



QUANTIFICATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

April 2, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioners and Alternates present:

Tonya Marshall, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) – Chair
Tina Shields, Imperial Irrigation District (IID) – Commissioner
Jim Barrett, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) – Commissioner
Robert Cheng, Coachella Valley Water District – Alternate Commissioner
Dan Denham, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) – Commissioner
Alexi Schnell, San Diego County Water Authority – Alternate Commissioner

QSA JPA staff present:

Jeff Ferre, Best, Best, and Krieger – Legal Counsel
Alexi Schnell, SDCWA – Chief Administrative Officer

Others present:

Jessica Schroeder, CDFW
Jennifer Farr, Davis Farr
Miguel Hernández, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)
Thomas Brinkerhoff, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
Joanna Hoff, IID
Jessica Humes, IID
Patrick O'Dowd, Salton Sea Authority

Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute
Dennis Davis, SDCWA
Deborah Hodgins, SDCWA
Wendy Joplin, SDCWA
Alan Okewole, SDCWA
Marilen Santos, SDCWA
Darren Simon, SDCWA
Chris Woidzik, SDCWA

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order

Chair Marshall called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

There was a quorum of the Commission present at the time of the meeting.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments at that time.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

4. Action: Approve minutes of regular QSA JPA meeting held January 27, 2025 (Alexi Schnell, SDCWA)

Commissioner Denham made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Barrett. The minutes were approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

5. Information: Annual Conflict of Interest Form 700 filings deadline April 1 (Alexi Schnell, SDCWA)
Alternate Commissioner Schnell reminded the Commissioners that the submittal deadline for their annual Form 700 filings had passed. She thanked the Commissioners and other filers for their timely submissions.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

6. Information: Fiscal Year 2025 audit engagement (Chris Woidzik, SDCWA and Jennifer Farr, Davis Farr)
Mr. Woidzik introduced auditor Jennifer Farr from Davis Farr, LLP to update the Commission. Consistent with state law, Jennifer Farr will replace Shannon Ayala as the JPA's audit partner. Ms. Farr explained that the scope of the audit is to express an opinion as to whether the financial statements and disclosures are free of material misstatement, evaluate internal controls and the risk of material misstatement attributable to those, and indicate whether there is compliance with applicable laws and regulations, contracts, and agreements. She explained the SAS 114 Planning Letter expressed two-way communications about fraud and fraud risk, as well as the planned scope and timing of the audit. Mr. Woidzik then reviewed the QSA JPA audit calendar and highlighted key audit dates.

7. Information: Finance Report ending December 31, 2024 (Chris Woidzik, SDCWA)
Mr. Woidzik provided a review of the Financial Report ending December 31. Total assets were \$76 million, with \$3.10 million in liabilities. The total unassigned fund balance was \$72.9 million. The total revenues were \$2.20 million, and total expenditures were \$5.39 million. Approximately 37% of the FY 2025 budget was spent through this period. Mr. Woidzik concluded with a summary of the three highest expenditures (Tasks 2, 8, and 24) as detailed in the Budget Status Report.

Michael Cohen (Pacific Institute) inquired why the three highest expenditures represented less than half of the total FY 2025 budgeted amount.

Jessica Humes (IID) responded that IID's standard invoice processing protocol typically results in a two-month reporting delay from environmental mitigation expenses. As such, the Budget Status Report as of December 31, 2024, would have likely captured expenditures through October 2024, not including invoices paid after October 2024. The latest environmental mitigation invoice, covering expenses through February 2025, shows that total year-to-date expenditures are approximately \$8 million.

Mr. Woidzik commented that expenses in the Budget Status Report were based on invoices received and paid by December 31, 2024, acknowledging that expenditures reported after that date, such as those reported in the February 2025 invoice mentioned by Ms. Humes, would be captured in subsequent financial reports.

8. Information: Treasurer's Report ending December 31, 2024 (Alan Okewole, SDCWA)
Mr. Okewole provided a review of the Treasurer's Report ending December 31. The quarter ended with \$75.0 million in cash and investments. Approximately \$61.5 million of that amount was managed by Chandler Asset Management. The effective rate of return for the portfolio was reported at 3.75%, and the interest received (FY to date) was \$1.41 million. Three invoices were paid, totaling approximately \$3.33 million.

IMPLEMENTATION

9. Information: Status report on implementation of mitigation measures (Jessica Humes, IID)
Ms. Humes provided an update on various mitigation measures:

Task 2 – QSA Implementation Team Biologists: IID reported that it distributed its annual mitigation reports for IID’s Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Permit, which were both due at the end of March 2025. The full report with appendices is available on IID’s [website](#).

Task 8 – Drain Habitat (Aquatic) – “Managed Marsh” Areas: IID reported ongoing operation and maintenance activities. IID annual marsh bird surveys are underway, which will continue through the end of May 2025.

Task 15 – Pre-Construction Activity Burrowing Owl Surveys and Relocation: IID reported ongoing inspections for burrowing owl activity for all water department activities and construction projects. Annual burrowing owl training for IID operations staff is nearly complete.

Task 24 – Salton Sea Air Quality: IID reported that the pump power issues at its Clubhouse Vegetation Project site have been resolved and the Clubhouse Vegetation Project contractor, Laurel Ag & Water, will be back onsite mid-April to finish the project. IID expects this project to be completed in May 2025. IID is implementing air quality monitoring at all project sites, and its annual emissions monitoring report and proactive dust control plan are in final review. Both are expected to go to the IID board in May for approval.

IID also noted that the Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Team (HCP IT) recently met to review the draft fiscal year 2026 budget for the JPA. IID expects several changes to Task 24. The next budget meeting is scheduled for mid-April, with the goal of providing draft budget numbers to Water Authority staff for the budget document no later than early May.

10. Information: Update on State Salton Sea Management Program (Miguel Hernández, CNRA)
Miguel Hernández, Public Affairs Officer for the SSMP at CNRA, provided the SSMP Update. Mr. Hernández reported the following items to the Commission:

Public Engagement: Since the beginning of 2025, SSMP staff have hosted tours of the Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) Project. Tour participants have included California Senator Adam Schiff and Assemblymember Jeff Gonzalez. The SSMP team was featured in a [Salton Sea documentary](#) where they explained the challenges at the Salton Sea and impacts to nearby communities and wildlife. They also highlighted the state’s efforts to mitigate impacts from the sea through its SCH and vegetation enhancement projects. The SSMP team is planning its first-ever Earth Day celebration event that will allow the community to help collect seeds that will support the state’s vegetation enhancement projects. The event will also educate the community on the type of plants being planted and how the plants act as a barrier for dust suppression at the Salton Sea shoreline.

SSMP Annual Report: CNRA submitted its [2025 Annual Report on the Salton Sea Management Program](#) (SSMP) to the State Water Resources Control Board, prepared in compliance with Order WR 2017-0134. The report provides specific updates on the SSMP’s activities in 2024 and planning for future projects, ongoing partnerships to help the SSMP meet its goals, community engagement, and next steps. The SSMP team met April 30 at the West Shores Community Center to discuss the annual report with the community.

11. Adjournment
Before the meeting was adjourned, Alternate Commissioner Schnell informed meeting attendees that QSA JPA staff will schedule the next meeting for June 13, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. The meeting will be scheduled for 90 minutes to facilitate review of the FY 2026 QSA JPA budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.