INYO/LOS ANGELES STANDING COMMITTEE

Dedicated to the advancement of mutual cooperation

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 1, 2021

Subject: Documentation of Actions Taken by the Standing Committee at the October 15, 2020 Meeting.

The Standing Committee's policy is to document any actions taken by the Committee in a memorandum at the subsequent meeting. Standing Committee members present at the October 15, 2020 video conference meeting hosted by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power were: Inyo County; Supervisors Rick Pucci and Matt Kingsley, Water Commissioners Teri Red Owl and Randy Keller, County Administrative Officer Clint Quilter, County Counsel Marshall Rudolph, and Water Director Aaron Steinwand, and for Los Angeles: Board of Water & Power Commissioners Susana Reyes and Nicole Neeman Brady; Senior Assistant General Manager for Water Richard Harasick, Director of Water Operations Anselmo Collins, Aqueduct Manager Adam Perez, and Deputy City Attorney David Edwards.

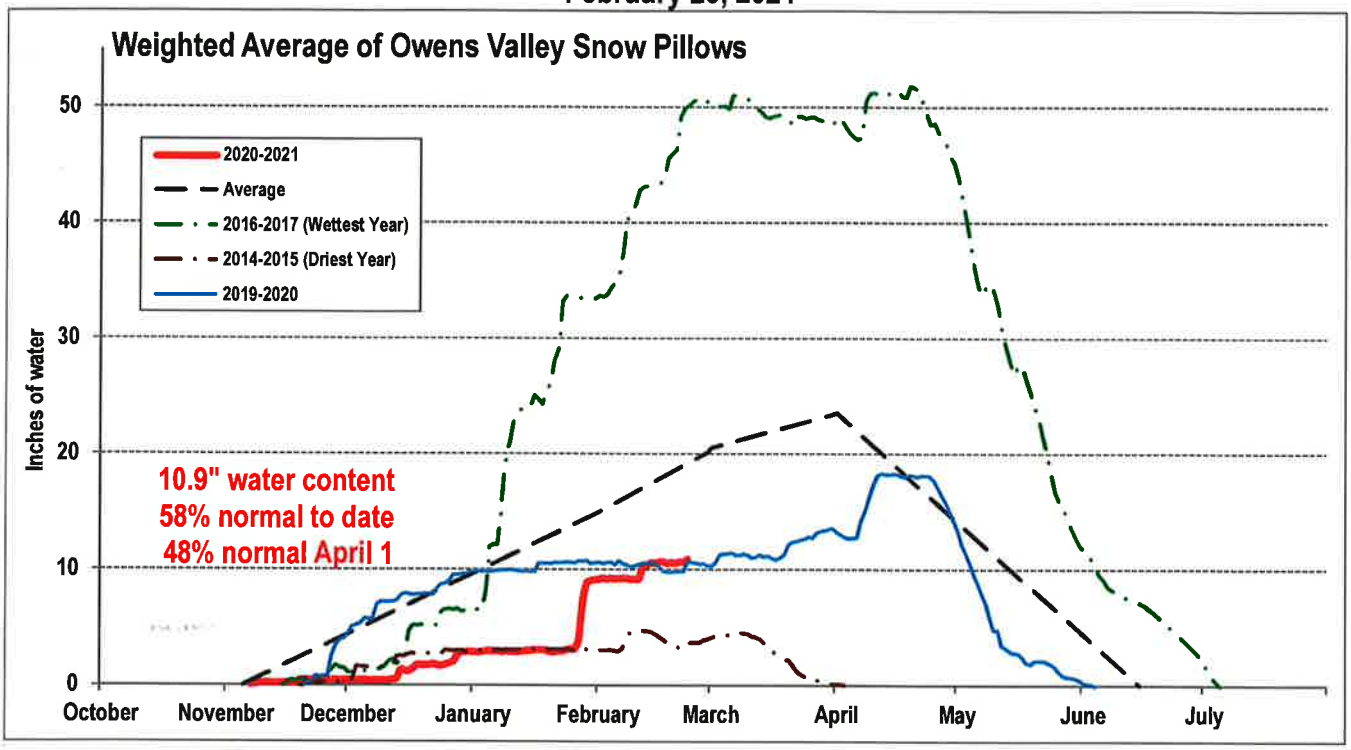
Actions taken at the October 15, 2020 meeting, in the order considered by the Committee:

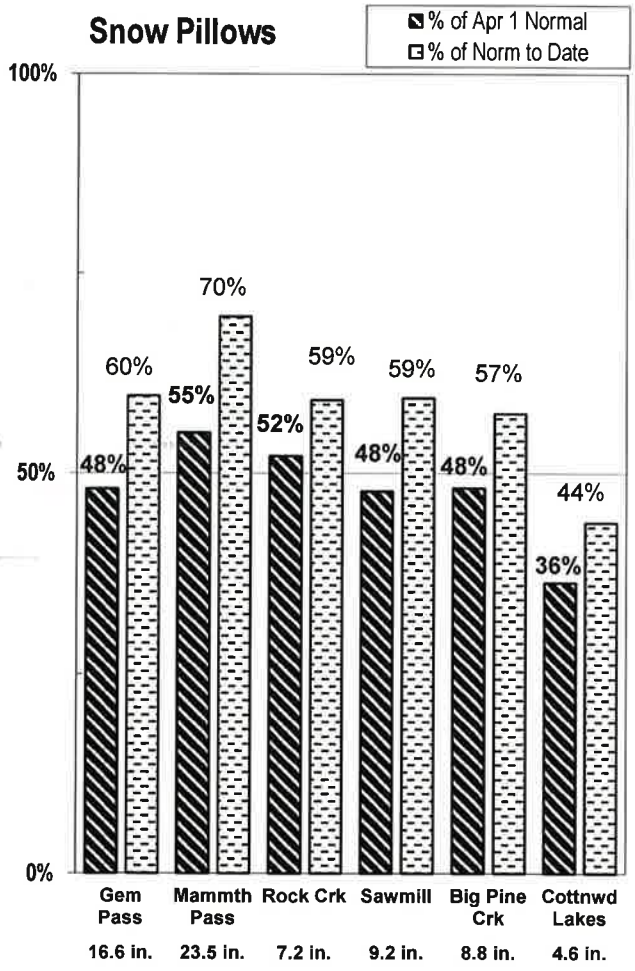
Agenda Item #1 - Approval of documentation of actions from the May 15, 2020 meeting

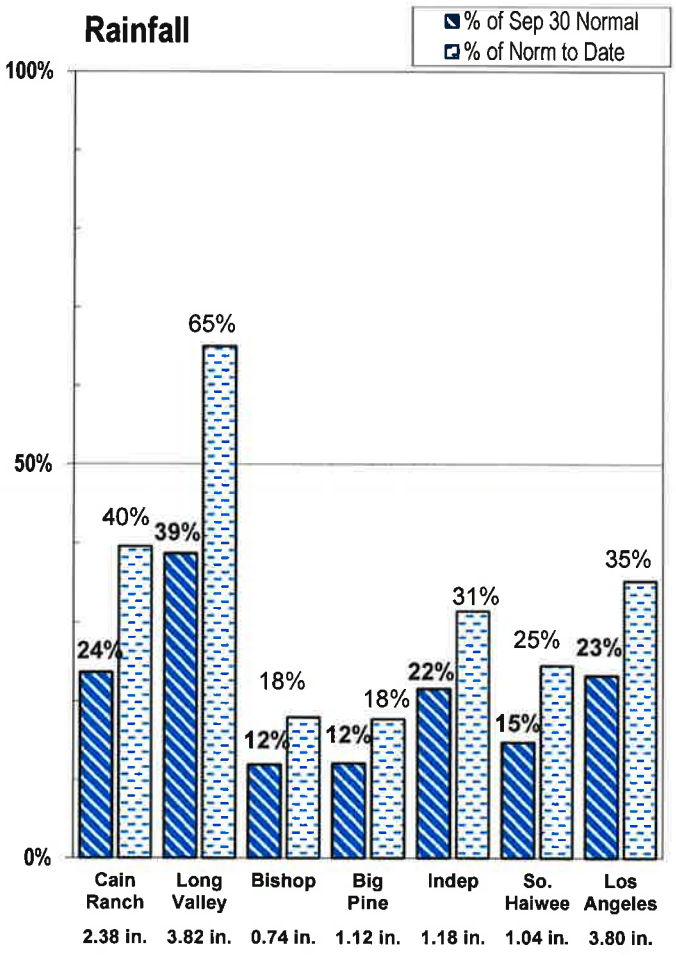
The Standing Committee approved the October 15, 2020 memorandum entitled: *Documentation of Actions Taken by Standing Committee at the May 15, 2020 Meeting.*

The meeting agenda also included update on Owens Valley runoff and operation, plus status updates on Inyo/Los Angles Water Agreement mitigation projects and Well W385 operational test.

EASTERN SIERRA
CURRENT PRECIPITATION CONDITIONS
February 23, 2021







Measurement as Inches Water Content; Precipitation totals are cumulative for water year beginning Oct 1

2021 EASTERN SIERRA RUNOFF FORECAST

February 1, 2021

APRIL THROUGH SEPTEMBER RUNOFF

	MOST PROBABLE VALUE (Acre-feet)	MOST PROBABLE VALUE (% of Avg.)	REASONABLE MAXIMUM (% of Avg.)	REASONABLE MINIMUM (% of Avg.)	LONG-TERM MEAN (1966 - 2015) (Acre-feet)
MONO BASIN:	**65,600**	**65%**	78%	53%	100,782
OWENS RIVER BASIN:	**167,300**	**56%**	69%	43%	298,151

APRIL THROUGH MARCH RUNOFF

	MOST PROBABLE VALUE (Acre-feet)	MOST PROBABLE VALUE (% of Avg.)	REASONABLE MAXIMUM (% of Avg.)	REASONABLE MINIMUM (% of Avg.)	LONG-TERM MEAN (1966 - 2015) (Acre-feet)
MONO BASIN:	**81,800**	**69%**	82%	55%	119,103
OWENS RIVER BASIN:	**249,100**	**61%**	74%	49%	405,696

NOTE - Owens River Basin includes Long, Round and Owens Valleys (not incl Laws Area)

MOST PROBABLE - That runoff which is expected if median precipitation occurs after the forecast date.

REASONABLE MAXIMUM - That runoff which is expected to occur if precipitation subsequent to the forecast is equal to the amount which is exceeded on the average once in 10 years.

REASONABLE MINIMUM - That runoff which is expected to occur if precipitation subsequent to the forecast is equal to the amount which is exceeded on the average 9 out of 10 years.

2020/2021 RUNOFF YEAR PUMPING TOTALS

(ACRE FEET)

	BISHOP	LAWS	BIG PINE	TABOOSE-ABERDEEN	THIBAUT-SAWMILL	INDEPEN.-OAK	SYMMES-SHEPHERD	BAIRS-GEORGES	LONE PINE	TOTAL
APR	1,411	1,640	1,909	1,180	876	1,292	171	228	111	8,818
MAY	1,540	1,518	2,068	1,491	936	1,299	152	166	129	9,299
JUN	1,546	1,263	1,719	1,172	911	875	167	298	150	8,101
JUL	1,630	1,529	1,741	1,183	935	900	163	254	165	8,500
AUG	1,262	1,304	1,076	1,179	966	740	137	256	174	7,094
SEP	1,045	1,331	581	1,134	933	782	174	233	115	6,328
OCT	507	369	605	1,181	963	167	82	281	40	4,195
NOV	318	276	589	1,265	915	269	1	235	24	3,892
DEC	245	272	613	1,484	948	421	0	199	19	4,201
JAN	264	269	839	1,479	933	431	0	87	17	4,319
FEB										0
MAR										0
TOTAL	9,768	9,771	11,740	12,748	9,316	7,176	1,047	2,237	944	64,747

INYO/LOS ANGELES STANDING COMMITTEE

Dedicated to the advancement of mutual cooperation

MEMORANDUM

To: Inyo/Los Angeles Standing Committee

From: Technical Group

Date: March 1, 2021

Subject: Agenda Item 3: Update on the Blackrock Waterfowl Management Area project

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The 1,500 acre Blackrock Waterfowl Management Area (BWMA) is one of the four physical features of the Lower Owens River Project (LORP), implemented by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and managed jointly by LADWP and Inyo County (County) post-implementation. The goal of the BWMA is to "*maintain this waterfowl habitat area to provide the opportunity for the establishment of resident and migratory waterfowl populations as described in the EIR and to provide habitat for native species. Diverse natural habitats will be created and maintained through flow and land management, to the extent feasible, consistent with the needs of the "habitat indicator species" for the Blackrock Waterfowl Habitat Area. These habitats will be as self-sustaining as possible*" (1997 MOU).

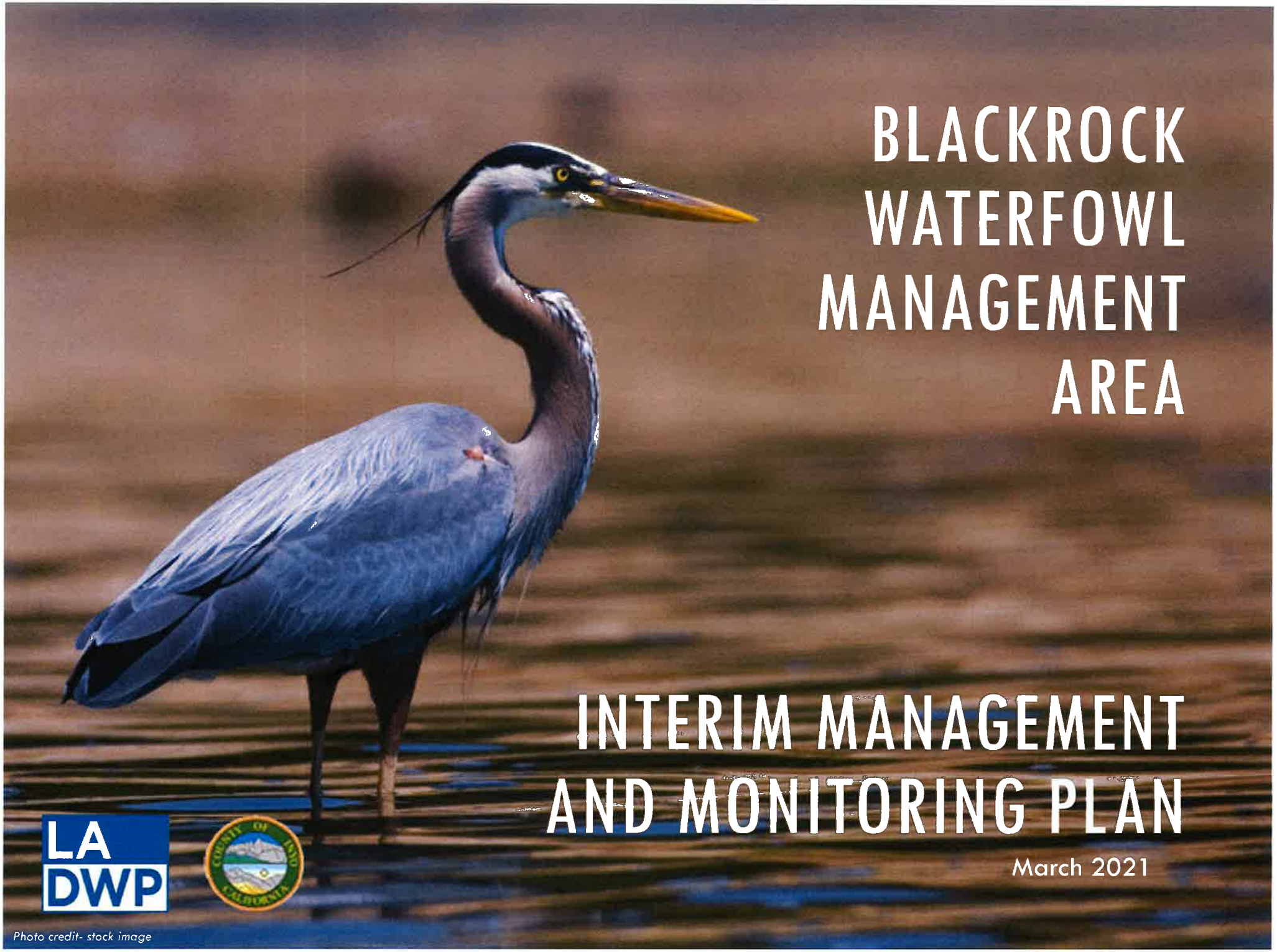
Section II.C.4 of the 1997 MOU defines that the BWMA will be managed in the following manner: *"Approximately 500 acres of the habitat area will be flooded at any given time in a year when the runoff to the Owens River Watershed is forecasted to be average or above. In years when the runoff is forecasted to be less than average, the water supply to the area will be reduced in general proportion to the forecasted runoff in the watershed…"*

The LORP was implemented in late 2006 and the acreage flooded in the BWMA has been set every year by the Standing Committee through a process defined in the LORP Post-Implementation Funding Agreement and the 1997 MOU. Since implementation, management of BWMA under this legal direction has created and maintained waterfowl habitat as intended, but has also resulted in considerable cattail and bulrush encroachment, reduced open water in the units, and a subsequent decline in habitat quality following the first year of flooding each waterfowl unit.

LADWP and the County have drafted a five-year Interim Management and Monitoring Plan for the BWMA (Interim Plan) and released it for review by the MOU Parties on February 5, 2021. The Interim Plan proposes a seasonal flooding regime to flood 500 acres of the BWMA each year from fall to mid-spring with full dry down in the summer months. This approach is intended to increase the extent of open water and reduce the

extent of cattail and bulrush in the BWMA, which is predicted to also improve habitat quality for waterfowl and shorebirds. The variable flooded acreage defined in the MOU will not be applied during the Interim Plan period.

LADWP and the County met with the MOU Parties on February 17, 2021 to introduce and discuss concepts of the Interim Plan. LADWP and Inyo County are presently responding to numerous technical questions and comments provided by the Sierra Club, the Owens Valley Committee, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and revising the plan accordingly. The MOU parties also requested the plan include opportunities for MOU party inclusion in the management process so they can be informed of the evaluation of monitoring results and adaptive management decisions as the revised project is implemented. The MOU Parties and their legal counsel are evaluating possible mechanisms necessary to implement the Interim Plan beginning in the fall 2021 through spring 2026.



BLACKROCK WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

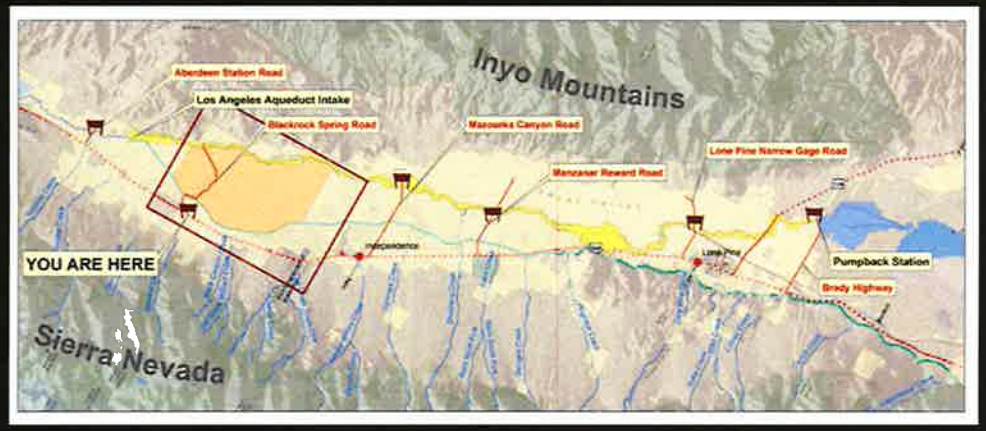
INTERIM MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN

March 2021

LA DWP

Photo credit- stock image

BWMA MANAGEMENT UNDER THE LORP



Management of the BWMA to date has come from 1997 MOU and 2004 LORP EIR

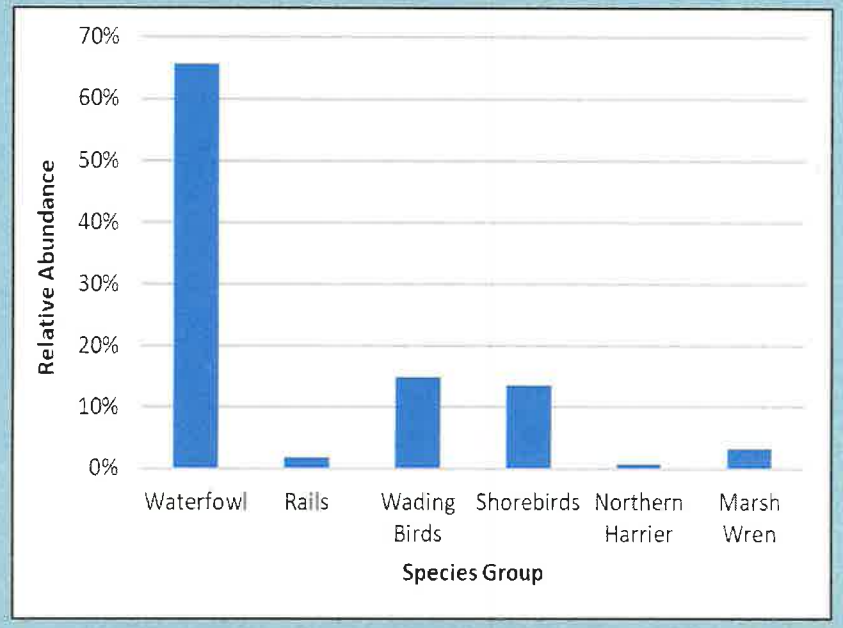
- Goals are to create and maintain habitat for LORP Habitat Indicator Species
- To do so through flow and land management
- Provide opportunities for resident and migratory waterfowl populations

FLOODED ACREAGE TO DATE AND RESPONSE OF YEAR ROUND FLOODING

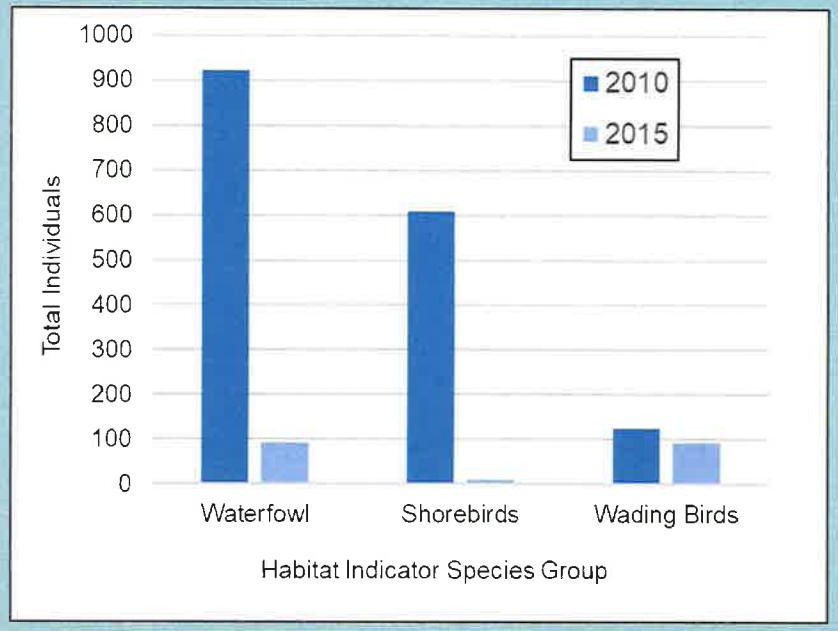
Blackrock Waterfowl Management Area				
Runoff Year	Runoff Forecast (% normal)	Flooded Acreage Requirement	Cells Flooded	Average Acreage Flooded
2007-2008	58%	290	Winterton and Thibaut	477
2008-2009	86%	430	Winterton and Thibaut	494
2009-2010	71%	355	Drew and Waggoner	385
2010-2011	95%	475	Drew and Waggoner	669
2011-2012	150%	500	Drew and Winterton	480*
2012-2013	65%	325	Drew	327
2013-2014	54%	270	Drew	308
2014-2015	50%	250	Drew	275
2015-2016	36%	180	Winterton	234
2016-2017	71%	355	Winterton and Thibaut	530
2017-2018	197%	500	Winterton and Thibaut	700+
2018-2019	78%	390	Winterton and Drew	423
2019-2020	137%	500	Winterton, Drew, and Thibaut	500+
2020-2021	74%	370	Winterton and Drew	TBD

Drew Unit 2004, 2010, 2018

Flooding of BWMA under LORP has attracted up to ***60 Habitat Indicator Species,*** including 23 waterfowl, 22 shorebird, and 9 wading bird species.



The relative abundance of each Habitat Indicator Species group BWMA; 2009-2018



A comparison of total Habitat Indicator Species use in Year 2 vs. Year 7 of active flooding of the Drew Unit

HABITAT INDICATOR SPECIES TRENDS

Gadwall

Black necked stilt

Cinnamon teal

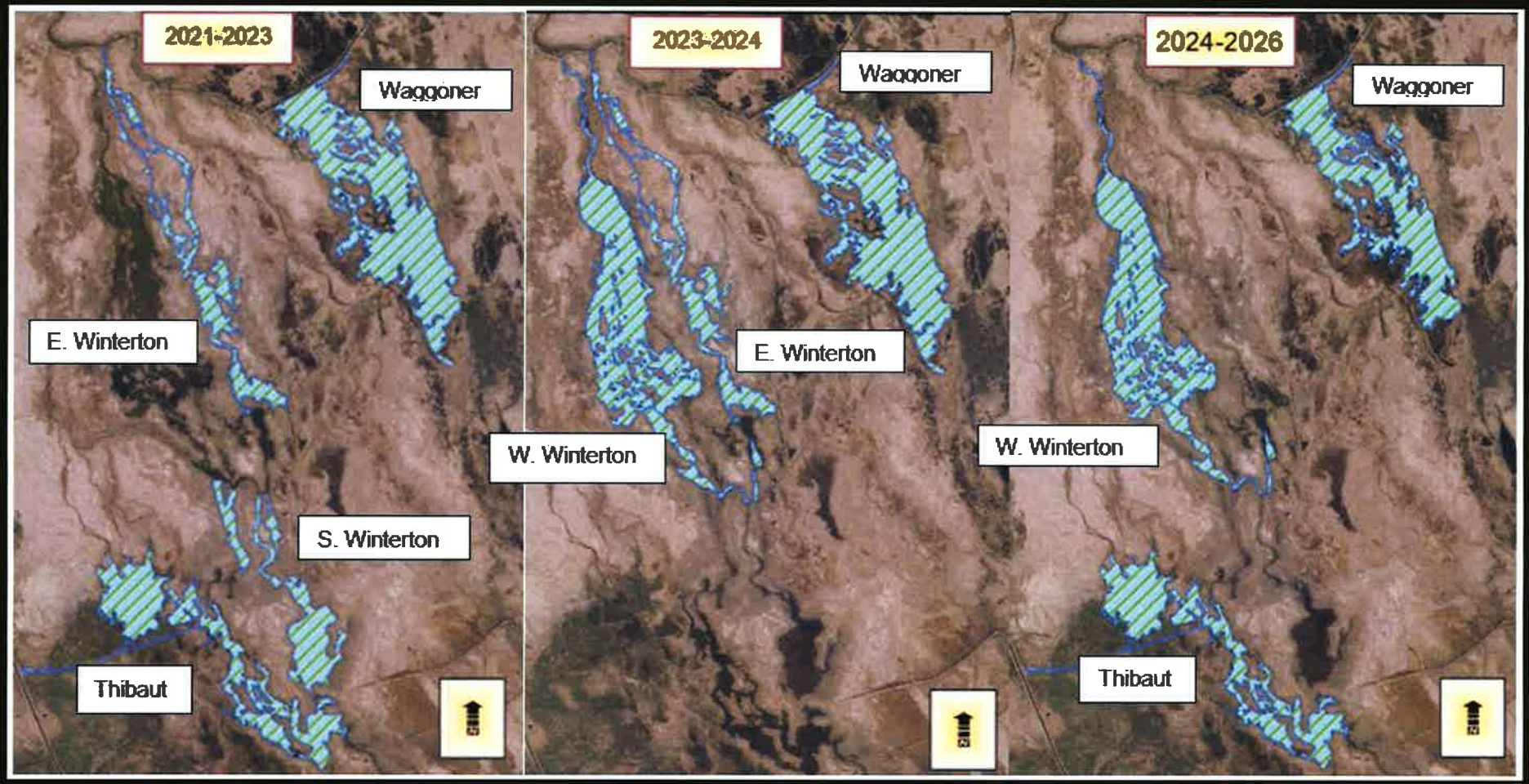
Five year Interim Plan will

- Incorporate seasonal flooding regime with sustained flooding from fall through mid-spring with a drawdown during the summer growing season.
- Discontinue variable flooded acreage
- Incorporate moist soil management where needed to further enhance waterbird food resources.

BWMA INTERIM MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN

American avocet

PROPOSED SEASONAL FLOODING SCHEDULE 2021-2026



EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING

- Flooded Extent Monitoring
- Vegetation Monitoring
- Water Depths in Flooded Units
- Avian Monitoring

Avian Survey Schedule for Interim Plan

Unit	Project Year and Survey Schedule				
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
East Winterton	X	X	X		
West Winterton			X	X	X
South Winterton	X	X			
Thibaut	X	X		X	X
Waggoner	X	X	X	X	X

8 seasonal surveys will be conducted at the locations and years designated by X

PLAN REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS

Plan Review Schedule

- Interim Plan Released to MOU Parties February 5, 2021
- Inyo County and LADWP hosted meeting with MOU Parties February 17, 2021 to discuss preliminary thoughts on Interim Plan
- Comments received; LADWP and Inyo County responding to comments and revising Interim Plan as needed

Next Steps

- Revise plan; recirculate to Parties
- Draft necessary legal documents(s)
- MOU Party approval
- Standing Committee approval at May 2021 meeting

IMPLEMENT!

INYO/LOS ANGELES STANDING COMMITTEE

Dedicated to the advancement of mutual cooperation

MEMORANDUM

Date March 1, 2021

To: Inyo/Los Angeles Standing Committee

From: Inyo County and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power staff

Subject: Item 4. Progress report on evaluation of McNally Ponds and Pasture Project.

Background

The McNally Ponds and Native Pasture Project (Project) was developed in the 1980s and included as mitigation in the Long Term Water Agreement's 1991 EIR for significant adverse vegetation decreases and changes in Laws due to a combination of factors. The Project description was provided in the Laws/Poleta Area E/M Projects CEQA Initial Study:

> *Approximately 60 acres of ponds located south of the Lower McNally Canal and west of U.S. Highway 6, will be provided water annually during the waterfowl season September through January. Water will be diverted through existing ditches and headgates from the Lower McNally Canal.* (Section 17, T6S, R33E).
>
> *Approximately 300 acres of native pasture will be provided water from existing diversion from the Lower McNally Canal within Sections 16 and 35, T6S, R33E, and MDB&M during the growing season April through September.*

Figure 1 shows the project components in the Laws wellfield, related production wells, and diversions relevant to the ponds and pasture located west of U.S. Highway 6. The current management and water supply for the pasture in the southeastern portion of the Laws wellfield meets the project goals and should continue. In 2020, the pasture west of the highway was supplied with pumped water from well 247W, and the ponds were supplied with pumped water from wells 248W and 249W. Although the ponds are used for hunting occasionally, the habitat value of the pond and associated vegetation is minimal. Given the low habitat value, the Standing Committee has often agreed to not supply the ponds or pasture in drought years when surface water is limited or to reduce pumping near groundwater dependent vegetation in the Laws wellfield. As a result, the project has been supplied water approximately one-third of the time since its inception.

At its October 15, 2020 meeting, the Standing Committee concurred with the Inyo and LADWP staff recommendation that an evaluation of the existing McNally Ponds project and potential alternatives be initiated and progress reported to the Standing Committee at this meeting.

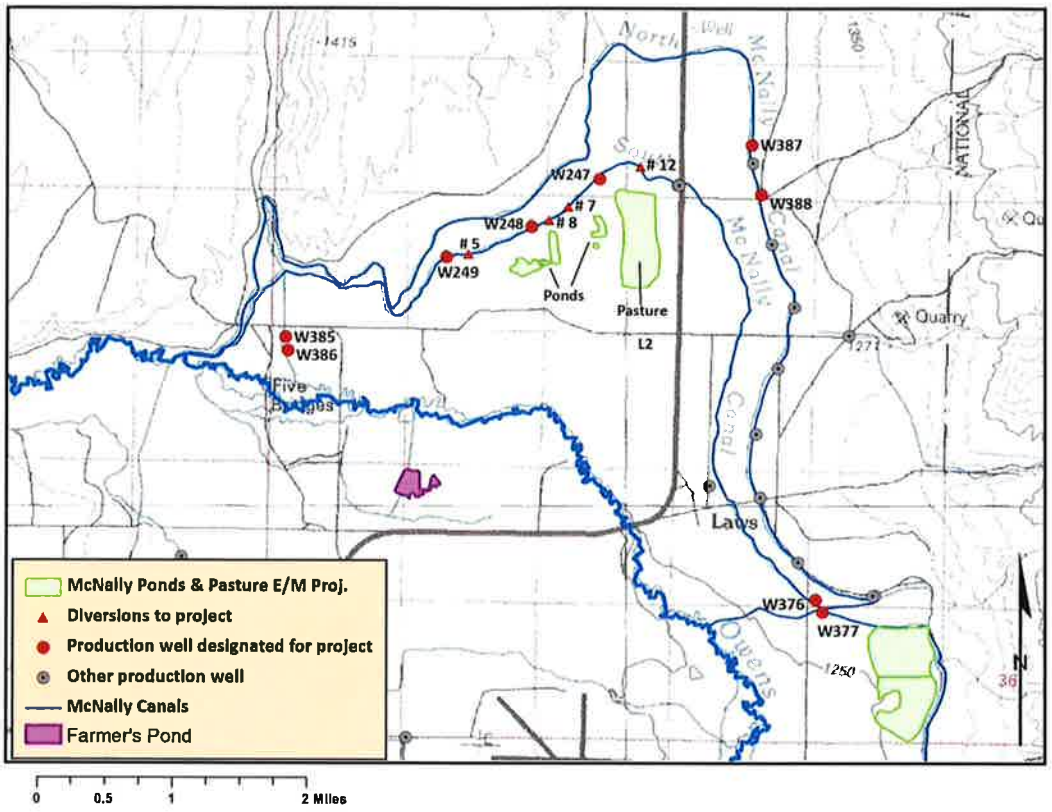


Figure 1. Major features of the Laws well field, including McNally Ponds and Pasture E/M Project, and production wells associated with the project and for other irrigation in Laws.

Evaluation Progress

The intent of the evaluation is to investigate and design a final project that accomplishes the mitigation goals for the project in the Water Agreement and 1991 EIR. The water supply for the project must be secure and management operations sustainable to ensure the project provides optimal habitat and recreational benefits for the amount of groundwater supplied. Under CEQA an alternative project must provide equal or greater mitigation value than the current project. Inyo and LADWP staffs have cooperatively designed the components and methods for the evaluation. It will include an examination of management operations, pumping effects, consistency with existing regulatory and legal requirements, and habitat benefits for the existing project location and alternatives.

The pasture west of U.S. 6 can be supplied in summer by well 247W or Owens River water diverted into the Lower McNally canal. After consulting with the lessee, Inyo and LADWP staff recommend the pasture component of the project continue to be supplied with surface water when available or by well 247W. The lessee has recommended adjustments to the timing of water delivery to the pasture, and LADWP staff may assess options that could improve pasture

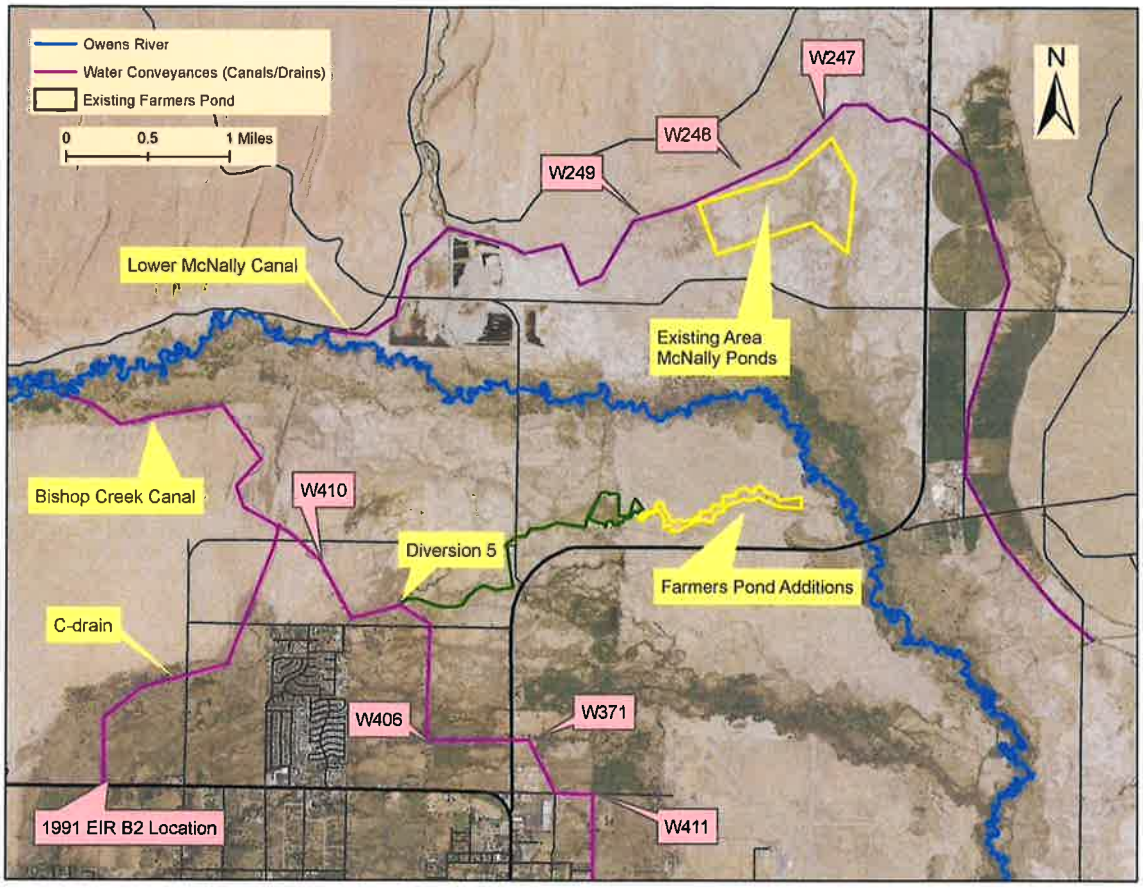


Figure 2. Present location of McNally Ponds and Pasture Project, an alternative project location near Farmers Pond, and associated production wells and water conveyances.

condition as part of their ongoing land management activities. The remainder of this report will focus on the evaluation of the McNally ponds and alternatives.

In 2016, staff scouted for alternative locations that would provide better habitat and recreation value with fewer water supply difficulties. One alternative identified would use surface water from the Bishop Creek Canal to increase ponded acreage in basins located east of Farmer's pond (Figure 2). The existing Farmer's pond (green outline) is a mitigation measure in the EIR. The eastern basins are usually dry but have existing water conveyance and berms used by LADWP for water spreading in extreme runoff years. The alternative basins are located within a few miles of the McNally Ponds, and their setting and existing vegetation conditions suggest a greater potential for increased habitat value.

Substantial progress has been made determining the water conveyance demands and capacity as well as the groundwater evaluation. The McNally ponds can be supplied by the Lower McNally canal or by wells 248W and 249W. In dry years, LADWP typically does not divert water into the McNally canals, which have significant conveyance losses, and wells that can provide water directly to the ponds can enter Off-status according to Green Book procedures. The project has been supplied using water from the Owens River diverted into the Lower McNally

Canal in some high runoff years, but the requirement for water delivery to the ponds in the fall (October-December) typically occurs after most diversions for water spreading or aqueduct operations cease. The evaluation of the McNally ponds includes groundwater model scenarios of pumping to supply the ponds consistently from the existing wells. Wells 248W and 249W currently withdraw water from deep and shallow aquifers, but the groundwater modeling also includes an assessment of pumping if the wells were redesigned to pump only from the deep aquifer. The initial set of groundwater model runs have been completed and presentations of the results of the evaluation are in preparation. Analyses of biologic resources at the McNally ponds and development of potential alterations to land management to improve habitat conditions will begin after the operations and groundwater pumping analyses are completed.

Based on our initial assessment, the Farmer's Pond alternative may be compatible with current surface water operations of the Bishop Creek canal and ditches. Those conveyances supply numerous existing downstream uses that any new project must accommodate while complying with the Hillside Decree. The Hillside Decree requires that uses downstream of the wells in Bishop (west of the Owens River) exceed pumping. Because of pumping capacity limits and requirements to supply other uses, a project at the alternate Farmer's Pond location would likely need to be supplied water beginning in the fall through the spring to successively wet the series of ponds. The current McNally Ponds project is only provided water from October through December. Extending the months that the ponds are flooded could increase the benefit of the alternate project to waterfowl or shorebirds by providing habitat during both the fall and spring migration seasons without increasing total water usage. Finally, staff recommends an operational test be conducted to assess the feasibility, operations, and conditions of the resulting wetted ponds before adopting any permanent change to the existing McNally ponds project.

The evaluation includes groundwater model scenarios of pumping to supply the expanded Farmer's ponds from wells in Bishop located near the ditches that convey water to the area. Well 410W is the only well upstream that can directly supply the project, but it also supplies other uses in Bishop. Wells located downstream of the diversion to Farmer's pond can also supply uses currently supplied by 410W and thus are included in the groundwater pumping evaluation. Proposed new well B-2 in west Bishop could also supply uses downstream of the Farmer's Pond diversion or directly to Farmer's Pond. Initial groundwater model runs to assess different pumping scenarios among the available wells have been completed and presentation of the results of the evaluation are in preparation.

A desktop cultural resource evaluation was conducted in December of 2020. The findings indicated that there do not appear to be any resources present that would preclude the Farmers Pond extension. However, if substantive repair of existing or new structures are necessary, additional on-site investigations will be required. Analyses of biologic resources and potential habitat at the Farmer's ponds will begin after the hydrologic analyses are completed.

Inyo/LA Standing Committee UWMP Briefing

March 1, 2021

Purpose of UWMP

Water Supply Reliability

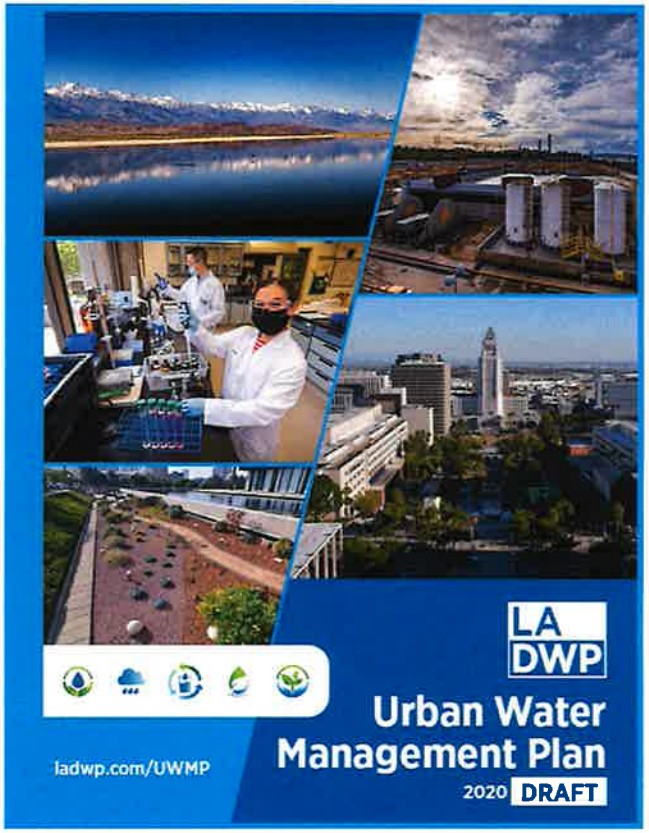
Available online: www.ladwp.com/UWMP

- 2015 UWMP
- Draft 2020 UWMP

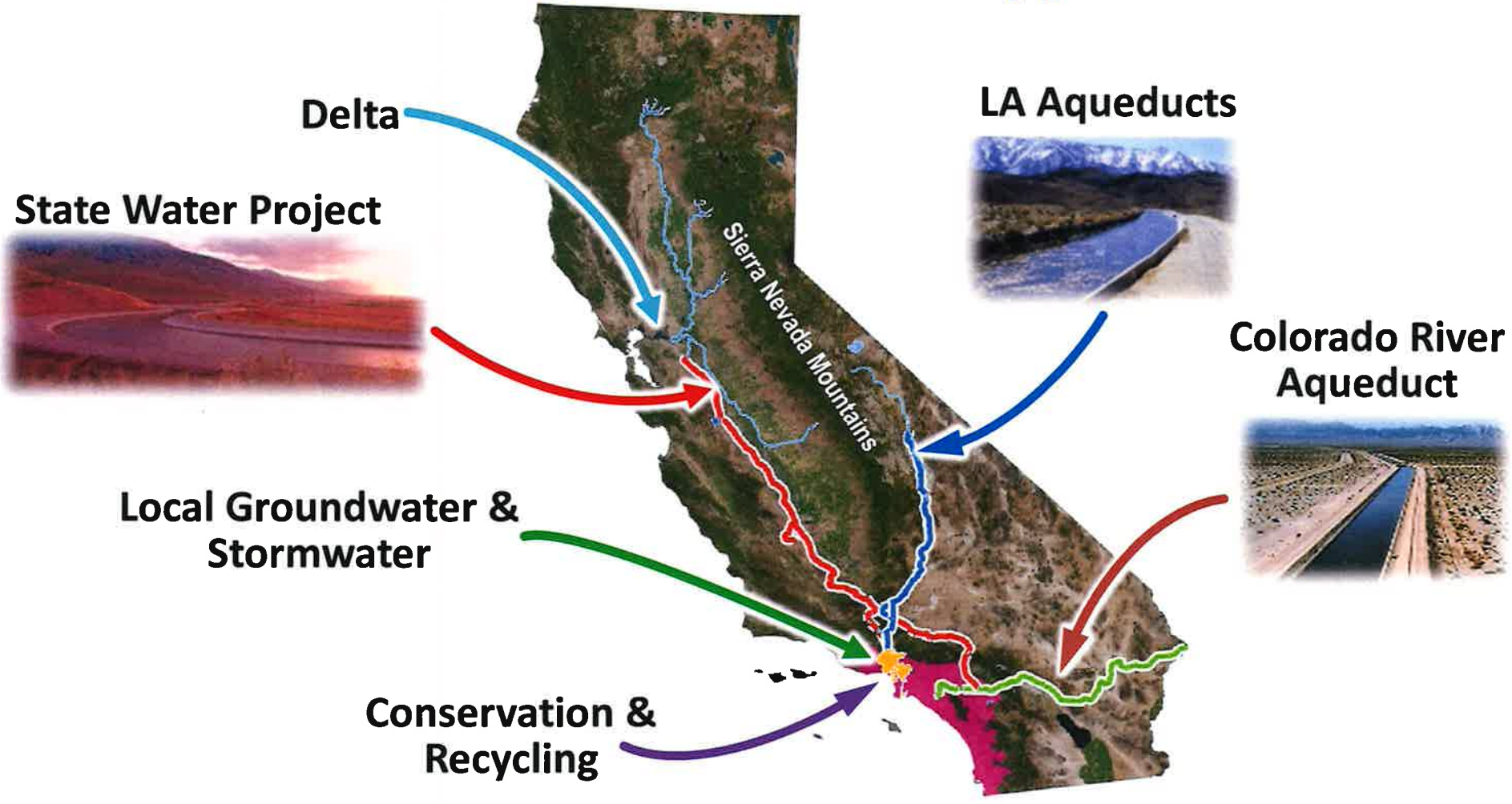
Urban Water Management Planning Act (1984)

Required every 5 years for agencies serving more than 3,000 customers or 3,000 AFY

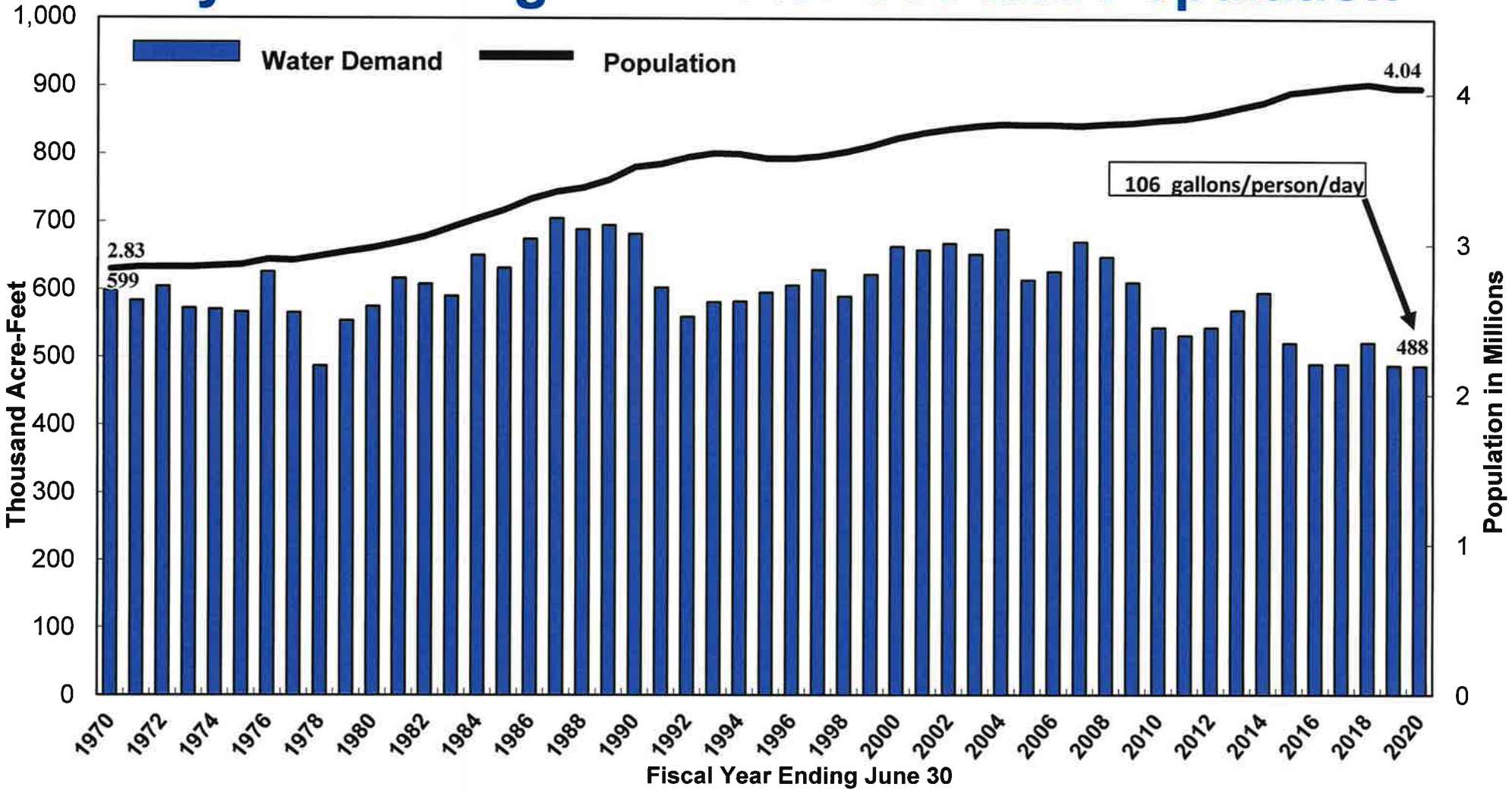
Required for State Grant and Loan Eligibility



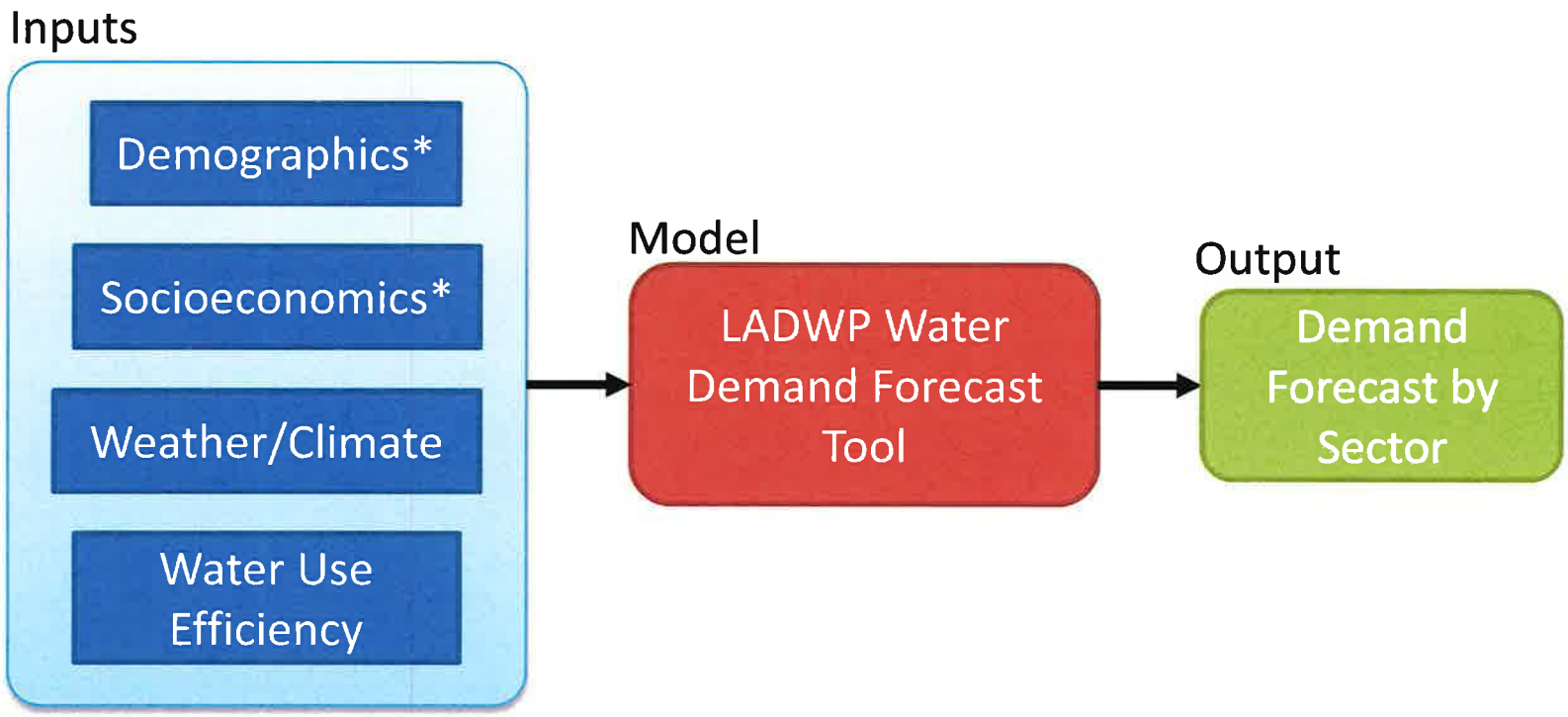
Los Angeles Water Supplies



City of Los Angeles Water Use and Population



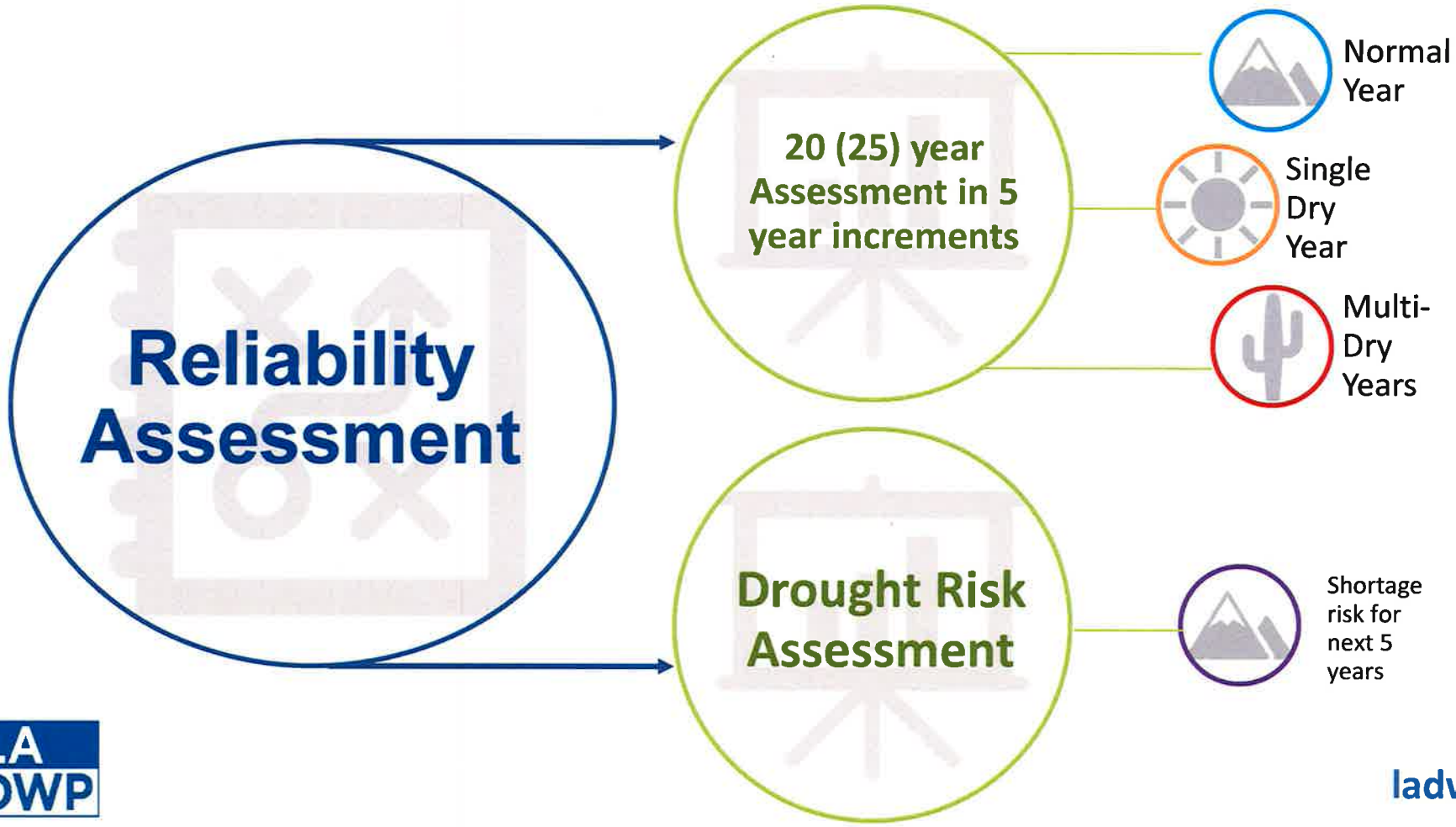
Water Demand Forecast Model



*Estimated by the Southern California Association of Governments

#WaterStrong

Quality | Reliability | Affordability | Sustainability | Resiliency



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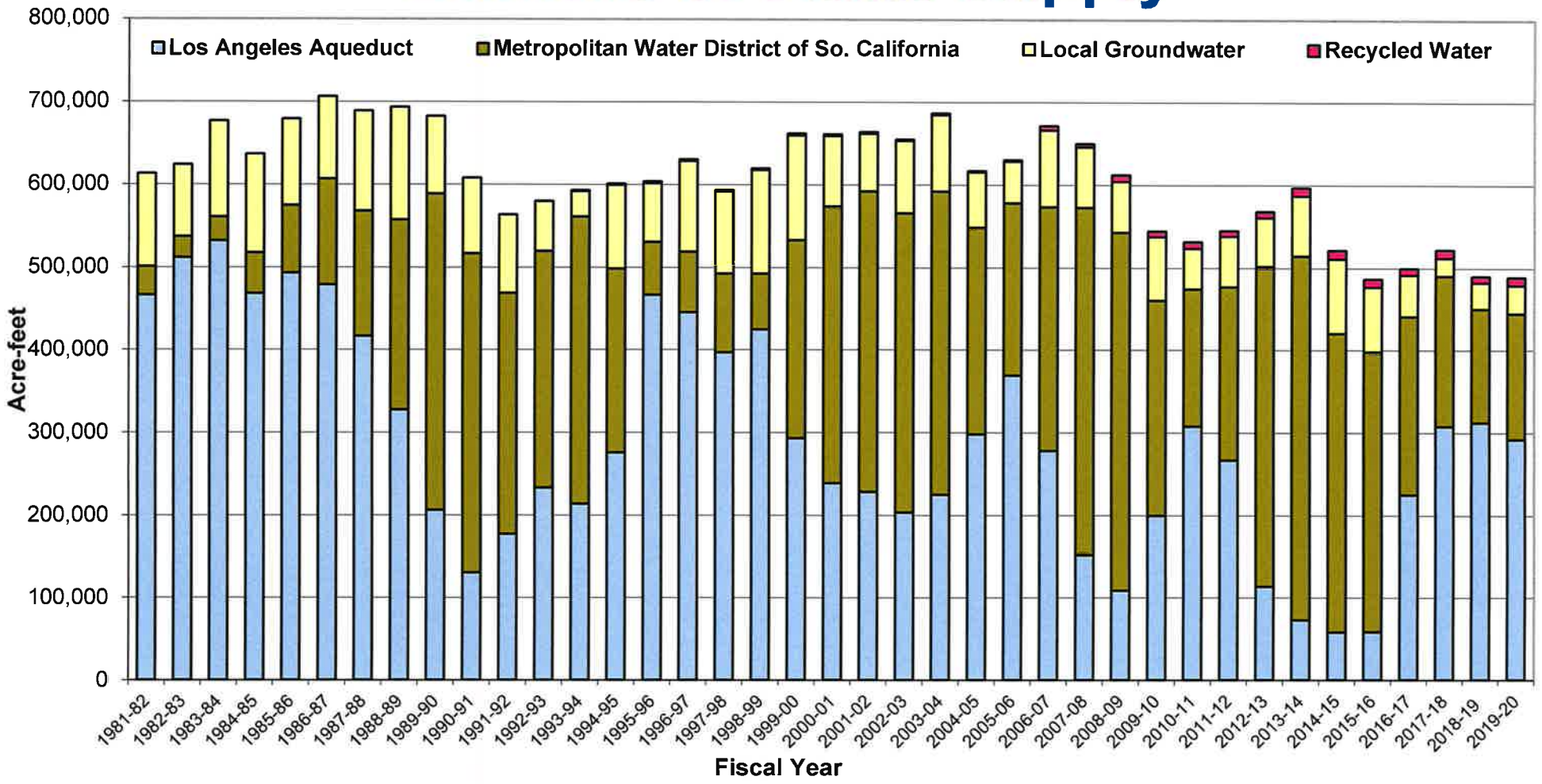
Sources of Water Supply



Local Water Supply Program

Recycled Water


Conservation / Water Use Efficiency


Purple Pipe


Operation NEXT


Groundwater Replenishment


Stormwater

Reduce Potable Use

Increase Local Supply


Supply Reliability

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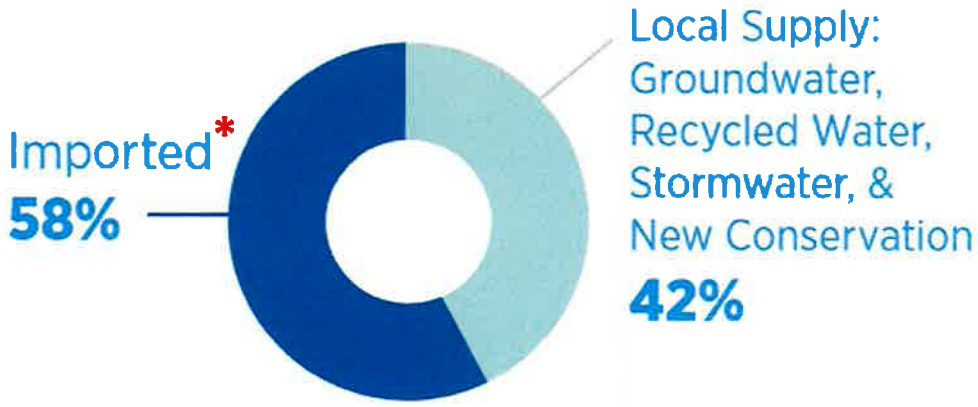
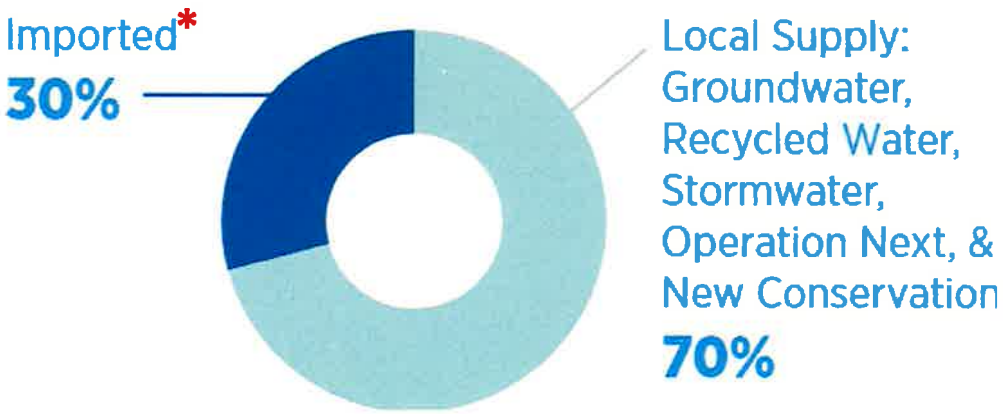
Water Supply Goals

Fiscal Year 2034-35 Average Hydrology



Operation Next
Fiscal Year 2034-35 Average Hydrology



***Total amount of water exported from the Eastern Sierra will remain consistent with historical exports.**

LA DWP

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Water Shortage Contingency Plan

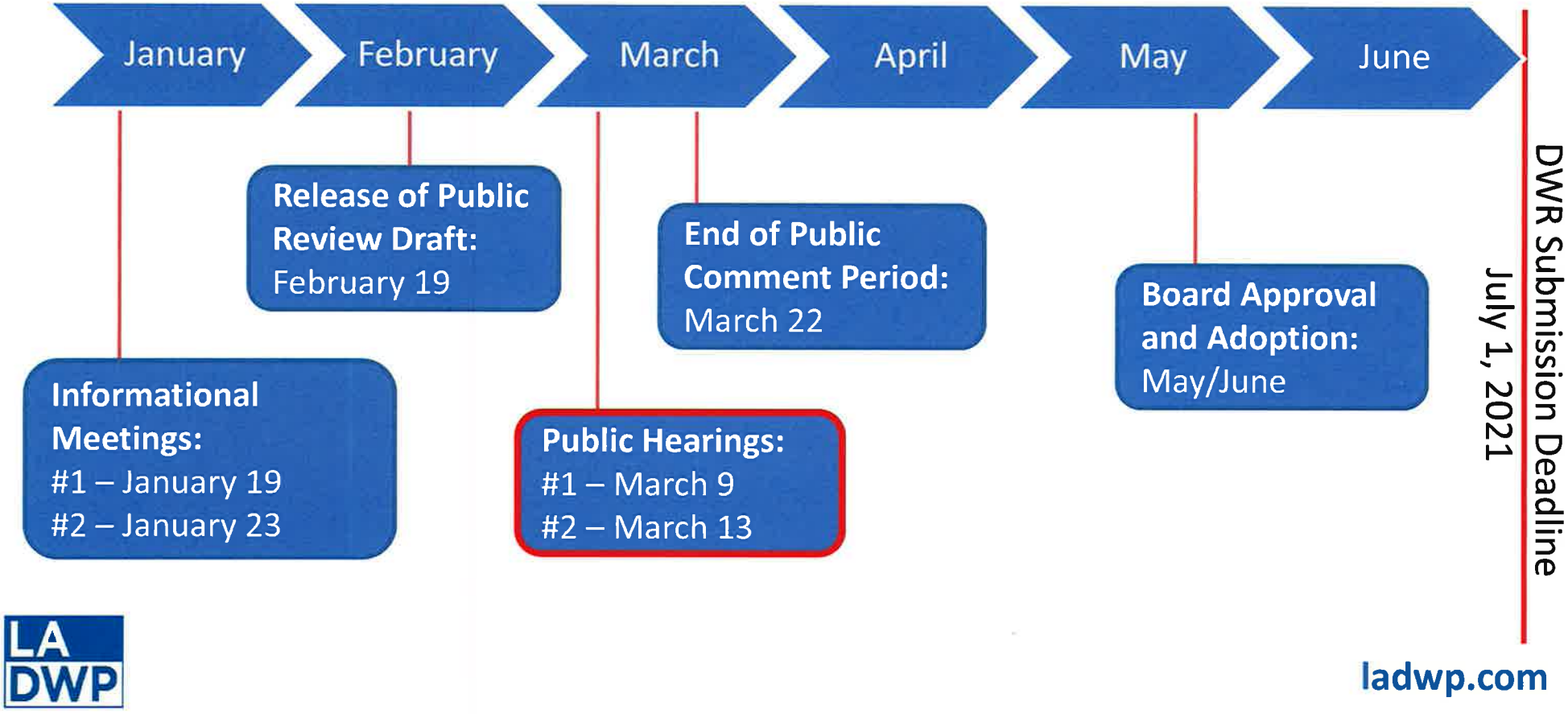
Shortage Level	Shortage Gap	Shortage Response Action: Conservation Ordinance Phase Restrictions
1	Up to 10%	I – No Shortage: Permanent Water Use Prohibitions
2	10% to 20%	II – Moderate Shortage: 3 Day/Week Outdoor Watering
3	20% to 30%	III – Significant Shortage: 2 Day/Week Outdoor Watering
4	30% to 40%	IV – Severe Shortage: 1 Day/Week Outdoor Watering
5	40% to 50%	V – Critical Shortage: No Outdoor Watering
6	Over 50%	VI – Supercritical Shortage: Additional Board Action

Water Use Restrictions

Other Prohibited Water Uses

- You may not wash down hard surfaces such as sidewalks, walkways, driveways or parking areas.
- You may not allow leaks from pipes or fixtures to go unrepaired.
- You may not wash vehicles using a hose without a self-closing water shut-off nozzle.
- Restaurant staff may not serve water to customers in restaurants unless requested.

Tentative UWMP Outreach Timeline



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Questions?

www.ladwp.com/uwmp

uwmp@ladwp.com


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