

# CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

Updates on Programs and What's Ahead



***July 21, 2025 (El Centro)***

***July 22, 2025 (Brawley)***

***3:00 – 5:00 pm***

# CONSERVATION WORKSHOPS

Updates on Programs and What's Ahead



## Welcome

Jamie Asbury, General Manager

## Opening Remarks

Gina Dockstader, Chairwoman

# Conservation Programs Overview



Mike Pacheco  
Water Department Manager

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# On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program 101

Kelly Bishop  
Water Conservation Program Rep II



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# IID On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program

## Accomplish the same thing with less water

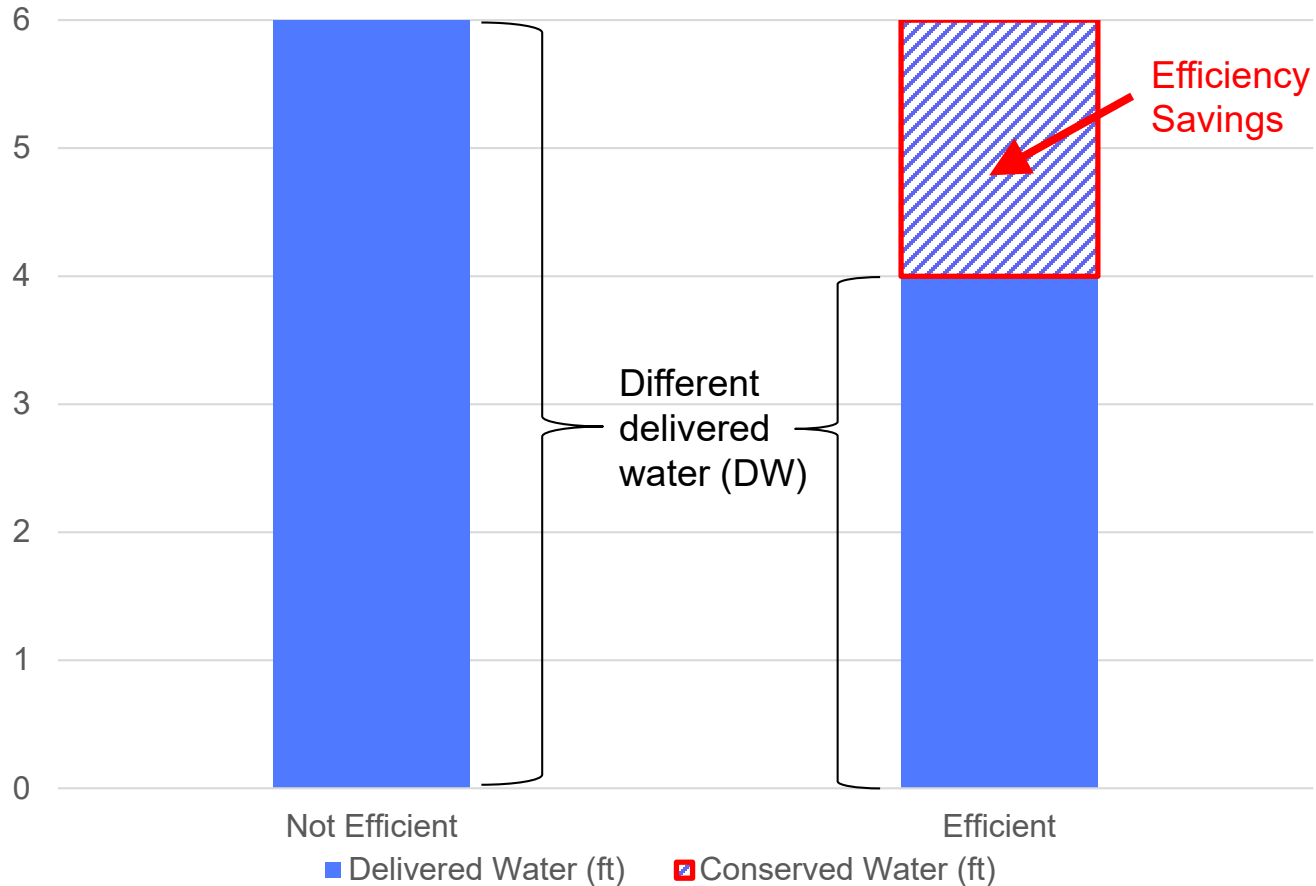
- Growing the same crop with less water
- No effect on ground itself
  - *Maintains soil moisture and plant health*
- No effect on service providers
  - *No reduction in yield or cuttings, so no impact to service providers*
- No effect on other water users
  - *Conservation for a field is only equal to difference in what the field would have used if not implementing conservation measures*
- No effect on owners
  - *Modified History = Delivered Water + Conserved Water*
  - *same as delivered water if they weren't in the program*

**Goal: Make water you apply do more work for you and apply enough water to do the same work as in the past.**



# Conservation from Efficiency

(Same Crop both Cases)



**Crop without conservation measures**

**Same crop using conservation measure**

# Calculating Historical: Delivered Water

Weather	Acres	Delivered Water AF	DW AF/Ac
Alfalfa	72 Ac	555 AF	7.71 ft
Alfalfa	38 Ac	323 AF	8.5 ft
Alfalfa	76 Ac	593 AF	7.8 ft
Corn	37 Ac	120 AF	3.24 ft
<b>Alfalfa Total</b>	<b>186 Ac</b>	<b>1,471 AF</b>	<b>7.91 ft</b>

Crop of interest is alfalfa

*Normal seasons and normal patterns within 2003-2012 Baseline Period are used.*

**Historical Delivered Water** recognizes the field water use prior to the conservation measure

# Calculating Historical: Water & $ET_{AW}$

Weather	Acres	Delivered Water AF	$ET_{AW}$ AF	DW AF/Ac	$ET_{AW}$ AF/Ac
Alfalfa	72 Ac	555 AF	389 AF	7.71 ft	5.4 ft
Alfalfa	38 Ac	323 AF	194 AF	8.5 ft	5.1 ft
Alfalfa	76 Ac	593 AF	373 AF	7.8 ft	4.91 ft
<b>Alfalfa Total</b>	<b>186 Ac</b>	<b>1,471 AF</b>	<b>956 Af</b>	<b>7.91 ft</b>	<b>5.14 ft</b>

Water used by the crop in a given season

**Evapotranspiration of Applied Water ( $ET_{AW}$ )** normalizes the differences between crop seasons for the efficiency comparison

# Calculating Historical: Water, $ET_{AW}$ & CUF

Weather	Acres	Delivered Water AF	$ET_{AW}$ AF	DW AF/Ac	$ET_{AW}$ AF/Ac	CUF
Alfalfa	72 Ac	555 AF	389 AF	7.71 ft	5.4 ft	0.70
Alfalfa	38 Ac	323 AF	194 AF	8.5 ft	5.1 ft	0.60
Alfalfa	76 Ac	593 AF	373 AF	7.8 ft	4.91 ft	0.63
<b>Alfalfa Total</b>	<b>186 Ac</b>	<b>1,471 AF</b>	<b>956 AF</b>	<b>7.91 ft</b>	<b>5.14 ft</b>	<b>0.65</b>

The **CUF** is how efficiently the applied water was used that season.

$$\text{Historical CUF} = \frac{ET_{AW\text{Historical}}}{DW_{\text{Historical}}} = \frac{5.14 \text{ ft}}{7.91 \text{ ft}} = 0.65$$

# Evaluating the Current Season

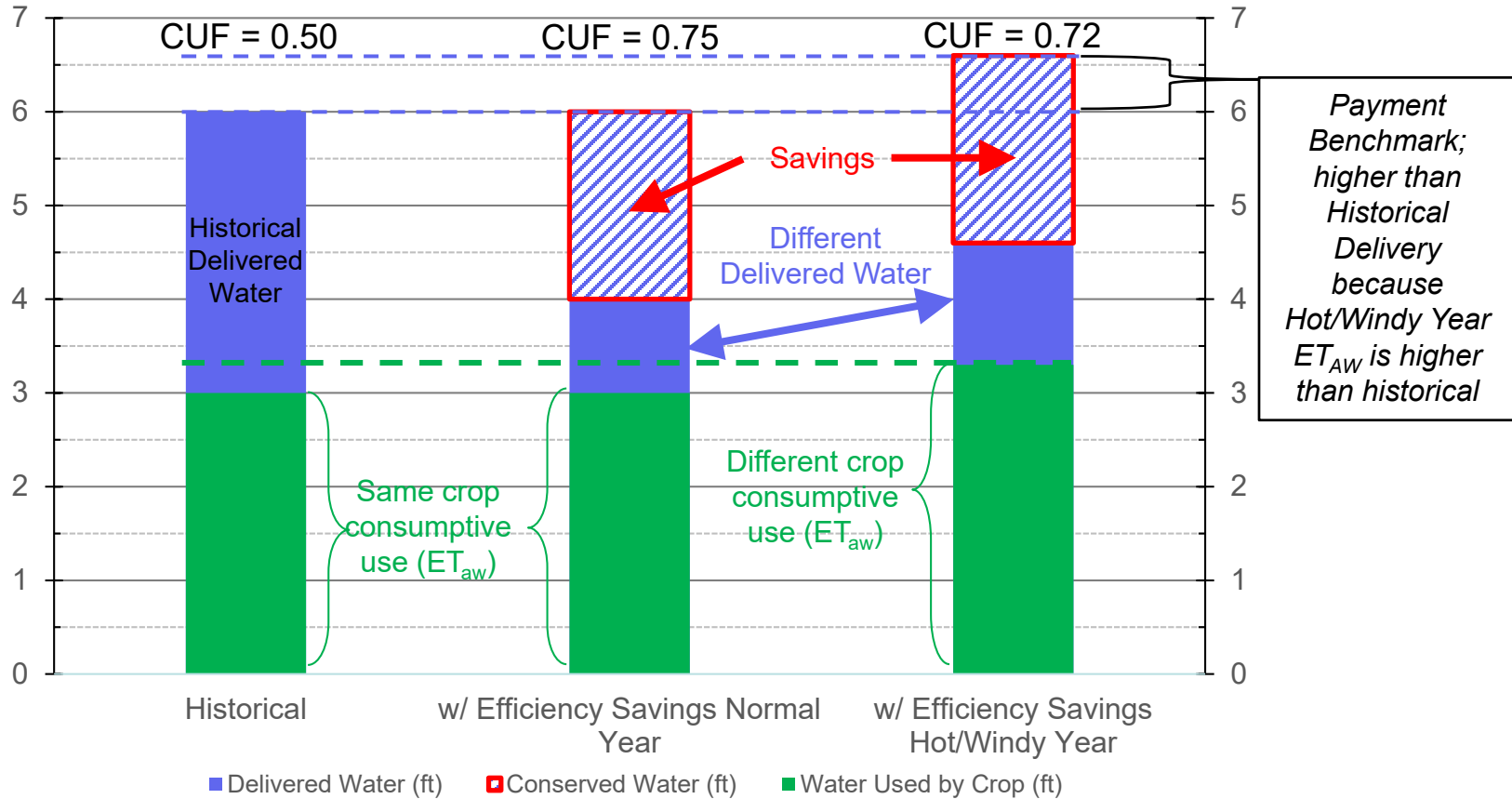
**Payment Benchmark** is how much water to apply this year based on current conditions to be as efficient as you were in the baseline period

Weather	Acres of Alfalfa	ET <sub>AW</sub> AF/Ac	Historical CUF (efficiency)	Payment Benchmark (ET <sub>AW</sub> /CUF <sub>BL</sub> )	Delivered Water AF/Ac	Savings AF/Ac
Hot Windy	70 Ac	5.53 ft	0.65	8.5 ft	7.8 ft	0.7 ft
Cold Wet	70 Ac	5.05 ft	0.65	7.77 ft	7.8 ft	(0.03 ft)
Short Season	70 Ac	3.10 ft	0.65	4.77 ft	7.8 ft	(3.03 ft)
<b>Normal</b>	<b>70 Ac</b>	<b>5.14 ft</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>7.91 ft</b>	7.8 ft	<b>0.11 ft</b>



$$\text{Payment Benchmark} = \frac{ET_{aw\_current\_season}}{\text{Historical CUF}}$$

# Conservation from Efficiency



$$CUF = \frac{ET_{aw}}{DW}$$

$$Payment\ Benchmark = \frac{ET_{aw\_current\_season}}{Historical\ CUF}$$

www.iid.com

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# Ensuring Good Calculations

## Delivered water recording is the foundation

- Errors in delivered water records
- Water movements
  - *If the exact amount of water applied to a particular field can't be determined from the IID bills then the field probably should be combined*
- Incorrect crops
- Constantly changing acres
  - *Use field boundary acres*
  - *Never combine acres on a single event unless those are always to be combined.*

**Details Matter – Garbage in Garbage Out – Verify Water Bill Data**



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# Top 5 Tips to Increase OFECP Conservation Yields

Ben Brock  
General Superintendent,  
Agricultural Water Resources



# Maximizing OFECP Conservation Yields

## 1. Don't Underwater

- *Alfalfa at least 5½ ft*
- *Bermuda/Citrus 4½ ft*

## 2. Don't Overwater

- *Months that have more than 1 ft of applied water are unlikely to have savings*

## 3. Be Mindful of Pre-irrigation

- *Events that end within 30 days of the plant date are part of the crop season*
- *Evaluate pre-irrigation applied water, would ½ ft or ¾ ft work as well as 1 ft?*

## 4. Each Irrigation Event Matters

- *Labor may be cheaper than water, however every 1 AF of applied water may “cost” \$450 (\$430/AF conservation rate + \$20/AF delivery cost)*

## 5. TRS Systems

- *TRS only save water when used (properly)*
- *Reduce volume of water ordered; pumping water ≠ saving water*

### **Bonus TIP – How much water do I apply?**

*Look at last year's Field Status Report as a starting point (unless weather is significantly different)*



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# Deficit Irrigation Program Update

Dylan Mohamed  
Water Resources Planner



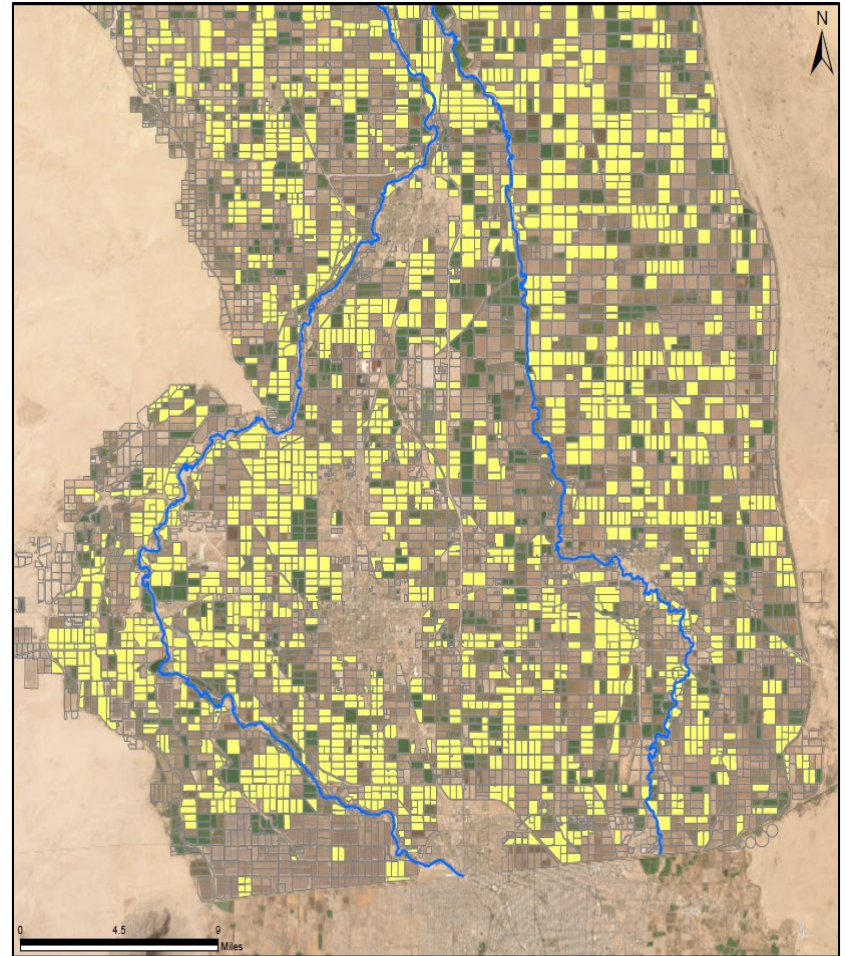
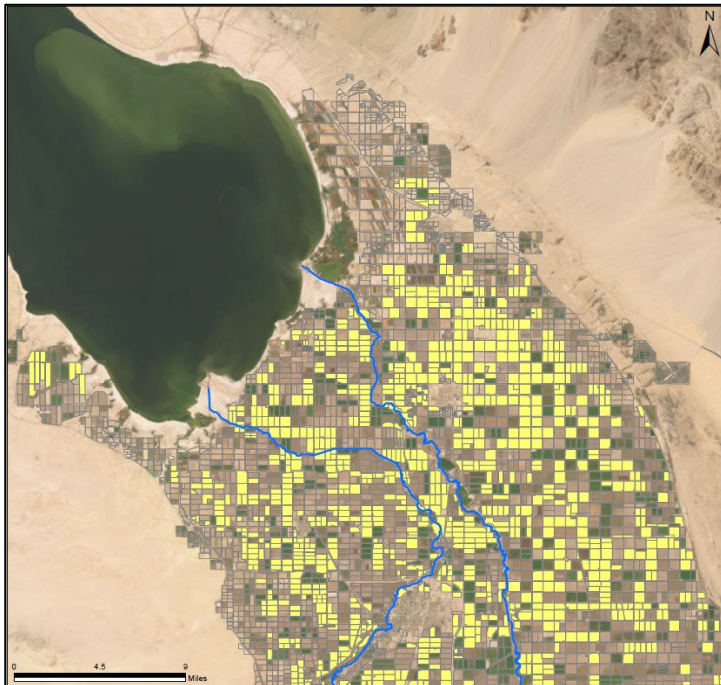
# DIP Program Description

- The Deficit Irrigation Program (DIP) is a voluntary, compensated pilot program that involves not irrigating an established Alfalfa, Bermuda Grass, or Klein Grass crop for a 45 to 60-day term during a specified summer growing period.
- This federally funded system conservation program will build elevation in Lake Mead from 2024-2026
- The 2025-2026 DIP has an implementation period from June 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- More information at [www.iid.com/dip](http://www.iid.com/dip)

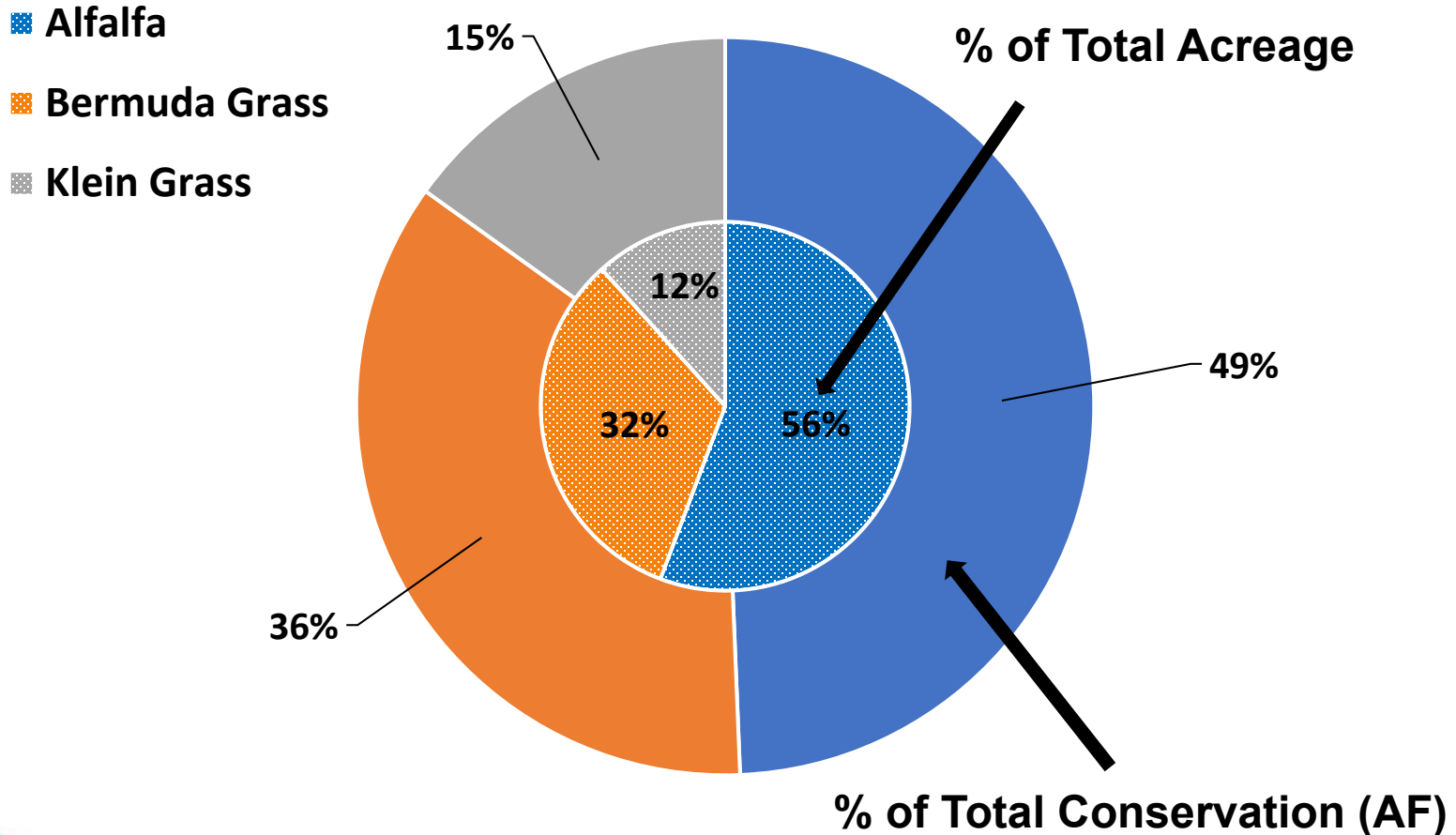


# 2024 DIP Conservation Yields

- Total Acreage  $\approx$  154,245 acres
- Total Conservation  $\approx$  172,389 AF



# 2024 DIP Conservation by Crop



# 2025 DIP Solicitation

## Proposals Received

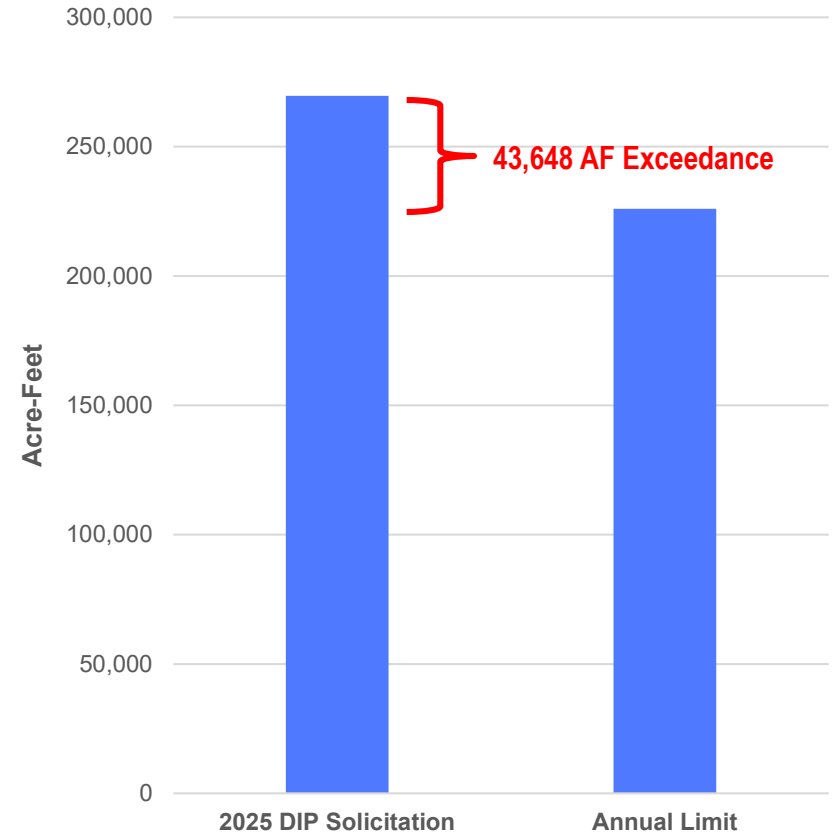
- Acreage = 183,619 acres
- Conservation Yield = 269,648 AF

## DIP Annual Environmental Limits

- Acreage Limit = 180,000 acres
- Conservation Limit = 226,000 AF

## Solicitation Reductions

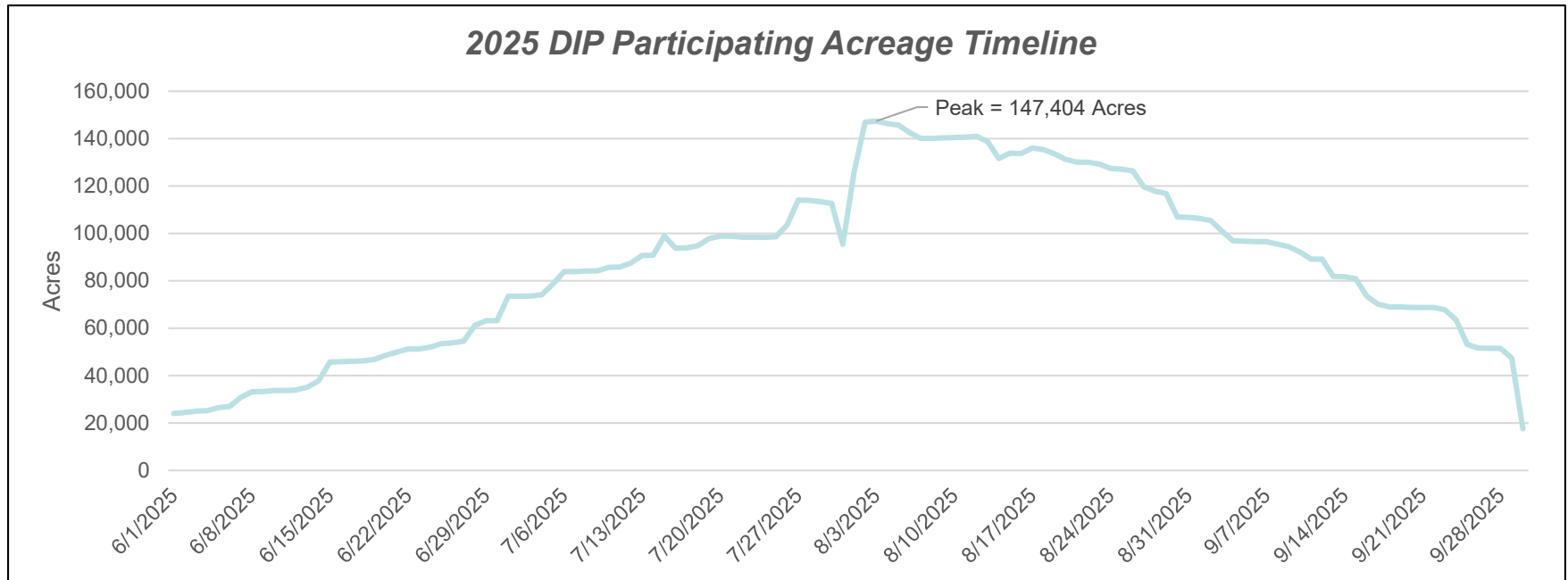
- Excluded 1<sup>st</sup> year crops
- Lottery to remove fields



# 2025 DIP Projections

(as of July 11, 2025)

- Acreage = 151,376 acres
- Conservation Yield Projection = 223,404 AF (at-River)



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# System Conservation Program Update

Vince Brooke  
General Superintendent,  
System Conservation Program



# Seepage Recovery Projects



- 32 seepage recovery projects developed since 2010 costing approximately \$16 million.
- Conservation yield  $\approx$  39,000 AFY
- Two additional projects are in development for construction in 2025 - 2026.
  - *Palmetto Main to Pampas Drain (working on easement)*
  - *DP17 – reconditioning project (under design)*

# Lateral to Lateral Interties



- 14 lateral intertie projects have been developed since 2010 at a cost of approximately \$10.1 million.
- Annual conservation is accounted for in the Operational Discharge Reduction (ODR) program.
- Additional intertie projects under development:
  - *Orient to the Bevins Intake (scheduled for construction September 2025) with an estimated annual conservation yield  $\approx$  1,100 AF*
  - *Malva 1 to Malva 2 Intertie (under design)*

# System Discharge Reduction Program (SDR)



- Communication backhaul upgrade has been completed.
- All Zanjero laptops & pickup upgrades have been completed.
- Metering of lateral discharges - remaining 5 of 221 will be completed in 2025.
- Automation of lateral headings - remaining 42 of 190 will be completed over the next two years.
- Total costs to date for SDR projects = \$18.8 million.
- Total ODR conservation (including interties) currently ranges from 21,000 – 34,000 AFY.

# Rose Discharge to Rockwood Canal Intertie with Offline Reservoir Project



- Analyzed ground with the best hydraulic conditions in the Rose Canal discharge area for a reservoir site.
- Project estimated to conserve  $\approx$  13,000 AFY and includes
  - *50 cfs intertie from the Rose Canal discharge to the Rockwood Canal*
  - *New 250 AF operational reservoir*
  - *Dogwood Lateral 6 to Rose Canal intertie and a new 50 AF reservoir*
  - *Acacia Lateral 7 to Acacia intertie*
  - *Acacia Lateral 9 to Roselle intertie*
  - *Acacia Lateral 11 to Dogwood intertie*

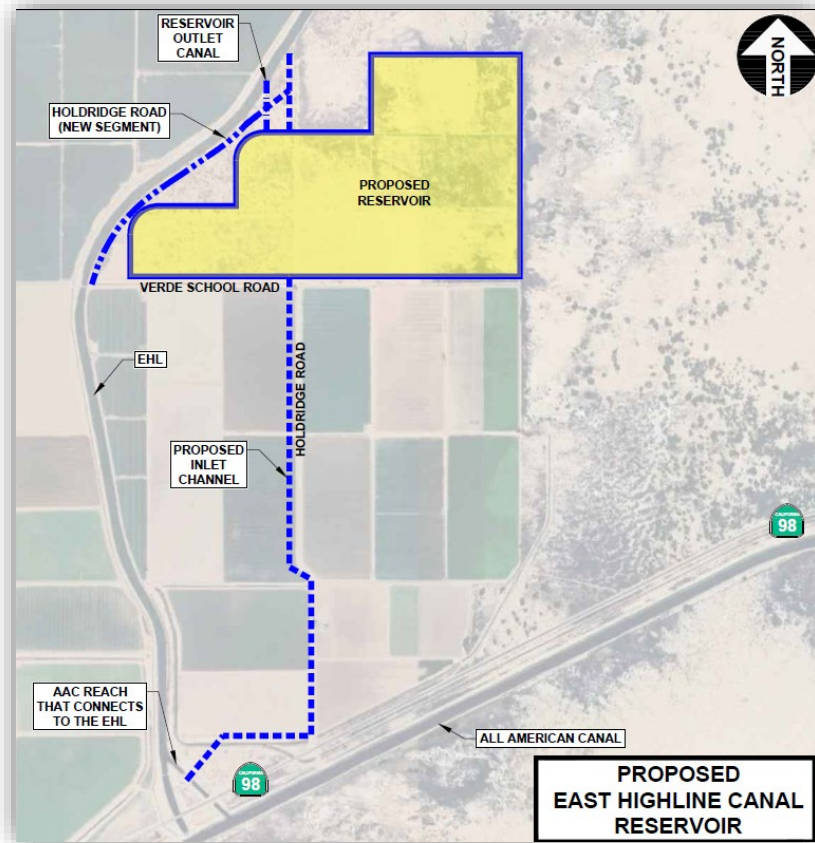
# Mid-Lateral Reservoirs



Two projects under development:

- East Highline Lateral 1 to Mesa 3 Lateral intertie and reservoir project estimated to conserve  $\approx$  1,400 AFY
  - *Feasibility analysis completed*
  - *36 AF offline reservoir*
  - *Land acquisition initiated*
- Mulberry Lateral Reservoir Project estimated to conserve  $\approx$  800AFY
  - *8-12 AF inline reservoir*
  - *Started development and design*

# Main Canal System Reservoirs



## East Highline Reservoir Project

- Received a non-jurisdictional determination for a 2,100 AF operational reservoir in late 2023 and completed NEPA/CEQA
- Design  $\approx$  60% complete
- Q3 2026 estimated construction start
- Estimated conservation yield  $\approx$  15,000 AFY

## Trifolium 11 Reservoir Project

- Acquiring property and developing scope of work for design solicitation.

# Conservation Programs Status Report and Upcoming Technical Review



Tina Shields  
Water Department Manager



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# OFECP Status Report

## 2023 OFECP

- Program contracting has been completed.
- Staff is working to recover nearly \$2 million in 2023 OFECP advance overpayments. Approximately 75 percent of these funds have been repaid by 39 participants, with 9 participants in various stages of repayment.

## 2024 OFECP

- Over 5,400 proposals were submitted for CY2024 and are projected to result in over 4,050 field-level contracting opportunities.
- \$52 million in payments issued to date with contracting finalized or in process (or no savings report issued) for more than 75% of fields. Another 10% of fields are in the contracting process, with 15% pending field analysis/review.

## 2025 OFECP

- Neary 5,400 proposals submitted to date; field analysis has commenced.



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# Upcoming Technical Review

IID is contracting with a team of technical experts in irrigation engineering and water resources management to review IID's efficiency conservation programs. The scope of work will involve:

- *Reviewing the current OFECP, including the CUF methodology, to identify potential improvements and the development of alternative verification approaches including the use of remote sensing data. The review will include a collaborative outreach to agricultural water users to identify OFECP challenges and opportunities prior to developing recommendations.*
- *Reviewing and updating IID's System Conservation Program and evaluating Operational Discharge Reduction projects using recent water delivery and discharge data to prioritize future system improvements.*
- *Developing operational tools to establish target discharges for division staff.*
- *One year project schedule with site visits to meet with growers anticipated in September and preliminary alternatives technical memo due in Q1 2026.*



# Conservation for Colorado River Sustainability



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# Post-2026 Status Report and Fall Workshops

Fernando Castro-Alvarez  
Strategic Initiatives Manager

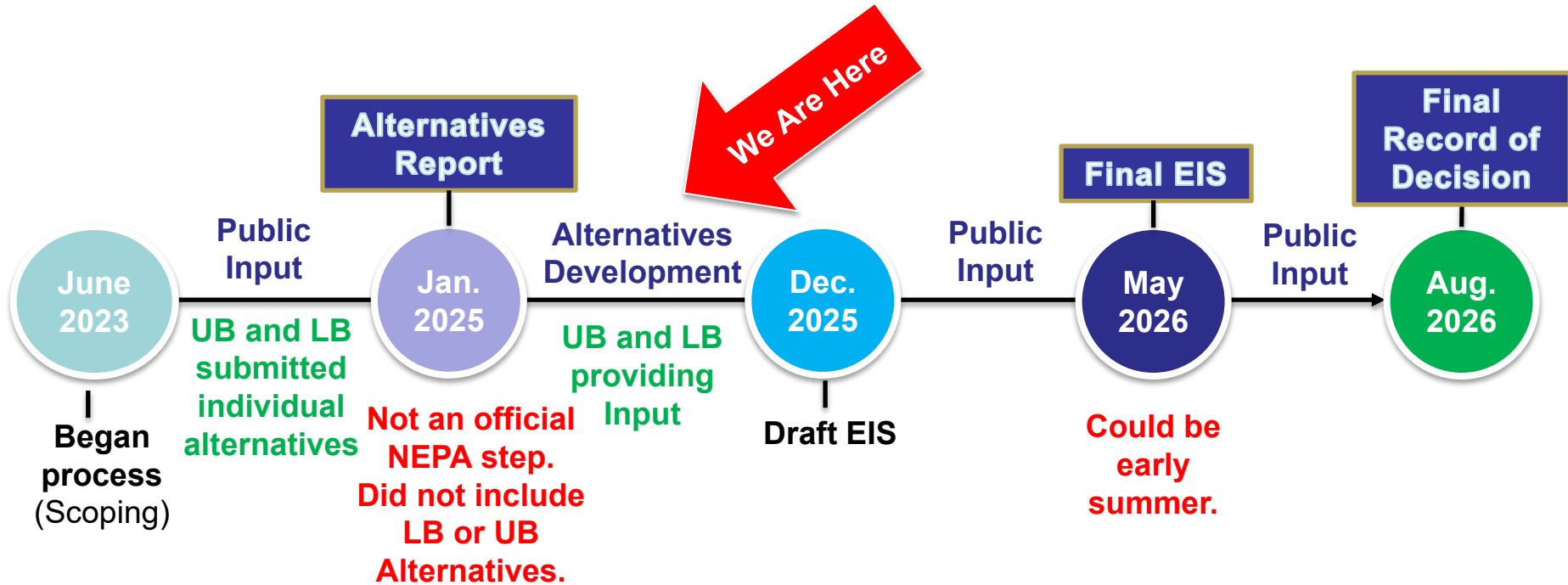


# Post-2026 Colorado River Operations


- Key Colorado River Operating Agreements expire in 2026
  - *2007 Interim Guidelines*
  - *2019 Drought Contingency Plan*
  - *Minutes with Mexico*
- “Post-2026 Process” under NEPA ongoing



# Department of the Interior NEPA Process




# Coming Soon – September/October 2025



**Post-2026 Colorado River Workshops**

Updates on hydrology, federal processes and intrastate negotiations



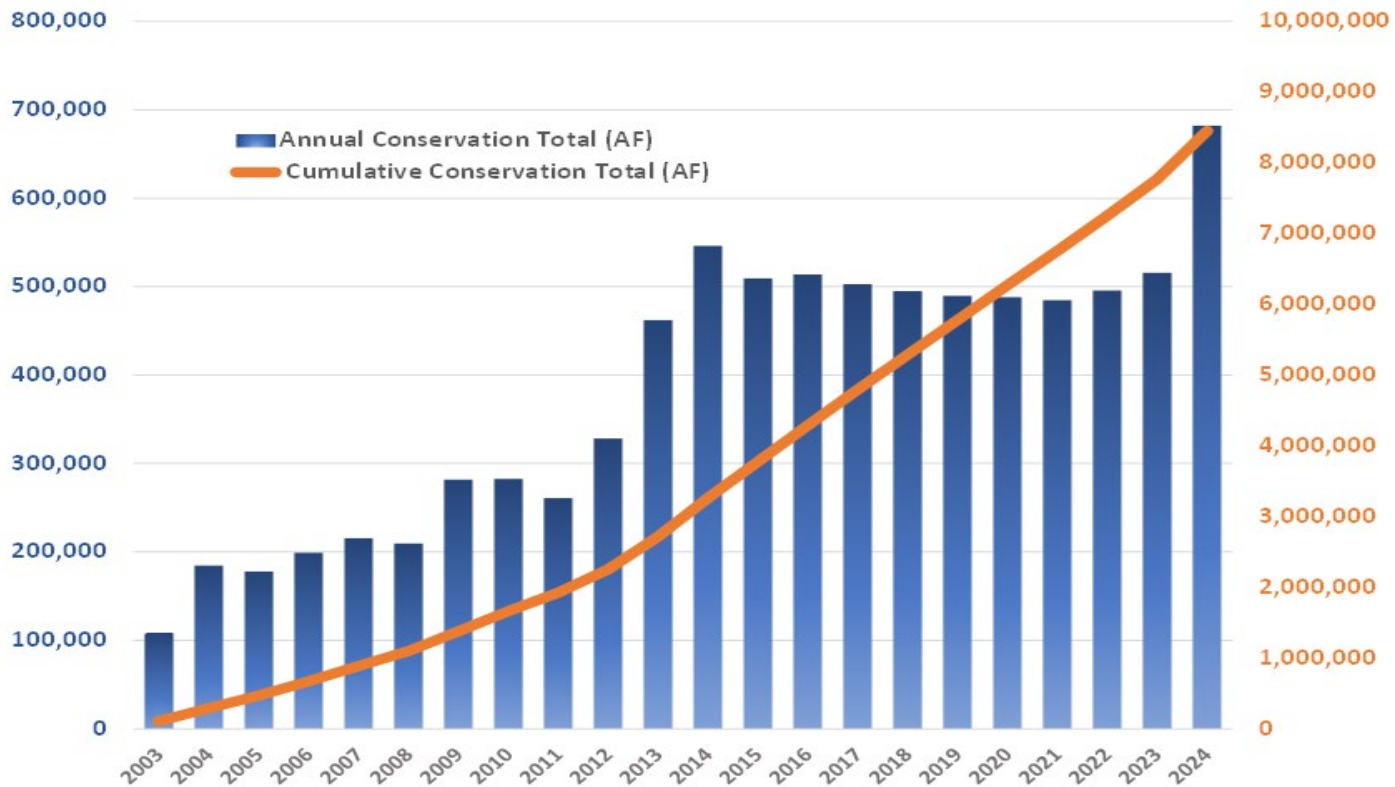
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# Conservation by the Numbers

Dylan Mohamed  
Water Resources Planner

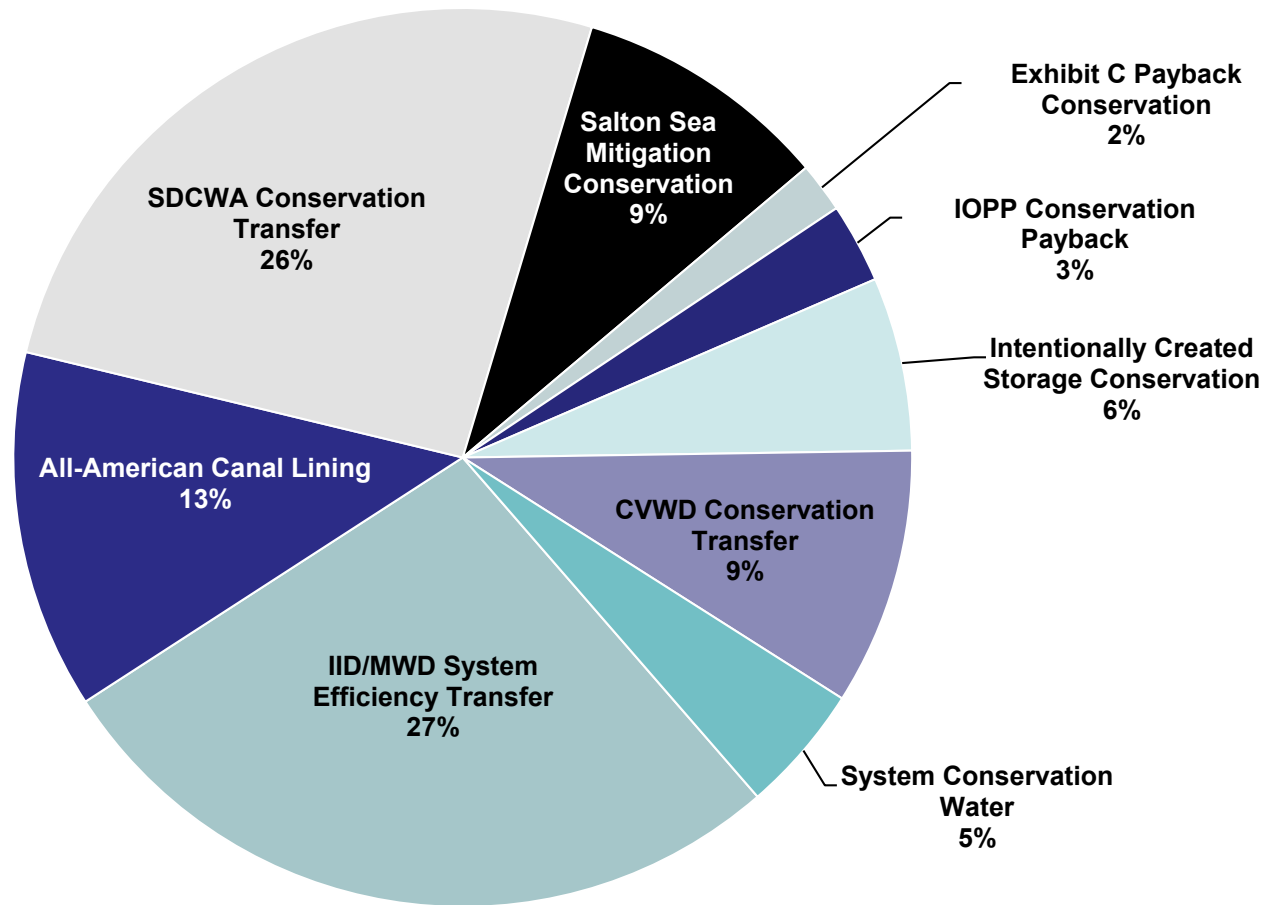


# IID 2003 – 2024 Conservation > 8.44 MAF

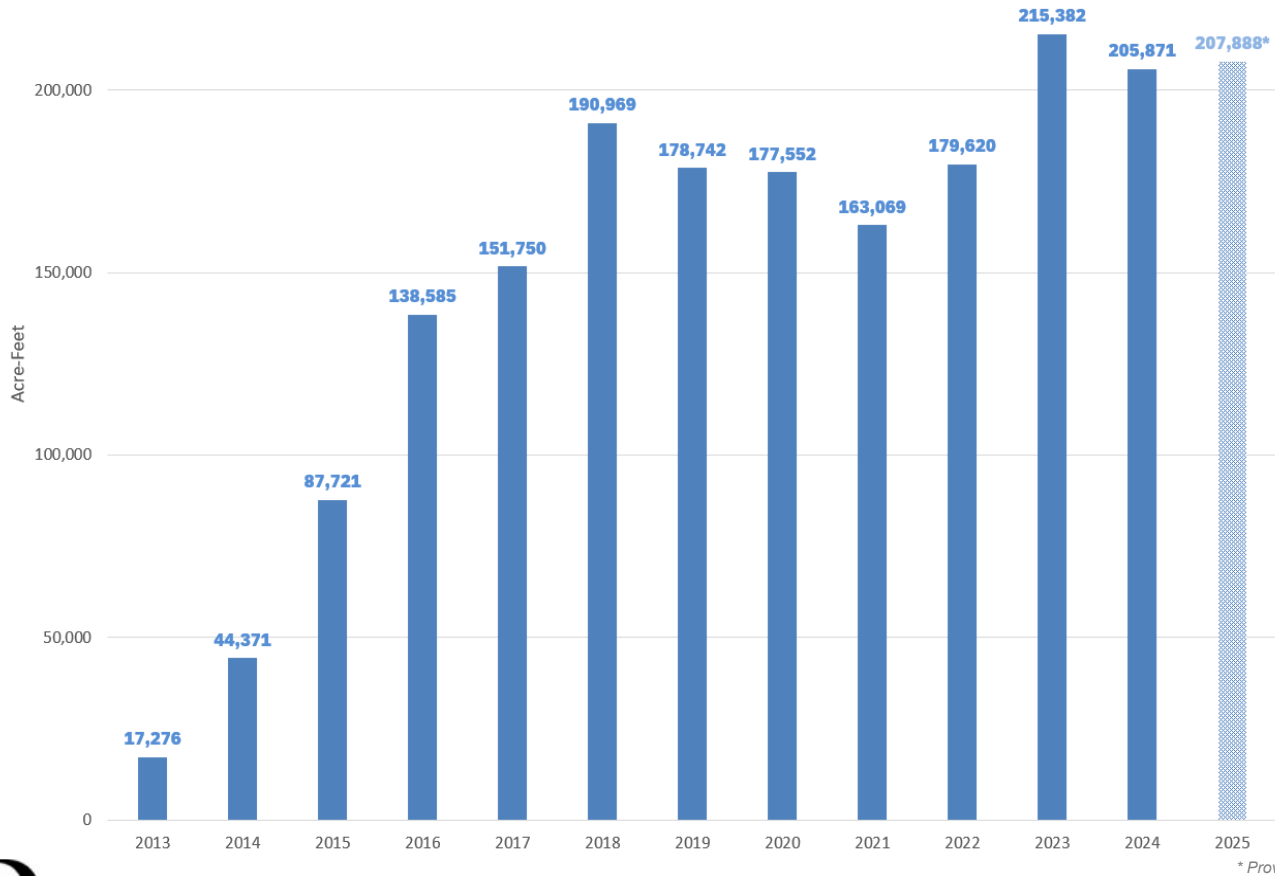


# IID Conservation Summary

## 2003-2024 Total Conservation = 8,441,003 AF



# On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program Historical Conservation Yields

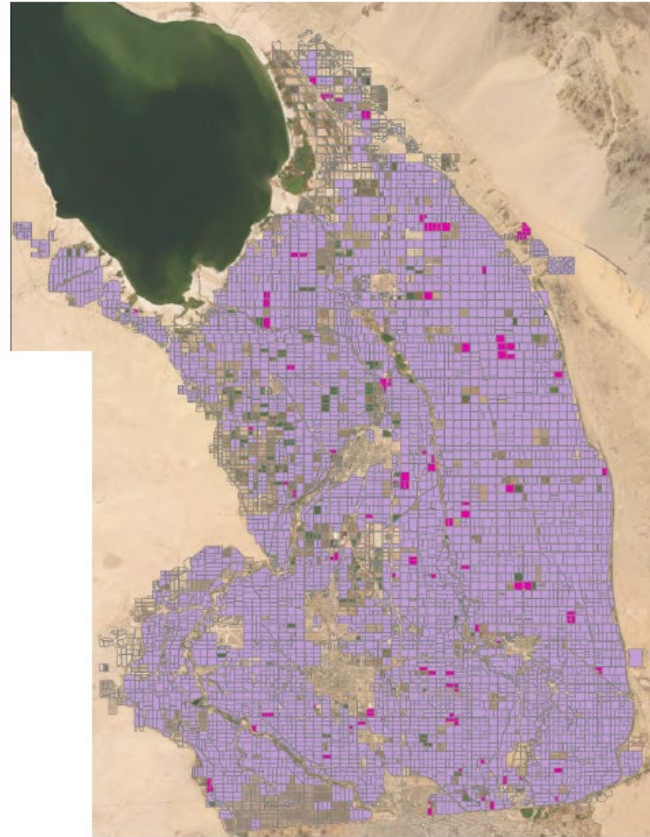


# IID 2024 Conservation Total $\approx$ 673,340 AF

## System Efficiency Conservation Program

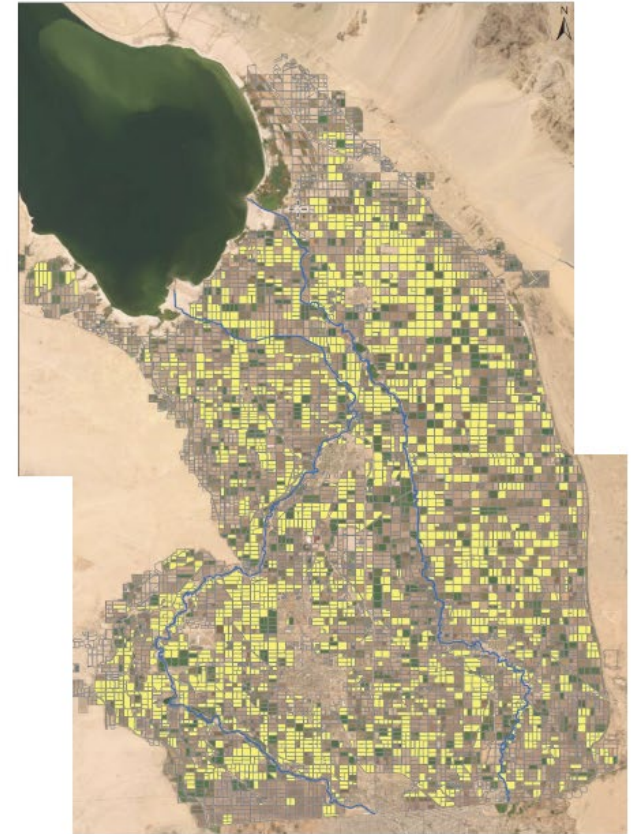
- Lateral Interceptors
- Automation
- Mid-Lateral Reservoirs
- SCADA and Technology
- Canal Lining
- Seepage Recovery Systems
- Interties
- 12-Hour Runs
- Operational Discharge Reduction

## On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program



$\approx$  5,500 Participating Fields (>370,000 acres)  
**205,871 AF**

## Deficit Irrigation Program



$\approx$  2,279 Participating Fields (154,245 acres)  
**172,389 AF**

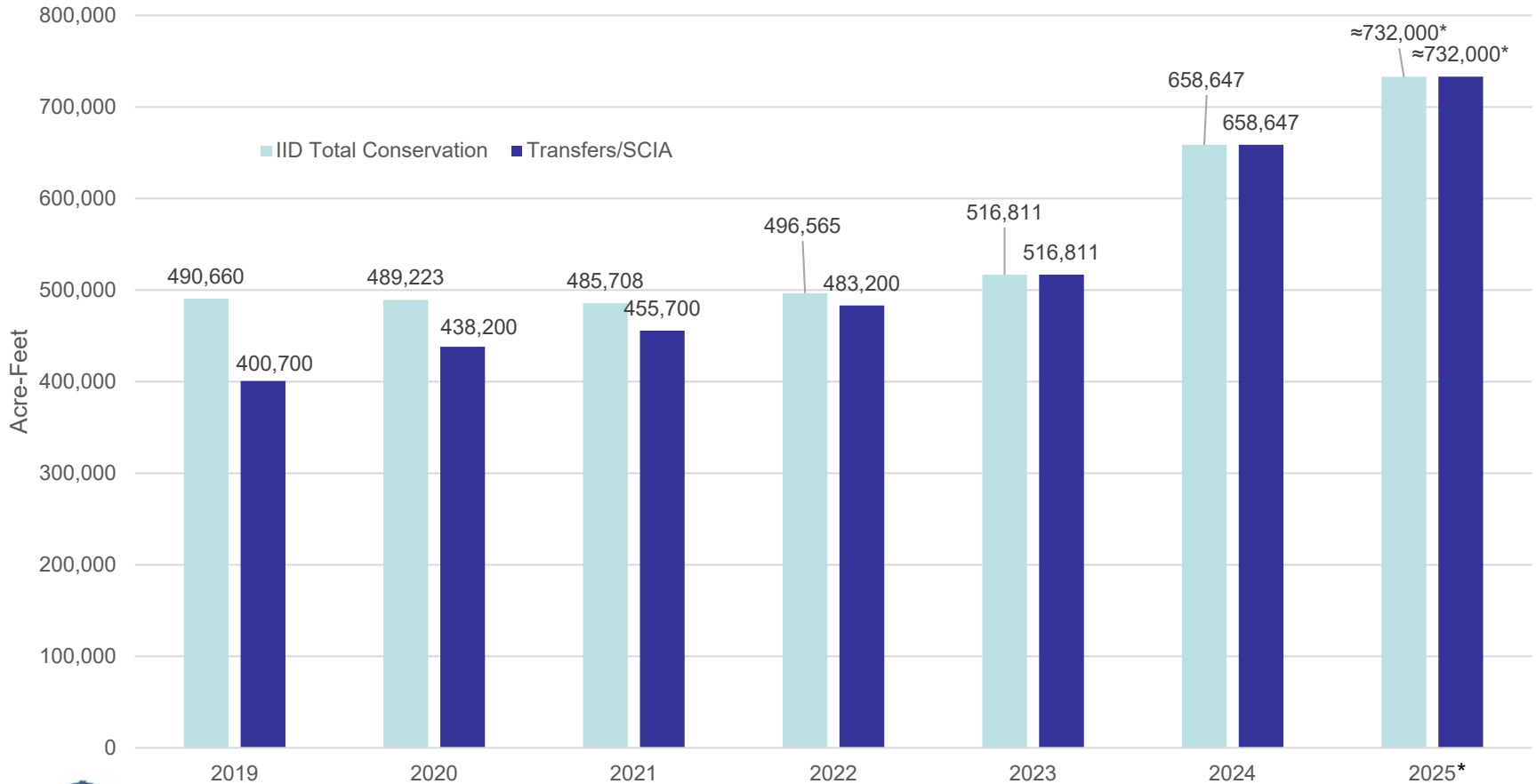


# 2025 Conservation Projections

- Total Conservation  $\approx 732,000^{\pm}$  AF
  - IID/MWD Transfer = 105,000 AF
  - AAC Lining Project = 67,700 AF
  - SDCWA/IID Transfer = 200,000 AF
  - CVWD/IID Transfer = 98,000 AF
  - SCIA Conservation  $\approx 261,000^{\pm}$  AF



# IID Total Conservation Vs Transfers/SCIA



**IID**

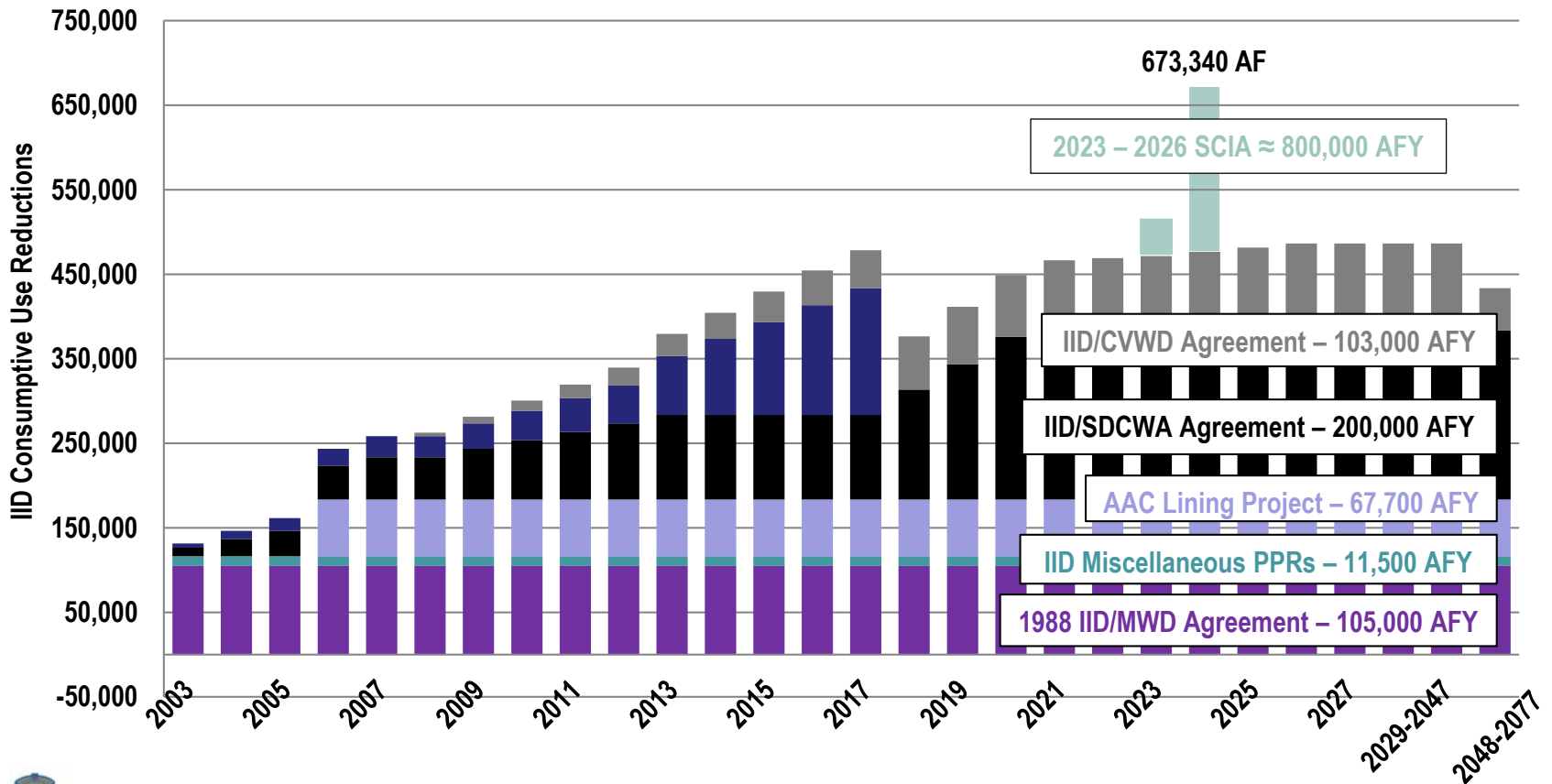
*A century of service.*

*\*Estimated*

[www.iid.com](http://www.iid.com)

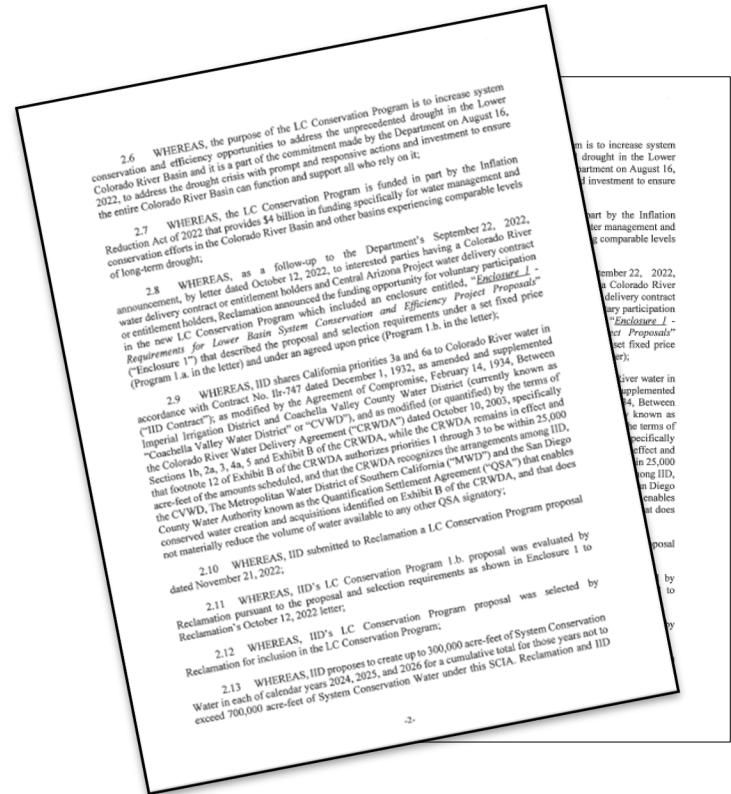
# Water Conservation Programs

2003-2025 Total Conservation > 9 Million Acre-Feet



# 2023 – 2026 SCIA

- Two federal System Conservation Implementation Agreements (SCIA) funded the creation of 106,111 AF of System Conservation Water (SCW) in 2023 and will fund up to 700,000 AF of SCW from 2024 – 2026. This conservation is being left in Lake Mead to protect critical reservoir elevations.
  - 2024 IID SCW = 257,640 AF
  - 2025 IID SCW ≈ 261,000± AF\*



\*Estimated



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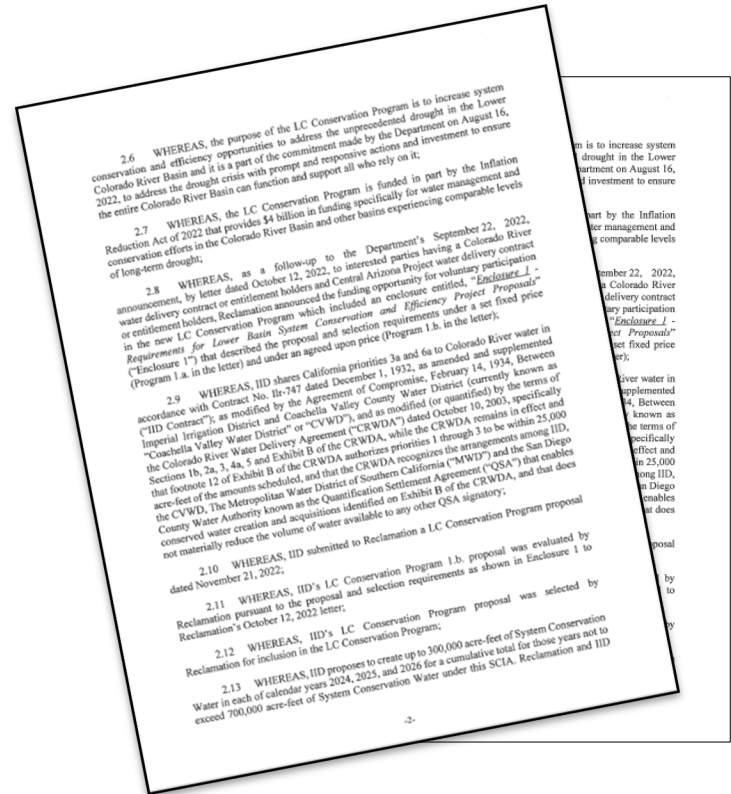
# 2026+ Conservation Projections

Tina Shields  
Water Manager



# 2023 – 2026 SCIA

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  - 2024 IID SCW = 257,640 AF
  - 2025 IID SCW ≈ 261,000± AF\*
  - 2026 IID SCW Capacity ≈ 181,000± AF\*

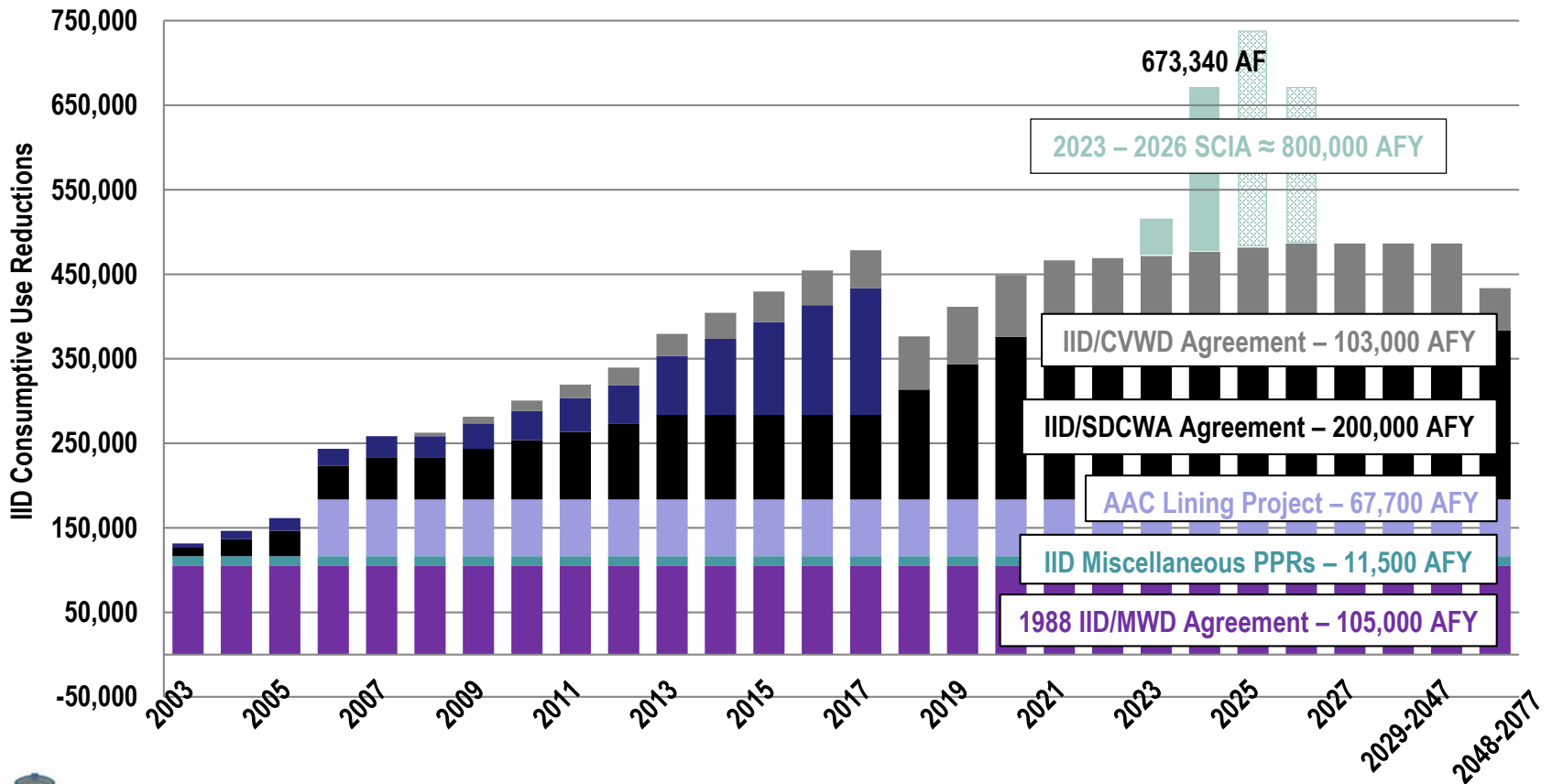


\*Estimated



# Water Conservation Programs

2003-2025 Total Conservation > 9 Million Acre-Feet



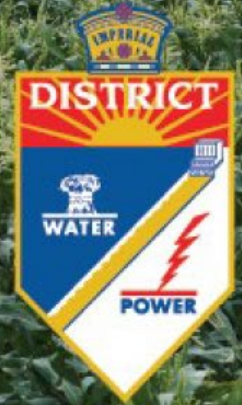
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# 2026+ Conservation Projections

- 2026 is the last year of IID's federally funded SCIA and therefore conservation programs will be limited by the three-year 700,000 AF cumulative funding cap.
- Current projections indicate there will only be funding capacity for about 181,000± AF of additional conservation.
  - *Assuming the OFECP will continue to grow, the 2026 DIP will be limited to about 50-60 percent of the current (maximum) capacity, or about 130,000± AF.*
- Absent additional Post-2026 Colorado River reduction obligations, future OFECPs (2027+) may require volumetric constraints.

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# Questions & Answers



*Text questions to (760)554-7090 or fill out a card.*

**Thank you!**