

# SALT RIVER PROJECT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND POWER DISTRICT MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

## WATER COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 9:30 AM

SRP Administration Building  
1500 N. Mill Avenue, Tempe, AZ 85288

Committee Members: Kevin Johnson, Chairman; Robert Arnett, Vice Chairman; and Mario Herrera, Anda McAfee, Kathy Mohr-Almeida, Mark Pace, and Paul Rovey

Call to Order

Roll Call

1. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The following agenda item(s) will be considered as a group by the Committee and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these item(s) unless a Committee Member requests, in which event the agenda item(s) will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered as a separate item ..... CHAIRMAN KEVIN JOHNSON

- Request for approval of the minutes for the meeting of September 19, 2023.

2. Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Claims Update.....PATRICK SIGL

Informational presentation regarding an update on the status of negotiations and other efforts to resolve water rights claims of the Hualapai Tribe to waters of the state of Arizona, including the Colorado River.

3. Long-Term Storage Credit Recovery Agreement..... SHANE DePINTO

Informational presentation regarding the Desert Basin Generating Station (DBGS) and an interim agreement with the Maricopa Stanfield Irrigation and Drainage District (MSIDD) for the recovery of long-term storage credits through MSIDD wells and transportation to DBGS.

4. Report on Current Events by the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer or Designees..... JIM PRATT

5. Future Agenda Topics..... CHAIRMAN KEVIN JOHNSON

The Committee may vote during the meeting to go into Executive Session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(3), for the purpose of discussion or consultation for legal advice with legal counsel to the Committee on any of the matters listed on the agenda.

The Committee may go into Closed Session, pursuant to A.R.S. §30-805(B), for records and proceedings relating to competitive activity, including trade secrets or privileged or confidential commercial or financial information.

Visitors: The public has the option to attend in-person or observe via Zoom and may receive teleconference information by contacting the Corporate Secretary's Office at (602) 236-4398. If attending in-person, all property in your possession, including purses, briefcases, packages, or containers, will be subject to inspection.



THE NEXT WATER COMMITTEE MEETING  
IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

10/17/2023



MINUTES  
WATER COMMITTEE  
SALT RIVER PROJECT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND  
POWER DISTRICT

**DRAFT**

September 19, 2023

A meeting of the Water Committee of the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District (the District) convened at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, from the Hoopes Board Conference Room at the SRP Administration Building, 1500 North Mill Avenue, Tempe, Arizona. This meeting was conducted in-person and via teleconference in compliance with open meeting law guidelines. The District and Salt River Valley Water Users' Association (the Association) are collectively known as SRP.

Committee Members present at roll call were K.J. Johnson, Chairman; R.C. Arnett, Vice Chairman; M.J. Herrera, A.G. McAfee, K.L. Mohr-Almeida, M.V. Pace, and P.E. Rovey; and L.D. Rovey of the Association.

Also present were Board Members J.M. White Jr., L.C. Williams, and S.H. Williams; Council Vice Chairman J.R. Shelton; Council Liaisons M.A. Freeman and G.E. Geiger; Council Member M.L. Farmer; Mmes. I.R. Avalos, M.J. Burger, A.P. Chabrier, L.F. Hobaica, C.M. Jovanovic, C.M. McJunkin, L.A. Meyers, G.A. Mingura, K.L. Morrison, and C.M. Sifuentes; Messrs. J.D. Coggins, S.P. DePinto, J.M. Felty, Z.J. Heim, A.W. Johnson, B.J. Koch, K.J. Lee, S.B. Lutz, M.S. Mendonca, R. Navarro, B.A. Olsen, B.F. Pane, J.M. Pratt, and R.R. Taylor; and Brad Moore of Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA).

In compliance with A.R.S. §38-431.02, Andrew Davis of the Corporate Secretary's Office had posted a notice and agenda of the Water Committee meeting at the SRP Administration Building, 1500 North Mill Avenue, Tempe, Arizona, at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, September 15, 2023.

Chairman K.J. Johnson called the meeting to order.

Consent Agenda

Chairman K.J. Johnson requested a motion for Committee approval of the Consent Agenda, in its entirety.

On a motion duly made by Vice Chairman R.C. Arnett and seconded by Board Member M.V. Pace, the Committee unanimously approved and adopted the following item on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the Water Committee meeting on August 15, 2023, as presented

Corporate Secretary J.M. Felty polled the Committee Members on Vice Chairman R.C. Arnett's motion to approve the Consent Agenda, in its entirety. The vote was recorded as follows:

YES:	Board Members K.J. Johnson, Chairman; R.C. Arnett, Vice Chairman; and M.J. Herrera, A.G. McAfee, K.L. Mohr-Almeida, M.V. Pace, and P.E. Rovey	(7)
NO:	None	(0)
ABSTAINED:	None	(0)
ABSENT:	None	(0)

### SRP Study on Solar Panels Mounted Over Canals

Using a PowerPoint presentation, Christa M. McJunkin, SRP Senior Director of Water Supply and System, stated that the purpose of the presentation was to provide an update on the SRP study to evaluate the feasibility of mounting solar panels over SRP canals, including the development of conceptual designs for solar panel installation and the analysis, in collaboration with Arizona State University (ASU), to evaluate impacts of evaporation. She introduced Andrew W. Johnson, SRP Manager of Engineering.

Mr. A.W. Johnson provided aerials of India, the Gila River Indian Community, and the Turlock Irrigation District projects that are currently using solar over their canals. He said that mounting solar panels over the canals may have the following potential benefits to SRP: use of existing U.S. Bureau of Reclamation land; evaporation savings; positive impacts to aquatic vegetation growth; and a source of renewable generation.

Mr. A.W. Johnson stated that correspondingly potential concerns arise as follows: public safety; clearance for equipment; reduction in maintenance efficiencies and increase in costs; specialized equipment may be required; and increased shade could increase infestation of quagga mussels. He said ASU continues to research site locations, collect data to calculate potential evaporation savings, and investigate the efficiency of solar panels.

Mr. A.W. Johnson reported that Arizona Falls and PERA are the study locations chosen by SRP and ASU. He explained that ASU is collecting isotope samples, preparing analysis, collecting data, and measuring evaporation from pans of water covered by solar panels.

Mr. A.W. Johnson concluded with a discussion of consultant's objectives, a timeline, and next steps.

Ms. C.M. McJunkin and Mr. A.W. Johnson responded to questions from the Committee.

Copies of the PowerPoint slides used in this presentation are on file in the Corporate Secretary's Office and, by reference, made a part of these minutes.

Board Members N.R. Brown, R.J. Miller, and K.B. Woods; and Messrs. R.T. Judd and M.J. O'Connor entered the meeting during the presentation. Brad Moore of AMWUA left the meeting.

Executive Session: Yavapai-Apache Nation  
Verde River Watershed Water Rights Claims

Chairman K.J. Johnson requested a motion to enter into executive session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(4), to discuss or consult with attorneys for legal advice regarding the status of negotiations to resolve the Yavapai-Apache Nation water rights claims in the Verde River watershed prior to adjudicating those claims in judicial proceedings.

On a motion duly made by Board Member M.J. Herrera, seconded by Board Member A.G. McAfee and carried, the Water Committee convened into executive session at 9:55 a.m.

Corporate Secretary J.M. Felty polled the Committee Members on Board Member M.J. Herrera's motion to enter into executive session. The vote was recorded as follows:

YES:	Board Members K.J. Johnson, Chairman; R.C. Arnett, Vice Chairman; and M.J. Herrera, A.G. McAfee, K.L. Mohr-Almeida, M.V. Pace, and P.E. Rovey	(7)
NO:	None	(0)
ABSTAINED:	None	(0)
ABSENT:	None	(0)

Messrs. A.W. Johnson and B.F. Pane left the meeting.

The Committee reconvened into open session at 10:24 a.m., with the following members and others present: Board Members R.C. Arnett, N.R. Brown, M.J. Herrera, K.J. Johnson, A.G. McAfee, R.J. Miller, K.L. Mohr-Almeida, M.V. Pace, P.E. Rovey, J.M. White Jr., L.C. Williams, S.H. Williams, and K.B. Woods; L.D. Rovey of the Association; Council Vice Chairman J.R. Shelton; Council Liaison G.E. Geiger; Council Member M.C. Pedersen; Mmes. I.R. Avalos, M.J. Burger, A.P. Chabrier, L.F. Hobaica, C.M. Jovanovic, C.M. McJunkin, L.A. Meyers, G.A. Mingura, K.L. Morrison, and C.M. Sifuentes; Messrs. J.D. Coggins, S.P. DePinto, J.M. Felty, Z.J. Heim, R.T. Judd, B.J. Koch, K.J. Lee, S.B. Lutz, M.S. Mendonca, R. Navarro, M.J. O'Connor, B.A. Olsen, J.M. Pratt, and R.R. Taylor.

Executive Session: The Nature Conservancy

Chairman K.J. Johnson requested a motion to enter into executive session, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3) and (A)(4), to discuss or consult with attorneys for legal advice

regarding the terms of an agreement between SRP and The Nature Conservancy whereby SRP would financially contribute funds to The Nature Conservancy to allow it to submit a proposal for funding from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership program.

On a motion duly made by Board Member M.J. Herrera, seconded by Board Member A.G. McAfee and carried, the Water Committee convened into executive session at 10:25 a.m.

Corporate Secretary J.M. Felty polled the Committee Members on Board Member M.J. Herrera’s motion to enter into executive session. The vote was recorded as follows:

YES:	Board Members K.J. Johnson, Chairman; R.C. Arnett, Vice Chairman; and M.J. Herrera, A.G. McAfee, K.L. Mohr-Almeida, M.V. Pace, and P.E. Rovey	(7)
NO:	None	(0)
ABSTAINED:	None	(0)
ABSENT:	None	(0)

The Committee reconvened into open session at 10:45 a.m., with the following members and others present: Board Members R.C. Arnett, N.R. Brown, M.J. Herrera, K.J. Johnson, A.G. McAfee, R.J. Miller, K.L. Mohr-Almeida, M.V. Pace, P.E. Rovey, J.M. White Jr., L.C. Williams, and K.B. Woods; L.D. Rovey of the Association; Council Vice Chairman J.R. Shelton; Council Liaison G.E. Geiger; Council Member M.C. Pedersen; Mmes. I.R. Avalos, M.J. Burger, A.P. Chabrier, L.F. Hobaica, C.M. Jovanovic, C.M. McJunkin, L.A. Meyers, G.A. Mingura, and C.M. Sifuentes; Messrs. J.D. Coggins, S.P. DePinto, J.M. Felty, Z.J. Heim, R.T. Judd, B.J. Koch, K.J. Lee, S.B. Lutz, M.S. Mendonca, R. Navarro, M.J. O’Connor, B.A. Olsen, J.M. Pratt, and R.R. Taylor.

Report on Current Events by the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer or Designees

There was no report on current events by Jim M. Pratt, SRP General Manager and Chief Executive Officer.

Future Agenda Topics

Chairman K.J. Johnson asked the Committee if there were any future agenda topics. None were requested.

There being no further business to come before the Water Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

John M. Felty  
Corporate Secretary





# Update on Status of Settlement of the Hualapai Tribe Water Right Claims

**Water Committee**

**Patrick Sigl | October 24, 2023**

# Agenda

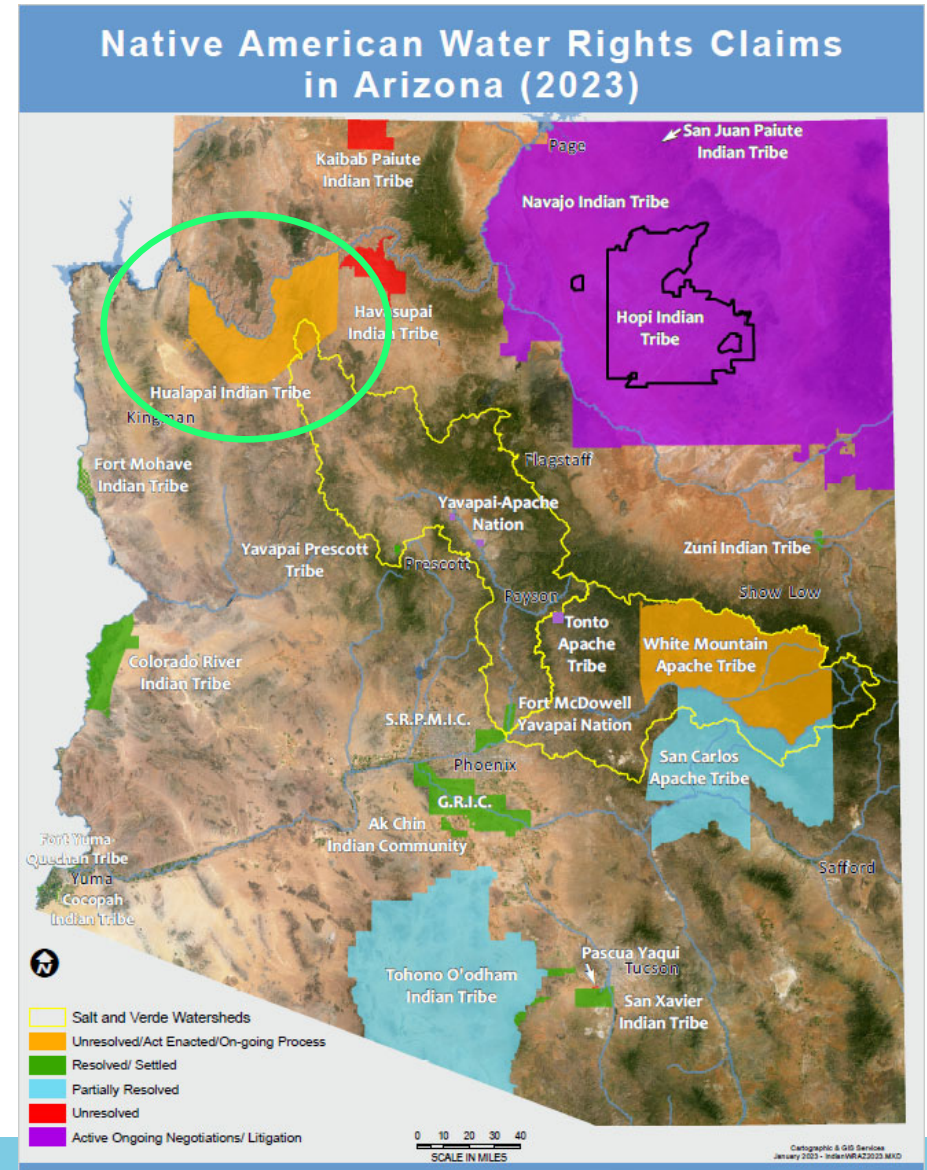
- Background
- Settlement Terms
- Next Steps



# Background

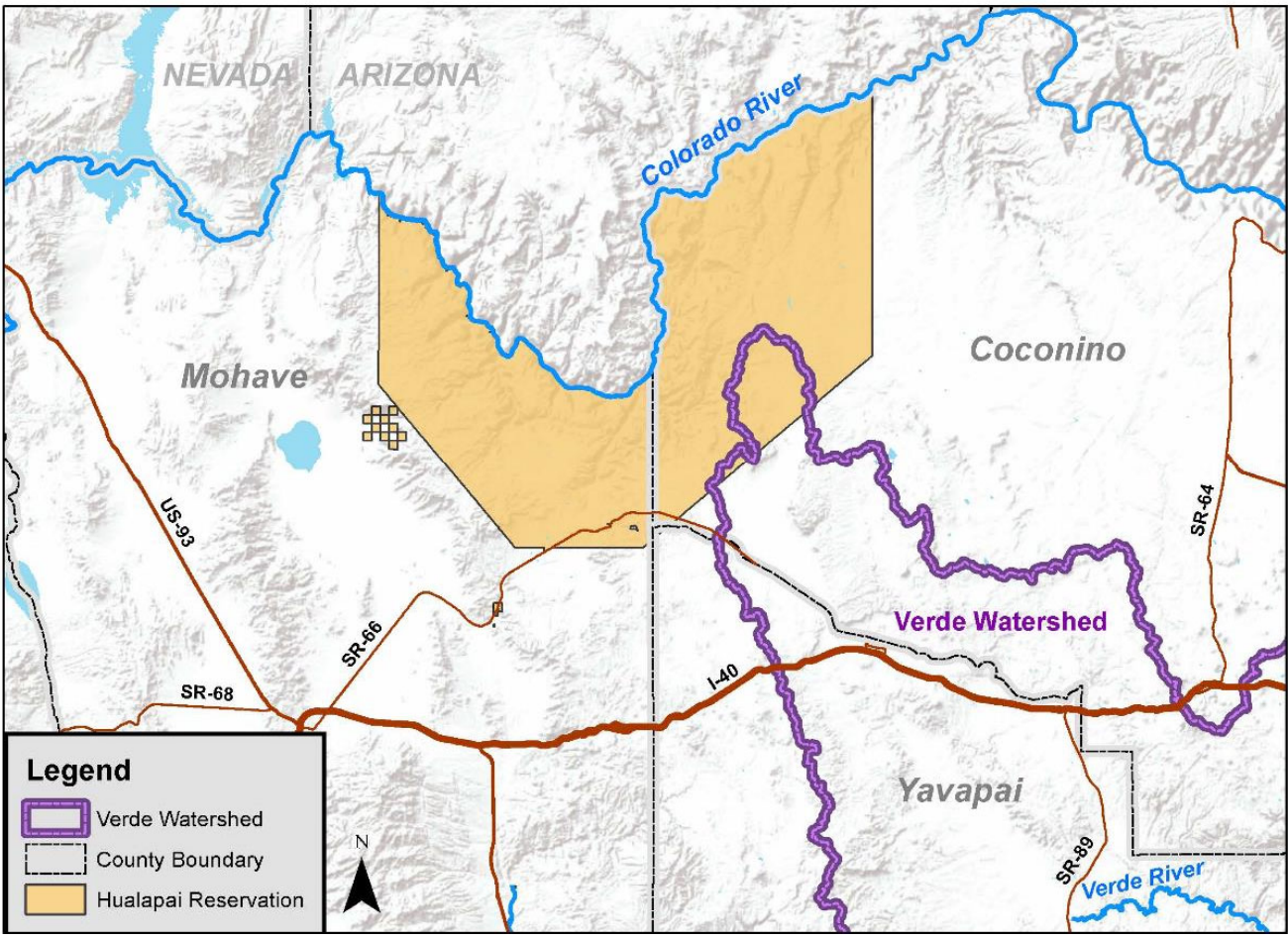
SRP Interest in Hualapai Water Rights Settlement:

- Resolve Claims to waters of the Verde River and Colorado River
- Precedent for Indian Water Rights Settlements in Arizona



# Background (continued)

- Reservation: 1 million acres, established by Executive Orders starting in 1883
- About 2,300 Tribal members
- Economics: Grand Canyon West
- Negotiations began in 2011
- Bill Williams Water Rights Settlement Act of 2014, P.L. 113-223
- SRP Board approved Settlement Agreement in 2019; SRP executed



# Settlement Terms

- Parties: Hualapai Tribe, United States, State of Arizona, CAWCD, SRP, Freeport
- Water Supplies: Tribe may acquire lower basin Colorado River water; 4,000 AFY of NIA priority CAP water; on-reservation surface and groundwater; effluent
- Legislation: Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2022, P.L. 117-349, January 5, 2023 (“Act”)



PUBLIC LAW 117-349—JAN. 5, 2023

136 STAT. 6225

Public Law 117-349  
117th Congress

An Act

To approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Hualapai Tribe and certain allottees in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, and for other purposes.

Jan. 5, 2023

[S. 4104]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to resolve, fully and finally, all claims to rights to water in the State, including the Verde River, the Bill Williams River, and the Colorado River, of—

(A) the Hualapai Tribe, on behalf of the Hualapai Tribe and the members of the Hualapai Tribe; and

(B) the United States, acting as trustee for the Hualapai Tribe, the members of the Hualapai Tribe, and the allottees;

(2) to authorize, ratify, and confirm the Hualapai Tribe water rights settlement agreement, to the extent that agreement is consistent with this Act;

(3) to authorize and direct the Secretary to execute and perform the duties and obligations of the Secretary under the Hualapai Tribe water rights settlement agreement and this Act; and

(4) to authorize the appropriation of funds necessary to carry out the Hualapai Tribe water rights settlement agreement and this Act.

Hualapai Tribe  
Water Rights  
Settlement Act of  
2022.

## Settlement Terms (continued)

- Fund Based Settlement: Act authorizes appropriations of \$312 million; additional \$5 million for Interior to estimate and monitor groundwater use
- Infrastructure: Funds can be used for (1) planning, design and construction of the Hualapai Water Project to divert, treat, and convey up to 3,414 AFY of Lower basin Colorado River water, (2) OM&R, (3) power infrastructure for project, (4) groundwater wells



## Settlement Terms (continued)

- Waivers: Waivers of rights to the Verde River, Bill Williams River, Colorado River, and off-reservation groundwater pumping (certain exceptions for pumping from Truxton aquifer)
- Lands into Trust: certain lands taken into trust and added to the reservation; prohibits Secretary from taking future lands into trust without Congressional approval



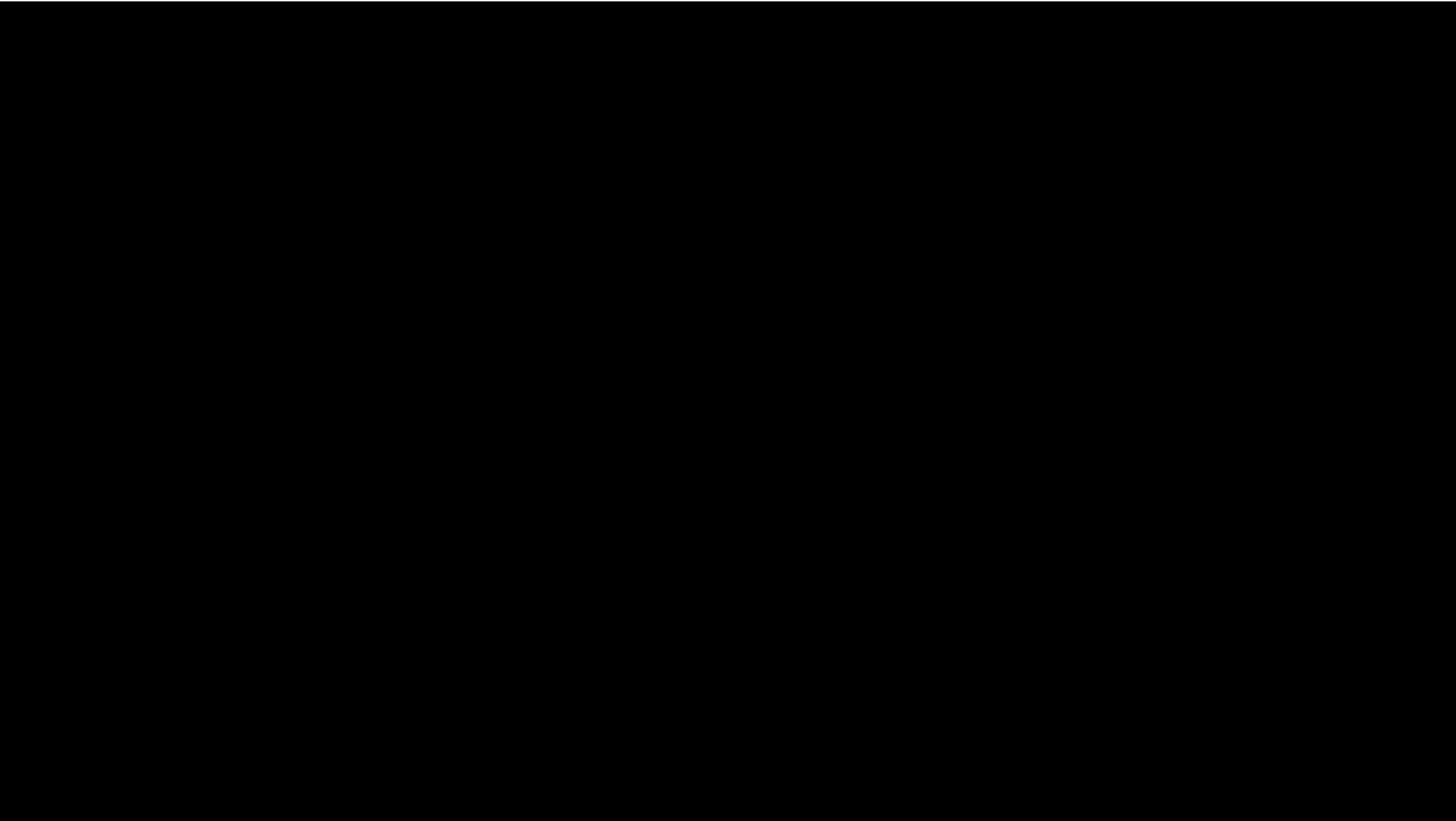
## Next Steps

- Finalize Amended and Restated Settlement Agreement
- Seek SRP Board Approval; Execution
- Seek approval for settlement in the Gila River General Stream Adjudication Court
- Seek Congressional appropriations to fund settlement
- Enforceability Date prior to April 15, 2029





**thank you!**



# **Desert Basin Water Supply**

## **Long-Term Storage Credit Recovery and Delivery Agreement**

**S. DePinto**

**Water Committee**

**October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

# Agenda

- Context and History
- Options Evaluated
- Key Agreement Features
- Next Steps

## WHAT?

Diversifying Desert  
Basin Generating  
Station's Physical  
Water Supply

## WHY?

Protect Desert Basin  
Generating Station from  
shortages on primary  
supply (Colorado River)

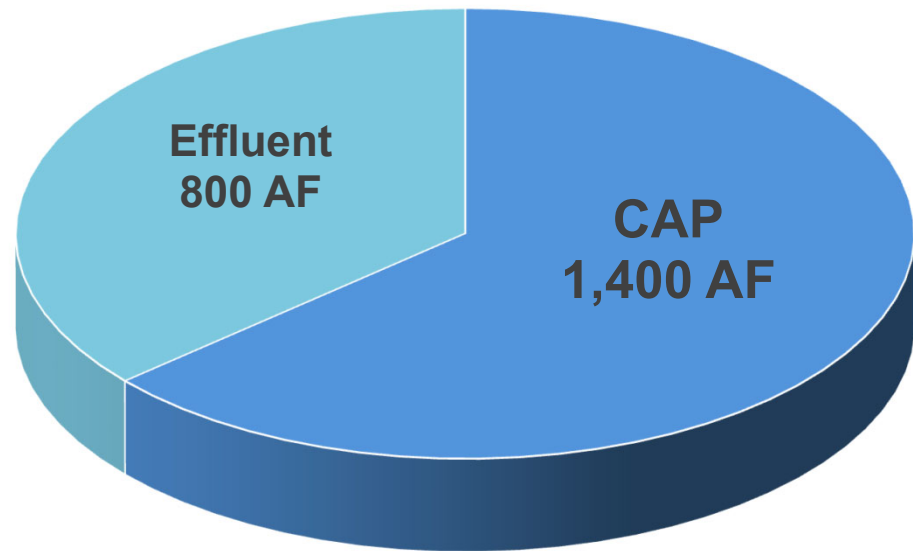
# Desert Basin Generating Station

## Water Supply Basic Facts

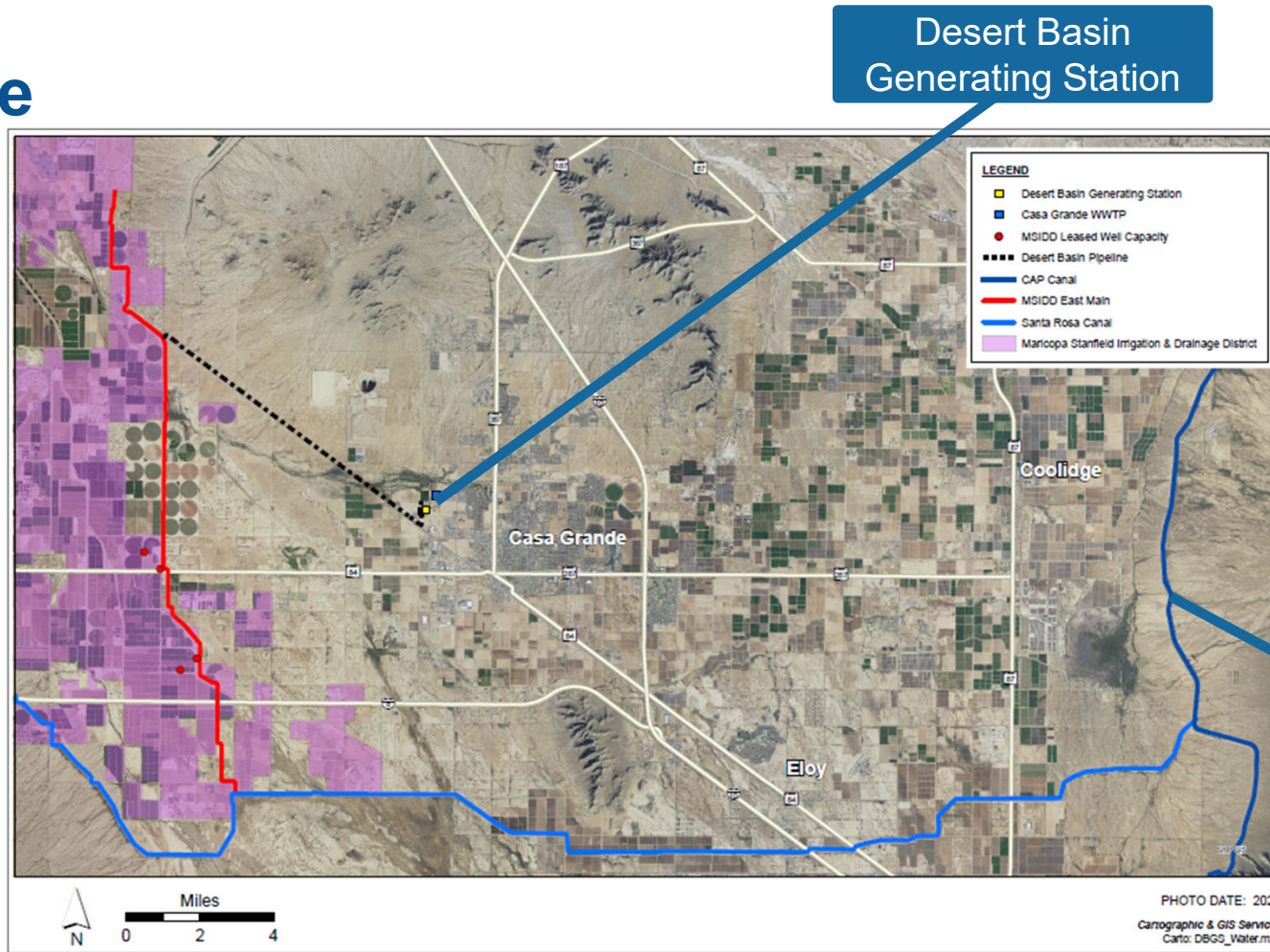
### Existing Contracts Summary

- **CAP Agreement with Arizona Water Company**
  - Up to 2,000 acre-feet per year
  - Contract expires in 2031
- **Effluent Agreement with City of Casa Grande**
  - Up to 1,568 acre-feet per year
  - Contract expires in 2061

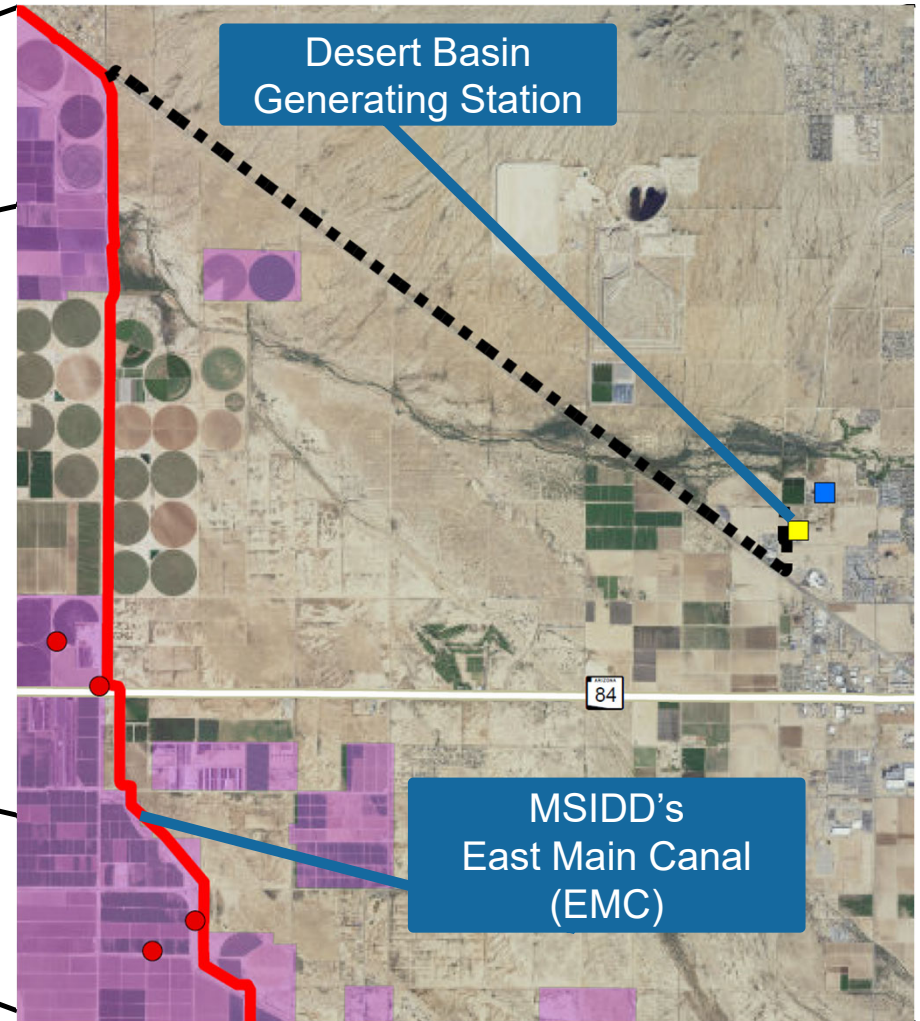
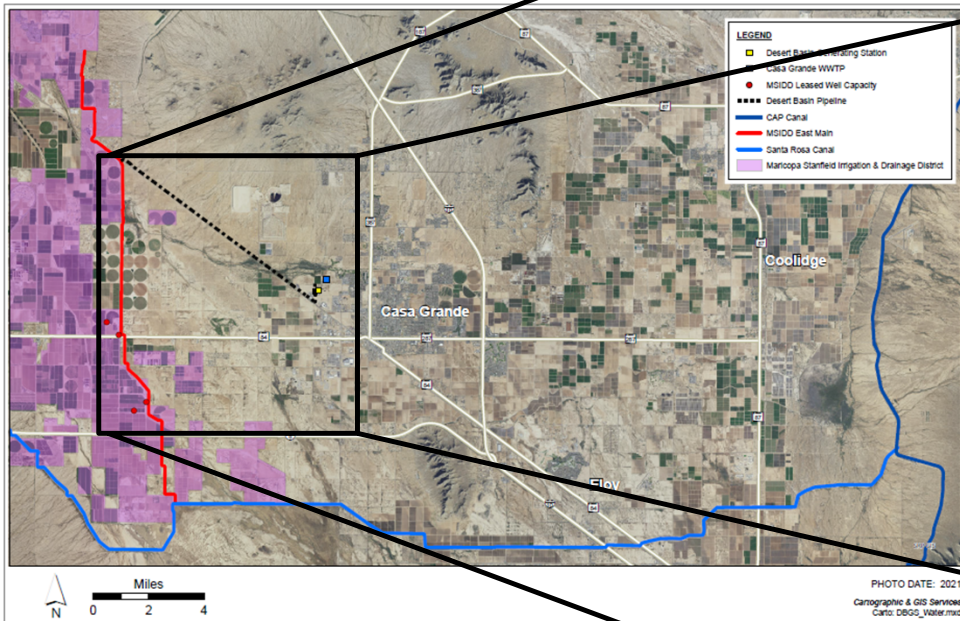
Approximate Median Annual Water Use  
2018-2022



# Where

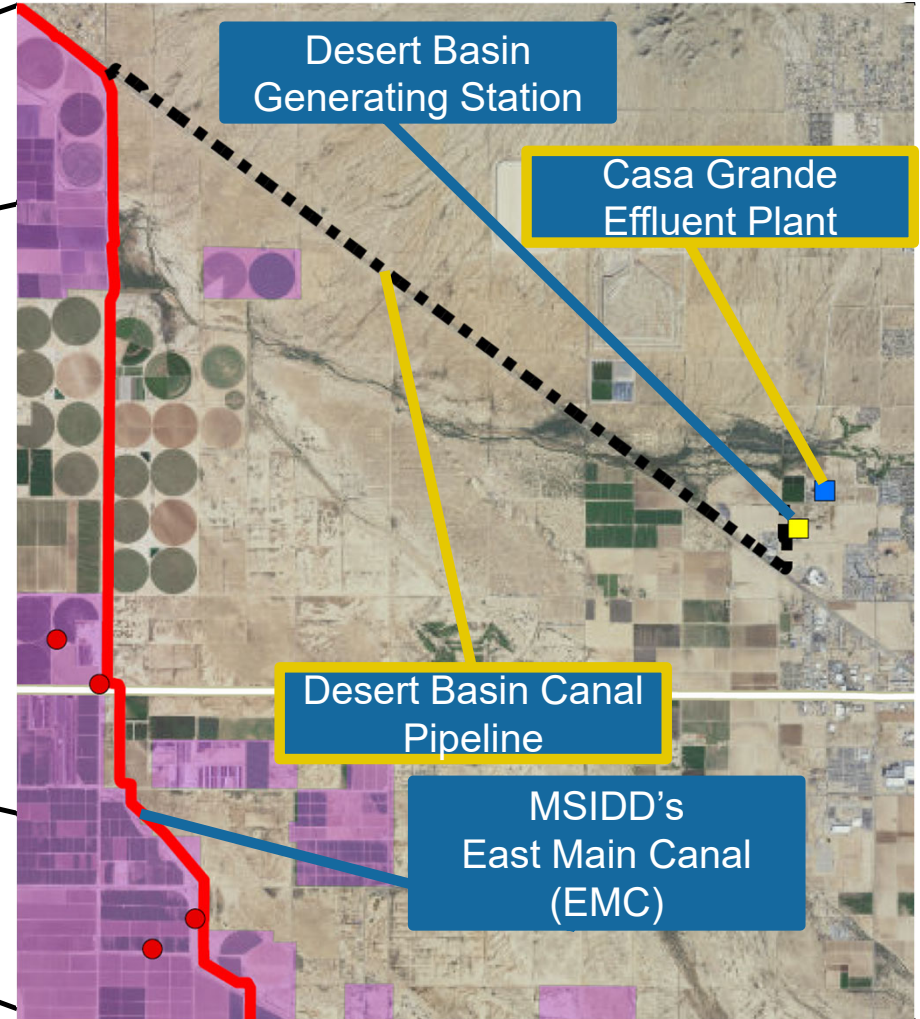
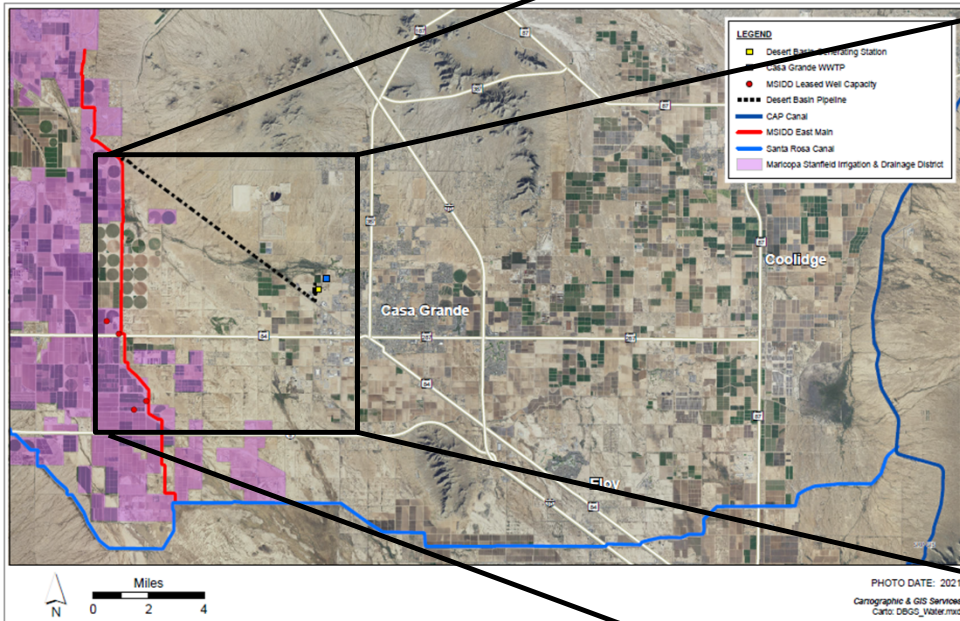


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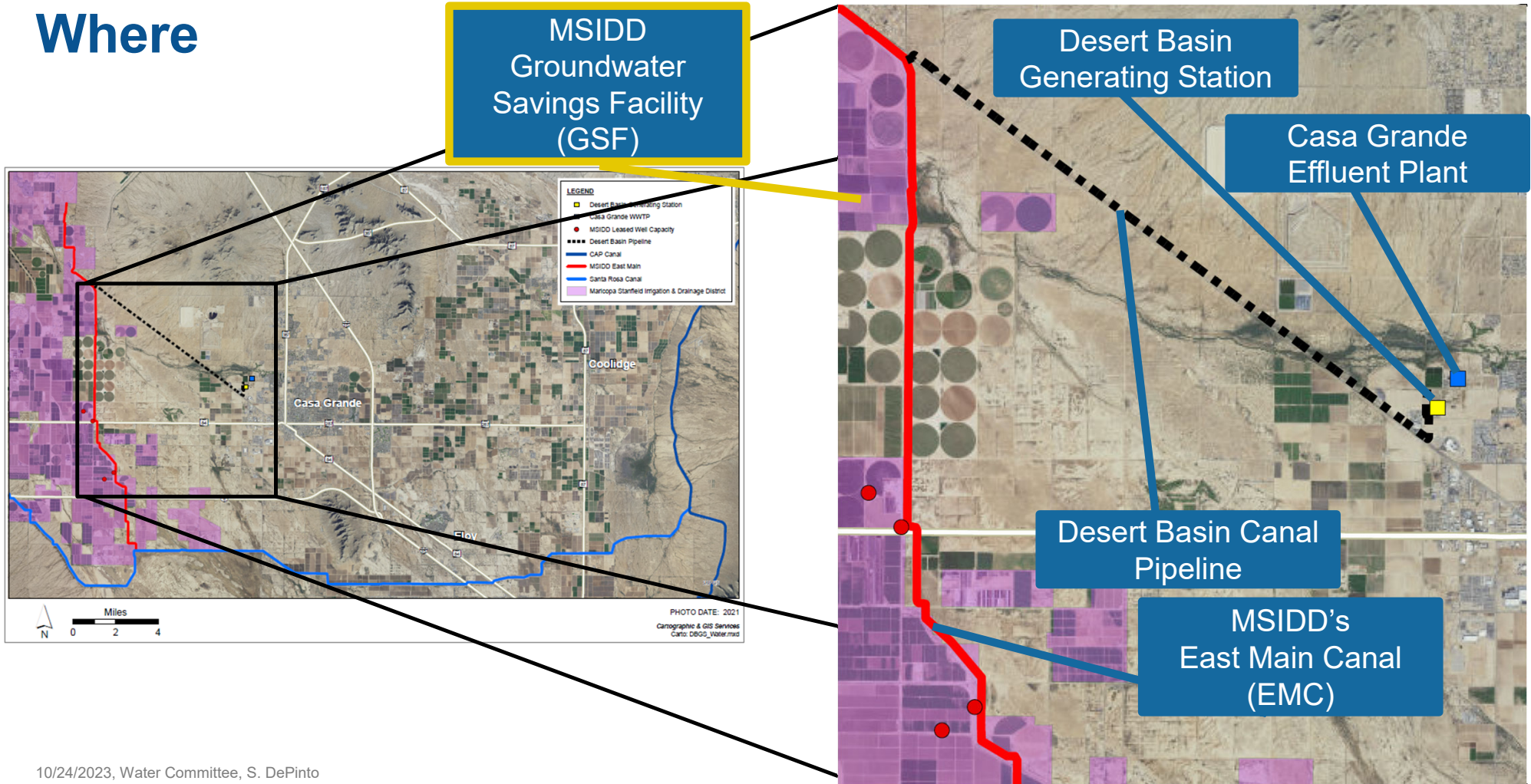




# Where



# Where



ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

# Feds cut Colorado River allocation to Arizona, Nevada as talks fail

BY ZACK BARRY - 08/16/22 2:16 PM ET

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

# As talks on Colorado River water falter, U.S. government imposes new restrictions

**The New York Times**

## A New Round of Colorado River Cuts Is Announced

Aug. 16, 2022  
By Cory Frankel



WEATHER > IMPACT EARTH



f t

## Arizona to lose 21% of its Colorado River water in 2023

Home / News / Best States / Arizona News / U.S. officials say Arizona, Nevada, Mexico...

## U.S. Officials Say Arizona, Nevada and Mexico Will Get Less Colorado River Water After Reservoir Levels Hit Critical Low

U.S. officials say Arizona, Nevada and Mexico will get less Colorado River water after reservoir levels hit critical low.

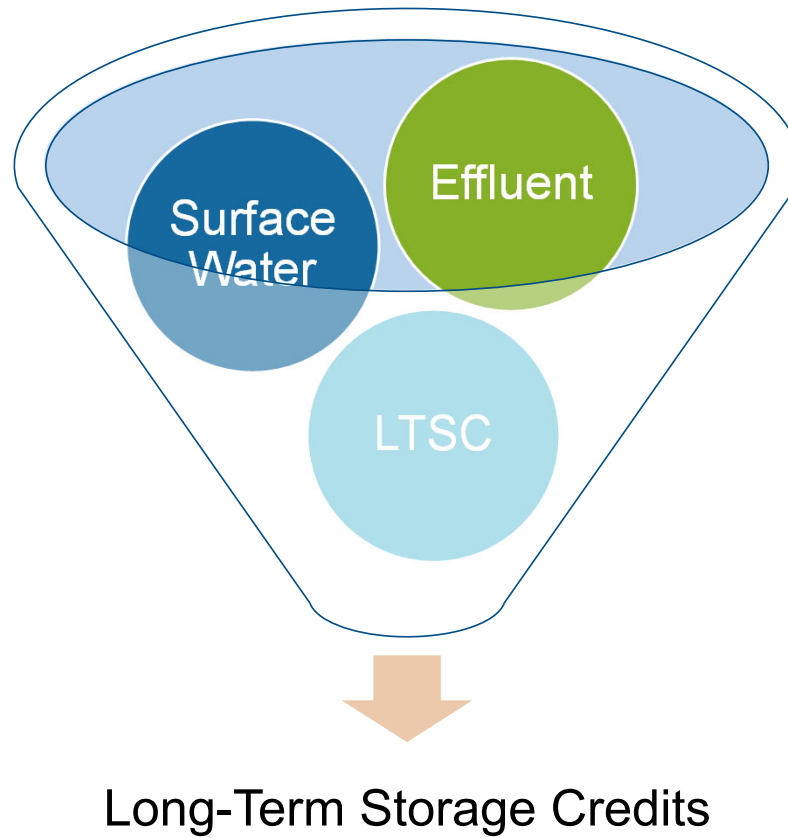
npr

U.S. says drought-stricken Arizona and Nevada will get less water from Colorado River

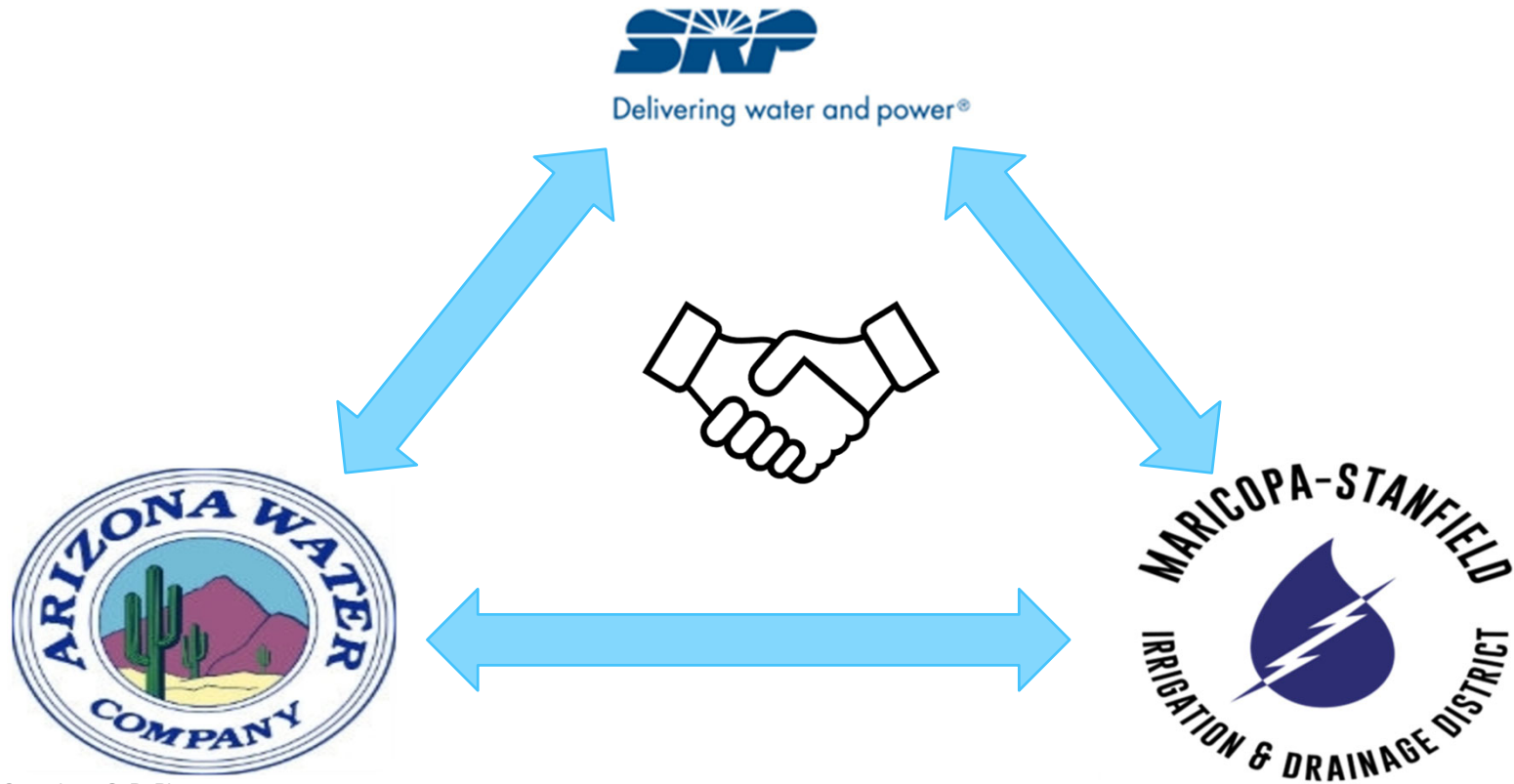
Updated August 16, 2022 4:02 PM ET '22

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Evaluating Short-Term Options



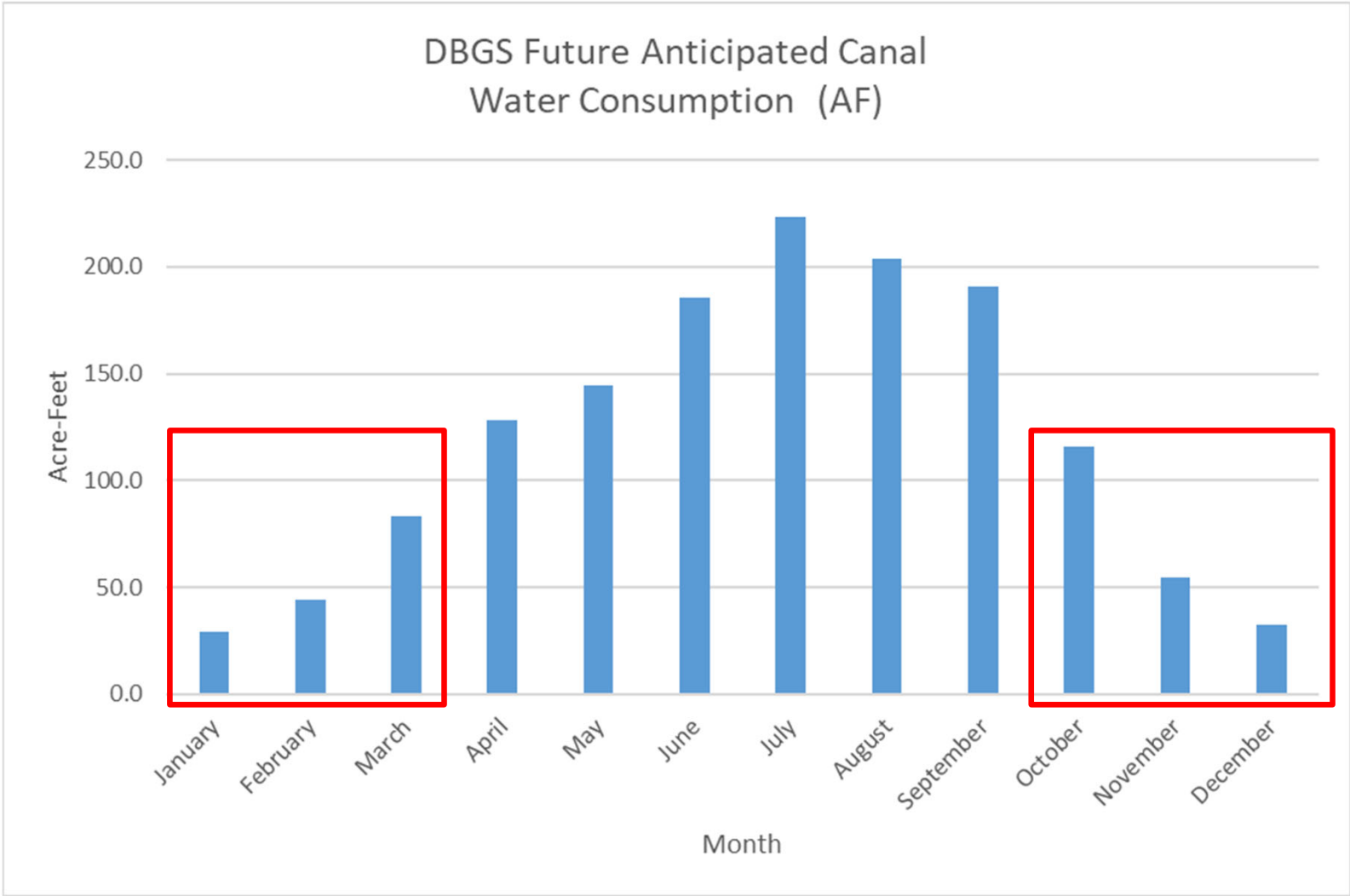
# Working Together To Find Solutions



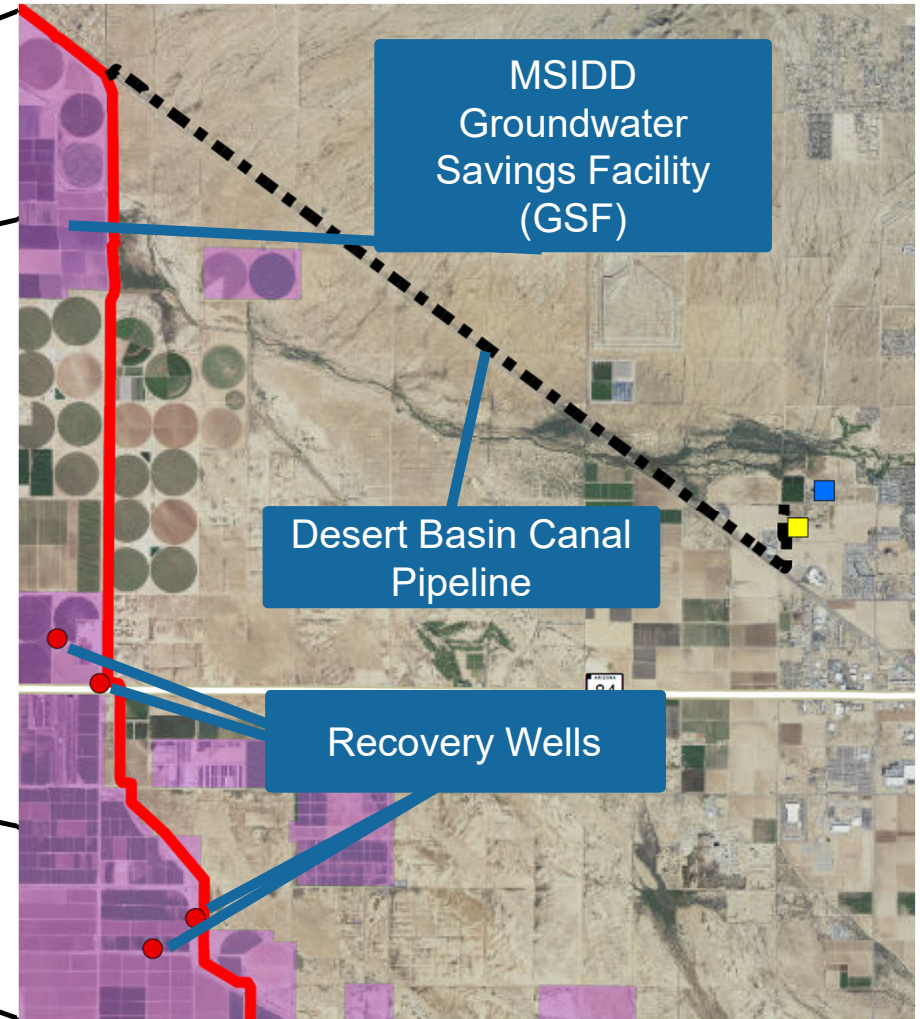
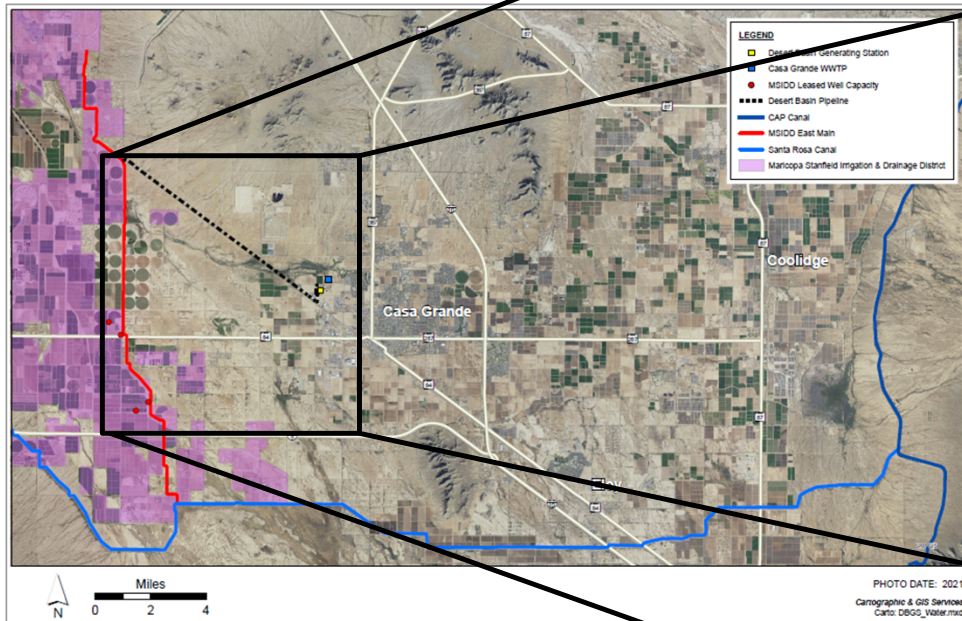
# Key Agreement Features

## LTSC Recovery and Delivery Agreement with MSIDD

- Use MSIDD wells to recover SRP's long-term storage credits
- Up to 400 acre-feet per year
- MSIDD growers are prioritized during summer months.
  - Accordingly, Desert Basin can place orders between October and March.
- Contract currently expires in 2028 with potential extensions to 2053



# Permitting

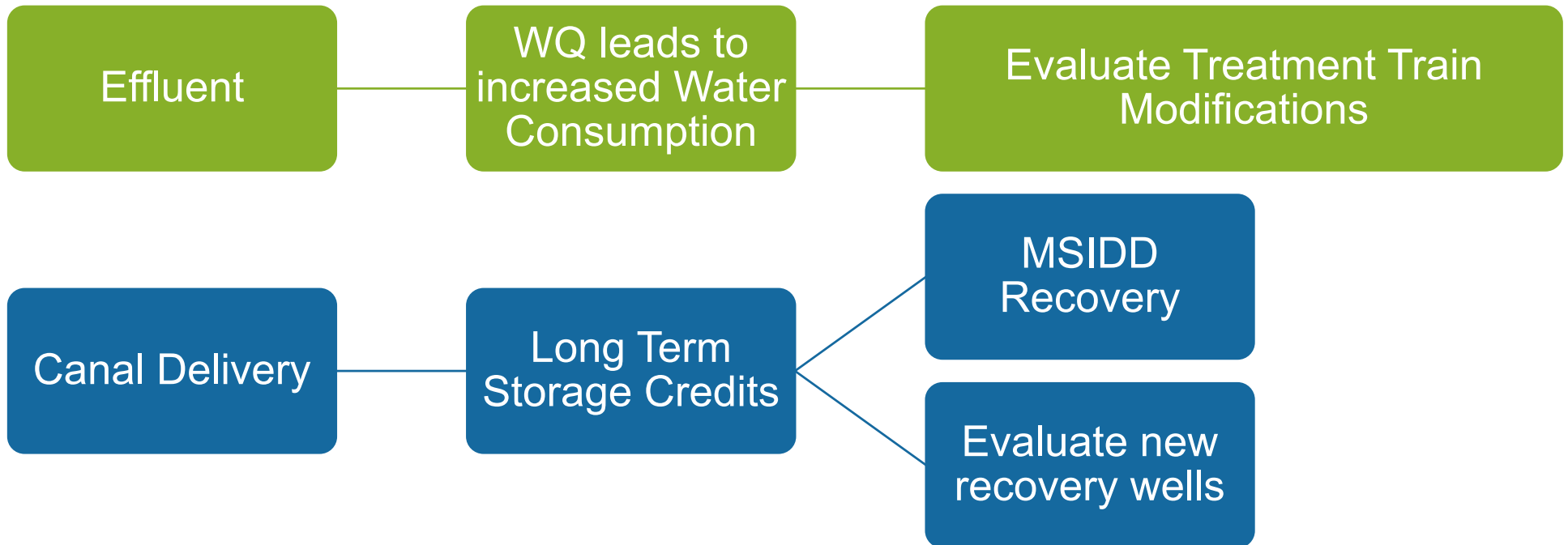




## Next Steps



# Evaluating Future Long-Term Options



**thank you!**

