

FY 2027



**QSA JPA**  
**Fiscal Year 2027**  
**Budget & Work Plan**  
*Adopted June 11, 2026*

**Quantification Settlement Agreement Joint Powers Authority**

4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123



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# QSA JPA FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET

## SECTION 1: BACKGROUND

The Quantification Settlement Agreement Joint Powers Authority (QSA JPA) administers funding of environmental mitigation requirements related to the QSA water transfers. The QSA JPA collects, holds, invests, and disburses funds needed for the mitigation projects. The QSA JPA is comprised of designated representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) that serve as Commissioners and staff.

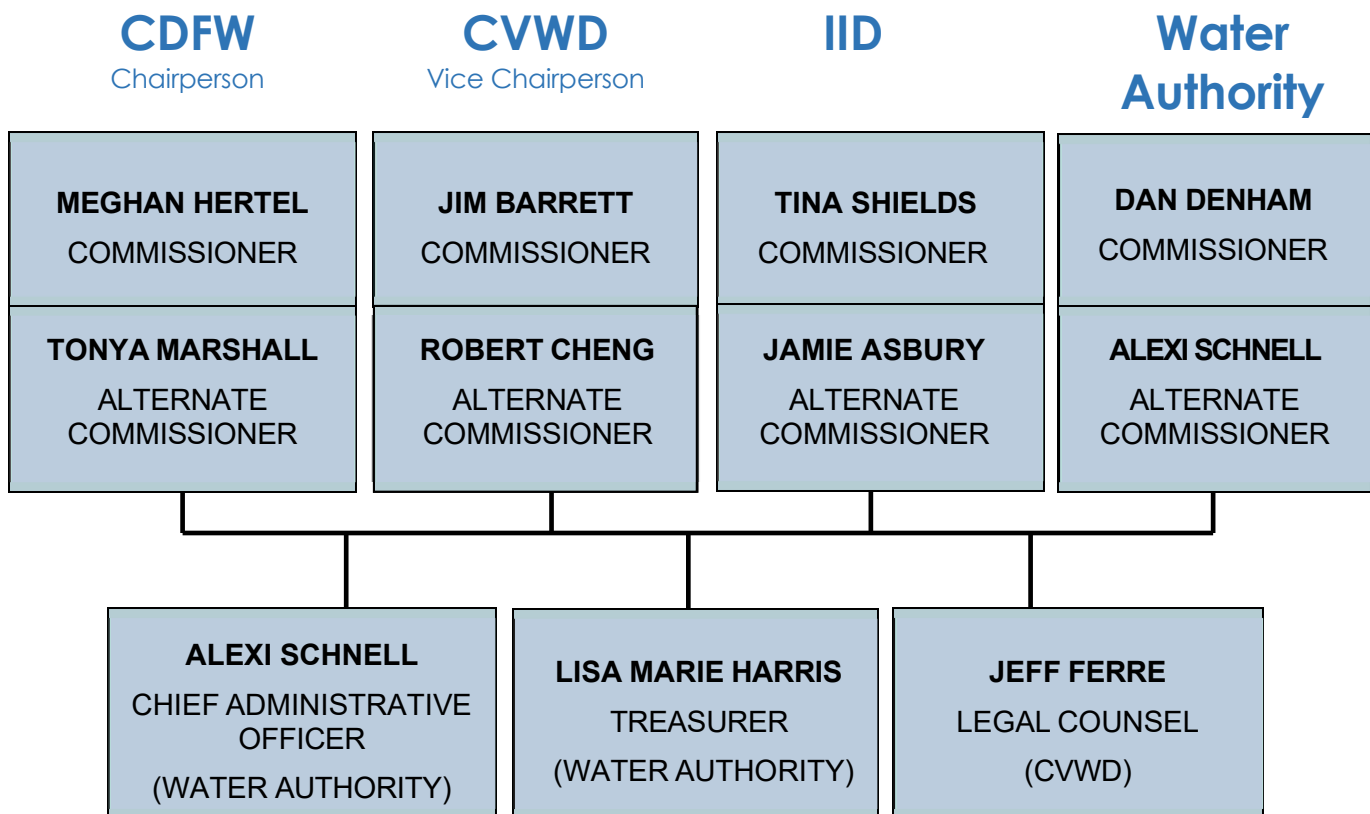


Figure 1. QSA JPA Organization Chart

Under the terms of the *Quantification Settlement Agreement Joint Powers Authority Creation and Funding Agreement* (JPA Agreement), the water agencies (CVWD, IID and the Water Authority) have a collective financial obligation, capped at \$133 million (in 2003 dollars) to pay for the QSA JPA mitigation program. The State of California is responsible to pay for any QSA water transfer environmental mitigation costs that exceed \$133 million. The water agencies have previously satisfied their collective financial obligation to the JPA, and only the state’s financial obligation remains.

## SECTION 2: BUDGET OVERVIEW

The QSA JPA Commission adopts an annual budget for the payment of environmental costs for QSA conserved water transfer mitigation projects in the Imperial Valley. The budget is developed by IID in coordination with the QSA Implementation Team (IT), which consists of CDFW, IID, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The annual budget provides revenues generated from agency contributions and interest earnings to meet anticipated fiscal year (FY) mitigation expenditures. Mitigation projects are implemented by IID under direction from the IT. Specific mitigation measures are implemented per environmental permitting requirements and involve various timeframes for completion. Detailed QSA JPA annual spending through FY 2025 by mitigation task is provided in Appendix 1.

The JPA Agreement provides a schedule of annual agency contributions that are due on December 31 of each calendar year. As a means of managing cash flow requirements for future mitigation activities, the JPA Agreement permits agencies to adjust their payment schedules by rescheduling future payments from outer years to the near term. Under the *Modification of Payment Schedules Pursuant to the QSA JPA Agreement* (Advanced Funding Agreement), advanced payments by the agencies are due on July 1 and are discounted at six percent from the date of the scheduled payment to the date of the advance.

The QSA JPA has advanced payments from the original JPA Agreement payment schedules to cover expected environmental mitigation expenses. In 2007, the water agencies modified their payment schedules to advance \$13.2 million in FYs 2007 and 2008 to cover mitigation requirements through 2013. In 2015, the Board of Directors (BOD) of the individual water agencies authorized advanced payments to the QSA JPA totaling \$40.5 million, consisting of \$10 million from the Water Authority, \$5 million from CVWD, and \$25.5 million from IID, scheduled over six years beginning in FY 2016.

In 2022, IID's BOD authorized a payoff of \$48.5 million for its remaining payments to the QSA JPA, consistent with the JPA Agreement. Following IID's payoff, the Water Authority and CVWD expressed interest in paying off their respective financial obligations to the QSA JPA in 2023. In January 2023, based on IID's payoff and the potential for payoffs by the Water Authority and CVWD in 2023, the Commission submitted a written notice to the state that it anticipated that the \$133 million environmental cost limitation would be exceeded within two years. The written notice is required pursuant to the JPA Agreement and provides the state time to prepare to take over financial responsibility for any environmental mitigation costs in excess of \$133 million. The Water Authority and CVWD paid off their remaining financial obligations to the QSA JPA of \$3.33 million and \$3.29 million, respectively, in July 2023.

### SECTION 3: REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES IN FY 2026 AND FY 2025

On June 13, 2025, the QSA JPA Commission adopted the FY 2026 budget in the amount of \$18,668,078. Table 1 shows the FY 2026 budgeted and projected spending by mitigation task, based on approved invoice totals to date and remaining FY projections of IID expenditures. Major expenses in the FY 2026 budget include the Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program (Task 24), Managed Marsh Areas (Task 8), and the QSA IT Biologists (Task 2).

**Table 1. Detailed FY 2026 Projected Expenditures**

TASK	TASK DESCRIPTION	BUDGETED FY 2026	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGET SAVINGS
2	QSA Implementation Team Biologists	\$ 1,442,311	\$ 1,301,730	\$ (140,581)
4	Salton Sea Salinity and Elevation Program	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,540	\$ (4,460)
6	Tamarisk Scrub Habitat - Surveys and Mitigation	\$ 58,136	\$ 2,130	\$ (56,006)
8/8A/8B	Drain Habitat (Aquatic) - Create/Manage/Monitor "Managed Marsh" Areas	\$ 454,636	\$ 645,060	\$ 190,424
15	Pre-Construction Activity Burrowing Owl Surveys and Relocation	\$ 500	\$ 60	\$ (440)
17	Farmer and Public Education Program	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,800	\$ (1,200)
18	Desert Pupfish Abundance and Distribution Study	\$ 12,283	\$ 11,610	\$ (673)
19/19A	Pupfish Selenium Drain Studies	\$ 112,100	\$ 120,890	\$ 8,790
20	Pupfish Construction and Maintenance Conservation Measures	\$ 100,000	\$ 38,290	\$ (61,710)
24	Salton Sea Air Quality	\$ 16,352,500	\$ 4,042,180	\$ (12,310,320)
36	JPA Audit Fees	\$ 10,090	\$ 10,090	\$ -
37	JPA Bank Fees	\$ 9,500	\$ 9,500	\$ -
38	Financial Advisor	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000	\$ -
42	Brown Pelican - Sea	\$ 55,916	\$ -	\$ (55,916)
44	Pupfish Refugium	\$ 7,106	\$ 1,290	\$ (5,816)
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>\$ 18,668,078</b>	<b>\$ 6,230,170</b>	<b>\$ (12,437,908)</b>

The projected budget savings and delayed expenditures for FY 2026 of \$12,437,908 are mostly due to the deferral of items under the Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program (Task 24).

Table 2 summarizes the FY 2026 budget projections.

**Table 2. FY 2026 Budget Summary<sup>2</sup>**

FY 2026 BUDGET	PROJECTED FY 2026 EXPENDITURES	PROJECTED FY 2026 SAVINGS/DELAYS
\$ 18,668,078	\$ 6,230,170	\$ 12,437,908

<sup>1</sup> May not foot due to rounding.

<sup>2</sup> May not foot due to rounding.

On October 8, 2025, the QSA JPA Commission accepted an audit of its basic financial statements by Davis Farr Certified Public Accountants for FYs ending June 30, 2025, and 2024. Audited FY 2025 environmental mitigation expenditures totaled \$9,274,500, as depicted in Appendix 1. Based upon the audited cash balance of \$70,998,859 at the end of FY 2025, FY 2026 projected interest earnings of \$2,400,000, and projected FY 2026 budget spending of \$6,230,170, the QSA JPA projects a positive cash balance of \$67,168,689 at the end of FY 2026 (Table 3).

**Table 3. FY 2026 Projected Fund Balance**

DESCRIPTION		CASH FLOW
FY 2025 Audited Fund Balance (6-30-25)		\$ 70,998,859
Sources	Projected Interest Income	\$ 2,400,000
Uses	Projected Environmental Mitigation	\$ (6,230,170)
FY 2026 Projected Fund Balance (6-30-26)		\$ 67,168,689

#### SECTION 4: FY 2027 BUDGET

FY 2026 projected revenues of \$2,400,000 will be used to meet anticipated expenditures from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, of \$6,230,170, resulting in a net loss of \$3,830,170 from the previous fiscal year. FY 2027 will begin with the projected year-end FY 2026 fund balance of \$67,168,689. Information summarizing the FY 2027 projected fund balance is presented in Table 5. Following the FY 2023 payoff by IID and then the FY 2024 payoffs by CVWD and the Water Authority, no further contributions are required from the QSA JPA water agencies. Table 4 provides the total contributions made by each water agency to the JPA.

**Table 4. Summary of Mitigation Contributions by Water Agency**

AGENCY	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS <sup>3</sup>
CVWD	\$66,761,133
IID	\$104,058,578
Water Authority <sup>4</sup>	\$90,751,175
<b>Total Agency Contributions</b>	<b>\$261,570,886</b>

<sup>3</sup> As of July 2023, the last water agency contributions to the JPA were completed. No further water agency contributions are required.

<sup>4</sup> Water Authority contributions were reduced by credits for payments made to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for implementation of Conservation and Mitigation Measures for the Colorado River.

Revenue sources for FY 2027 include interest income estimated at \$2,100,000. Projected spending in FY 2027 is \$12,926,983, primarily for environmental mitigation, shown by mitigation task in Table 6. Based upon the projected cash balance of \$67,168,689 at the end of FY 2026, estimated FY 2027 interest income of \$2,100,000, and projected FY 2027 budget spending of \$12,926,983, the QSA JPA projects a positive fund balance of \$56,341,706 at the end of FY 2027 (Table 5). Projected uses exceed sources, indicating a decrease of \$10,826,983 in cash reserves for FY 2027.

**Table 5. FY 2027 Projected Fund Balance**

DESCRIPTION		CASH FLOW
FY 2026 Projected Cash Balance (6-30-26)		\$ 67,168,689
Sources	Projected Interest Income	\$ 2,100,000
Uses	Projected Environmental Mitigation	\$ (12,926,983)
FY 2027 Projected Fund Balance (6-30-27)		\$ 56,341,706

## SECTION 5: FY 2027 WORK PLAN

The FY 2027 budget totaling \$12,926,983 includes funding for environmental mitigation activities for compliance with environmental permits and regulatory requirements, and designated administrative costs. A detailed breakdown of anticipated expenditures by task is provided in Table 6. Mitigation measures are implemented consistent with environmental permit requirements of the QSA conserved water transfers. Major expenditure categories for mitigation measures to be implemented in FY 2027 are shown in Table 7 and include: the Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program (Task 24), the QSA Implementation Team Biologists (Task 2), and the Managed Marsh Areas (Task 8).

Table 6. Detailed FY 2027 Projected Expenditures

ACTIVELY FUNDED TASKS		
TASK	TASK DESCRIPTION	FY 2027 BUDGET
2	QSA Implementation Team Biologists	\$ 1,510,511
4	Salton Sea Salinity and Elevation Program	\$ 6,000
6	Tamarisk Scrub Habitat – Surveys and Mitigation	\$ 58,136
8/8A/8B	Drain Habitat (Aquatic) - Create/Manage/Monitor "Managed Marsh" Areas	\$ 644,636
15	Pre-Construction Activity Burrowing Owl Surveys and Relocation	\$ 500
17	Farmer and Public Education Program	\$ 5,000
18	Desert Pupfish Abundance and Distribution Study	\$ 12,283
20	Pupfish Construction and Maintenance Conservation Measures	\$ 100,000
24	Salton Sea Air Quality	\$ 10,472,000
36	JPA Audit Fees	\$ 10,395
37	JPA Bank Fees	\$ 9,500
38	Financial Advisor	\$ 35,000
42	Brown Pelican Sea	\$ 55,916
44	Pupfish Refugium	\$ 7,106
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 12,926,983</b>

NOT ACTIVELY FUNDED TASKS		
TASK	TASK DESCRIPTION	FY 2027 BUDGET
1	QSA Implementation Team	\$ -
3	Environmental Reporting and Monitoring	\$ -
5	Salton Sea Mitigation Water to Salton Sea	\$ -
7	Drain Habitat - Initial Vegetation and Habitat Surveys	\$ -
9	Drain Habitat Restrictions/Requirements for Construction and Maintenance	\$ -
10/10A	Worker Education Program Covered Species Training and Manual	\$ -
11	Desert Habitat Survey and Mapping of Right of Way	\$ -
12	Desert Habitat Create/Maintain Desert Habitat	\$ -
13	Changes to Operations on IID Canals to Avoid Covered Species	\$ -
14	Burrowing Owl Worker Annual Education and Manual	\$ -
16	Burrowing Owl Relative Abundance and Distribution Surveys	\$ -
19/19A	Pupfish Selenium Drain Studies	\$ -
21	Salvage of Razorback Suckers when Dewatering Canals	\$ -
22	Maintain Habitat on Fallowed Parcels	\$ -
23	Covered Species Baseline and Monitoring Surveys	\$ -
25	Minimize Dust Emissions from Fallowed Lands	\$ -
26	Drain Connectivity to Salton Sea Elevation Decrease	\$ -
27	Grade Spoil/Roads from Drain Maintenance	\$ -
28	Power Line Markers for Pumpback and Seepage Recovery Systems	\$ -
29	Prepare and Implement Management Plan for Abandoned Portions of AAC	\$ -
30	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveys and Habitat Monitoring	\$ -
31	Elf Owl Surveys	\$ -
32	Desert Tortoise Survey and Avoidance	\$ -
33	Least Tern Surveys	\$ -
34	Rail and Bittern Surveys	\$ -
35	Management and Planning	\$ -

39	Bond Counsel Fees	\$ -
40	2001 Biological Opinion Measures	\$ -
41	Brown Pelican Coast	\$ -
43	Salton Sea Shoreline Strand Study	\$ -
45	Recreation Facilities at Salton Sea	\$ -
46	QSA JPA Website Maintenance Services	\$ -

**Table 7. Major Projected Expenditures in FY 2027**

TASK	TASK DESCRIPTION	FY 2027 BUDGET	PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET
<b>24</b>	Salton Sea Air Quality	\$ 10,472,000	81%
<b>2</b>	QSA Implementation Team Biologists	\$ 1,510,511	12%
<b>8</b>	Drain Habitat (Aquatic) – Create, Manage, Monitor "Managed Marsh" Areas	\$ 644,636	5%
--	Other Tasks	\$ 299,836	2%
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 12,926,983</b>	<b>100%</b>

Implementation of the Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program (Task 24) is the largest budgeted expenditure for FY 2027 totaling \$10,472,000 or 81% of the total FY 2027 budget. Air quality mitigation includes activities related to annual emissions inventory, air quality network operations and maintenance, proactive dust control planning, groundwater development, air quality mitigation planning, and restricting public access to the Salton Sea playa.

The QSA IT Biologists (Task 2) is the second largest budgeted expenditure making up \$1,510,511 or 12% of the total FY 2027 budget. This item includes funding for nine full-time staff and expenses for their fleet of vehicles used for environmental mitigation implementation.

The Managed Marsh Areas (Task 8) is the third largest budgeted expenditure totaling \$644,636 or 5% of the total FY 2027 budget. Expenditures for FY 2027 include operations and maintenance activities for all three phases of the marsh.

Other tasks make up the remaining 2% of the projected FY 2027 expenditures, totaling \$299,836. The budget also includes reimbursements to the Water Authority for designated financial costs such as bank fees, audit fees, and financial consultants (investment management).

Audited historical spending by task is included as Appendix 1. Detailed summaries for individual mitigation measures by task, including a detailed breakdown of FY 2027 expenditures and planned and completed work, are included in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 – Audited Historical QSA JPA Spending, FY 2004 - FY 2025

Task	Task Description	Total FYs 2004-2025	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2021	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2018	FYs 2004-2017
1	QSA Implementation Team	\$383,879									\$383,879
2	QSA Implementation Team Biologists	\$13,524,842	\$1,380,419	\$1,294,211	\$1,243,889	\$920,524	\$982,168	\$910,337	\$1,081,358	\$1,026,602	\$4,685,334
3	Environmental Reporting and Monitoring	\$82,458									\$82,458
4	Salton Sea Salinity and Elevation Program	\$61,361	\$5,586	\$5,261	\$5,128	\$15,326	\$8,447	\$4,129	\$4,895	\$7,100	\$5,489
5	Salton Sea Mitigation Water to Salton Sea	\$96,666,141						\$7,043,618	\$34,142	\$9,851,798	\$79,736,583
6	Tamarisk Scrub Habitat - Surveys and Mitigation	\$160,307	\$50,900	\$24,437	\$62,816	\$7,678		\$4,928			\$9,548
7	Drain Habitat - Initial Vegetation and Habitat Surveys	\$209,123									\$209,123
8/8A /8B	Drain Habitat (Aquatic) - Create/Manage/Monitor "Managed Marsh" Areas	\$27,445,301	\$416,292	\$482,173	\$9,544,631	\$403,912	\$2,615,125	\$2,206,448	\$1,911,610	\$439,409	\$9,425,701
9	Drain Habitat Restrictions/Requirements for Construction and Maintenance	\$8,473									\$8,473
10/ 10a	Worker Education Program Covered Species Training and Manual	\$35,302									\$35,302
11	Desert Habitat Survey and Mapping of Right of Way	\$379,191									\$379,191

Appendix 1 – Audited Historical QSA JPA Spending, FY 2004 - FY 2025

Task	Task Description	Total FYs 2004-2025	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2021	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2018	FYs 2004-2017
12	Desert Habitat Create/Maintain Desert Habitat	\$17,300									\$17,300
13	Changes to Operations on IID Canals to Avoid Covered Species	\$0									\$0
14	Burrowing Owl Worker Annual Education and Manual	\$10,411									\$10,411
15	Pre-Construction Activity Burrowing Owl Surveys and Relocation	\$929,488	\$1,777	\$21	\$135	\$3,933				\$7,164	\$916,458
16	Burrowing Owl Relative Abundance and Distribution Surveys	\$3,519,615			\$2,762		\$46,155	\$206,984	\$224,314		\$3,039,400
17	Farmer and Public Education Program	\$31,018	\$4,341	\$2,783	\$5,646	\$2,493	\$1,600	\$2,437	\$2,150	\$1,600	\$7,968
18	Desert Pupfish Abundance and Distribution Study	\$84,758	\$21	\$297	\$9,238	-\$17,165	\$60,307	\$17,653	\$116	\$8	\$14,283
19/ 19A	Pupfish Selenium Drain Studies	\$2,815,442	\$47,294	\$158,121	\$90,053	\$58,234	\$167,559	\$118,586	\$157,978	\$36,468	\$1,981,149
20	Pupfish Construction and Maintenance Conservation Measures	\$309,900	\$47,631	\$10,668	\$4,722	\$65,382	\$4,273	\$4,234	\$124,105	\$11,653	\$37,232
21	Salvage of Razorback Suckers when Dewatering Canals	\$9,534									\$9,534
22	Maintain Habitat on Fallowed Parcels	\$0									\$0
23	Covered Species Baseline and Monitoring Surveys <sup>1</sup>	\$5,395,188								\$800	\$5,394,388
24	Salton Sea Air Quality	\$50,606,977	\$7,267,508	\$6,390,939	\$3,957,503	\$4,588,075	\$5,478,183	\$4,553,484	\$4,024,938	\$3,483,968	\$10,862,379

<sup>1</sup> Includes Avian Studies from FY 2006, 2007, and 2008.

Appendix 1 – Audited Historical QSA JPA Spending, FY 2004 - FY 2025

Task	Task Description	Total FYs 2004-2025	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2021	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2018	FYs 2004-2017
25	Minimize Dust Emissions from Fallowed Lands	\$57,775									\$57,775
26	Drain Connectivity to Salton Sea Elevation Decrease	\$0									\$0
27	Grade Spoil/Roads from Drain Maintenance	\$0									\$0
28	Power Line Markers for Pumpback and Seepage Recovery Systems	\$1,960									\$1,960
29	Prepare and Implement Management Plan for Abandoned Portions of AAC	\$0									\$0
30	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveys and Habitat Monitoring <sup>2</sup>	\$62,938									\$62,938
31	Elf Owl Surveys	\$0									\$0
32	Desert Tortoise Survey and Avoidance	\$0									\$0
33	Least Tern Surveys	\$0									\$0
34	Rail and Bittern Surveys	\$0									\$0
35	Management and Planning	\$336,979								\$1,367	\$335,612
36	JPA Audit Fees	\$210,468	\$10,090	\$10,090	\$10,770	\$10,560	\$10,770	\$10,560	\$10,350	\$10,350	\$126,928

<sup>2</sup> Includes Task 46 from previous years.

Appendix 1 – Audited Historical QSA JPA Spending, FY 2004 - FY 2025

Task	Task Description	Total FYs 2004-2025	FY 2025	FY 2024	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2021	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2018	FYs 2004-2017
37	JPA Bank Fees	\$50,989	\$7,802	\$7,915	\$1,855	\$1,776	\$2,082	\$2,495	\$1,405	\$1,526	\$24,133
38	Financial Advisor	\$133,123	\$34,040	\$31,672	\$16,117	\$12,567	\$9,230				\$29,497
39	Bond Counsel Fees	\$25,000									\$25,000
40	2001 Biological Opinion Measures	\$3,349,126									\$3,349,126
41	Brown Pelican Coast	\$0									\$0
42	Brown Pelican Sea	\$5,517				\$329	\$4,017	\$1,171			\$0
43	Salton Sea Shoreline Strand Study	\$0									\$0
44	Pupfish Refugium	\$85,696	\$799	\$3,844	\$14,187	\$3,051			\$3,174		\$60,641
45	Recreation Facilities at Salton Sea	\$22,603							\$3,911	\$10,999	\$7,693
46	QSA JPA Website	\$9,340				\$9,340					\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$207,037,523</b>	<b>\$9,274,500</b>	<b>\$8,422,432</b>	<b>\$14,969,452</b>	<b>\$6,086,015</b>	<b>\$9,389,916</b>	<b>\$15,087,064</b>	<b>\$7,584,446</b>	<b>\$14,890,812</b>	<b>\$121,332,886</b>
<b>Biological Opinion Measures Credited to Water Authority</b>		<b>\$3,349,126</b>									<b>\$3,349,126</b>
<b>Total JPA Expenditures</b>		<b>\$203,688,397</b>	<b>\$9,274,500</b>	<b>\$8,422,432</b>	<b>\$14,969,452</b>	<b>\$6,086,015</b>	<b>\$9,389,916</b>	<b>\$15,087,064</b>	<b>\$7,584,446</b>	<b>\$14,890,812</b>	<b>\$117,983,760</b>

## Work Task 1: QSA Implementation Team

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$383,879

**Description and Purpose:** The Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) Implementation Team (IT) is to hold quarterly IT meetings consisting of representatives from Imperial Irrigation District (IID), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), to guide implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and In-Valley California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit for the duration of the HCP and CESA Permit.

**Permit Reference:** HCP; CESA Permit 4(a)(ii) and MMRP 8

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Held quarterly implementation team meetings and reviewed annual budget.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Quarterly implementation team meetings were held virtually at no cost to the QSA JPA.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** No expense to the QSA JPA is expected for this item due to quarterly implementation team meetings being held virtually.

## Work Task 2: QSA Implementation Team Biologists

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$1,510,511	\$1,301,730	\$1,442,311	\$13,524,842

**Description and Purpose:** Salary and expenses for IT Biologists.

**Permit Reference:** HCP, General 1; CESA Permit 4(a)(i) and MMRP 7

**Accomplishments Through FY 2024:** Covered environmental mitigation staff expenses and fuel and maintenance for vehicles used for environmental mitigation implementation.

**FY 2025 Activities:** Fund environmental mitigation staff and fuel and maintenance for vehicles used for environmental mitigation implementation.

**Proposed FY 2026 Activities:** Continue to fund environmental mitigation staff and fuel and maintenance for vehicles used for environmental mitigation implementation as detailed below.

Task Activities	Activity Description	Budget (\$)
IT Biologist	Environmental compliance, supervisor	225,141.80
Environmental Specialist I	Six environmental specialist I positions for JPA year	822,635.40
Environmental Specialist II	Two environmental specialist II positions for JPA year	309,031.35
Clerical Technician	One clerical technician (part-time)	66,300.00
Vehicle (2x4) - TPU2 (Class 02)	Includes fuel and maintenance for one vehicle at 168 hours per month for 12 months	10,463.04
Vehicle (4x4) - TUP24X (Class 05)	Includes fuel and maintenance for six vehicles at 168 hours per month for 12 months	53,948.16
Vehicle (SUV) - TPU24X (Class 05)	Includes fuel and maintenance for one vehicle at 168 hours per month for 12 months	8,991.36
Off-Road Vehicle O&M	Expenses for annual license, fuel, and upkeep for vehicle and trailer donated by IID	2,000.00
Off-Road Vehicle Trailer	Trailer operation and maintenance (O&M) (tire replacement and inspection), registration fees	1,000.00
Off-Road Vehicle	O&M of four-seat, off-road vehicle for hauling material and equipment onto project sites, annual license/registration, fuel, tires and oil changes as needed.	4,000.00
General Expenses	General supplies and trainings	7,000.00
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>1,510,511.11</b>

### Work Task 3: Environmental Reporting and Monitoring

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$82,458

**Description and Purpose:** Report annually to USFWS and CDFW the amount of water conserved, transferred, and allowed to flow to the Salton Sea.

Make available to USFWS and CDFW valley-wide statistics regarding agricultural production and implementation of water conservation measures, including total acreage in agricultural production in the IID water service area, acres of each crop grown, acres of land fallowed, acres of participating farms, and total amount of water conserved and transferred.

Submit annual report to SWRCB on actions taken to comply with the mitigation measures and conservation strategies included in the Final EIR/EIS and HCP and all other state and federal permits and regulatory requirements.

Prepare Adaptive Management Plan for monitoring effectiveness of mitigation measures. Submit reports of the previous year's activities to USFWS, CDFW and SWRCB, including details of fish and wildlife conservation actions implemented, monitoring/surveying activities, and water conservation activities.

**Permit Reference:** HCP Chp 4; In-Valley Biological Opinion, TC Reporting Requirements; CESA Permit Conditions of Approval, General Conditions (a) and (b) and MMRPs; SWRCB Section 4

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Annual report sent by March 31 of each year for the previous calendar year.

**FY 2026 Activities:** There was no expense for this item due to annual reports being submitted electronically and posted on IID's website.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** No expense expected for this item due to annual reports being submitted electronically and posted on IID's website.

## Work Task 4: Salton Sea Salinity and Elevation Program

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$6,000	\$1,540	\$6,000	\$61,361

**Description and Purpose:** To demonstrate compliance with the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy and monitor salinity and elevation of the Salton Sea.

**Permit Reference:** SWRCB-6; CESA Permit MMRP 40

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Collected salinity measurement data at the Salton Sea for lab analysis and completed annual selenium salinity monitoring.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Collected salinity measurement data at the Salton Sea for lab analysis.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Continue to fund salinity measurements at the Salton Sea for lab analysis as detailed below.

Task Activities	Activity Description	Budget (\$)
Salinity Measurement around the Salton Sea	Conduct salinity measurements around the Salton Sea and perform lab analysis of samples	6,000.00
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>6,000.00</b>

## Work Task 5: Salton Sea Mitigation Water to Salton Sea

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$96,666,141

**Description and Purpose:** To implement refined Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy (SSHCS), which requires provision of mitigation water to the Salton Sea for the first 15 years of the project to mitigate reductions in inflow due to the transfer of water to the Water Authority.

Mitigation water will be delivered in accordance with the schedule in Table 1-3 of the 9/03 Addendum.

**Permit Reference:** SWRCB CESA Permit 4(c)(i) and MMRP 13

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Delivered 46,546 AF of mitigation water to the Salton Sea to resolve 2010 pre-delivery payback in FY 2020. Mitigation task is complete.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 6: Tamarisk Scrub Habitat - Surveys and Mitigation

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$58,136	\$2,130	\$58,136	\$160,307

**Description and Purpose:** To develop preconstruction survey checklists and protocols in consultation with the IT, to identify proposed construction and impacted vegetation and covered species. Specific survey protocol will be developed to monitor and quantify changes in the amount/quality of habitat in consultation with USFWS and CDFW.

Includes the evaluation of all potential cottonwood-willow and tamarisk stands for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher breeding habitat suitability, prior to IID water conservation activities that could impact tamarisk habitat.

**Permit Reference:** HCP-TREE 1-3; In-Valley Biological Opinion, Willow Flycatcher Measures 1-4; CESA Permit 4(f) and MMRPs 21-27, 29-36, 41, 42

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Installed native tree habitat in Managed Marsh Complex buffer zones.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Carry out O&M activities for native tree habitat, including repairs to flood irrigation, invasive species control, and supplemental planting.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Continue O&M activities for native tree habitat, including repairs to flood irrigation, invasive species control, and other related expenses as detailed below.

Task Activities	Activity Description	Budget (\$)
O&M of Native Tree Habitat at Managed Marsh Complex (Located within Buffer Zones)	Maintenance of created habitat includes repairs to flood irrigation, invasive species control, and other related expenses (Phase I, II, and additional sites)	54,636.35
Irrigation Water	Irrigation water purchased through Task 8 at \$20/AF	3,500.00
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>58,136.35</b>

## Work Task 7: Drain Habitat - Initial Vegetation and Habitat Surveys

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$209,123

**Description and Purpose:** To complete drain vegetation database, conduct covered species baseline surveys as necessary, and participate in a comprehensive planning process to address selenium impacts. Includes the evaluation of all potential cottonwood-willow and tamarisk stands for southwestern willow flycatcher breeding habitat suitability, based on characterizations provided in the draft Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan.

**Permit Reference:** HCP, Drain Habitat 1; In-Valley Biological Opinion Willow Flycatcher Measures 1-4; CESA Permit, 4(g) and MMRPs

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Completed baseline drain survey.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 8/8A/8B: Drain Habitat (Aquatic) - Create/Manage/Monitor "Managed Marsh" Areas

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$644,636	\$645,060	\$454,636	\$27,445,301

**Description and Purpose:** To create 959 acres of managed marsh habitat over a 15 year period, 1/3 of the total within the first five years. The specific amount will be determined by the IT, and approved by USFWS and CDFW, based upon the drain vegetation survey (an amount equal to the total amount of habitat in the drains), as well as the acreage required to compensate for selenium effects. Due diligence will be conducted on land chosen for Managed Marsh and land will be purchased for managed marsh. Additionally, reimburse IID for the appraised value of the land underlying the Managed Marsh Areas and for direct costs incurred by hiring a third-party appraiser (contractor) to determine the value of the land.

**Permit Reference:** HCP Drain Habitat; In-Valley Biological Opinion-Rail CM 1-2; CESA 4(g)(i) and MMRPs 45, 46, 47, 88, 101, 102, 103

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Phase I built in 2009 - 365 acres. Phase II built in 2014 - 360 acres. Phase III design and construction completed. Buffer zones double as native tree habitat for construction projects. Reimbursed IID for use of its land for the Managed Marsh Areas and its third-party appraiser.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Conducted O&M of Phases I, II, and III of Managed Marsh Complex.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Continue O&M of Managed Marsh Complex Phases I, II, and III as detailed below.

Task Activities	Activity Description	Budget (\$)
Irrigation Water	Irrigation water purchased through O lateral, P lateral, and Q laterals	205,000.00
O&M Phase I-III	Road grading, structure/pipe replacement, and washout maintenance (includes Northend Maintenance time)	85,000.00
Invasive Species Control	Chemical Control - includes in-house PCA and expenses, Eynon Weed Control Contract for Spraying & Chemicals  Mechanical Control - includes IID maintenance staff time for vegetation removal and conservation corps for hand removal	100,000.00
Adaptive Management Plan-Monitoring	HCP Team to conduct field monitoring for habitat and wildlife analysis; quarterly water sampling for selenium analysis; and annual water, sediment, and tissue sampling  Expenses include lab analysis (conducted by outside consultant), equipment, and satellite imagery.	54,636.35

Appendix 2 – Work Plan by Mitigation Task

Supplemental Planting	Supplemental planting willows, cottonwoods, palo verde, mulefat, and mesquite of in Phases II and III (done by landscape contractor)	200,000.00
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>644,636.35</b>

## Work Task 9: Drain Habitat Restrictions/Requirements for Construction and Maintenance

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$8,473

**Description and Purpose:** To implement the listed measures when conducting scheduled construction activities within rights-of-way along the AAC, East Highline, and portions of the Westside Main, Thistle, and Trifolium Extension Canals containing desert habitat (these measures may be modified during the permit term with the approval of USFWS and CDFW or based on survey results or adaptive management).

**Permit Reference:** HCP-Drain 3; CESA Permit 4(f)(i, ii, iii, and ix), 4(g), 4(i)(iv) and MMRPs 36, 49, 50, 70, 71, 76, 77, 89

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Completed pre-construction surveys for construction activities.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 10/10A: Worker Education Program Covered Species Training and Manual

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$35,302

**Description and Purpose:** To implement an annual worker education program for workers conducting O&M and construction activities to ensure compliance with the Desert Habitat Conservation Strategy. A worker education manual is to be prepared with the concurrence of USFWS and CDFW; copies are to be distributed to each person conducting O&M activities along the AAC, East Highline, Westside Main, Thistle, or Trifolium canals.

Includes review of worker education manual, updates as appropriate, and distribution to workers; copies are to be given to USFWS and CDFW. Workers' compliance is to be monitored with worker education manual procedures, and any infractions will be reported by the IT Biologist to the worker's supervisor.

**Permit Reference:** HCP-Desert 1; CESA Permit 4(i) MMRPs 58, 59, and 60

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Annual worker education trainings conducted at the beginning of each calendar year and then an additional training mid-year for new employees. In-person trainings have been transitioned to online video trainings. No future expenses are expected.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 11: Desert Habitat Survey and Mapping of Right of Way

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$379,191

**Description and Purpose:** To conduct a desert habitat survey encompassing IID's rights-of-way along the AAC (from the intersection with the East Highline Canal to the desilting basins at Imperial Dam) and the Westside Main, East Highline, Thistle, and Trifolium Extension Canals where the rights-of-way contain or are adjacent to desert habitat. Includes Identifying and mapping habitat and habitat features. A report of the results of the desert habitat survey is to be reported to USFWS and CDFW. The worker education manual will be updated to include a habitat map and map(s) of known locations of each of the covered species within the canal rights-of-way.

**Permit Reference:** HCP DH 4; CESA Permit 4(i)(v) MMRP 64

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Habitat survey conducted as part of initial habitat mapping at the beginning of the QSA.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 12: Desert Habitat Create/Maintain Desert Habitat

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$17,300

**Description and Purpose:** To determine the amount of habitat lost, and work with the IT to identify a replacement property (in a 1:1 ratio to the lost acreage) to be acquired or covered with a conservation easement if desert habitat used by covered species would be permanently lost due to O&M or construction activities. IID may not permanently remove more than 100 acres of desert habitat and/or tamarisk scrub habitat over the permit term.

**Permit Reference:** HCP-DH 5; CESA Permit 4(i)(vi) and MMRPs 66, 67, 68

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Developed revegetation plan for disturbed desert habitat, as needed.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

### Work Task 13: Changes to Operations on IID Canals to Avoid Covered Species

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Description and Purpose:** To implement the listed "interim" practices in connection with O&M activities. These measures may be modified during the permit term based upon survey results or adaptive management.

**Permit Reference:** HCP, Desert 2; CESA Permit, Conditions 4(i)(iii), 4(i)(vii) to (xiv) and MMRPs 50, 60, 62, 63, 70, 71, 76 and 77

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** No major modifications to O&M activities to date.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 14: Burrowing Owl Worker Annual Education and Manual

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$10,411

**Description and Purpose:** To develop and implement an annual worker education program to ensure workers are familiar with Burrowing Owl mitigation measures. Also to ensure new workers are informed of and understand the HCP requirements. A worker education manual is to be prepared and distributed to each person conducting drain cleaning or canal maintenance procedures and refresher instruction is to be conducted. Copies of the manual are to be provided to USFWS and CDFW and approval of the workers' manual from USFWS and CDFW must be obtained. The IT Biologist will conduct random checks of workers to ensure compliance with the HCP.

**Permit Reference:** HCP, Owl 1

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** The Burrowing Owl Worker Education and Manual have been combined with Task 10/10A: Worker Education Program to conduct one annual worker education program. All Water Department O&M and construction workers are trained in January of each year. Zanjeros and water patrolmen are trained in February/March of each year. A mid-year make-up training is conducted for anyone who missed trainings at the beginning of the year or who have been hired since trainings occurred. Annual education program has been rolled into Task 10/10A.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 15: Pre-Construction Activity Burrowing Owl Surveys and Relocation

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$500	\$60	\$500	\$929,488

**Description and Purpose:** To implement the following in connection with construction and O&M activities:

- Conduct visual inspection of banks and indicate location of burrows; avoid collapsing or filling burrows, exercise care in removing sediment, and avoid moving the excavator bucket directly over a burrow.
- Develop standard operating procedures through teamwork of IT biologist and maintenance workers for drain/canal cleaning.

**Permit Reference:** HCP-Owl 2-8

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Annual inspections of canals and drains prior to all O&M activities and relocation of burrowing owl burrows, as needed, for construction or O&M activities.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Conducted annual inspections of canals and drains for burrows prior to all O&M activities.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Continue annual inspections of canals and drains for burrows prior to all O&M activities and replace or purchase equipment as detailed below.

Task Activities	Activity Description	Budget (\$)
Equipment	Replacement of or purchasing equipment: GPS, cameras, etc. as needed	500.00
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>500.00</b>

## Work Task 16: Burrowing Owl Relative Abundance and Distribution Surveys

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$3,519,615

**Description and Purpose:** To prepare and conduct a study design for a relative abundance and distribution survey of burrowing owls in the HCP area; prepare in consultation with a statistician; obtain IT approval of the study design.

**Permit Reference:** HCP, Owl 7

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Population studies conducted in 2007/2008. Sub-sampling conducted in 2011/2012. "Efficacy study" on burrowing owl marking protocol in 2015/2016. Two-year subsampling effort in 2019 and 2020.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A. No surveys planned.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A. No surveys planned.

## Work Task 17: Farmer and Public Education Program

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$5,000	\$3,800	\$5,000	\$31,018

**Description and Purpose:** To implement a farmer and public education program on burrowing owls; periodically include information on burrowing owls in water bills to farmers.

**Permit Reference:** HCP, Owl 9

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Designed advertisements to educate the public on burrowing owls and conducted public outreach presentations to various groups.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Engaged with school-age students to design local magazine advertisements for burrowing owls and provide public outreach presentations.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Continue public outreach presentations, design an ad, and related activities as detailed below.

Task Activities	Activity Description	Budget (\$)
Design an Ad	Classroom presentation on burrowing owls and other programs, students design ads for publication in local magazine (quarterly)	4,000.00
Career Day & Science Fairs	Participation in career days and science fairs	500.00
Display Costs	Costs for display materials	500.00
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>5,000.00</b>

## Work Task 18: Desert Pupfish Abundance and Distribution Study

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$12,283	\$11,610	\$12,283	\$84,758

**Description and Purpose:** To develop in coordination with the IT a protocol for monitoring pupfish presence in drains currently maintained, and in drain channels constructed, to increase the amount of potential pupfish drain habitat under Pupfish 3.

**Permit Reference:** HCP, Pupfish 4; In-Valley Biological Opinion, Pupfish CM 3; CESA Permit

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Developed desert pupfish distribution monitoring protocol, purchased monitoring equipment, and, to date, implemented pupfish monitoring. Trained IID environmental mitigation staff to survey for pupfish within drains around the Salton Sea.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Conducted pupfish distribution surveys.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** IID staff will continue to monitor pupfish within IID drains at the Salton Sea and purchase necessary monitoring equipment and consumables as detailed below.

Task Activities	Activity Description	Budget (\$)
Pupfish distribution surveys	Purchase meter equipment as needed, minnow traps, and consumables (buckets, ropes, cat food, etc.)	12,283.25
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>12,283.25</b>

## Work Task 19/19A: Pupfish Selenium Drain Studies

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$0	\$120,890	\$112,100	\$2,815,442

**Description and Purpose:** To operate and maintain drains in a manner that minimizes the effects of water conservation on water quality. To implement the selenium drain monitoring study. To work together with the IT to determine the best means for managing the drain channels to minimize potential selenium effects on pupfish, based upon the findings of studies conducted by USFWS or others and continue funding of the Selenium Toxicity Study.

**Permit Reference:** HCP-Pupfish 4; CESA Permit Conditions 4(j)(ii), 4(j)(vi), 4(j)(vii), 4(j)(x); MMRPs 80, 81, 87, 94; In-Valley Biological Opinion; SWRCB Order

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Completed the USGS Selenium Study in 2009. Recommendations from USGS study were used to create Selenium Work Plan for the RWQCB Ag Waiver completed; the first year of three year study began in late 2018. IID staff collected water quality samples in drains to conduct selenium analysis each year.

**FY 2026 Activities:** All tasks completed in FY 2025 with final invoices paid in FY 2026.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 20: Pupfish Construction and Maintenance Conservation Measures

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$100,000	\$38,290	\$100,000	\$309,900

**Description and Purpose:** To implement the listed measures in connection with construction activities (i.e., in-channel modifications) that directly affect pupfish drains and require dewatering or removal of drain sections.

**Permit Reference:** HCP-Pupfish 6; CESA Permit MMRPs 80, 86, 89, 90, 94, 95, 96, 97; In-Valley Biological Opinion

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Any required drain maintenance activities have been consulted with CDFW. Pupfish trapping occurred five consecutive days with no pupfish caught before work has started.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Work to develop a Pupfish Habitat Connectivity Plan with consultant, USFWS, CDFW, and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) for IID and CVWD drains. Draft Pupfish Habitat Connectivity Plan being reviewed by the IT.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Develop a Pupfish Drain Connection Plan & Design as detailed below.

Task Activities	Activity Description	Budget (\$)
Pupfish Drain Connection Plan & Design	ECORP Consulting and time for IID engineer (Engineering Tech I)	100,000.00
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>100,000.00</b>

## Work Task 21: Salvage of Razorback Suckers when Dewatering Canals

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$9,534

**Description and Purpose:** The IT will develop a procedure for salvaging and returning fish to the Colorado River and ensure that a person qualified to capture and handle razorback suckers, and approved by USFWS and CDFW, will be present during dewatering of main canals or reservoirs.

**Permit Reference:** HCP-Razorback Sucker 1; CESA Permit 4(k)(i) and MMRP 99

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** No relocation efforts have been conducted to date.

**FY 2026 Activities:** No razorback suckers were found.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** No relocation of razorback suckers is expected.

## Work Task 22: Maintain Habitat on Fallowed Parcels

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Description and Purpose:** N/A

**Permit Reference:** N/A

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Task has no value. Fallowed parcels are privately owned with residual cover from previous crops. Fallowed parcels are scattered around the valley, so no one area has had a significant percentage of fallowed lands. Fallowing is no longer conducted as a conservation measure post 2017.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 23: Covered Species Baseline and Monitoring Surveys

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$5,395,188

**Description and Purpose:** To work with the IT to define specific surveys and studies to be conducted as part of a study program for the "Other Species" listed in Table 3.9-1 of the HCP within the HCP area. The use of created or acquired native tree habitat is to be monitored. A baseline desert survey will be conducted.

**Permit Reference:** HCP-OTHER Species 1 and 2; CESA Permit 4(i)(v) and MMRPs 35, 48, 64, 65; HCP; CESA Permit 4(i)(v) and MMRP 64; HCP DH 2, DH3, DH4

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Completed baseline survey of covered species in 2009. Purchased imagery for Imperial Valley agricultural area. Conducted annual marsh bird protocol surveys and southwestern willow flycatcher surveys.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Survey covered species, primarily marsh birds at the Managed Marsh Complex and southwestern willow flycatchers.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Continue surveys of covered species, primarily marsh birds at the Managed Marsh and southwestern willow flycatchers.

## Work Task 24: Salton Sea Air Quality

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$10,472,000	\$4,042,180	\$16,352,500	\$50,606,977

**Description and Purpose:** To continue implementation of the 4-step air quality plan: (1) Restrict Access, (2) Research and Monitoring, (3) Emission Reduction Credits, (4) Direct Emissions Reductions.

**Permit Reference:** SWRCB-8; EIR/EIS STEP 2, AQPLAN-AQ 7

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Conducted activities related to annual emissions inventory, air quality network O&M, proactive dust control planning, groundwater development, air quality emissions inventory.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Started construction of the Clubhouse Vegetation Project and advanced permitting for the Bombay Beach Vegetation Project.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Continue to carry out activities related to annual emissions inventory, air quality network O&M, proactive dust control planning, groundwater development, air quality mitigation planning, and public access restrictions on Salton Sea playa as detailed below.

Task Activities	Activity Description	Budget (\$)
Annual Emissions Estimate	Develop fiscal year annual emissions estimate: map playa exposure, monitor playa characteristics, Portable In-Situ Wind Erosion Laboratory (PISWERL), estimate annual emissions and identify areas for proactive dust control projects	757,300.00
AQ Network Operations & Maintenance	O&M for six air quality stations, O&M for portable MET/camera stations and O&M for Roundshot camera network	515,000.00
Planning and Design	Annual PDCP, Planning, Characterization & Design: identifying priority playa and completing site characterization to support dust control planning, planning and design of Alamo South Maintenance (Phase I), planning and design of Alamo South Maintenance (Phase II), planning and design of surface roughening expansion and O&M, stakeholder support, and permitting	1,799,700.00
Performance Monitoring of Implemented Sites	Monitoring of implemented sites for operation and maintenance	300,000.00
Clubhouse Vegetation Project	Construction closure, O&M (including groundwater wells) \$30,000 per acre - 10% veg cover	300,000.00
Red Hill Bay BACM Project	Construct Red Hill Bay BACM project to comply with Imperial County Air Pollution Control District Stipulated Order	3,000,000.00

Appendix 2 – Work Plan by Mitigation Task

Bombay Beach Vegetation Project	Construct Bombay Beach Vegetation Project (includes permit fees)	2,000,000.00
Wister Frink Surface Roughening	Construct surface roughening (assumes \$1,000 per acre for implementation)  Milestones: 275 acres 1st year and 325 acres 2nd year	100,000.00
Expansion and O&M of Implemented Surface Roughening Sites	Maintenance on implemented surface roughening sites as needed due to degradation or storm damage (assumes \$1,000 per acre for implementation)	250,000.00
Alamo South Phase I O/M	Replace some surface roughening with bales	1,000,000.00
Groundwater Resource Monitoring	Piezometer monitoring and reporting (O&M as needed)	300,000.00
Restrict Access	Restrict public access on playa using signs, gates, concrete blocks	50,000.00
Other Air Quality as Needed Technical & Field Services	Unanticipated support from outside services may include: regulatory support, field monitoring, and instrumentation replacement.	100,000.00
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>10,472,000.00</b>

## Work Task 25: Minimize Dust Emissions from Fallowed Lands

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$57,775

**Description and Purpose:** To implement at least one of the Best Management Practices ("BMPs") to minimize PM10 emissions prior to and after fallowing.

**Permit Reference:** SWRCB-8; EIR/EIS-AQ 3

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Fallowed fields are required to have a crop left in place for dust mitigation at the owners expense. No cost to the JPA.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 26: Drain Connectivity to Salton Sea Elevation Decrease

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Description and Purpose:** To ensure an appropriate level of connectivity between pupfish populations within individual drains that connect to the Sea and are below the first check (at the north and south ends of the Sea) if Salton Sea conditions become unsuitable for pupfish. To maintain created pupfish habitats for the duration of the term of the take permits.

**Permit Reference:** HCP-SS 2; In-Valley Biological Opinion; CESA Permit MMRP 79, 80

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Drain connectivity for pupfish due to salinity levels is included in Task 20.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Included in Task 20.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Included in Task 20.

## Work Task 27: Grade Spoil/Roads from Drain Maintenance

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Description and Purpose:** When grading spoils from drain or canal cleaning, the soil to be graded will first be rolled away from the channel and broken up into small clods and slowly rolled back towards the channel. Care will be taken to not roll the soil back down the slope.

**Permit Reference:** Owl-3, HCP

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** IID protocols for drain and canal cleaning include spoil to be graded away from the channel. Costs for burrowing owl marking included in Task 15.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Included in Task 15.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Included in Task 15.

## Work Task 28: Power Line Markers for Pumpback and Seepage Recovery Systems

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,960

**Description and Purpose:** To install markers in accordance with industry standards in order to reduce bird strikes and to alert birds to the presence of the lines if IID builds additional power lines to provide power to pumps for tailwater return systems. If additional lines are erected, submit a report to USFWS and CDFW.

**Permit Reference:** HCP-AG 1; CESA Permit MMRPs 55, 57

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** N/A

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A

## Work Task 29: Prepare and Implement Management Plan for Abandoned Portions of AAC

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Description and Purpose:** To prepare and implement a Management Plan for abandoned portions of AAC.

**Permit Reference:** CESA Permit MMRP 78

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** N/A.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

### Work Task 30: Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveys and Habitat Monitoring

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$62,938

**Description and Purpose:** To carry out Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Surveys.

**Permit Reference:** CESA Permit 4(f) and MMRP 41, 42; HCP; In-Valley Biological Opinion, Willow Flycatcher Measures

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Included in Task 23.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Included in Task 23.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Included in Task 23.

### Work Task 31: Elf Owl Surveys

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Description and Purpose:** To carry out pre-construction surveys of potential habitat with a 0.25 mile radius for nesting owls.

**Permit Reference:** CESA Permit 4(f)(ix) and MMRP 44

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Included in Task 23.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Included in Task 23.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Included in Task 23.

### Work Task 32: Desert Tortoise Survey and Avoidance

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Description and Purpose:** To carry out pre-construction surveys and avoidance or minimization.

**Permit Reference:** CESA Permit 4(i) and MMRP 71 to 75; HCP DH 2 and DH 3

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Included in Task 23.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Included in Task 23.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Included in Task 23.

### Work Task 33: Least Tern Surveys

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Description and Purpose:** Permittee is to use fencing or other techniques to protect nesting terns if least terns begin nesting at the Salton Sea.

**Permit Reference:** CESA Permit 4(e) and MMRP 20

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Included in Task 23.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Included in Task 23.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Included in Task 23.

### Work Task 34: Rail and Bittern Surveys

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Description and Purpose:** To carry out Managed Marsh monitoring and initial baseline monitoring of suitable agricultural drain habitat.

**Permit Reference:** CESA Permit 4(g) and MMRPs 51, 52, 54; In-Valley Biological Opinion, Rail Measures; HCP

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Included in Task 23.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Included in Task 23.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Included in Task 23.

### Work Task 35: Management and Planning

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$336,979

**Description and Purpose:** Management and Planning.

**Permit Reference:** N/A

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Funded costs for monthly accounting, invoicing, and budget development.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Monthly accounting, invoicing, and budget development are managed internally by IID staff at no expense to the QSA JPA.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:**

No expense to the QSA JPA is expected for this item. Monthly accounting, invoicing, and budget development will continue to be managed internally by IID staff.

### Work Task 36: JPA Audit Fees

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$10,395	\$10,090	\$10,090	\$210,468

**Description and Purpose:** To pay for JPA audit fees.

**Permit Reference:** N/A

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Paid for JPA auditor services.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Pay for JPA auditor services.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Pay for JPA auditor services.

### Work Task 37: JPA Bank Fees

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$50,989

**Description and Purpose:** To pay for JPA bank fees.

**Permit Reference:** N/A

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Paid for JPA bank fees.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Pay JPA bank fees.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Pay for JPA Bank Fees.

### Work Task 38: Financial Advisor

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$35,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$133,123

**Description and Purpose:** To pay for financial advisor services.

**Permit Reference:** N/A

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** In FY 2007, the QSA JPA hired First Southwest Company as a financial advisor tasked with analyzing projected expenditures and existing payment schedules to develop options for an upcoming deficit. This led to the 2007 Advanced Payment Agreement. In FY 2020, the QSA JPA hired Chandler Asset Management as an investment advisor.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Pay for investment management services (Chandler Asset Management).

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Pay for investment management services (Chandler Asset Management).

### Work Task 39: Bond Counsel Fees

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$25,000

**Description and Purpose:** To pay for bond counsel fees.

**Permit Reference:** N/A

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** In FY 2007, the QSA JPA hired Orrick, Herrington, and Sutcliffe to advise on the potential issuance of bonds.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 40: 2001 Biological Opinion Measures

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$3,349,126

**Description and Purpose:** The Bureau of Reclamation’s implementation of “on-river” measures including backwater marsh creation, razorback sucker stocking, willow flycatcher habitat, and bonytail chub rearing. Costs for this task have been credited to the Water Authority.

**Permit Reference:** 2001 LCR BO; CESA

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Section 9.5 of the JPA Agreement provides for a \$3.118 million credit to the Water Authority for certain on-river mitigation activities that are implemented by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). Specifically, the language states “SDCWA shall receive credit toward its payment obligations under this Agreement, not to exceed a present value of \$3,118,000, for payments made to BOR for satisfaction of Environmental Mitigation Requirements pursuant to that agreement among BOR, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), and SDCWA, dated October 10, 2003, regarding responsibility for implementation of Conservation and Mitigation Measures for the Colorado River described in a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion dated January 12, 2001.”

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

### Work Task 41: Brown Pelican Coast

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Description and Purpose:** To construct, maintain, and monitor major coastal roost sites in San Diego Bay and Santa Barbara Harbor.

**Permit Reference:** CESA 4(d); 2002 In-Valley BO BP CM-1

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** N/A.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

## Work Task 42: Brown Pelican Sea

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$55,916	\$ -	\$55,916	\$5,517

**Description and Purpose:** To construct, maintain, and monitor roost sites at the Salton Sea.

**Permit Reference:** CESA 3(c); 2002 In-Valley BO BP CM-1; HCP SS-1

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** N/A.

**FY 2026 Activities:** IID and CDFW continue to consult on the scope of this task.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Develop a construction cost estimate for this task as detailed below. Consultation with CDFW is ongoing.

Task Activities	Activity Description	Budget (\$)
Two roost sites within IID reservoirs near Salton Sea	Engineers time (hourly rate at estimated 350 hours) to design concept roosts (will coordinate design with IT before moving to final design)	55,916.00
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>55,916.00</b>

### Work Task 43: Salton Sea Shoreline Strand Study

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

**Description and Purpose:** To survey for and mitigate, if required, impacts to tamarisk scrub upon completion of Salton Sea mitigation deliveries.

**Permit Reference:** HCP SS-3; HCP 4(f)

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** N/A.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A. No imagery is expected to be purchased and existing IID equipment will be used.

## Work Task 44: Pupfish Refugium

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$7,106	\$1,290	\$7,106	\$85,696

**Description and Purpose:** To construct and maintain one refugium pond.

**Permit Reference:** HCP SS-2; 2002 In-Valley BO DP CM-1; CESA 4(j)

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Pupfish refugium built in 2010 and stocked in 2016. Environmental mitigation staff began O&M activities for the refugium in summer 2022.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Conduct pupfish refugium O&M activities, including water monitoring, cleaning, and maintenance.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** Continue pupfish refugium O&M activities, including water monitoring, cleaning, and maintenance as detailed below.

Task Activities	Activity Description	Budget (\$)
O&M	Water monitoring, cleaning, maintenance, and expenses for water quality analysis	7,000.00
Irrigation Water	Assumes five acre-feet annually	106.09
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>7,106.09</b>

### Work Task 45: Recreation Facilities at Salton Sea

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$22,603

**Description and Purpose:** To relocate boat launch site and/or maintain boat launch connection to Salton Sea.

**Permit Reference:** SWRCB Order Measure R-7; 2002 EIS/EIR Measure R-7

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** Inventory of recreational facilities around the Salton Sea.

**FY 2026 Activities:** N/A.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** N/A.

### Work Task 46: QSA JPA Website Maintenance Services

PROPOSED FY 2027	PROJECTED FY 2026	BUDGETED FY 2026	SPENT THROUGH FY 2025
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$9,340

**Description and Purpose:** Maintain the QSA JPA website.

**Permit Reference:** N/A

**Accomplishments Through FY 2025:** The QSA JPA website was developed.

**FY 2026 Activities:** Water Authority staff operate and maintain the QSA JPA website to minimize costs to the JPA.

**Proposed FY 2027 Activities:** No expense to the QSA JPA is expected for this item. Will continue operation and maintenance of QSA JPA website using Water Authority staff.