



QUANTIFICATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2025, at 1:00 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 (CVWD) – Alternate Commissioner
Alexi Schnell, San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) – Alternate Commissioner

QSA JPA staff present:

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

Others present:

Miguel Hernández, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)	Sofia Almeida, SDCWA
Jennifer Farr, Davis Farr	Deborah Hodgins, SDCWA
Jasmyn Phillips, EcoMedia Compass	Wendy Joplin, SDCWA
Jessica Humes, IID	Alan Okewole, SDCWA
Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute	Marilen Santos, SDCWA
Patrick O'Dowd, Salton Sea Authority	Darren Simon, SDCWA
	Chris Woidzik, SDCWA

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order

Chair Marshall called the meeting to order at 1:00 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 June 13, 2025 (Alexi Schnell, SDCWA)

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

FINANCIAL MATTERS

5. Action: Review and accept fiscal year 2025 Audited Financial Report (Jennifer Farr, Davis Farr)

Ms. Farr presented information regarding the Audited Financial Statements for the QSA JPA as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. Davis Farr issued an unmodified audit opinion (dated September 26, 2025), the highest level that can be received, and indicates the financial statements and

footnotes were presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Audit procedures included confirming the balances of cash and investments with third-party custodians and testing receivables, payables, and reasonableness of interest income, among other measures. For the annual unpredictability test, Davis Farr traced transfers between the CAMP investment account and Wells Fargo Bank. No material errors in accounting records or significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal controls were detected through the audit process. Ms. Farr included that Water Authority staff provided a high level of transparency to audit inquiries and were prepared for the audit. Commissioner Shields made a motion to accept the audit report, which was seconded by Commissioner Barrett. The item was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

6. Information: Finance Report ending June 30, 2025 (Chris Woidzik, SDCWA)

Mr. Woidzik provided a review of the Financial Report ending June 30. Total assets were \$73.4 million, with \$2.36 million in liabilities. The total unassigned fund balance was \$71 million. Total revenues were \$4.23 million, and total expenditures were \$9.27 million. Approximately 64% of the fiscal year (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.

7. Information: Treasurer's Report ending June 30, 2025 (Alan Okewole, SDCWA)

Mr. Okewole provided a review of the Treasurer's Report ending June 30. The quarter ended with \$71.8 million in cash and investments. Approximately \$57.5 million of that amount was managed by Chandler Asset Management. The effective rate of return for the portfolio was reported at 3.8%, and the interest received (FY to date) was \$2.76 million. Three invoices were paid, totaling approximately \$1.51 million. Mr. Okewole concluded with a summary of the JPA's diversified investment portfolio.

IMPLEMENTATION

8. Information: Status report on implementation of mitigation measures (Jessica Humes, IID)

Ms. Humes provided an update on various mitigation measures:

Task 8 – Drain Habitat (Aquatic) – “Managed Marsh” Areas: IID reported ongoing operation and maintenance activities, including removal of invasive tamarisk. IID has been in talks with a new local native plants nursery about the possibility of procuring native trees for future supplemental planting at the marsh.

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. California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) approved CDFW's request for a six-month extension to deliver a one-year status review report on the petition to list western burrowing owl as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. This will push the date of the report to April 2026.

Tasks 19 and 20 – Pupfish Selenium Drain Studies and Construction and Maintenance Conservation Measures: IID reported that pupfish monitoring in its direct-to-sea drains will be completed in October 2025. IID's selenium monitoring project report has been submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and is pending a final closure response.

Task 24 – Salton Sea Air Quality: IID reported ongoing operation and maintenance at the Clubhouse Vegetation Project, including replacement of leaking above-ground pipes that IID is aiming to replace by the end of 2025. Site vegetation is growing well, and straw bales have been effective at suppressing dust. IID is still waiting for a conditional use permit to be issued for the Bombay Beach Vegetation Project so that construction can start. IID will continue to implement air quality monitoring at all project sites through the end of the wind season. IID's board approved the Annual Emissions Estimates Report for 2023/2024 and the Proactive Dust Control Plan for 2024/2025.

Task 44 – Pupfish Refugium

IID reported ongoing operation and maintenance activities, including mowing the grass adjacent to the refugium. A site visit will be scheduled with CDFW staff to conduct annual pupfish trapping.

Ms. Humes noted that IID continues to coordinate ongoing projects and land access with the state Salton Sea Management Program team. IID also welcomed two interns, funded by the Imperial Valley College, to support implementation of mitigation measures at the sea.

Michael Cohen (Pacific Institute) requested a copy of the selenium monitoring report and inquired on the status of the Red Hill Bay project.

Chair Marshall inquired if IID staff knew what caused the above-ground pipes to leak and if the pipes would be replaced with a different material.

Alternate Commissioner Cheng inquired about the public comment process for the listing of the western burrowing owl and if straw bales are being used for dust mitigation at the sea.

Ms. Humes responded that she would distribute a copy of the selenium monitoring report. Regarding the leaking pipe, Ms. Humes shared that the pipe is made from plastic that is rated for high sun exposure; however, the pipe has cracked multiple times, requiring it to be replaced each time. IID plans to replace the plastic pipe with a high-grade, stainless-steel pipe. Regarding the public comment process, Ms. Humes reported that there will be a 30-day public review period to allow for comments before CFGC takes action. It is anticipated that CDFW will finish their report in April 2026, CFGC will receive the report in June 2026, and CFGC will make its determination in August 2026 as to the status of the western burrowing owl. The final status will be set by October 2026. Lastly, Ms. Humes confirmed that straw bales are being used for dust mitigation, by the JPA and the state.

Commissioner Shields provided the status on the Red Hill Bay project, noting that IID is in the process of reevaluating the project, including considering other cost-effective options. IID expects to have an update on this process towards the end of 2025.

9. 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:

Proposition 4 Climate Bond: In September 2025, the state legislature approved Governor Newsom's proposal for Salton Sea projects, which will allocate \$170 million for restoration work and another \$10 million for the new Salton Sea Conservancy, which will support Salton Sea restoration by operating and maintaining all completed SSMP projects at the sea. Of the \$10 million, approximately \$1.6 million has been allocated for the Conservancy's first year, and the Conservancy's first meeting is planned for January 2026. The Conservancy has not been staffed to date, but the SSMP is working on staffing needs.

Community Engagement: In September 2025, the SSMP team shared planned events for Latino Heritage Month. Events highlighted included a tour of the Species Conservation Habitat Project, a community gathering at a local art gallery, and a community meeting at Bombay Beach Community Center focused on SSMP's vegetation enhancement project and wetlands enhancement project.

10. Adjournment

Before the meeting was adjourned, Alternate Commissioner Schnell informed meeting attendees that QSA JPA staff have firm dates for the next three quarterly meetings for FY 2026. Calendar invites will be sent shortly to hold these dates, and the dates will be posted on the JPA's website (qsajpa.org).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 p.m.