

“Salinity Management Study Update” Objectives

The 1999 Salinity Management Study will be updated through a partnership between the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Southern California Salinity Coalition, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, based on four objectives, as follows:

Objective 1: Identify Challenges and Action Steps

Identify the current and expected challenges of salinity management in Southern California and prioritize future actions.

Key Actions

- Convene a Salinity Management Workshop with key stakeholders.
 - Establish follow-up focused workgroups, as-needed, to review specific topics and fill information gaps.
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Objective 2: Update Economic Impact Model

Update the USBR salinity economic impact model, including the Metropolitan module, to (1) support federal appropriations for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program and (2) evaluate regional economic impacts to proposals affecting source water quality.

Key Actions

- Update cost values applied to existing functions.
 - Review and document new functions not considered in the existing economic impact model; create new economic impact functions, as needed.
 - Update the Economic Impact Model.
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Objective 3: Identify and Assess Regional Salinity Conditions

Update understanding of Southern California salinity conditions and practices and identify opportunities to promote effective regional salinity management.

Key Actions

- Update regional salt balance considering local and imported salinity sources and identify trends (e.g., groundwater basin accumulation considering salt imports and exports).
 - Develop a functional tool to determine annual salinity indicators to assess status of regional salinity management.
 - Identify regulatory/legislative approaches that affect salinity management and water resource development.
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Objective 4: Assess Future Water Supply Salinity

Assess Metropolitan’s future operational capability to deliver low salinity water supplies through 2020.

Key Actions

- Establish a range of State Water Project and Colorado River water salinity values delivered to Metropolitan through 2020.
- Evaluate probability of meeting varying levels of TDS including the current TDS goal of 500 mg/L in Metropolitan’s delivered water, through 2020 or other intermediate benchmarks.
- Evaluate the results from various operational scenarios and identify new salinity management strategies.

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