



**QUANTIFICATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**

Commissioners and Alternates present:

Tonya Marshall, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) – Chair
 Tina Shields, Imperial Irrigation District (IID) – Commissioner
 Jamie Asbury, Imperial Irrigation District (IID) – Alternate Commissioner
 Jim Barrett, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) – 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:

Giovanni Dubon, Avantus	Sofia Almeida, SDCWA
Nicholaus Norvell, Best, Best, and Krieger	Dennis Davis, SDCWA
Miguel Hernández, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)	Andrea Halshaw, SDCWA
Jennifer Farr, Davis Farr	Deborah Hodgins, SDCWA
Jessica Humes, IID	Alan Okewole, SDCWA
Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute	Marilen Santos, SDCWA
	Darren Simon, SDCWA

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order
Chair Marshall called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.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 15, 2026 (Alexi Schnell, SDCWA)
Commissioner Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Shields. 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 2026 audit engagement (Jennifer Farr, Davis Farr)

Alternate Commissioner Schnell introduced auditor Jennifer Farr from Davis Farr, LLP to update the Commission. Ms. Farr is the JPA's audit partner and 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.

Commissioner Barrett inquired how long the JPA has retained Davis Farr for auditing services. Alternate Commissioner Schnell responded that she would follow up with an answer after she confirms with Water Authority Finance staff.

7. Information: Financial Report ending December 31, 2025 (Alan Okewole, SDCWA)

Mr. Okewole provided a review of the Financial Report ending December 31. Total assets were \$71 million, with \$1.2 million in liabilities. The total fund balance was \$69.8 million. The total revenues were \$1.54 million, and total expenditures were \$2.75 million. Approximately 15% of the FY 2026 budget was spent through this reporting period.

8. Information: Treasurer's Report ending December 31, 2025 (Alan Okewole, SDCWA)

Mr. Okewole provided a review of the Treasurer's Report ending December 31. The quarter ended with \$69.5 million in cash and investments. Approximately \$53.4 million of that amount was managed by Chandler Asset Management. The effective rate of return for the portfolio was reported at 3.86%, and the interest received (FY to date) was \$1.34 million. Three invoices were paid, totaling approximately \$1.77 million. Mr. Okewole concluded with a summary of the JPA's diversified investment portfolio.

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 two environmental specialists started in January and February 2026.

Task 8 – Drain Habitat (Aquatic) – “Managed Marsh” Areas: IID reported ongoing operation and maintenance activities on all roads, inlet and outlet structures. IID is waiting for a notice to proceed to replace some dead trees with locally sourced trees grown in Imperial County. IID staff started bird surveys in March 2026 and had four environmental staff participate in a marsh bird survey training hosted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Task 15 – Pre-Construction Activity Burrowing Owl Surveys and Relocation: IID reported pre-inspections for burrowing owl activity for ongoing operation and maintenance activities. Annual burrowing owl training for IID water department staff is ongoing.

Tasks 19/20/44 – Pupfish-Related Activities: One IID environmental specialist is pending to take his final pupfish training test with CDFW. Two other environmental specialists are currently being trained for pupfish monitoring.

Task 24 – Salton Sea Air Quality: IID reported that it continues to operate and maintain the Clubhouse Vegetation Project. Work to rehabilitate a previously leaking well has been completed. IID environmental staff are also repairing and replacing some of irrigation driplines on the project site. The solicitation for construction of the Bombay Beach Vegetation Project is progressing, with detailed construction cost estimates anticipated in June. The public comment period for the environmental document for the Red Hill Bay Best Available Control Measures (BACM) Project has closed. IID is addressing the comments received and anticipates taking a final mitigated negative declaration to the IID Board for approval in May 2026.

IID also noted that the Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Team (HCP IT) will meet in April 2026 to review the draft fiscal year 2027 budget for the JPA.

Michael Cohen (Pacific Institute) inquired how many acres of dust suppression has IID implemented through projects to date and asked that this information also be provided on the JPA's website. Ms. Humes responded that she would send him the exact acreage following the meeting and coordinate with CAO Schnell to ensure the information is also provided on the JPA's website.

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:

SSMP Annual Report: CNRA submitted its [2026 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 2025, including the construction of the Species Conservation Habitat (SCH), and planning for future projects, ongoing partnerships, like the Salton Sea Conservancy, to help the SSMP meet its goals, community engagement, and next steps. The SSMP team will connect with the community through a series of early May meetings to discuss the annual report.

Community Outreach and Engagement: The SSMP team will have two community engagement opportunities in April 2026. The first is an Earth Day celebration at the Salton Sea in partnership with Audubon California. The second is a community meeting on the Salton Sea feasibility study where representatives for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will provide the latest on the project alternatives being considered and answer questions.

11. Adjournment

Before the meeting was adjourned, Alternate Commissioner Schnell informed meeting attendees that the next meeting of the QSA JPA (FY 2026, Quarter 4) is scheduled for June 11, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting is scheduled for 90 minutes to facilitate review of the FY 2026 QSA JPA budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.