

REGIONAL CONVEYANCE SYSTEM STUDY

IMPERIAL VALLEY EDITION

In 2019, the San Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors launched a two-phase study to assess whether a new conveyance system is the most affordable way to move water from the Imperial Valley to San Diego County conserved under the landmark 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement, or QSA.

The first phase of the study was completed in August 2020 and determined that two potential routes for a proposed system between the Imperial Valley and San Diego County are technically feasible and cost competitive with other options. The first phase also evaluated how the project could support agriculture and the Salton Sea and promote renewable energy development in Imperial Valley.

The second phase of the study, now underway, is expected to be complete in summer 2022, with the goal of determining whether the proposed project can bring long-term multi-faceted benefits to San Diego County, the Imperial Valley, and the Southwest. Additionally, the study will help support ongoing dialogue on the QSA by informing future water supply and transportation decisions.

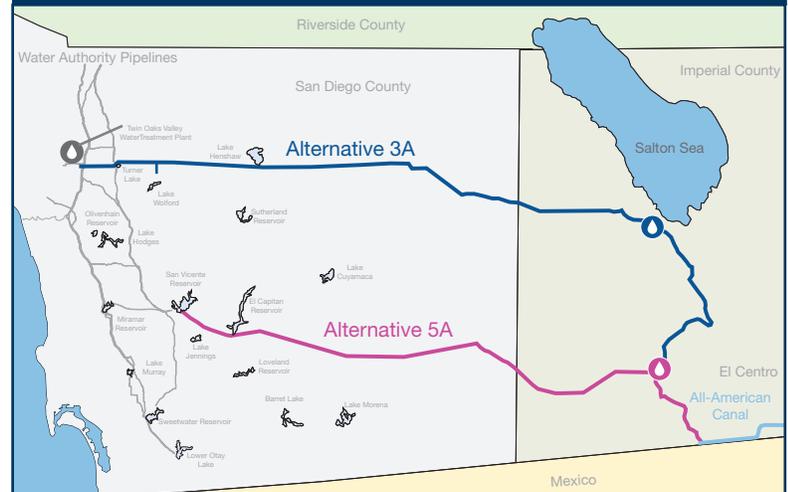
The Phase B Study will:

- Assess the economic and technical feasibility of the proposed RCS
- Look at potential multi-faceted benefits
- Explore partnerships and funding opportunities
- Include a robust outreach effort

GOALS OF THE STUDY

The study is assessing whether a new conveyance system would be a long-term cost competitive option to continue to receive the highly reliable QSA supplies

MAP OF RCS ALTERNATIVES



in a way that aligns with the statewide water resiliency initiative. Currently, the Water Authority pays the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to convey QSA water through Riverside County before it flows to the San Diego region.

The first phase of the study demonstrated that two routes, the Northern Alternative 3A and Southern Alternative 5A, are technically feasible and cost-competitive with continuing to use MWD facilities and should be studied further in Phase B.

Both Alternatives 5A and 3A connect to the end of the All-American Canal in southwest Imperial County. Alternative 5A would follow a southern route and connects to the Water Authority's system at San Vicente Reservoir. Alternative 3A would follow a northern route and connect to the Water Authority's system at the Twin Oaks Valley Water Treatment Plant north of San Marcos.

Phase B, which was approved by the Water Authority Board in November 2020, is focusing on an analysis of economics, potential partnerships and mutual benefits, funding opportunities, and legal requirements. Phase B also includes a robust stakeholder outreach.

NO ADDITIONAL TRANSFERS

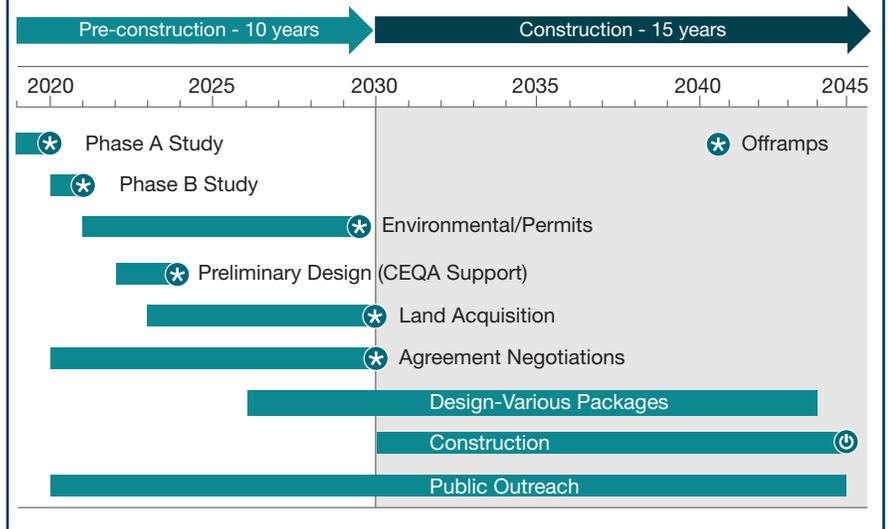
The proposed aqueduct would be sized to convey the existing QSA supplies, which in 2021 reaches its full amount of 280,000 acre-feet (200,000 acre-feet of conserved transfer water and 80,000 acre-feet from the lining of sections of the All-American and Coachella canals). The study is assessing whether the proposed project could support the QSA in continuing to meet its objective of helping California live within its 4.4 million acre-feet allotment of the Colorado River water in a way that benefits both San Diego and Imperial counties.

The study of new conveyance is critical for the Water Transfer Agreement with IID, which runs through 2047 with an option to extend to 2077, if both parties agree. The canal lining water flows to San Diego County for 110 years.

Since the Water Authority has no direct access to water conserved by IID, it is delivered to San Diego County under a separate agreement with MWD that ends in 2047. To prepare for that timeline, the Water Authority would need to negotiate a new agreement with MWD or explore other conveyance options for the highly reliable QSA supplies.

FLEXIBILITY IN DECISION MAKING

The development process provides numerous offramps for the Water Authority's Board of Directors until construction begins, not only at the end of each phase but at any point along the way.



POTENTIAL BENEFITS IN THE IMPERIAL VALLEY

JOINT USE STORAGE: The proposed Regional Conveyance System would require a reservoir in the Imperial Valley near the All-American and Westside Main canals to help regulate the flow of QSA supplies which could be sized to provide IID storage to support water deliveries for agriculture.

SALTON SEA: A water treatment plant under consideration for the proposed aqueduct would generate an annual flow of brine water far less saline than current salinity levels in the Salton Sea that could be used to cover exposed playa and create habitat at the sea.

RENEWABLE ENERGY: The proposed Regional Conveyance System could create partnership opportunities with energy developers for renewable energy generation in the Imperial Valley to meet the project's energy needs.

JOB CREATION: Construction and operation of the proposed aqueduct and associated facilities could create new jobs during the construction phase and long-term during the operation and maintenance phase.

Throughout Phase B, the Water Authority will engage in a transparent process that includes keeping all stakeholders, including those in the Imperial Valley, informed.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO REQUEST A PRESENTATION:

Contact QSA Outreach Coordinator Darren Simon at dsimon@sdcwa.org or call 760-337-1386.