



# Beverly Hills Public Works Commission Meeting

November 9, 2023

*Can the Colorado River meet  
the Future Needs of the  
Southwest*

# THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT AQUEDUCT FROM THE COLORADO RIVER

## WHY WE NEED THE WATER

Southern California is using 170 Million Gallons of water each day MORE than is being replaced. Wells are dropping rapidly. To prevent a serious water shortage... WE MUST bring in Colorado River water.

**HOOVER DAM**... being built by the U. S., will store the water needed.  
Only by building the Metropolitan Aqueduct can our Cities secure this water.

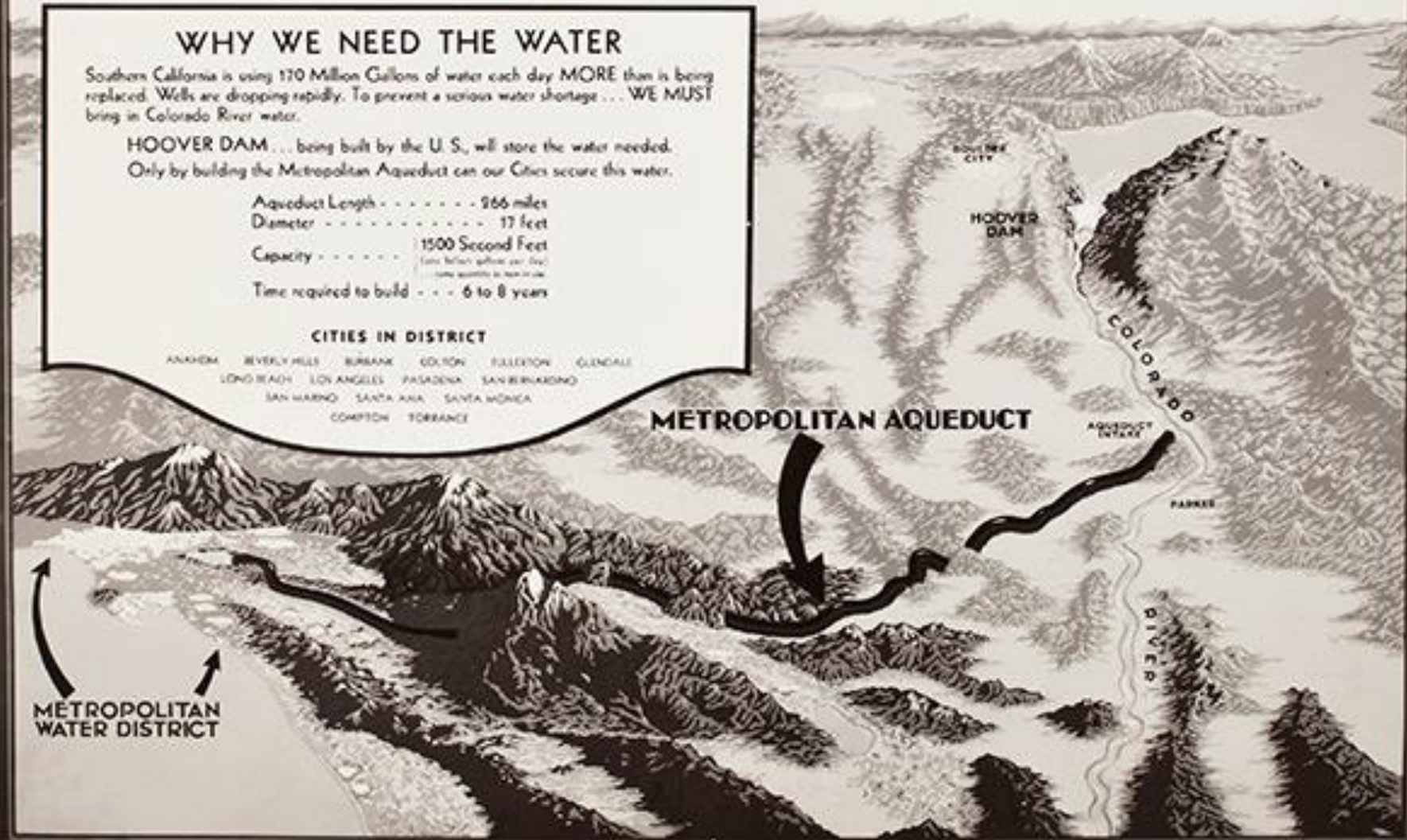
Aqueduct Length - - - - - 266 miles  
Diameter - - - - - 17 feet  
Capacity - - - - - 1500 Second Feet  
(one billion gallons per day)  
(same quantity as now in use)  
Time required to build - - - 6 to 8 years

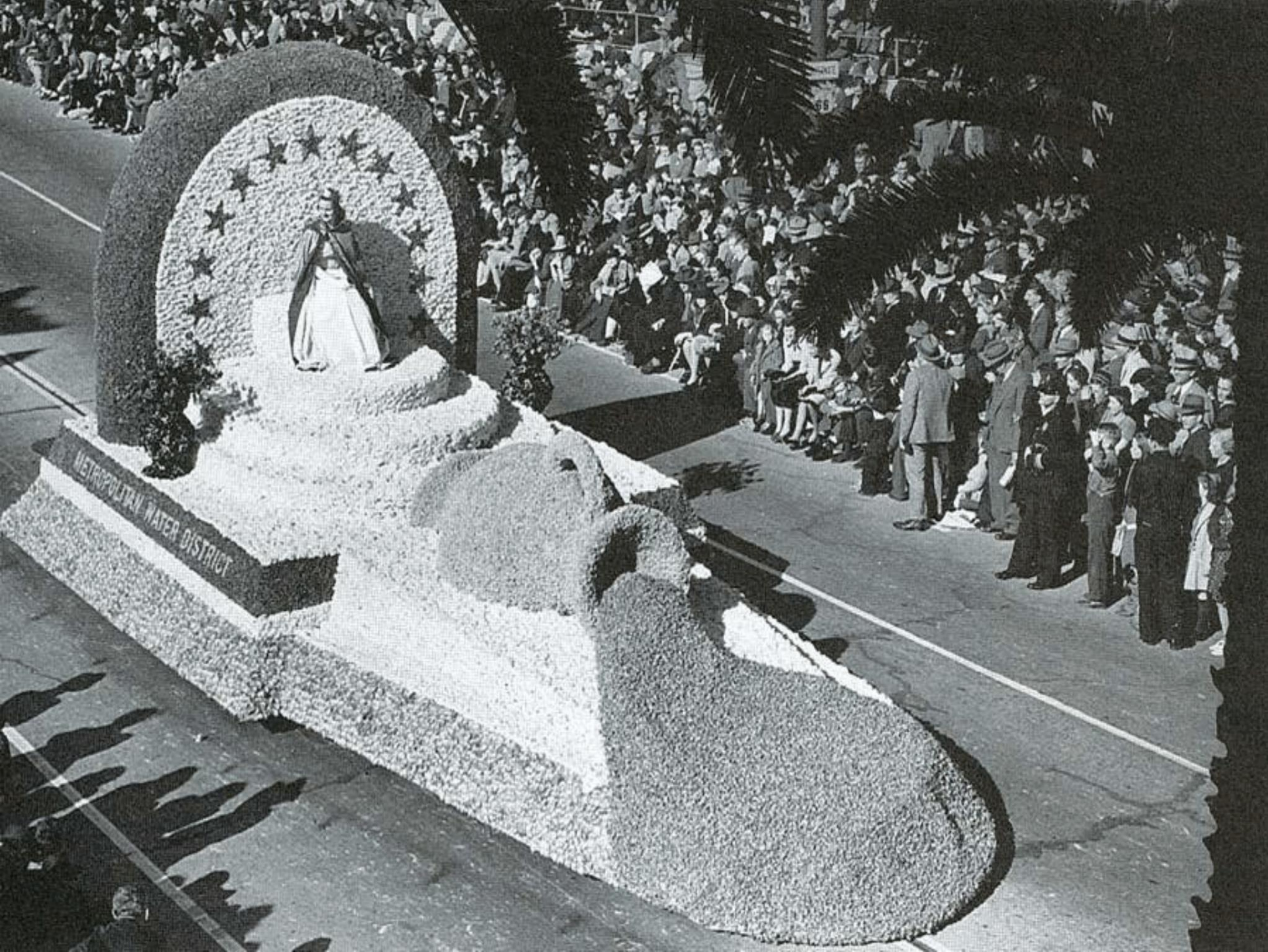
### CITIES IN DISTRICT

ANAHEIM BEVERLY HILLS BURBANK COLTON FULLERTON GLENDALE  
LONG BEACH LOS ANGELES PASADENA SAN BERNARDINO  
SAN MARINO SANTA ANA SANTA MONICA  
COMPTON TORRANCE

## METROPOLITAN AQUEDUCT

METROPOLITAN  
WATER DISTRICT







Central Utah Project and Strawberry Valley Project

Colorado Front Range

Upper Basin

Lower Basin

Colorado River Aqueduct Service Area

Imperial and Coachella Valleys

San Juan-Chama Project



Pacific Ocean

Gulf of California

U.S.A.

MEXICO

Mexico

Texas

New Mexico

Arizona

California

Colorado

Utah

Nevada

Wyoming

Nebraska

Idaho

Oregon

Dakota

Flaming Gorge Reservoir

Snake River

N. Platte River

Great Salt Lake

Green River

Colorado River

Arkansas River

San Juan River

Colorado River

Little Colorado River

Colorado River Aqueduct

Gila River

Rio Grande

Nogales

Tucson

Phoenix

Theodore Roosevelt Dam

Flagstaff

Farmington

Glen Canyon Dam

Lake Powell

St. George

Lee Ferry

Las Vegas

Hoover Dam

Davis Dam

Imperial Dam

San Luis Rio Colorado

Mexicali

Tijuana

San Diego

Los Angeles

Santa Fe

Albuquerque

El Paso

El Paso

El Paso

Albuquerque

Santa Fe

Pueblo

Colorado Springs

Denver

Boulder

Fort Collins

Flaming Gorge Dam

Aspinall Unit

Grand Junction

Grand Junction

Provo

Salt Lake City

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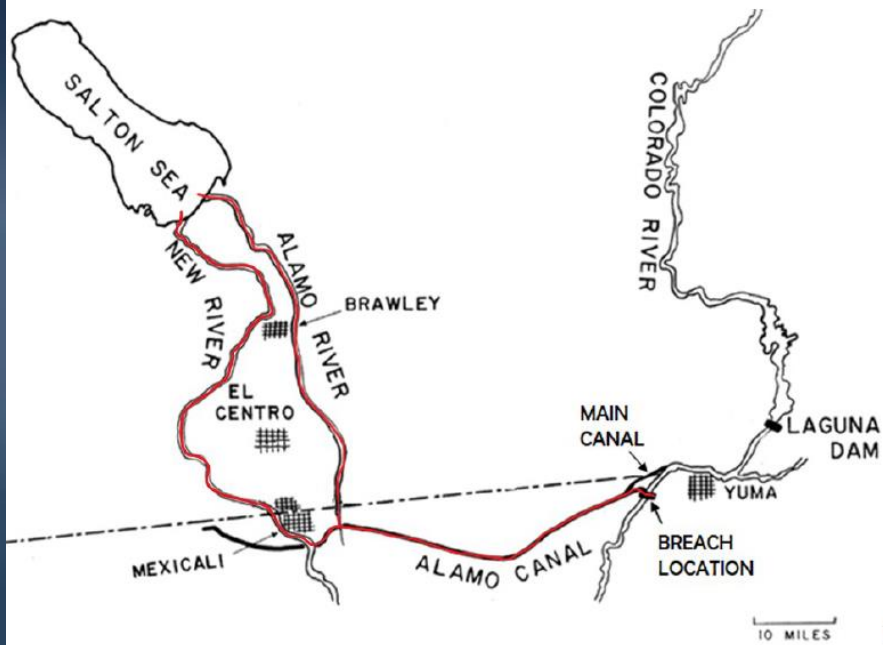
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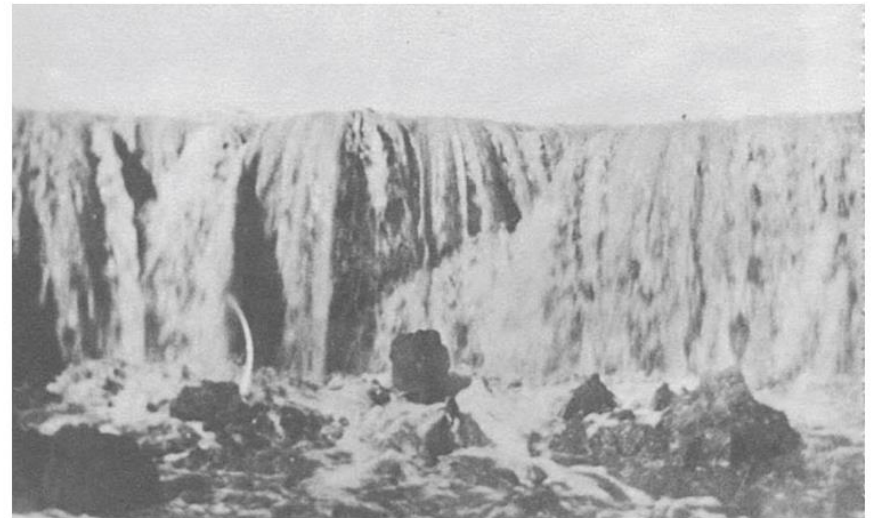


2722  
Imperial Valley Farmer, ca. 1900

- 1905 Colorado River breaks into Alamo Irrigation Canal

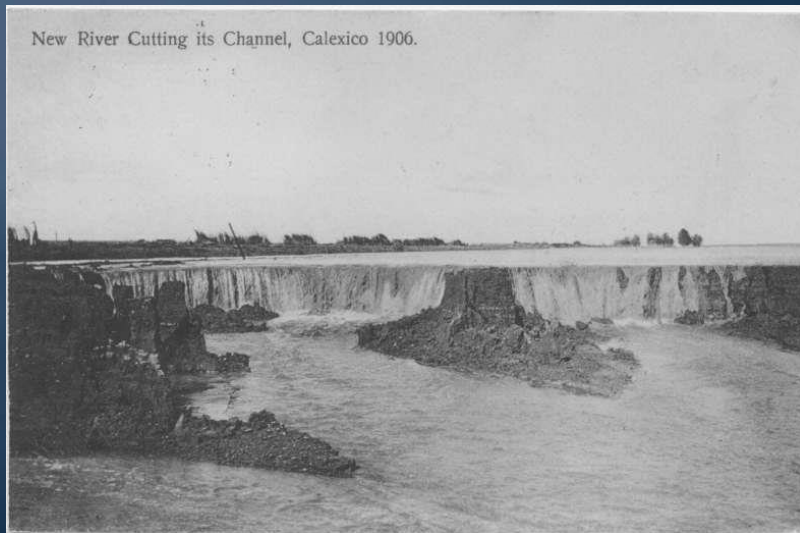


1905 Alamo Canal Breach at Calexico flowing to Salton Sea



1905 Alamo Canal Breach at Calexico  
– cutting at 1 foot per minute – falls 28 feet high





Imperial Valley, 1906



Dumping Boulders to close the breach 1907



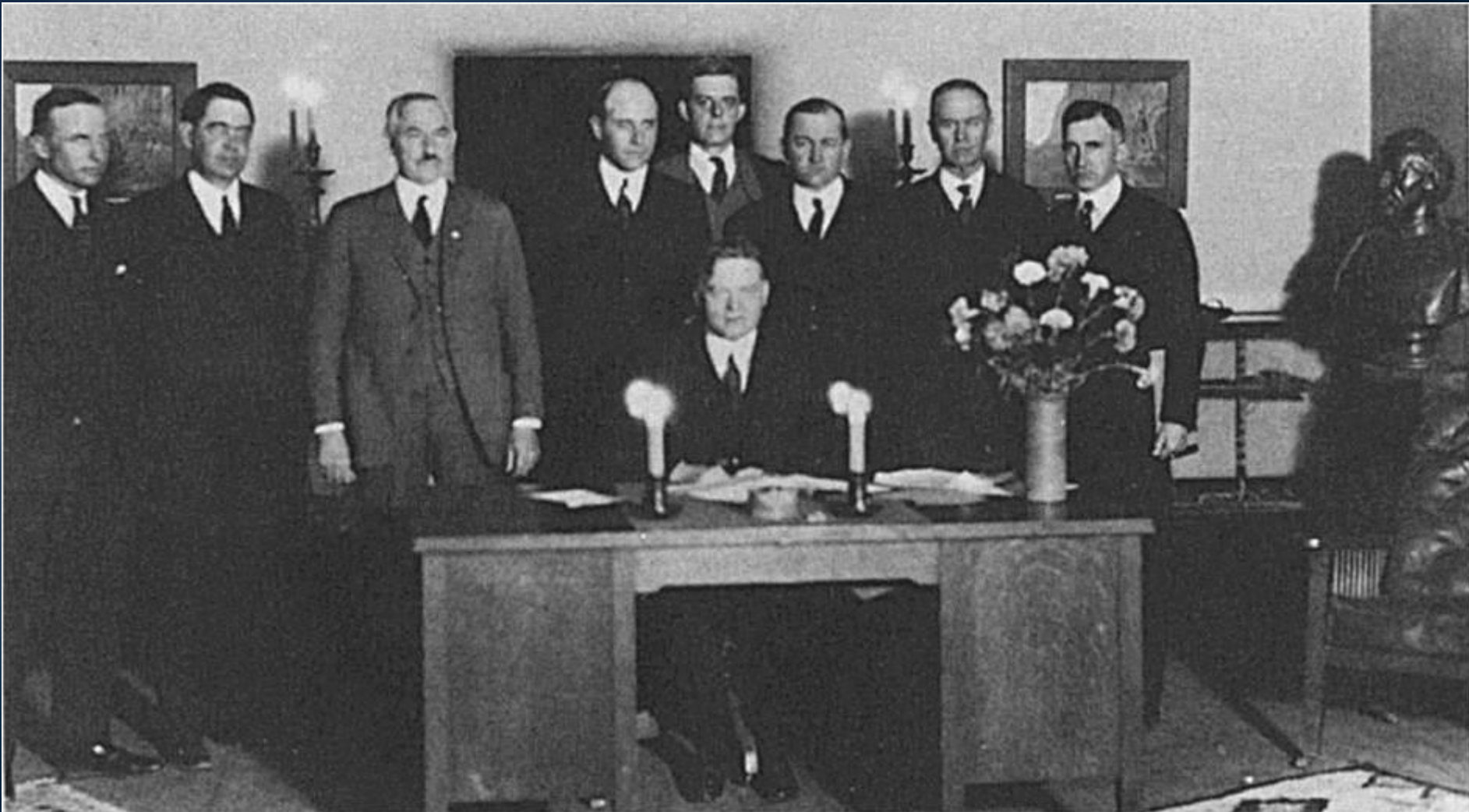
Final repair completed February 1907





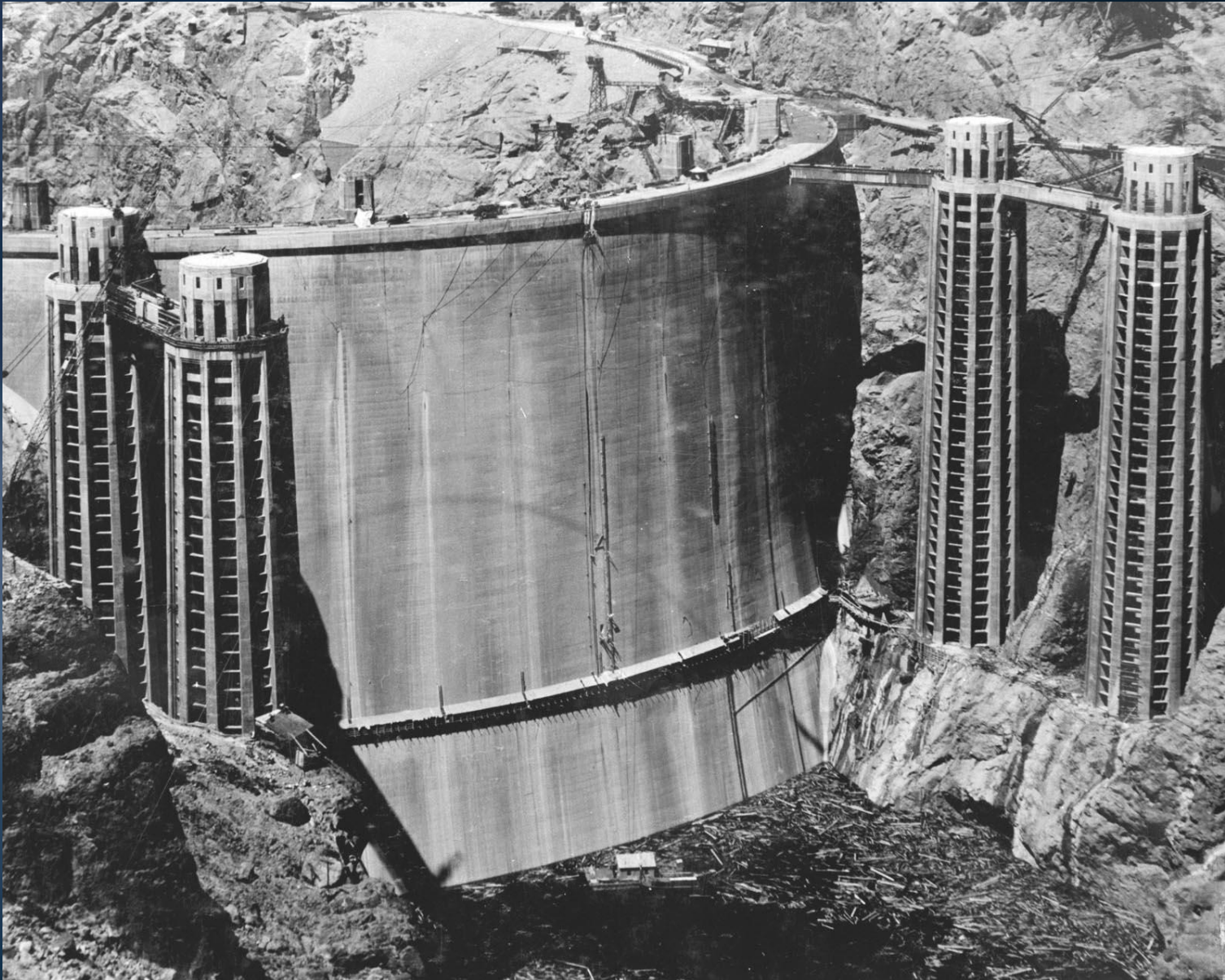
Black Canyon, Colorado River

# Colorado River Compact Signing November 24, 1922



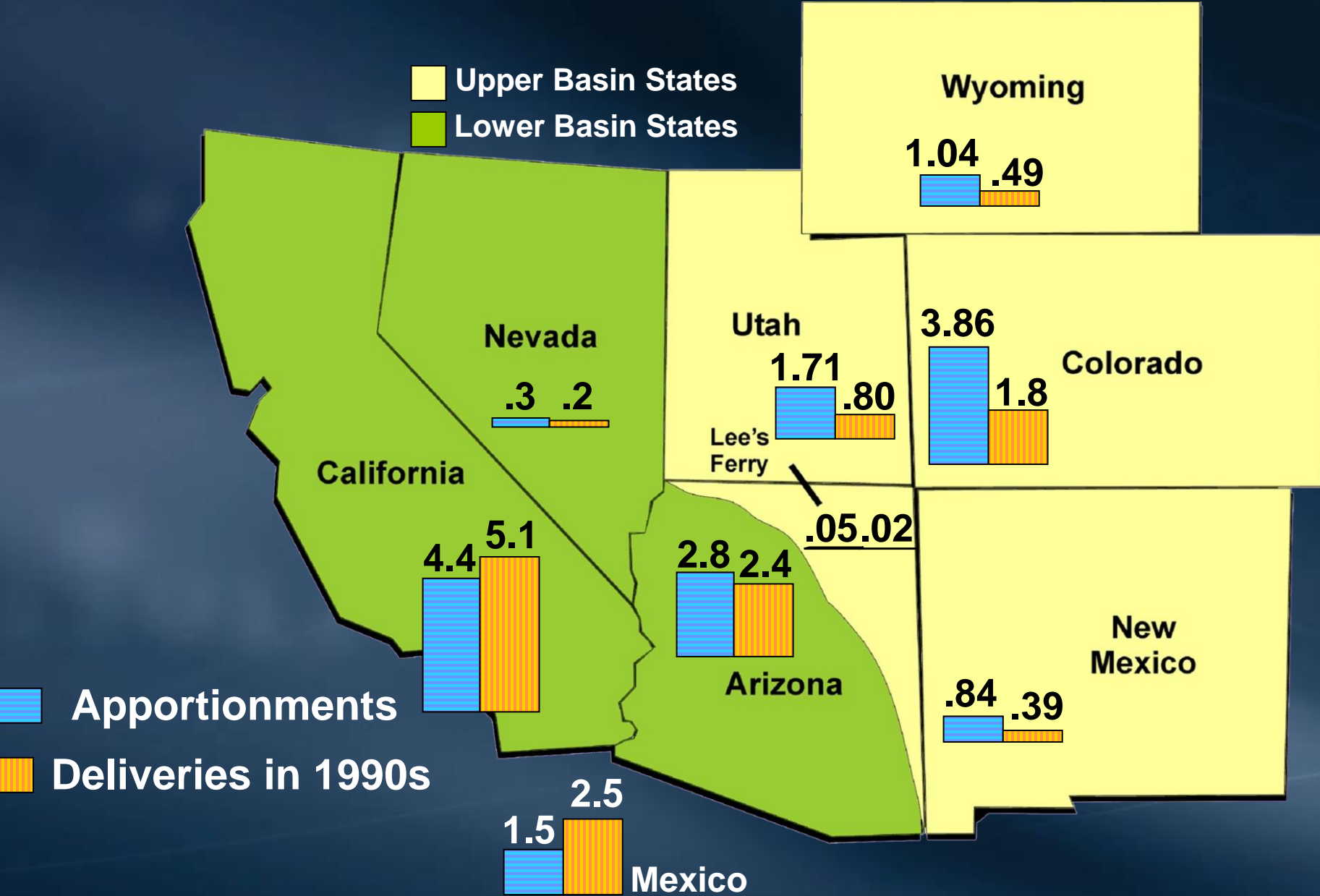


Hoover Dam Construction, 1928



Hoover Dam Completed

# Colorado River Apportionments (Million acre-feet)



# California Service Areas



NEVADA

Lake Mead

Hoover Dam

Colorado River

Lake Mohave

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles Aqueduct

California Aqueduct

Davis Dam

ARIZONA

Lake Havasu

Colorado River Aqueduct

Parker Dam

Coachella Valley W.D.

Palo Verde I.D.

MWD

PACIFIC OCEAN

Coachella Canal

Senator Wash Reservoir

Salton Sea

Imperial Dam

UNITED STATES  
MEXICO

All American Canal

IID

Yuma Project

# California Priority System (1931)

1. Palo Verde	
2. Yuma Project	
3. (a) Imperial & Coachella (b) Palo Verde	3.85 MAF
4. Metropolitan	<u>550 TAF</u>
<b>Total Basic Apportionment</b>	<b>4.4 MAF</b>
5. Metropolitan	662 TAF

# 2003: Quantification Settlement Agreement Approved





# Our Region's Agricultural, Tribal, and International Partnerships



IID-MWD Conservation Program



PVID Rotational Fallowing Program



Bard Seasonal Fallowing Program



IID-SDCWA Conservation and AAC Lining Transfer/Exchange



Binational Conservation Activities/Programs in Mexico



Quechan Forbearance Program

# Items Appear as Lake Mead Drops

## Drops



SNWA's Original Intake



Human Remains Found in Barrel




Ghost Ships Emerge

# Interim Guidelines Expire Dec. 2025

*Draft EIS Anticipated December 2024*

New Guidelines to Address Climate Change Impacts and Reduce Deliveries to Water Users





The challenge of the unknown  
future is so much more exciting than  
the stories of the accomplished past.

Simon Sinek

quote fancy

# Outstanding Issues for New Guidelines

- Who will be at “the table”?



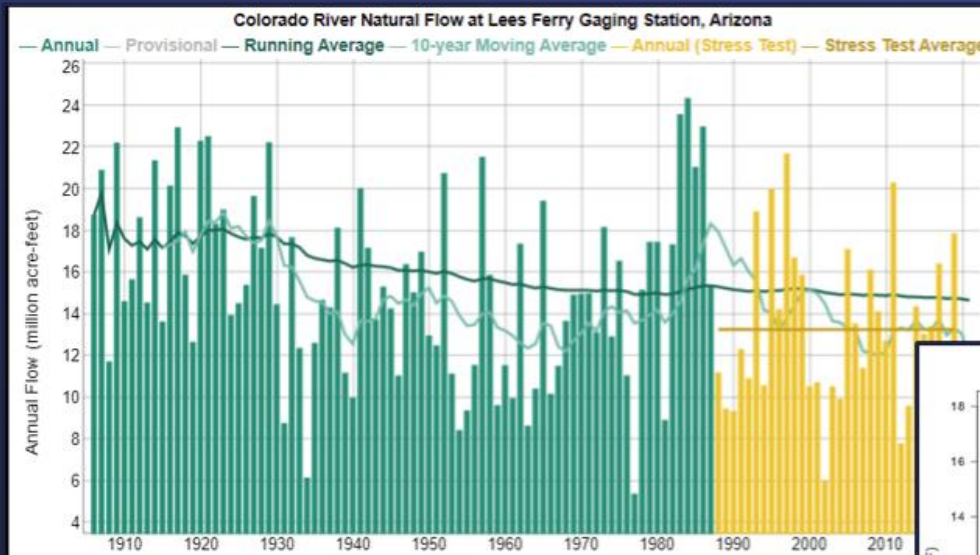
## Governor's Representatives

- Arizona      Tom Buschatzke
- Nevada      John Entsminger
- California      JB Hamby
- Wyoming      Brandon Gebhart
- Colorado      Rebecca Mitchell
- New Mexico      Estevan Lopez
- Utah      Gene Shawcroft

# Outstanding Issues for New Guidelines

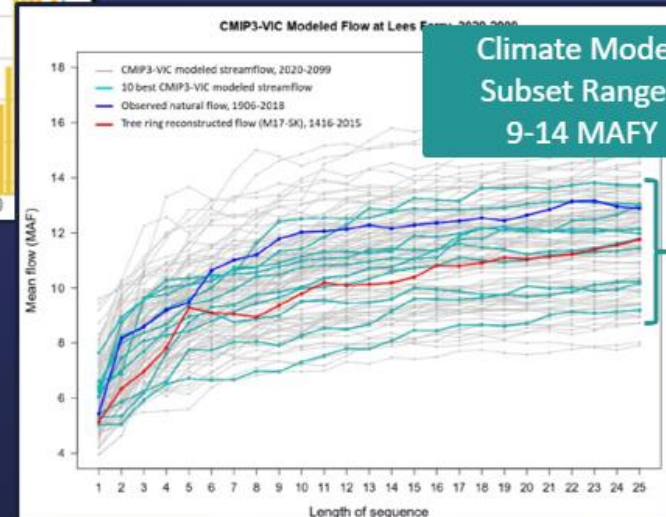
- How severe a future to plan for?

## Historical and Future Colorado River Flows



Historical Natural Flow  
at Lees Ferry

## Global Climate Model Future Projections



Climate Model  
Subset Range:  
9-14 MAFY

# Colorado River Basin Total Storage



# Outstanding Issues for New Guidelines

- How to Fully Involved both Upper and Lower Basins?

## Upper and Lower Colorado River Basins Administer Water Differently



- USBR is NOT the Water Master
  - Limited control over water deliveries



- USBR is the Water Master
  - Significant control over water deliveries



# Outstanding Issues for New Guidelines

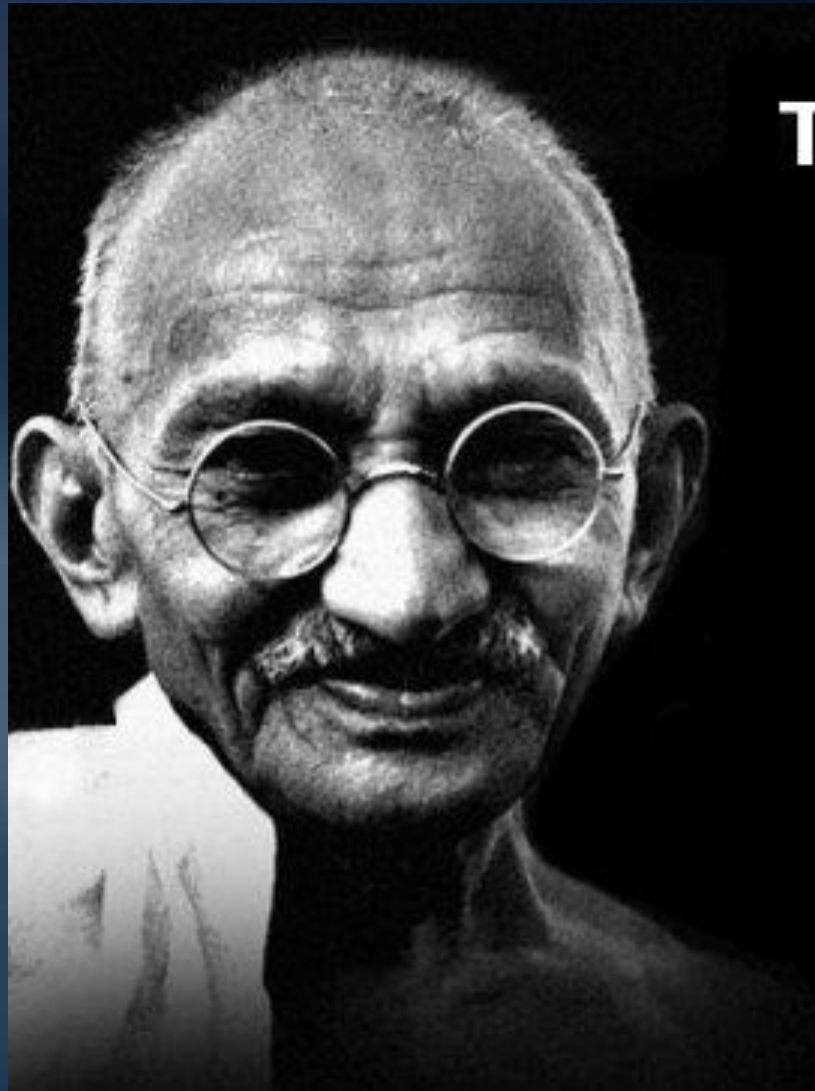
- How to share the pie: Use Priority System for cuts or Equitable Reductions?



# Priorities for Urban Southern California

*(Not adopted by any agency)*

- Protecting California's Senior Priority
- Equitable Sharing of Cuts among all California water users
- Protecting MWD/SDCWA/CA Investments in Agricultural Programs/Partnerships
- Providing "full" CRA in Dry Years
- Interstate Augmentation Opportunities
- Predictable but Flexible Operations



**The future depends on  
what we do  
in the present**

~ Mahatma Gandhi ~

