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Managing Water in the West

Water Education Foundation - Lower Colorado River Operations

March 11, 2010



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Update topics

- Lower Colorado River Operations and Maintenance
- Drought on the Colorado River
- Yuma Desalting Plant – a new water supply
- Pilot Run Plans
- Research Project

Lines of Business



Colorado River Water Delivery

Groundwater & Salinity
Management

Resource Management

Design, Construction and
Maintenance Services

Desalting Services

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Senator Wash



Imperial Dam



Laguna Dam

Drop 2 Reservoir



Colorado River drought

- We are in an unprecedented drought
- Average Colorado River flow since calendar year 2000 is the lowest ten-year average in 100 years of record keeping
- On March 4, 2010 the elevation of Lake Mead was 1,102.76 feet
- Lake Mead is at 45% of capacity
- This elevation remains nearly 28 feet above the trigger for shortage declaration under the Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages of December, 2007

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Lake Mead

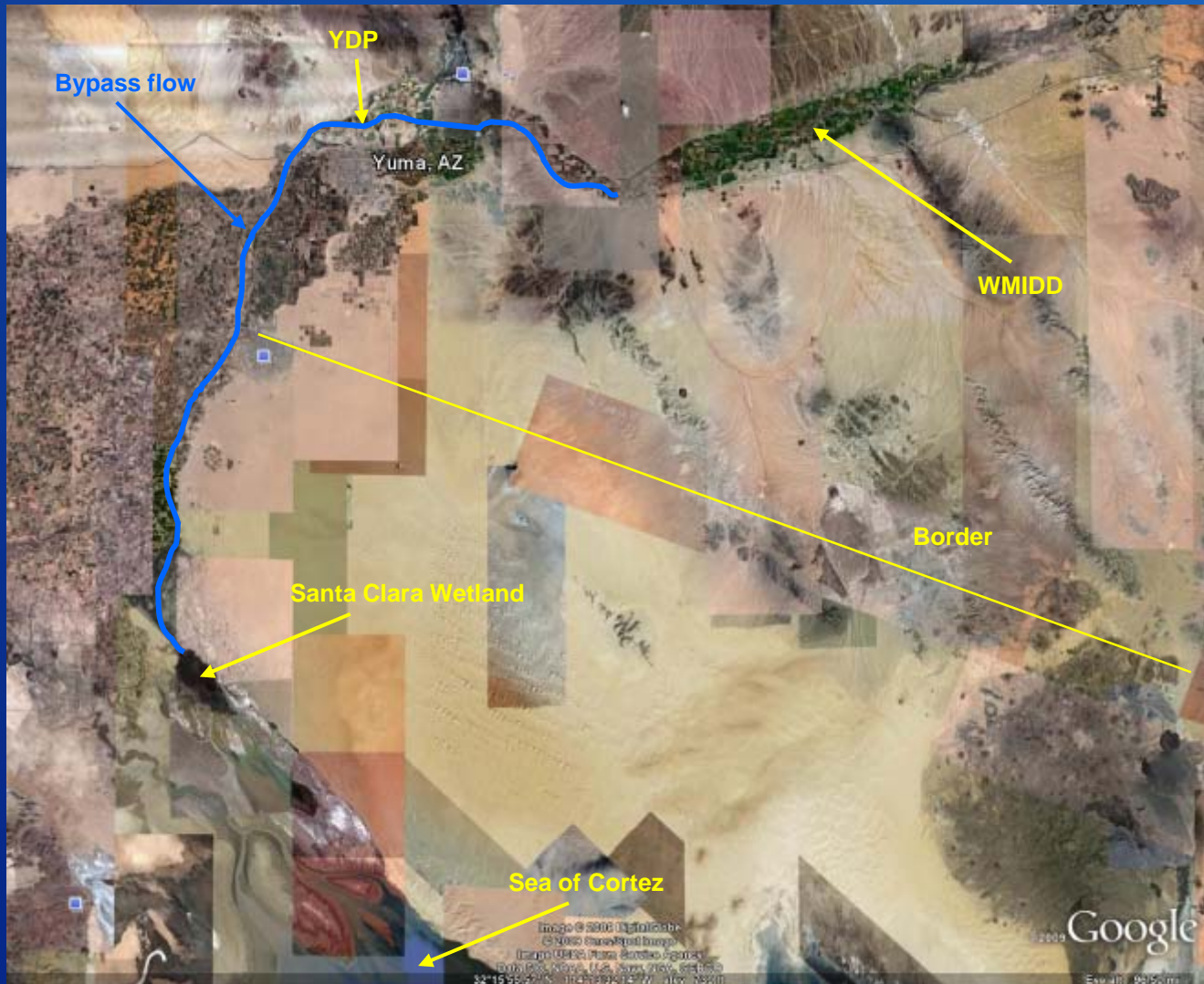


The mineral deposit ring is approximately 100 feet high



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Geographic overview



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Yuma Desalting Plant

- 72 MGD plant as currently configured
- Conventional pretreatment and cellulose acetate RO membranes
- Construction largely completed in 1992
- Built to desalinate the bypass flow
- Each gallon recovered by the plant makes a gallon available in system storage for U.S. use
- Demonstration Run in 2007



New water supply

- Drought conditions on the Colorado River have placed an increasing demand on system storage
- California is the hardest hit and in the greatest need for water
- The lower Basin States view the Yuma Desalting Plant (YDP) and recovery of the bypass flow water as a potential means to extend existing water supplies
- In 2008 a group of Municipal Utilities approached Reclamation with a request to operate the YDP
 - Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
 - Southern Nevada Water Authority
 - Central Arizona Water Conservation District
- A Pilot Run was contemplated as a means to gather data to support long-term decision making

Characteristics of the Pilot Run

- **Operate at 1/3 capacity for 365 days within a 12 to 18 month period**
 - 1/3 capacity reflects actual design
 - 365 days covers seasonal variation and provides adequate time to achieve the purpose of the run
- **The purpose of the Pilot Run is to:**
 - Gather performance and cost data
 - Determine whether any additional corrective action to the plant is necessary for long-term operation
 - Test changes and corrections which have already been implemented

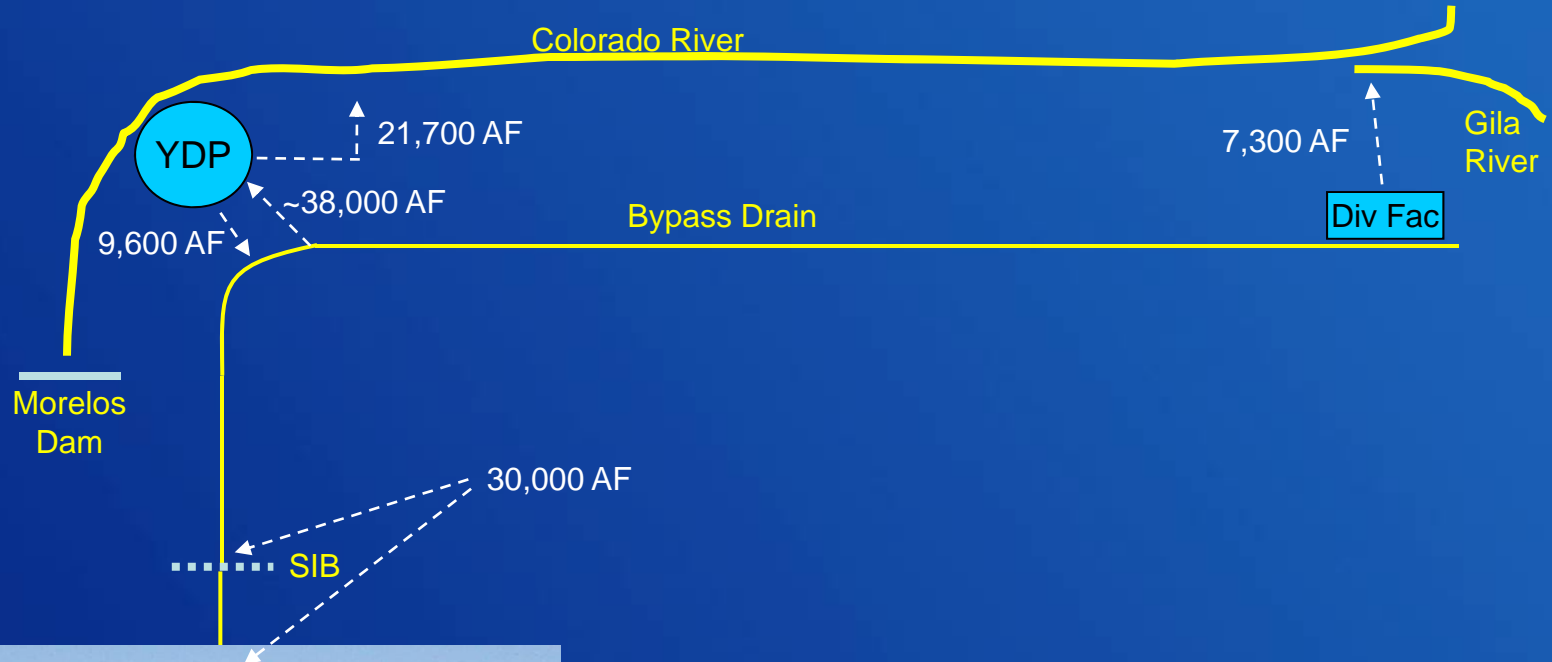
Water recovered

- Approximately 29,000 acre feet of recovered water
 - The plant sits adjacent to the Colorado River and is about 4000 feet upstream of the border with Mexico
- Municipal Utilities will receive water credits in proportion to their capital contributions and water recovered during the Pilot Run.
- Pilot Run total cost is about \$23.2 million:
 - \$6.6 million for preparation
 - \$16.6 for operations & maintenance



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How it works



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Current status

- Conveying water to the Cienega as part of binational agreement
- Environmental assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact are complete
- Necessary agreements for the Pilot Run have been executed
- Discharge permit for the plant has been issued
- Chemicals have been acquired
- Supplemental personnel have completed necessary training and certification
- Membrane transport from cold storage is underway
- Equipment testing and repair is also underway
- Pilot Run is on schedule to commence in May 2010

Water Quality Improvement Center

- Advanced water treatment research facility
- Dual focus – YDP and Technology Transfer
- Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA) available to State and municipal governments, academia, and the private sector



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Current CRADA

- Largest ever undertaken by the Department of the Interior
- Separate action from the Pilot Run
- Funded by Municipal Utility partners
- Kick-off in May 2010
- Test alternative configurations of the YDP:
 - Pre-treatment
 - Membranes
 - Alternative feed water
- Pilot Run results + CRADA results = Thorough YDP perspective

Upcoming Event / YDP Tours

- In April Reclamation will be hosting an event to celebrate the Pilot Run of the Yuma Desalting Plant and the completion of the Drop 2 Reservoir
- In addition, regular tours of the plant can be arranged year round
- If you're interested in additional information about scheduling a tour contact Ms. June Wolfe at jwolfe@usbr.gov



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