



San Diego County
Water Authority



Claude "Bud" Lewis
Carlsbad Desalination Plant

Phase 2 of the Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program

December 19, 2024

Imported Water Committee

Meena Westford, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Alexi Schnell, Colorado River Program Manager

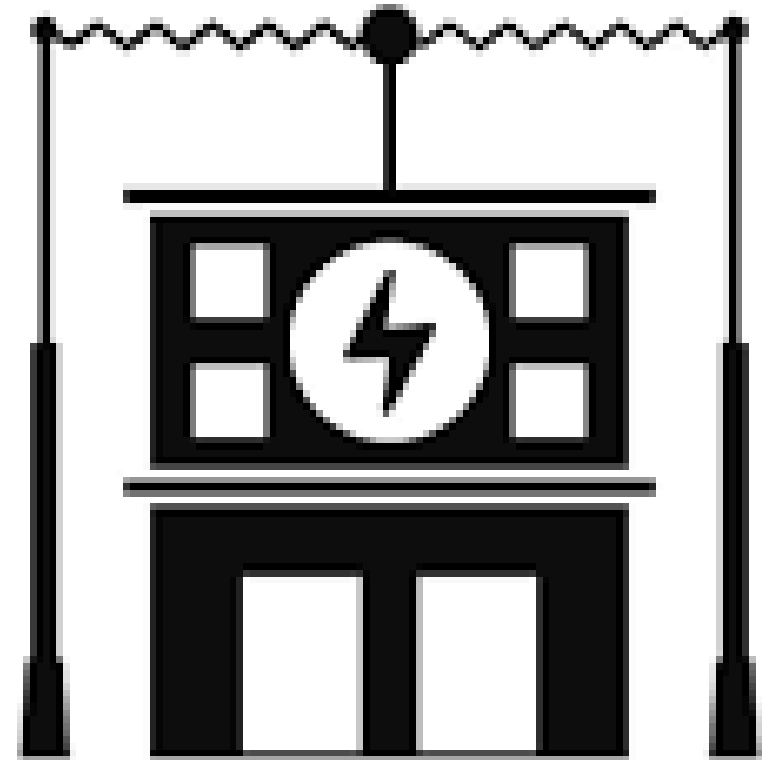
Reclamation Funding Water Projects to Stabilize the River

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- \$4 billion to address drought in the West
- Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program
 - Phase 2 - funding for long-term projects
- Water Authority proposals
 - Expand water production at the Carlsbad Desalination Plant (August 2023)
 - Alternative proposal submitted December 2024

Phase 2 Proposal

- Seawater desalination, a drought-proof supply, remains a long-term option to support the river
- Water Authority's new proposal focuses on energy substation project at the Carlsbad Desalination Plant
- Energy represents about 40% of the total cost to produce desalinated water



Colorado River Exchange Framework



- Phase 2 funding sought to cover capital costs of building proposed energy interconnection/substation
- Water Authority would provide up to 18,000 acre-feet over ten years to bolster Colorado River

Board Authorization Sought to Pursue Phase 2 Funding

Staff Recommendation

- Adopt Resolution 2024-_____, a resolution of the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Water Authority, authorizing the General Manager to execute a system conservation implementation agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, and any amendments and documents related thereto, to secure Lower Colorado Conservation Program, Phase 2, funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation for the Claude “Bud” Lewis Carlsbad Desalination Substation Project.