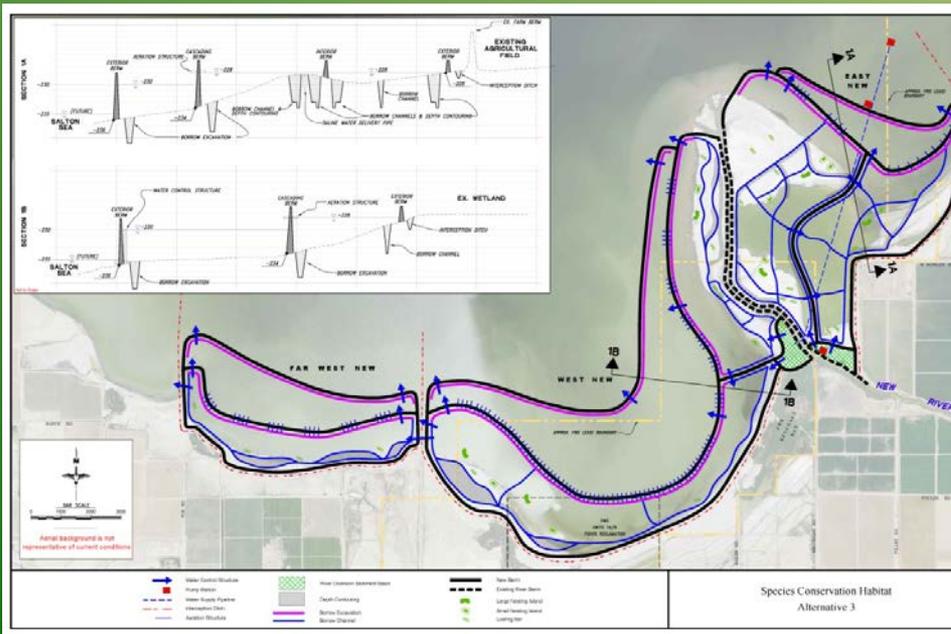
# Interim Actions

- **Species Conservation Habitat Project**
  - Develop habitat to support fish and wildlife dependent on the Sea
  - Develop information needed to manage SCH habitat through adaptive management
  - Secondary air quality benefits
  - Supported by Fish and Game Code
  - Funded by Salton Sea Restoration Fund
- **Financial Assistance Program**
  - Stakeholder participation in restoration
  - Proposal solicitation process
  - Projects consistent with restoration goals of the Sea

# PROPOSED SCH PROJECT

## The Project

- Mouth of New River
- 3,770 ac evaluated / funding for 700 ac
- Multiple management cells
- Scalable. Phasing
- Construction 20144 - 2015



## Funding

- \$24m from SSRF – 700 acres
- Other funding possibilities:
  - federal WRDA funding – \$30m
  - WCB Prop 50
  - Local funding

# KEY BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTING SCH NOW

- Project has complete EIR; ready for construction in 2014; expandable
- Out in front of the 2017 decrease to inflow
- Adjacent to National Wildlife Refuge; provides linkages to other state, local, and tribal projects
- Strong IID partnership

# URGENCY OF ACTION

- Evaporation continues to outpace inflow
- Mitigation water terminates in 2017
- Increases in salinity will begin to accelerate
- IID has applied to terminate mitigation water in 2014

# CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION

## NEAR TERM

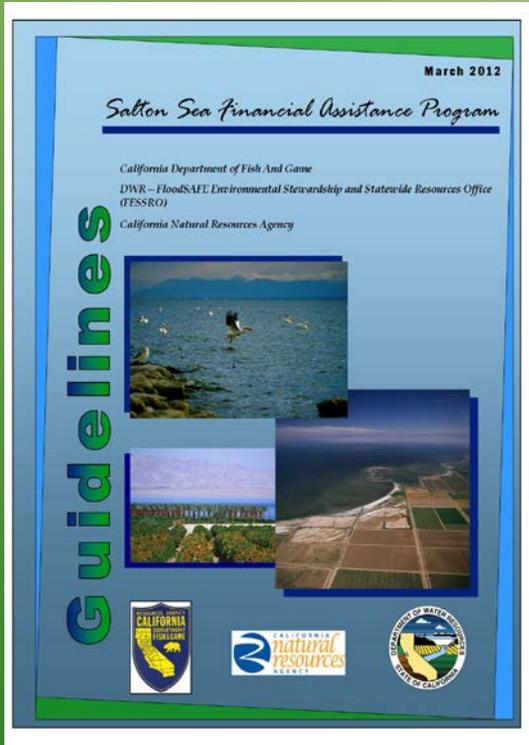
- Fish die offs
- Piscivorous birds disappear
- Worsening air quality
- Lost window of opportunity

## LONG TERM

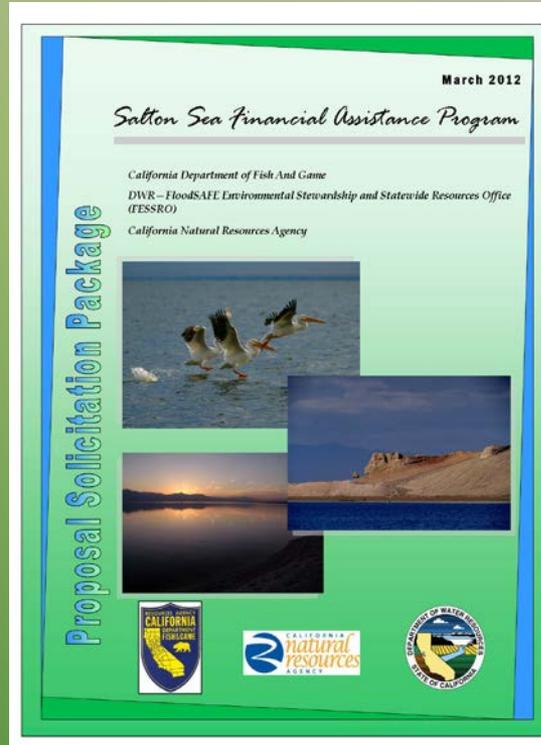
- Loss of aquatic biodiversity
- Loss of terrestrial biodiversity
- Impacts to protected species and migratory birds
- Deteriorating quality of life
- Loss of economic prosperity
- Agricultural impacts: dust

# Financial Assistance Program

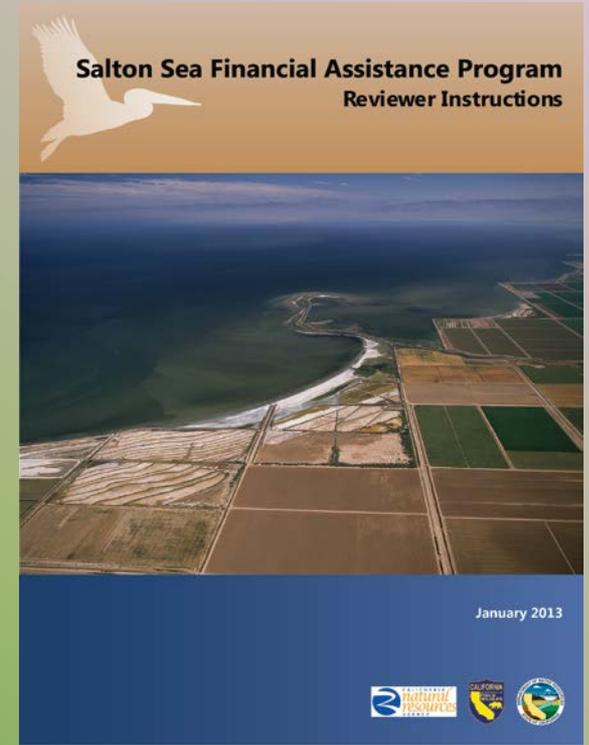
## Guidelines



## Proposal Solicitation Package



## FAP - Reviewer Instructions



# Financial Assistance Program

- \$3 million : Salton Sea Restoration Fund
- Engages Stakeholders
- Activities funded:
  - Habitat Creation and Enhancement
  - Water Quality
  - Research Activities
  - Adaptive Management Experiments

**Salton Sea FAP Draft Funding Recommendation**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Proposed award</b>
<b>US Fish and Wildlife Service</b>	<b>Red Hill Bay</b>	<b>\$2,980,454</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>\$1,194,154</b>
<b>IID/Sephton Water Technology</b>	<b>Salton Sea Water Habitat Pilot Project</b>	<b>\$2,003,004</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$692,819</b>
<b>Salton Sea Authority/Torres Martinez Tribe</b>	<b>Habitat Enhancement &amp; Creation: GeoTube Technology and Solar PV Power on SS Playa, Torres Martinez Wetlands</b>	<b>\$1,339,887</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>\$1,113,027</b>
<b>Salton Sea Authority</b>	<b>Alalmo River Wetland Near Holtville, CA</b>	<b>\$2,371,212</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>UC Berkeley</b>	<b>Field test of a novel wetland treatment system to provide clean water for the SS Species Conservation Habitat</b>	<b>\$1,065,993</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>So Others May Eat/H2o Futures/Ned Dautherty</b>	<b>Salton Sea Farms: ISAS Discovery Center</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Salton Sea Authority/Tetra Tech</b>	<b>Se Bioaccumulation &amp; Ecological Risk Assessment at Four Wetlands Near the Salton Sea</b>	<b>\$403,746</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>\$0</b>
		<b>\$11,164,296</b>		<b>\$3,000,000</b>

# RECOMMENDED FOCUS OF FUTURE RESTORATION EFFORTS

- **EXPANSION of SCH:** as funds are available.
- **LINK EFFORTS:** Federal refuge lands, IID habitat areas, tribal wetlands, ag/wildlife lands
- **AIR QUALITY MGT:** Coordinate State, Federal and local actions to maximize benefits.
- **FOCUS AREAS:** Locate projects near freshwater sources.
- **POOL FUNDING:**
  - WCB; WRDA
  - IID; Local contribution
  - Other Federal

