



**QUANTIFICATION SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES
January 15, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.**

Commissioners and Alternates present:

Tonya Marshall, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) – Chair
 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:

Miguel Hernández, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA)	Dennis Davis, SDCWA
Genny Lynkiewicz, Chandler Asset Management	Deborah Hodgins, SDCWA
Jasmyn Phillips, EcoMedia Compass	Wendy Joplin, 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 9:30 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. Information: Brown Act Updates Under SB 707 (Jeff Ferre, General Counsel)
Mr. Jeff Ferre (QSA JPA Legal Counsel) provided a verbal report to highlight recent legislative changes to the Brown Act related to JPA public meetings and onboarding new Commission members.
5. Action: Approve minutes of regular QSA JPA meeting held October 8, 2025 (Alexi Schnell, SDCWA)
Commissioner Barrett made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Chair Marshall. The minutes were approved by a roll call vote.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

6. Information: Investment update (Genny Lynkiewicz, Chandler Asset Management)

Alternate Commissioner Schnell introduced Ms. Genny Lynkiewicz of Chandler Asset Management to present an investment update. Ms. Lynkiewicz presented an economic update on the following topics: employment, unemployment claims, inflation, gross domestic product, and bond yields. She touched on the QSA JPA's account profile, which included objectives and strategies, compliance, portfolio characteristics, sector distribution, issuers, quality distribution, and the duration of the distribution as well as investment performance. Lastly, Ms. Lynkiewicz reviewed the holdings report and the transactions portfolio.

7. Information: Financial Report ending September 30, 2025 (Chris Woidzik, SDCWA)

Mr. Woidzik provided a review of the Financial Report ending September 30. Total assets were \$72.1 million, with \$947,918 in liabilities. The total fund balance was \$71.1 million. The total revenues were \$856,815, and total expenditures were \$708,906. Approximately 4% of the FY 2026 budget was spent through this reporting period.

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

Mr. Okewole provided a review of the Treasurer's Report ending September 30. The quarter ended with \$70.6 million in cash and investments. Approximately \$54 million of that amount was managed by Chandler Asset Management. The effective rate of return for the portfolio was reported at 3.72%, and the interest received (FY to date) was \$655,521. Three invoices were paid, totaling approximately \$2.1 million. Mr. Okewole concluded with a summary of the JPA's diversified investment portfolio.

Michael Cohen (Pacific Institute) inquired if expenses are expected to increase in the next quarter for Salton Sea Air Quality (Task 24), with a budget execution rate of 1.2% as of September 30, 2025, and whether there are any air quality project delays.

Jessica Humes (IID) responded that Task 24 expenses have occurred after September 30, 2025 (*to be reported at the next JPA meeting*), and that some air quality projects have been delayed due to permitting. Construction of the Bombay Beach Vegetation Project, originally planned to start in January 2026, is now expected to start at the beginning of FY 2027. IID is reevaluating other budgeted air quality projects to see which will move forward in FY 2026.

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 specialist vacancies will be filled soon and that the team is working on annual reports due at the end of March 2026.

Task 8 – Drain Habitat (Aquatic) – “Managed Marsh” Areas: IID reported ongoing operation and maintenance activities on all roads, inlet and outlet structures. Additional work using heavy equipment was required in Phase 2 to level land that will improve the flow of water.

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 will start soon.

Tasks 19/20/44 – Pupfish-Related Activities: IID's selenium monitoring project report is complete. Operation and maintenance activities at the pupfish refugium continue and pupfish monitoring in IID drains will start in spring 2026. In 2025, IID commissioned a burrowing owl survey that shows a large stable population of burrowing owls exist alongside critical infrastructure in the Imperial

and Coachella valleys. The survey data and accompanying report was submitted to CDFW for consideration as the burrowing owl is considered for potential listing as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

Task 24 – Salton Sea Air Quality: IID reported that it continues to operate and maintain the Clubhouse Vegetation Project, including rehabilitating a leaking well. While a small section of the project site will require revegetation in fall 2026, the project site vegetation has germinated and the haybales are working as intended. The Bombay Beach Vegetation Project is delayed due to permitting. The Red Hill Bay Best Available Control Measures (BACM) Project is in the process of transitioning from gravel to a surface stabilizer, which will require changes to the project environmental document. Once approved, the surface stabilizer will be implemented by IID operators. The surface stabilizer approach will require more water for the project. Additionally, burrowing owls have been observed on part of the Red Hill Bay project site, which will be avoided.

Chair Marshall inquired if IID's worker environmental education program (WEEP) will be updated for the candidacy of the burrowing owl. Ms. Humes responded that IID will need to update its training program for external contractors and that update will be shared with the Implementation Team for review.

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:

SCH Expansion Project Update: Work continues to fill two ponds, totaling 2,000 acres, at the Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) project, a major aquatic restoration project at the Salton Sea. Multiple bird species have been observed using the ponds, including the brown and American white pelicans. Other work includes expansion of the SCH Center and West ponds.

Community Outreach and Engagement: The SSMP team held two community meetings in December 2025 in Brawley and Coachella. The meetings focused on updates on active restoration projects at the Salton Sea, including the SCH and the state's vegetation enhancement projects. Representatives for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) attended both meetings to discuss the process for the Salton Sea feasibility study. A series of meetings are expected to be scheduled in 2026 with USACE to discuss the feasibility study with a focus on the final array of alternatives selected and the screening process. Before the end of March 2026, the SSMP team expects to publish its annual accomplishment report for 2025.

11. Adjournment

Before the meeting was adjourned, Alternate Commissioner Schnell informed the Commission that an email would be sent to those in positions designated to complete and file an annual Fair Political Practices Commission Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) for 2025. She also informed meeting attendees that the next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2026, and the budget meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2026.

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