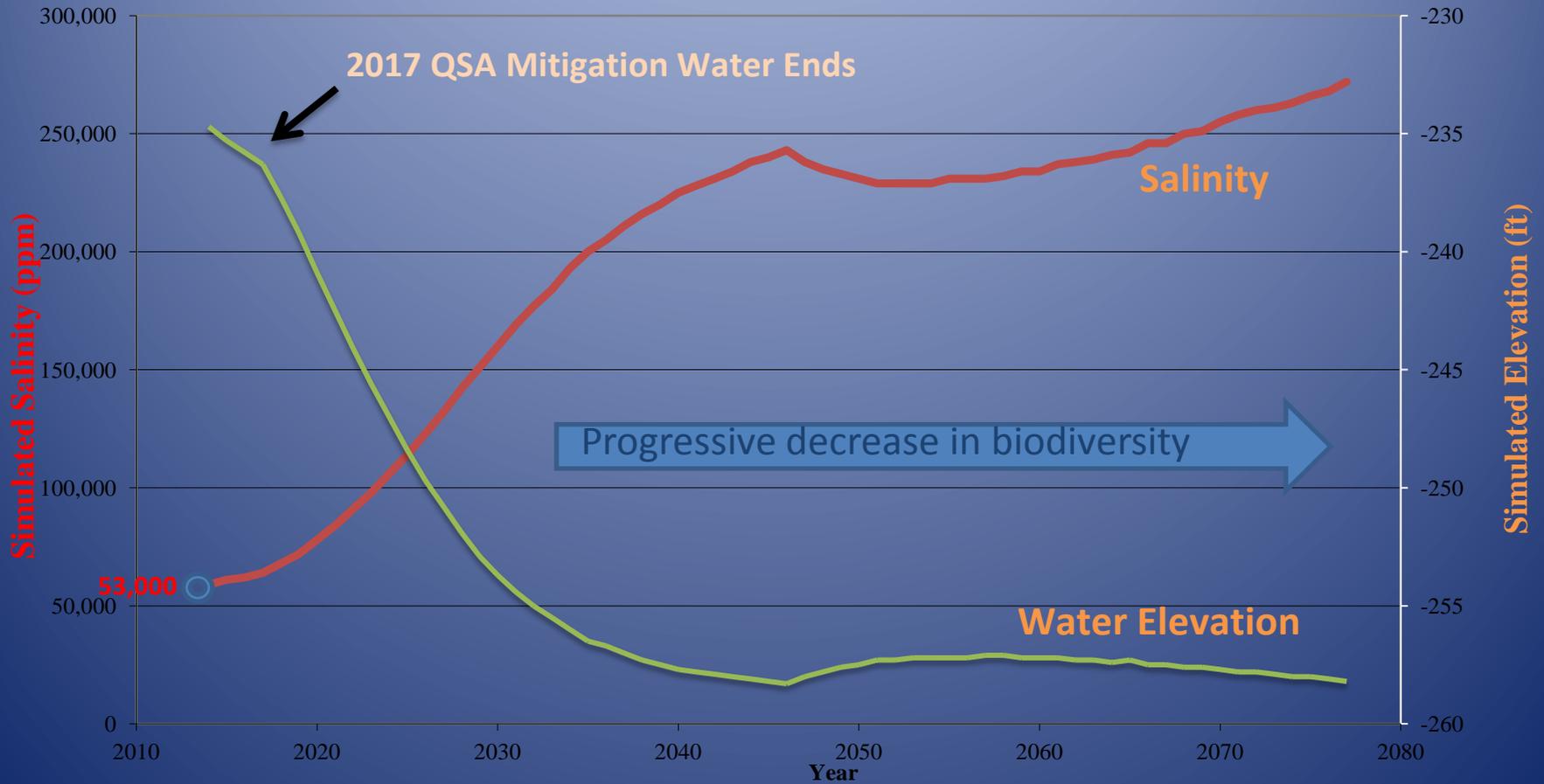


A wide-angle landscape photograph of the Salton Sea. The foreground is filled with dry, yellowish-brown grasses and some green shrubs. The middle ground shows the calm, blue water of the sea, with three dark, vertical wooden posts protruding from the water. In the distance, a range of brown, hazy mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear blue sky with a few wispy clouds. The text "Salton Sea – Species Conservation Habitat Project" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

# Salton Sea – Species Conservation Habitat Project

# The Changing Sea

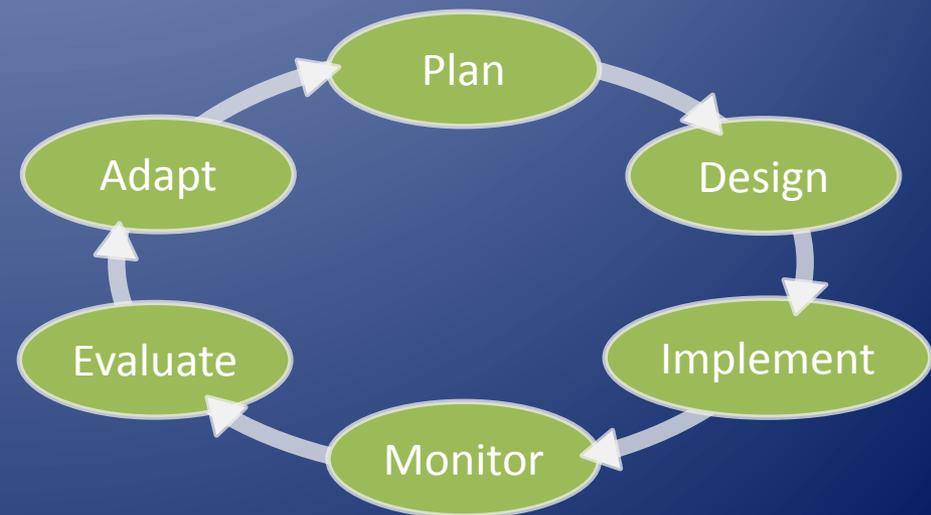


Based on Cohen, Pacific Institute, May 2006

# Species Conservation Habitat Project

Goal 1: Develop a range of aquatic habitats that will support fish and wildlife species dependent on the Salton Sea

Goal 2: Develop and refine information needed to successfully manage the SCH Project habitat through an adaptive management process



# Species Conservation Habitat Project

- Modeled after Early Start Habitat concepts: 2007 PEIR
- Create shallow saline habitat
- Blend river and Sea water
- Use available land at elevations below -228 msl
- Develop as a proof-of-concept project extending to 2025
- Flood exposed playa and reduce dust impacts



# Location of SCH Alternatives

New River  
Alternatives 1, 2, 3

Alamo River  
Alternatives 4, 5, 6

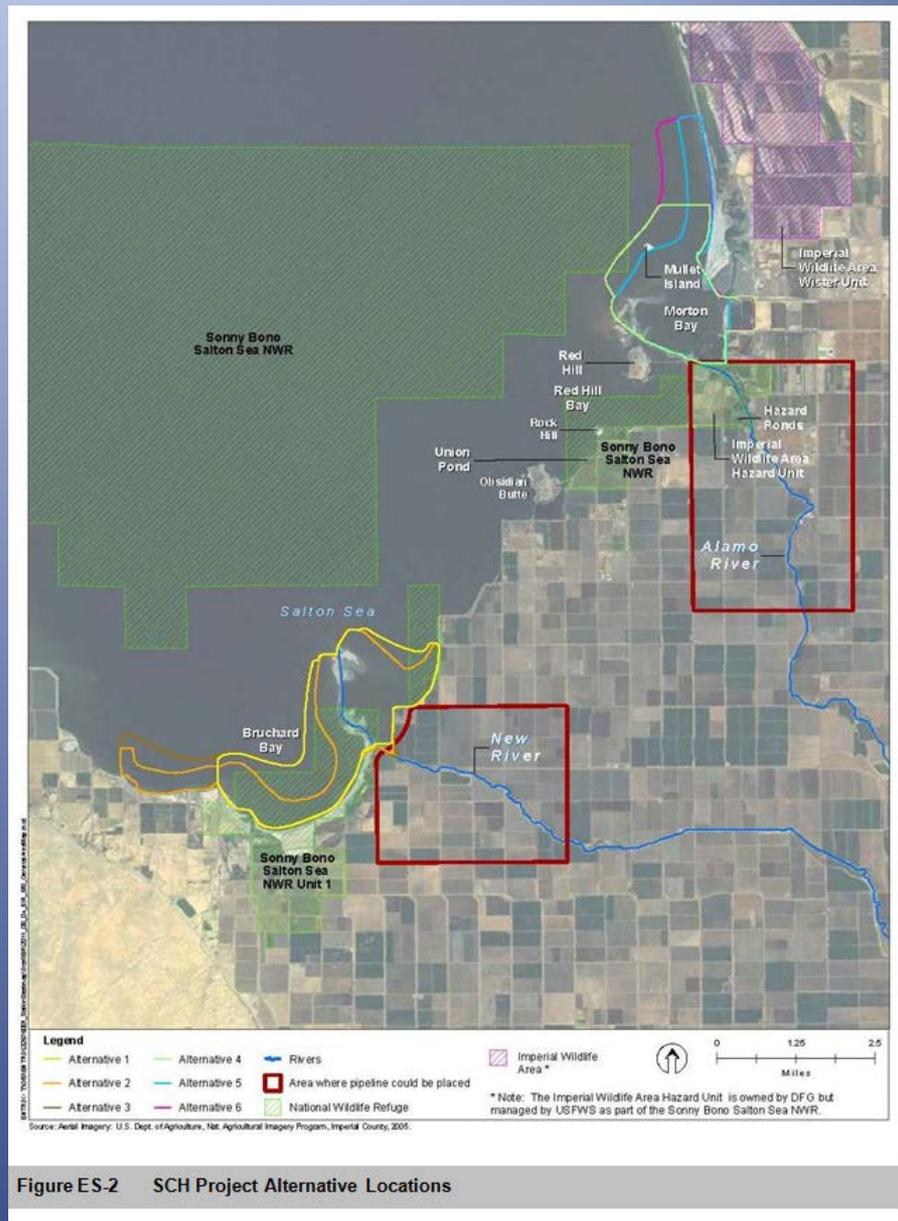
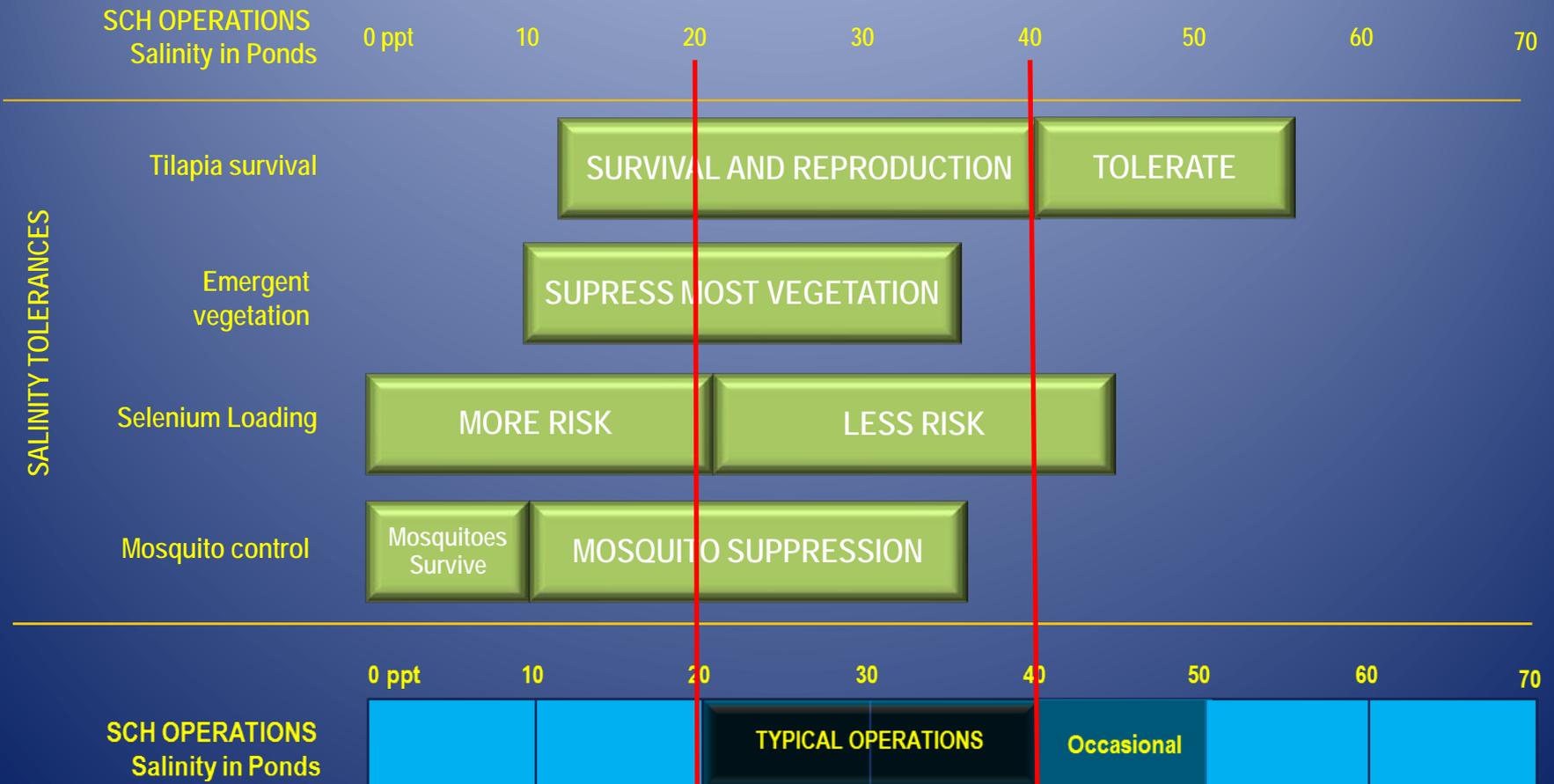


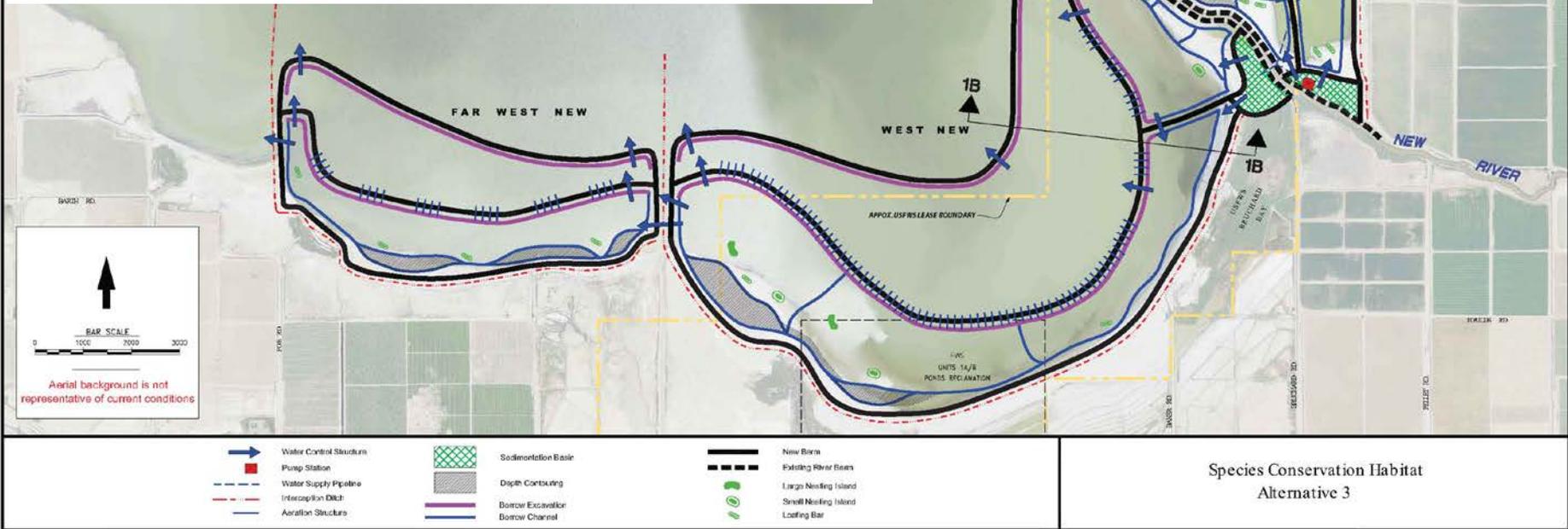
Figure ES-2 SCH Project Alternative Locations

# Operation Range of Salinities and Biological Constraints



# Preferred Alternative

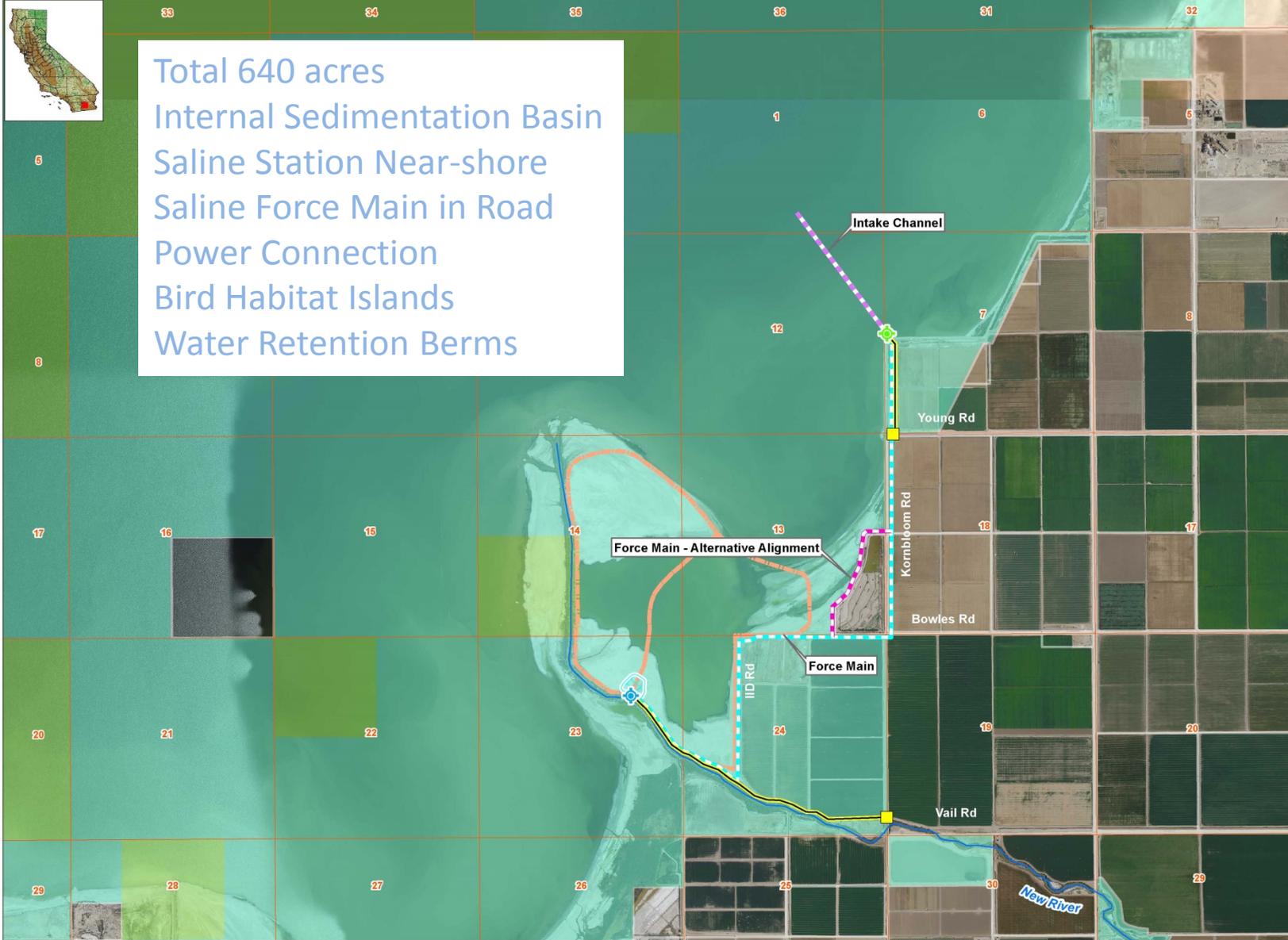
3 Habitat Areas (total 3,770 acres),  
 Habitat Channels, Bird Islands  
 Interior and Exterior Berms,  
 Sedimentation Basins,  
 Cascading Ponds,  
 Flooding Bypass  
 River Pump Station  
 Saline Pump Station  
 Uses IID Land



Species Conservation Habitat  
 Alternative 3

# Proposed Construction

Total 640 acres  
 Internal Sedimentation Basin  
 Saline Station Near-shore  
 Saline Force Main in Road  
 Power Connection  
 Bird Habitat Islands  
 Water Retention Berms



**Proposed Features**

- Saline Pump Station
- River Pump Station
- Power Alignment
- Power Tie-in Location
- Project Boundary
- Water Supply Pipeline
- Open Channel
- Sediment Basin / Sediment Disposal Site

**Land Ownership**

- Federal
- Imperial Irrigation District
- Private (blank)

**Cardno  
ENTRIX**

SALTON SEA  
 Species Conservation Habitat Project

Pump Station Concept - Final

0 200 400 600 800 Feet  
 Projection: CA State Plane, Zone 6  
 Datum: NAD 83

# Site Conditions



# Site Conditions



# Site Conditions



# Site Conditions



# Site Conditions

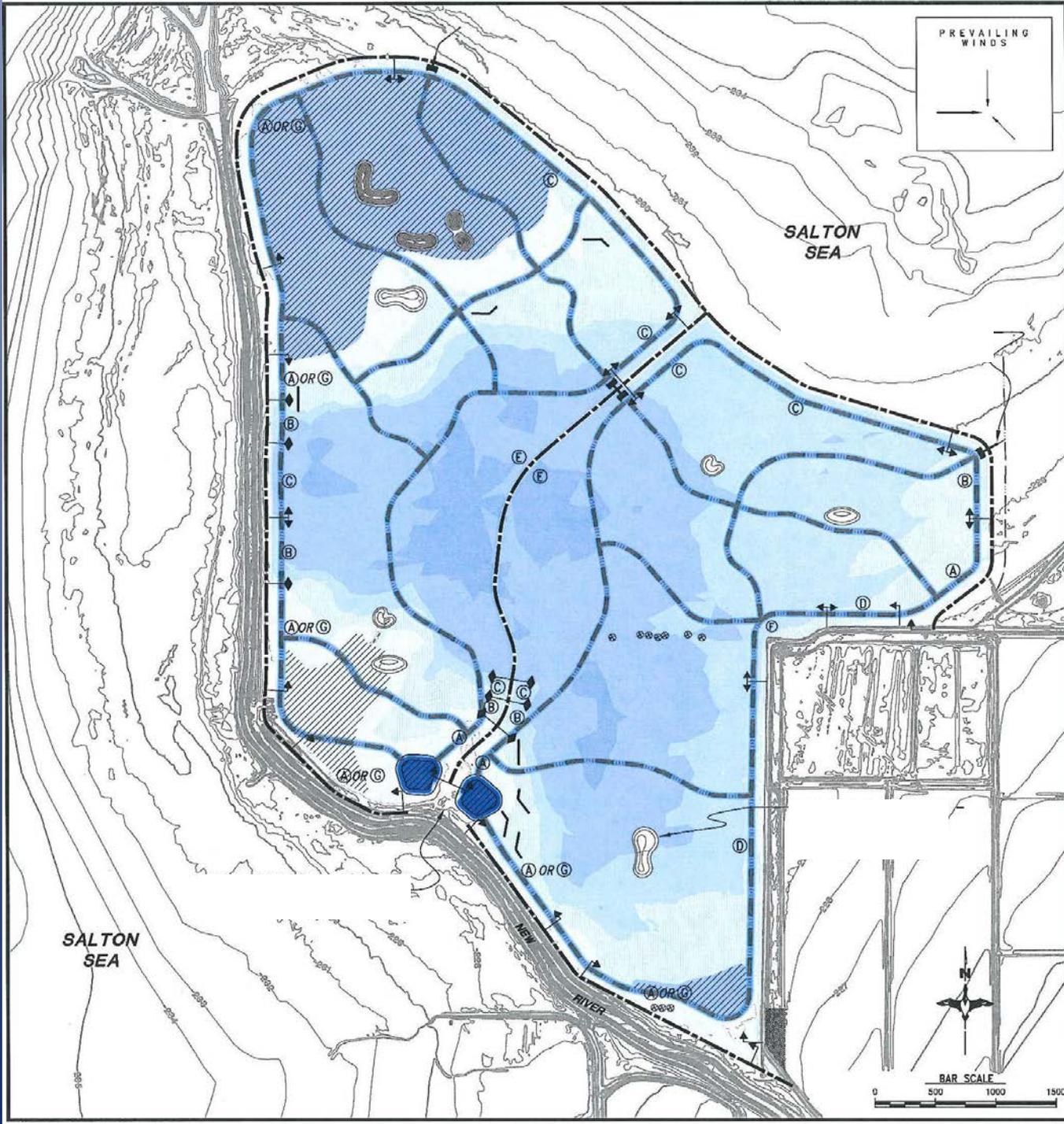


# Design Challenges

- Availability of water
- Salinity balance
- Selenium management
- Vegetation management
- Mosquito management
- Temperature extremes
- Power connection
- Difficult soil conditions
- Seismic activity
- Poor water quality
- Adjacent land uses
- Geothermal energy
- Low dissolved oxygen
- Site access
- Limited time to take action

# Design Challenges

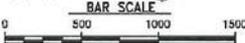




SALTON SEA

SALTON SEA

NEW RIVER



# Saline Pump Station Site



# Saline Force Main Site



# IID Levee Road



# River Pump Station Site



# Program Accomplishments to Date

## Environmental Meetings

- Scoping (4 total)
- Draft EIS/EIR (4 total)

## Federal and State Permits

- Section 404 Permit (Corps)
- ESA (USFWS, DFW)
- Section 401 (RWQCB)
- Section 106 (SHPO)
- Biological Opinion (USFWS)



# Program Accomplishments to Date

## Meetings

- Stakeholder (5 total)
- Agencies
- Tribal Groups
- Geothermal Companies
- IC Farm Bureau
- Political Representatives
- Non-Governmental
- Imperial County Planning and Development



# Program Accomplishments to Date

## Environmental Documents

- Draft EIS/EIR - August 2011
- Final EIS/EIR - July 2013
- Record of Decision - December 2013
- Notice of Determination - August 2013

## Environmental Permits

- Section 404 – December 2013
- Section 401 - December 2013
- Final Biological Opinion – March 2013



# Program Accomplishments to Date

## Design

- 90% Design – December 2013
  - Plans, Specs, Cost Estimates
  - Basis of Design Report
  - Geotechnical Design Report



# Federal Agency Commenters on Draft EIS/EIR

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- International Boundary Water Commission
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
- Environmental Protection Agency



# State Agency Commenters on Draft EIS/EIR

- Native American Heritage Commission
- Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources
- Regional Water Quality Control Board
- California State Lands Commission
- Department of Toxic Substances Control



# Local Agency Commenters on Draft EIS/EIR

- Imperial Irrigation District
- San Diego County Water Authority
- Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
- Salton Sea Authority
- County of Imperial Board of Supervisors
- Coachella Valley Water District



# Other Commenters on Draft EIS/EIR

- Imperial County Farm Bureau
- CalEnergy Operating Corporation
- Pacific Institute
- San Diego Audubon Society
- Energy Source
- Defenders of Wildlife
- Center for Biological Diversity
- 9 Private Individuals



# DEIS/EIR Appendices

- Appendix A: Scoping Process
- Appendix B: Alternatives Development
- Appendix C: Geotechnical Investigations
- Appendix D: Project Operations
- Appendix E: Monitoring Adaptive Management
- Appendix F: Mosquito Control Plan



# DEIS/EIR Appendices

- Appendix G: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas
- Appendix H: Special-Status Species Evaluated But Not Affected
- Appendix I: Selenium Management Strategies
- Appendix J: Special Studies
- Appendix K: Corps Section 404 Permit Projects
- Appendix L: Tribal Consultation and Coordination



# FEIS/EIR Appendices

- Attachment 1 Numbered Comments
- Attachment 2 Jurisdictional Delineation Report November 2012
- Attachment 3 404(b)(1) Alternatives Analysis
- Attachment 4 MMRP
- Attachment 5 Appendices D and G-2



# Program Activities Underway

## Permitting

- Streambed Alteration
- IID Encroachment Permit
- IID Lease Agreements
- IID Power Connection
- IC Encroachment Permit
- IC Traffic Plan
- IC Air Quality Plan



# Draft Schedule

- 90% Design PS&E                      December 6, 2013
- 100% PS&E                              March 31, 2014
- Release Bid Package                  June 2014
- Begin Construction                    September 2014

# CONTACT

- Kent Nelson: DWR  
[kent.nelson@water.ca.gov](mailto:kent.nelson@water.ca.gov)  
916-653-9190
- David Elms: DFW  
[David.elms@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:David.elms@wildlife.ca.gov)  
760-200-9394
- Website:  
[www.water.ca.gov/saltonsea/](http://www.water.ca.gov/saltonsea/)