

Watershed Plan Supporting Information

Appendix 1-B: Watershed Plan Supporting Information

Introduction

This document establishes the framework for the Watershed Plan Supplement that will be prepared by NRCS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that analyzes and discloses the effects of the proposed implementation of the Salton Sea Management Program's (SSMP's) Phase 1: 10-Year Plan (SSMP 10-Year Plan). The SSMP 10-Year Plan proposed project is being planned to implement a total of 29,800 acres of aquatic habitat restoration and dust control projects around the perimeter of the Salton Sea. At least 50 percent of the acreage must be created as habitat for fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea ecosystem and the remainder will be projects to suppress dust.

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)—together, the SSMP team—is responsible for implementing the SSMP 10-Year Plan. The Watershed Agreement is between the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and sponsoring local organization (SLO) CNRA. A draft of the Watershed Agreement will be provided as part of the Watershed Plan Supplement.

Projects implemented under this Watershed Plan will be in accordance with the conservation practices described in the National Watershed Program Manual as required by NRCS to receive technical and financial assistance for project implementation through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954. The activities within the Planning Area eligible for funding upon the Watershed Plan approval are identified in the EA and would be developed to meet all of the requirements in the Watershed Program Manual. Prior to project implementation, the SLO will develop and provide all required documentation pursuant to the National Watershed Program Handbook (NRCS 2010)¹.

The NRCS Conservation Practices are outlined in Sections 3.3.1.5 and 3.3.2.4 of the EA by project type (Tables 3-2 and Table 3-4).

Background

The Salton Sea (Sea), located in southern Riverside and northern Imperial counties in Southern California, is California's largest lake. Although large seas have cyclically formed and dried in the basin throughout time due to natural flooding from the Colorado River, the current Sea was formed when Colorado River floodwater breached an irrigation canal that was being constructed in the Imperial Valley in 1905 and flowed into the Salton Sink. The hydrology to the Sea has since been maintained by irrigation runoff in the Imperial and Coachella valleys and local rivers. Because the Sea is a terminal lake, increasingly concentrated salts have resulted in salinity that is approximately twice that of the ocean.

In addition to functioning as a sump for agricultural runoff, the Sea is also an important wildlife area. Although it has only existed for about 100 years, the Sea has become a critical resource

¹ United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Natural Resources Conservation service (NRCS). 2010. National Watershed Program Handbook. January 2010. Available at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs143_010608.pdf.

for many species of resident and migratory birds, including several species of special concern, due to the widespread loss of wetland habitat elsewhere in the United States and Mexico.

The Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA)² is one of the factors contributing to declining inflows to the Sea. California historically used more than its normal year apportionment of Colorado River water, but that is unlikely to continue in the future. After prolonged negotiations between the federal government and the California water districts that have entitlements to Colorado River water, a series of agreements, collectively known as the QSA, were made among the federal government, State of California, Imperial Irrigation District (IID), Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Diego County Water Authority, and Coachella Valley Water District in October 2003. The QSA imposes water conservation measures within the IID service area to allow the transfer of this water elsewhere, reducing the volume of agricultural runoff that constitutes the Sea's chief source of water. The QSA required IID to provide conserved water to the Sea to mitigate the effects of the transfer on salinity until 2017, at which point the delivery of mitigation water ceased. Once mitigation water ceased, the State of California, through CNRA, was given the responsibility to undertake a restoration effort at the Sea that addresses the larger long-term environmental needs of the Sea. The purpose of the SSMP is to implement restoration projects to meet the State's obligation.

Fugitive dust emissions from the exposed lakebed will likely reduce air quality at the Sea and may impact surrounding communities. Dust, or particulate matter, is hazardous to human health. Declining inflows to the Sea have caused increased salinity that exceeds tolerance limits of most fish species and has resulted in a loss of the majority of the fishery, declines in bird populations from the loss of food, and wind erosion of recently exposed playa soils. Further loss of water in future years will continue the degradation of the Sea ecosystem due to increasing salinity and other water quality issues, including temperature extremes, eutrophication (increased nutrient loads), related anoxia (oxygen deficiency), and algal productivity. Reduction of river inflows to the Sea from other factors, such as water recycling and diversion to the Hardy River in Mexico, is also contributing to increases in salinity and a declining sea elevation.

Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative for the Watershed Plan projects will be identified in the Watershed Plan Supplement and will be implemented primarily within the exposed lakebed areas surrounding the Salton Sea (Figure B-1). The Watershed Plan area is a subset of the area analyzed in the EA and will be further refined through additional analysis by NRCS and the SLO. These areas include lands that are non-federally owned, including state-owned land, tribal lands, lands owned by IID and Coachella Valley Water District, and privately-owned land. Figures B-2 and B-3 show the various land ownership types within the planning area which are eligible for project funded by NRCS, and acreages are summarized in Table B-1.

² The Quantification Settlement Agreement consists of more than 30 agreements executed concurrently among certain Southern California water agencies in 2003. The State of California, the federal government, and others signed some of the agreements. That set of agreements is commonly referred to as the QSA.

Table B-1 Land Ownership within the NRCS Watershed Planning Area

Land Ownership Category	Responsible Agency or Department	Acres
Tribal Lands	Tribal Lands	3,303
State Lands	State Lands	313
	State Lands - Undefined - Imperial Parcels	2
	State Lands - Undefined - Riverside Parcels	228
	State Park	195
Local / Regional	Imperial Irrigation District	39,031
	Coachella Valley Water District	1,372
County / Private	Imperial County - Individual, Commercial	2,402
	Riverside County - Individual, Commercial	602
Unmapped	Unmapped (Open Water)	<1
Total Acres¹		47,447

¹ May not sum due to independent rounding.

All project types analyzed in the EA for the SSMP 10-Year Plan are eligible for NRCS funding under this watershed plan and include aquatic habitat restoration and dust suppression restoration projects.

Aquatic Habitat Restoration Projects

Aquatic habitat restoration opportunity areas are proposed around the perimeter of the Salton Sea, between the 2003 and projected 2028 surface elevation levels. Aquatic habitat restoration project types are provided in Section 3.3.1.2 of the EA. The aquatic habitat restoration projects would consist of one or more large, ponded units that may be subdivided into one or more smaller ponds created by internal subdivision berms. Depending on site characteristics, projects would be designed to consist of suitable shallow, mid-depth, and deep aquatic habitat to support fish and piscivorous birds. They would also be designed to provide connectivity between currently occupied desert pupfish habitat. The primary water supply for the ponds would be a combination of brackish river water, drain water and hypersaline water from the Sea, but other sources may be used as well. Aquatic habitat restoration projects could also include mudflats and permanent vegetated wetlands to support shorebird and marsh bird foraging and nesting.

Cumulatively, these projects would provide habitat for invertebrates, fish (including desert pupfish), and a variety of bird species. Development of pond habitat around the Sea would be designed to support robust fish populations, which would in turn provide food for piscivorous birds. Some of the projects would also provide habitat and connectivity for desert pupfish.

Dust Suppression and Restoration Projects

Dust suppression and restoration opportunity areas would target the most emissive exposed lakebed areas as the Sea recedes where habitat and dust suppression projects could be located. Dust suppression and restoration project techniques are provided in Section 3.3.2.3 of the EA. Dust suppression projects are intended to reduce the emission of airborne particulates

from exposed lakebed areas using a variety of dust control treatments that are appropriate to a project site. A suite of potential dust suppression measures, including vegetation enhancement, have been developed for consideration. Projects that include waterless techniques to suppress dust may be implemented as a temporary proactive measure to limit potential emissions from exposed lakebed areas.

Rationale for Plan Preference

The Rationale for Plan Preference will be developed as part of the analysis for the Watershed Plan that will be developed by NRCS and the SLO in the Watershed Plan Supplement.

Alternatives

A No Action Alternative was considered in addition to the Preferred Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) would not issue a permit for the SSMP 10-Year Plan Project, no funding would be provided by NRCS, and no components of the Project would be constructed. The No Action Alternative is intended to reflect existing conditions (those present at the time the Notice of Preparation was issued) plus changes that are reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if none of the alternatives are implemented, based on current plans and consistent with available infrastructure and community services.

As part of the EA, an additional alternative, the No Federal Action Alternative was considered. A description is provided below, but this is not considered in the Watershed Plan, which only distinguishes between whether NRCS funding is provided or not. Under the No Federal Action Alternative, no projects would be built that require federal action (other than the Species Conservation Habitat Project, which is under construction). Under this alternative, the State of California would proceed with dust suppression and restoration projects that meet the following parameters for projects, access, and infrastructure:

- > Are not on federal or tribal lands,
- > Are not in wetlands or waters of the United States at the time of construction,
- > Would not impact federally listed species,
- > Would not have any federal funding, and
- > Do not require a diversion from waters of the United States (all water would be from wells).

Measures to be Installed

A number of conservation practices may be installed under the Preferred Alternative to improve habitat for piscivorous birds, endangered species, and other wildlife and/ or to reduce the formation of airborne dust on the exposed lakebed. These measures are discussed in detail in Section 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 of the EA and include:

- > 378 CA CPS Pond 2016 (Ponds)
- > 402 CA CPS Dam 2018, 356 CA CPS Dike 2008 (Earthen berms)
- > 646 CA CPS Shallow Water Development and Management 2011 (Mudflats / shallow-water habitat)

- > 390 CA CPS Riparian Herbaceous Cover, 643 CA CPS Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities 2012, 657 CA CPS Wetland Restoration 2011, 659 CA CPS Wetland Enhancement 2011 (Permanent vegetated wetlands)
- > 644 CA CPS Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management 2011, 659 CA CPS Wetland Enhancement 2011 (Managed wetlands)
- > 582 CA CPS Open Channel 2015 (Flood control associated with North Lake Project)
- > 533 CA CPS Pumping Plant 2011 (Pumps)
- > 430 CA CPS Irrigation Pipeline 2011 (Pipelines, water conveyance)
- > 646 CA CPS Shallow Water Development and Management 2011 (Seasonal flooding)
- > 644 CA CPS Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management, 649 CA CPS Structures for Wildlife 2014 (Bird islands; floating islands)
- > 649 CA CPS Structures for Wildlife 2014 (Snags or other vertical structures)
- > 582 CA CPS Open Channel 2015, 412 CA CPS Grassed Waterway 2015, 658 CA CPS Wetland Creation 2011 (Swales or channels)
- > 638 CA CPS Water and Sediment Control Basin 2018, 587 CA CPS Structure for Water Control 2018 (Water conveyance and supply system: sedimentation/mixing basins)
- > 575 CA CPS Trails and Walkways 2014 (Public amenities, recreation access)
- > 353 CA CPS Monitoring Well 2015, 355 CA CPS Groundwater Testing 2015 (Monitoring wells)
- > 362 CA CPS Diversion 2017, 587 CA CPS Structure for Water Control 2018 (Weirs and other structures in waterways to divert water)
- > 609 CA CPS Surface Roughening 2015 (Temporary surface roughening)
- > 327 CA CPS Conservation Cover 2016, 342 CA CPS Critical Area Planting 2017, 589C CA CPS Cross Wind Trap Strips 2015, and 612 CA CPS Tree/Shrub Establishment 2017, 380 CA CPS Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment 2013 (Vegetation establishment)
- > 373 CA CPS Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces 2019 (Dust suppressants or surface stabilizers)
- > 484 CA CPS Mulching 2020 (Gravel and other cover)
- > 646 CA CPS Shallow Water Development and Management 2011 (Shallow flooding)
- > 362 CA CPS Diversion 2017, 373 CA CPS Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces 2019, 640 CA CPS Water spreading 2021 (Stormwater spreading)
- > 373 CA CPS Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces 2019 (Enhancing soil crusts)

Under the Preferred Alternative, these measures may be used individually or combined to achieve project objectives.

Mitigation Features

Chapter 5 of the EA includes a detailed assessment of the environmental impacts of the Preferred Alternative. The following resource areas were found to result in effects that were not major and long term:

- > Aesthetics and Visual Resources (Section 5.1),
- > Environmental Justice (Section 5.6.2),
- > Socioeconomics (Section 5.6.3),
- > Population and Housing (Section 5.6.4),
- > Navigation (Section 5.5.2),
- > Public Services (Section 5.5.3),
- > Parks and Recreation, (Section 5.5.4)
- > Utilities (Section 5.5.5),
- > Energy (Section 5.8),
- > Geology (Section 5.9),
- > Hydrology and Water Quality (Section 5.16.2),
- > Water Supply and Conservation and Water Rights (Section 5.16.4),
- > Floodplain Management and Flood Risk Management (Section 5.16.5), and
- > Transportation and Traffic (Section 5.15).

Other resource areas would experience effects exceeding minor or short-term levels without mitigation. For agriculture, permanent removal of prime or important farmland would be possible. EA Section 5.12 (Land) addresses this impact by requiring projects avoid prime or important farmland. For air quality, construction would temporarily result in an increase of criteria pollutants and particulate matter, which would be minimized as described in EA Section 5.2 (Air Resources) by implementing dust suppression activities during construction and diesel control measures. For groundwater hydrology and quality, use of groundwater for projects could result in a major effect on local groundwater availability over the long-term, including in the vicinity of Salt Creek. EA Section 5.16.3 addresses this issue by requiring coordination with the Indio Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency so as not to affect subbasin sustainability, and requires that groundwater extraction from existing wells and installation of new wells would not have the potential to intercept surface flows of baseflows to Salt Creek.

For biology, the proposed project would cause temporary disturbance and/or permanent loss of riparian or sensitive habitat which would be offset as described in EA Sections 5.3 (Aquatic Resources) and 5.4 (Biological Resources) through implementation of a Habitat Protection, Mitigation, and Restoration Program. Drain water that may be used for habitat projects could result in adverse effects wetland species due to selenium bio accumulation, which would be managed through a targeted selenium monitoring program. In addition, project construction could result in removal of special status plant species, habitat and/or individual of the federally listed desert pupfish, removal of snags for nesting or roosting birds. Mitigation measures include

preparing a Pupfish Protection and Relocation Plan, implementing a nesting bird management plan and wildlife species survey plan, implementation of noise attenuation measures, measures to minimize alterations of water levels in adjacent marshes, clean equipment prior to delivery on site, and monitoring water quality in ponds.

For cultural resources, ground disturbing activities could result unauthorized collection of artifacts, but this impact would be mitigated as described in EA Section 5.7 (Cultural Resources) by determining the potential for buried resources in project sites and preparing and implementing a Programmatic Cultural Resources Management Plan and Historic Properties Treatment Plan. For hazardous materials, a risk to release virus containing dust and/or increasing mosquito breeding could occur which would be managed as described in EA Section 5.10 (Hazardous Waste and Materials) by providing working training on virus containing dust and by preparing and implementing a mosquito control plan. For noise, noise could temporarily increase near construction areas and that would be managed as described in EA Section 5.13 (Noise) by instituting controls on construction work and avoiding nighttime construction. For paleontology, construction could expose and damaged undiscovered paleontological resources which could be avoided and minimized as described in EA Section 5.14 (Paleontological Resources) by implementing a survey and monitoring plan, conducting working training, and preparing a data recovery plan.

Ground-disturbing activities could result in effects on Indian trust assets (ITAs), as described in EA Section 5.11 (Indian Trust Assets). To ensure no effects on ITAs, individual project plans will be submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and appropriate tribes for their concurrence/approval prior to any activities being conducted on tribal lands. Any projects located on land held in trust by the BIA for the Torres Martinez Tribe would require right-of-way agreements and approval from the BIA and Torres Martinez Tribe.

Permits and Compliance

The Watershed Plan is a component of the SSMP 10-Year Plan which is going through programmatic consultation for Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106. All projects will comply with federal and state permits. Additional information is provided in EA Section 8.0, Coordination.

Costs

The Watershed Plan project is intended to increase the level of services provided by the Salton Sea ecosystem relative to the No Action Alternative. This will be accomplished by constructing projects that suppress dust and support fish and wildlife. The costs and benefits associated with the Watershed Plan projects were developed as part of the Draft EA, but on further consideration of the NRCS public comments on the Draft EA, they will be revised and included in the Watershed Plan supplement. The economic analysis will be completed for the refined list of Watershed Plan projects. The costs and benefits of implementing the Watershed Plan project will be developed by NRCS and the SLO as part of the analysis in the Watershed Plan Supplement and using NRCS methodology.

Economic Tables

The economic tables will be developed as part of the analysis for the Watershed Plan that will be developed by NRCS and the SLO in the Watershed Plan Supplement.

Installation and Financing

Framework for Carrying Out the Plan

The SSMP team will identify projects within the Watershed Planning Area that are ready to be financed and installed. The order of projects will depend on land access agreements being signed and sites being designed. A typical sequence of installation will be to identify the parcels, collect soil samples, drone flights, topographic surveys, wetland delineation and other site characteristics and conduct a site reconnaissance survey. Once information is collected, the site will be designed, and funding secured.

Planned Sequence of Installation

Control the dust on site, and then add vegetation, wetlands, or pond projects. Mitigation measures will be identified through the Letter of Permission (LOP) process. Mitigation measures are identified in Chapter 5 of the EA. The types of projects to be installed are identified in the activities list of the EA. Land access would be secured by the State through signed voluntary agreements with the landowner whenever possible. Costs and payments associated with land transactions will be paid as necessary to secure property rights. The SLO does not own any property within the Watershed Planning Area so all necessary property rights would need to be acquired. Department of Water Resources (DWR) also has the power of eminent domain that could be used to implement the project in the event that all other options have been exhausted. To date the SSMP has not needed to use this authority. In the majority of projects, the SSMP will be seeking long-term contracts to construct projects and not ownership of project sites.

Responsibilities

The SLO is responsible for identifying and designing projects eligible for NRCS funding. Upon NRCS approval, the SLO will comply with the requirements resulting from programmatic consultations under the ESA Section 7 and NHPA Section 106. The SLO will be responsible for any additional permitting including land access and water rights. Prior to project implementation, the SLO will develop an O&M plan, pursuant to the National Watershed Program Handbook. The SLO will be responsible for implementation and monitoring of required mitigation measures and ensuring that the Project meets the requirements of the Watershed Agreement and permit conditions imposed by participating regulatory agencies. The SLO will ensure that projects are constructed following the design specifications, funding requirements, and be responsible for maintenance and inspections as detailed in the O&M Plan.

Contracting

This plan is a land treatment plan that does not require landownership to be implemented. The State will seek long-term contracts for access to project sites and for the cost-shared treatment. For projects that the SSMP will seek Watershed Plan funding for, the preferred means would be to develop a NRCS Sponsor Lead Agreement where the SSMP selects the location and completed the designs and installation. The NRCS will do quality assurance to ensure all land

treatment follows the requirements in the EA, and the NRCS Conservation Standards/ Specifications and complies with all regulations. Contracts would be developed for each project with the SSMP following State contracting requirements. The process could be design bid build or a design build.

The State has many potential State contracting mechanisms for various types for design, and construction, consultants to meet the NRCS requirements.

Real Property and Relocations

Prior to receiving any funding, the SLO will secure access or property rights for the life of the project. The project would not require any relocation.

Other Agencies

Other agencies include the Cooperating agencies that are participating in development of the EA and the LOP procedures. Other State agencies that are not part of the SSMP team that will also have a permitting role are the State Water Resources Control Board, CDFW and the Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board. Local agencies that own land or regulate air quality include IID, Coachella Valley Water District, South Coast Air Quality Management District, and Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, as well as several Community Services Districts. The two counties that will participate in the SSMP are Riverside County and Imperial County and their associated departments.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are discussed in Sections 4.7 and 5.7 of the EA.

Financing

The Project will be carried out under the umbrella of the SSMP. With the enactment of the 2021-2022 Budget Act, the State has now appropriated \$402.6 million in funding for Salton Sea-related activities since the execution of the QSA in 2003. Through fiscal year 2020-2021, California has committed over \$270 million in funding for a broad range of habitat, dust suppression, and water quality improvement projects at the Salton Sea. The 2021-2022 Budget Act committed another \$220 million in near-term General Funds, including \$40 million appropriated for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The remainder will be appropriated in 2022-23 (\$100 million) and 2023-24 (\$80 million) through the annual budget act. This money is currently being used for the construction of habitat and dust suppression projects.

The money is always authorized and approved by the State of California through its yearly budget cycle. The requested amount is determined by the Budget Concept Proposal (BCP) submitted by the public agencies that constitutes the SSMP, CNRA, the CDFW and the DWR. The State Legislature and the Governor can approve or decline the proposals. Historically, the BCPs have always been approved.

Any funds provided by the Federal government will go towards the construction of projects identified as priorities under the SSMP Plan. The State funds are eligible to pay for all costs related to projects. Any project or parts of a project that are not eligible for Federal funding can be paid by the State.

The costs not eligible to receive NRCS funding will be paid in integrality by other means. The ineligible costs will be determined by the NRCS.

The State of California has not sought any loans and self-fund the project for the most part. The United States Bureau of Reclamation has provided around \$51.3 million to DWR to fund projects on their land.

The State is not planning on seeking an advance of Watershed Program funds for its SSMP projects.

Conditions for Providing Assistance

The conditions for providing federal assistance will be developed in the Watershed Plan Supplement once a preferred alternative is developed. As part of the continued development of the watershed plan the SLO will provide assurances on their ability to fund the process to acquire land access and rights-of-way agreements and will meet the additional requirements of Section 4 (16 U.S.C. Section 1004, “Conditions for Federal assistance”).

Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement

The SLO is committed to covering all aspects of O&M for the lifespan of the projects outlined in the NRCS Conservation Standards. The SLO intends to take responsibility including financing for O&M and replacement for any projects that are implemented as part of the Watershed Plan. Tables B-2 and B-3 identify the expected NRCS identified life expectancy. The SLO will develop a written O&M plan as required for all practices installed with NRCS assistance. The O&M Plan will include the O&M requirements for specific conservation practices found in Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide⁵.

Based on State’s commitments on the QSA and as analyzed in the EA, the State will perform annual maintenance on Watershed Plan Projects in compliance with NRCS conservation practice standards³ through 2078.

Additional information is provided in EA Section 3.15, Operations and Maintenance.

Economic and Structural Tables

The Economic and Structural Tables will be developed as part of the analysis for the Watershed Plan that will be developed by NRCS and the SLO in the Watershed Plan Supplement.

³ NRCS Field Office Technical Guide ([usda.gov](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/)) Available at: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/>

**Table B-2 NRCS Conservation Practices and Operation and Maintenance Schedule
Aquatic Habitat Types and Features**

SSMP Aquatic Habitat Types and Features	NRCS Conservation Practices	Project Life Expectancy (Years)⁴
Ponds	378 CA CPS Pond 2016	15
Earthen berms	402 CA CPS Dam 2018 356 CA CPS Dike 2008	15–20
Mudflats/shallow-water habitat	646 CA CPS Shallow Water Development and Management 2011	5
Permanent vegetated wetlands	390 CA CPS Riparian Herbaceous Cover 643 CA CPS Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities 2012 657 CA CPS Wetland Restoration 2011 659 CA CPS Wetland Enhancement 2011	15
Managed wetlands	644 CA CPS Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management 2011 659 CA CPS Wetland Enhancement 2011	1
Flood control associated with North Lake Project	582 CA CPS Open Channel 2015	15
Pumps	533 CA CPS Pumping Plant 2011	15
Pipelines, water conveyance	430 CA CPS Irrigation Pipeline 2011	20
Seasonal flooding	646 CA CPS Shallow Water Development and Management 2011	5
Bird islands; floating islands	644 CA CPS Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management 649 CA CPS Structures for Wildlife 2014	1–5
Snags or other vertical structures	649 CA CPS Structures for Wildlife 2014	5
Bottom hard substrate and hard substrate on berms in ponds	N/A	15–20

⁴ Based on Technical Guide Notice No. 148 / NHCP No.171 Index of Conservation Practices
[https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/27594/Section IV Practice Index](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/27594/Section_IV_Practice_Index)

SSMP Aquatic Habitat Types and Features	NRCS Conservation Practices	Project Life Expectancy (Years)⁴
Swales or channels	582 CA CPS Open Channel 2015 412 CA CPS Grassed Waterway 2015 658 CA CPS Wetland Creation 2011	10–15
Water conveyance and supply system: sedimentation/mixing basins	638 CA CPS Water and Sediment Control Basin 2018 587 CA CPS Structure for Water Control 2018	10–20
Public amenities, recreation access	575 CA CPS Trails and Walkways 2014	10
Monitoring wells	353 CA CPS Monitoring Well 2015 355 CA CPS Groundwater Testing 2015	15
Weirs and other structures in waterways to divert water	362 CA CPS Diversion 2017 587 CA CPS Structure for Water Control 2018	10–20
Staging areas	N/A	N/A
Boat ramps	N/A	N/A
Operational facilities	N/A	N/A

**Table B-3 NRCS Conservation Practices and Operation and Maintenance Schedule
Dust Suppression Techniques**

SSMP Dust Suppression Techniques: Temporary Waterless Techniques	NRCS Conservation Practices for Temporary Waterless Techniques	Project Life Expectancy (Years) for Temporary Waterless Techniques ⁵
Temporary surface roughening	609 CA CPS Surface Roughening 2015	1
Dust suppressants or surface stabilizers	373 CA CPS Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces 2019	1
Sand fencing	N/A	N/A
Engineered roughness	N/A	N/A
Gravel and other cover	484 CA CPS Mulching 2020	1
SSMP Dust Suppression Techniques: Long-term Habitat Enhancement Techniques	NRCS Conservation Practices for Long-term Habitat Enhancement Techniques	Project Life Expectancy (Years) for Long-term Habitat Enhancement Techniques
Vegetation establishment	327 CA CPS Conservation Cover 2016 342 CA CPS Critical Area Planting 2017 589C CA CPS Cross Wind Trap Strips 2015 612 CA CPS Tree/Shrub Establishment 2017 380 CA CPS Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment 2013	5–15
Shallow flooding	646 CA CPS Shallow Water Development and Management 2011	5
Stormwater spreading	362 CA CPS Diversion 2017; 373 CA CPS Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces 2019 640 CA CPS Water spreading 2021	1–10
Enhancing soil crusts	373 CA CPS Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces 2019	1

⁵ Based on Technical Guide Notice No. 148 / NHCP No.171 Index of Conservation Practices
https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/27594/Section_IV_Practice_Index



Figure B-1 Proposed Watershed Plan Project Planning Area

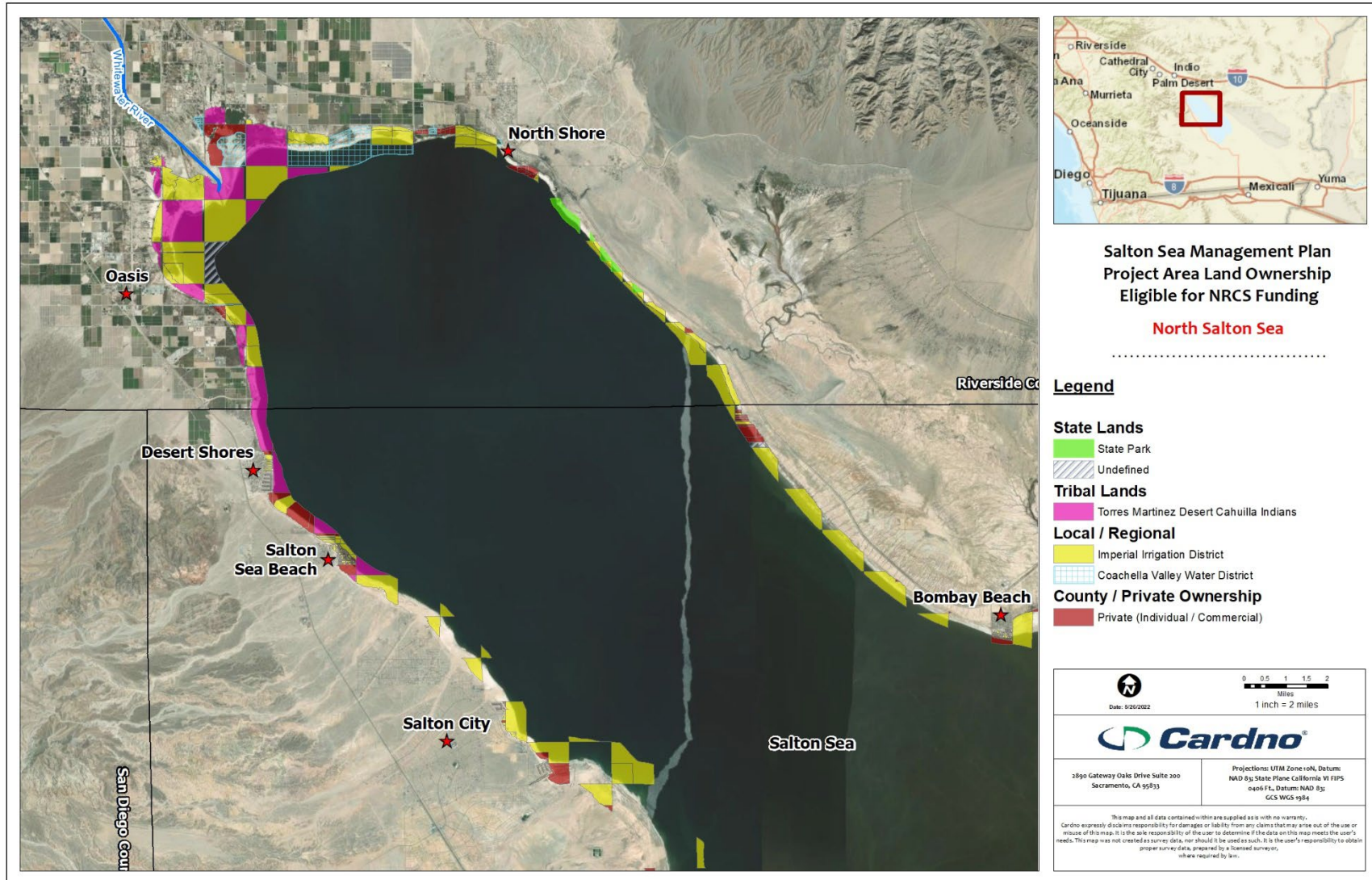


Figure B-2 Project Area Land Ownership Eligible for NRCS Funding (North)

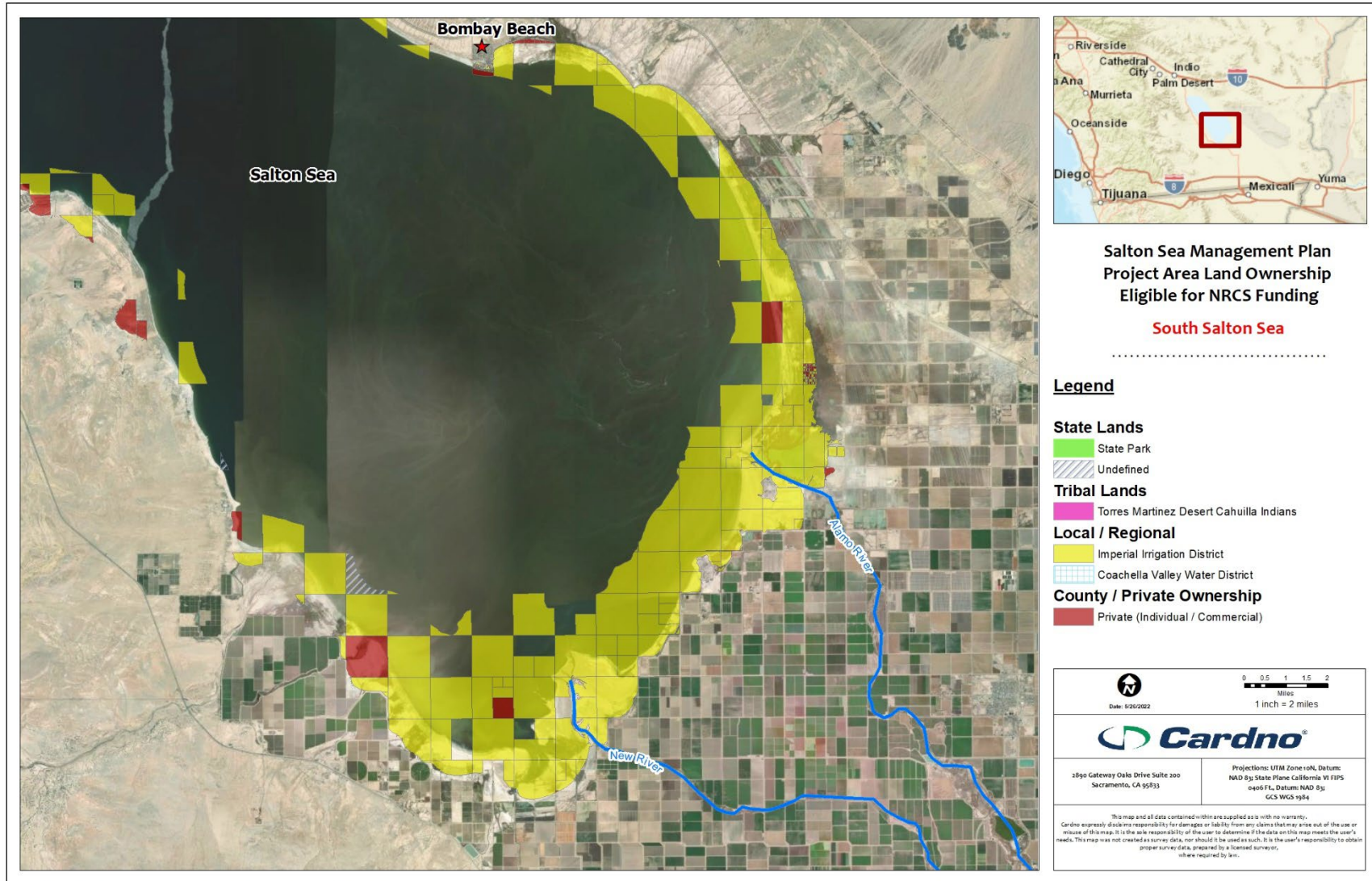


Figure B-3 Project Area Land Ownership Eligible for NRCS Funding (South)