

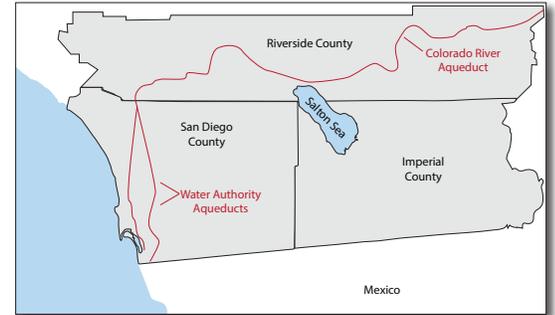
Regional Conveyance System Study



Improving INFRASTRUCTURE

A new study will explore the viability of a regional conveyance system to transport water from the Colorado River to San Diego County and provide multiple benefits across the Southwest. The San Diego County Water Authority's Board of Directors approved funds for the two-year study as part of the budget for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021.

The conveyance system is one of the ideas being discussed by San Diego County water leaders to enhance partnerships and solutions that make sense locally and more broadly as part of Governor Newsom's Water Portfolio Program to develop resiliency statewide.



An alternate "single-use" pipeline has been studied periodically over decades as part of the Water Authority's Regional Water Facilities Optimization and Master Plan Update. This new study will build upon past studies with a focus on multi-use options and potential partnerships.

Water Reliability

Since the signing of the QSA in 2003, the Water Authority has received a growing portion of the San Diego region's water through the nation's largest ag-to-urban water transfer with the Imperial Irrigation District and through the lining of the All-American and Coachella Canals. At its height, the QSA will provide half of the region's water supply, ensuring long-term reliability.

The Water Authority's water transfer agreement with IID runs through 2047 with an option to extend to 2077. The canal lining water flows to the region for 110 years.

Since the Water Authority has no direct access to this conserved water, it is delivered to the Water Authority service area under a separate agreement with MWD through 2047. After 2047, the Water Authority would need to secure delivery of the IID transfer water either through negotiating a new agreement with MWD or exploring other conveyance options. Delivery of the canal lining water is secure for the entire 110-year duration of that supply.



Goals of the Study

The Water Authority's study will look at a regional conveyance system that could move water conserved under the 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) directly between the Imperial Valley and San Diego to maintain reliability of the San Diego region's water supply at an affordable cost. The new study is focused on how a regional pipeline could provide multiple benefits as part of a long-term water management strategy for California and the Southwest. Currently, the Metropolitan Water District's Colorado River Aqueduct conveys the QSA water through Riverside County before it flows to San Diego.

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With discussions across the Southwest about the future of the Colorado River, the time is right to study whether it could prove more cost-effective to build a regional conveyance system directly from the Imperial Valley by pursuing potential partnerships to yield multiple benefits across the Southwest.

Potential Benefits of Regional Conveyance

In analyzing a new conveyance system between San Diego and the Imperial Valley, the study will consider a variety of partnerships that could develop or enhance local surface water and groundwater storage, renewable energy integration and generation, and other potential multi-use opportunities. The study will also consider a system that could create water storage opportunities for IID to support water conservation and agriculture while addressing critical issues like the Salton Sea. Further, the study could consider the bi-national benefits of potential partnerships with Mexico.

Three Proposed Conveyance Routes

The proposed conveyance system under review would be designed to deliver the QSA water, which in 2021 will reach its full amount of 280,000 acre-feet of water annually.

The new study will be completed in two

phases over two years and include technical, economic, and legal analysis of the three proposed routes. Each route would start at the end of the All-American Canal at the Westside Main Canal in the southwest corner of the Imperial Valley. Conceptually, the pipeline would be 102 inches in diameter with a length of approximately 75 to 90 miles. It would include other facilities such as canals, a desalination plant, pump stations, and power generating facilities as needed and feasible.

Two of the potential routes would follow a southern corridor between the Imperial Valley and San Diego, with one route going over the mountains parallel to the U.S./Mexico border, mainly using open-trench construction. The other potential alignment, just to the north, would mainly involve tunneling through the mountains. Both routes would lead to San Vicente Reservoir in San Diego County, which is connected to the Water Authority's aqueduct system.

The third and northernmost route would follow the Westside Main Canal toward the Salton Sea, then head west past Borrego Springs and tunnel through the mountains. It would eventually connect to the Water Authority's Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant in San Marcos.

For more information, go to sdcwa.org.



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