



**San Diego County
Water Authority**
Our Region's Trusted
Water Leader

Quantification Settlement Agreement

For the Colorado River



DIVERSIFICATION
Enhancing Water
Supply Reliability

Overview

The 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement enabled California to implement major Colorado River water conservation and transfer programs, stabilizing water supplies for up to 75 years and reducing the state's demand on the river to its 4.4 million acre-foot entitlement. It also provided a restoration path forward for the environmentally sensitive Salton Sea.

The Parties

The completion of the QSA required the commitment and combined efforts of these organizations:

- San Diego County Water Authority
- Coachella Valley Water District
- Imperial Irrigation District
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
- State of California
- U.S. Department of the Interior

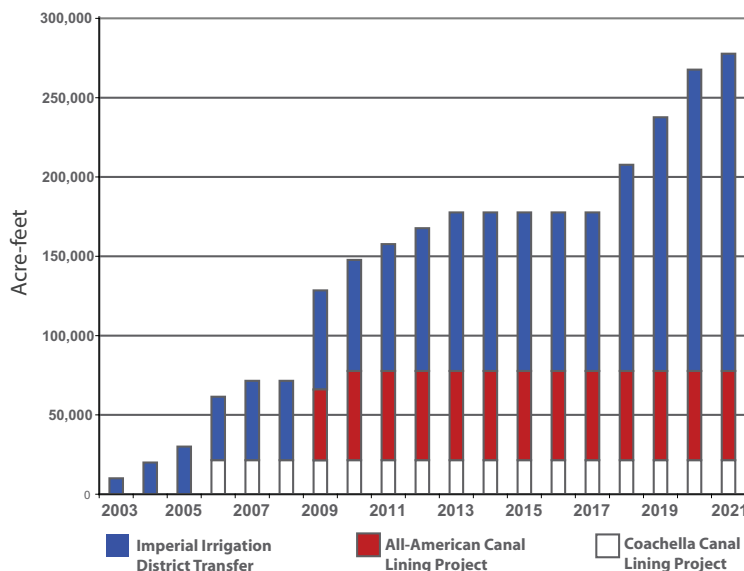
Statewide Benefits

1. Reduces California's overdependence on Colorado River — The QSA enabled California to reduce its historic overdependence on the Colorado River through voluntary agriculture-to-urban water transfers and other water supply programs. The state can now live within its 4.4 million acre-foot entitlement.
2. Salton Sea Restoration — In March 2017 the State of California produced its Salton Sea Management Program, which provides a path toward a smaller, but more sustainable, Salton Sea. In November 2017, the State Water Board adopted a stipulated order, acknowledging additional agreements and commitments reached among key stakeholders related to the management program. There is currently \$280 million available and efforts are underway to secure additional funding for the program.
3. Water supply — The QSA provides more than 30 million acre-feet over the life of the transfer programs.

AF = acre-foot

One acre-foot is approximately 325,900 gallons, enough to supply 2.5 single-family households of four for a year.

QSA Water Supply 2003 - 2021



Major Features

The QSA:

- Quantifies IID's Colorado River entitlement at 3.1 million acre-feet per year
- Quantifies CVWD's Colorado River entitlement at 330,000 acre-feet per year
- Settles disputes among the four agencies and seven states that share the Colorado River
- Provides for large-scale water transfers:

Quantification Settlement Agreement

- IID-SDCWA transfer: Ramps up to 200,000 acre-feet per year in 2021 from IID to the Water Authority for up to 75 years
- IID-MWD transfer: 105,000 acre-feet per year from IID to MWD
- IID-CVWD transfer: Ramps up to 103,000 acre-feet per year from IID to CVWD
- Transfer of between 33,000 and 133,000 acre-feet annually from the Palo Verde Irrigation District to MWD
- Provides for concrete lining portions of the All-American and Coachella canals, which conserve and transfer approximately 80,000 acre-feet per year to the Water Authority, and 16,000 acre-feet per year to several San Diego County Indian bands to resolve a decades-old water rights dispute.

The All-American and Coachella Canal



Over the life of the QSA programs, millions of acre-feet of water transfer from primarily agricultural use to primarily urban use.

Lining Projects

The Coachella Canal Lining Project was completed in 2007. It conserves 26,000 acre-feet per year. The All-American Canal Lining Project was completed in 2010. It conserves 67,700 acre-feet per year. Under the agreement, the Water Authority receives approximately 80,000 acre-feet of the conserved water per year for 110 years. The rest of the conserved water from the projects belongs to several bands of Mission Indians in northern San Diego County – known as the San Luis Rey settlement parties – to settle a water

Total water made available to the Water Authority through the QSA Projects

45 years: 9.9 million acre-feet

75 years: 18.3 million acre-feet

110 years: up to 21.0 million acre-feet

rights dispute with the federal government and decades of litigation.

The canal lining projects help the Water Authority diversify its water supply and improve water supply reliability. In 2019, the canal lining transfer made up 17 percent of the Water Authority's water supply.

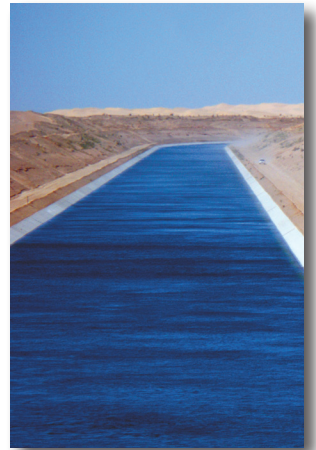
Litigation

Shortly after the QSA was executed, several Imperial Valley parties filed litigation related to the QSA, including a lawsuit to determine the validity of the agreements.

In December 2011, California's Third District Court of Appeal reversed a lower court ruling that had invalidated the Water Authority-IID water transfer and a number of other pieces of the QSA. The appeals court remanded several issues to the trial court, including questions about whether the QSA was properly processed under California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA.

In July 2013, a Sacramento Superior Court judge entered a final judgment validating the QSA and rejecting all of the remaining legal challenges. The judge affirmed all of the contested actions, including the adequacy of the environmental documents prepared by IID.

In May 2015, the state Court of Appeal issued a ruling that dismissed all remaining appeals. ■



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