



# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SALTON SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

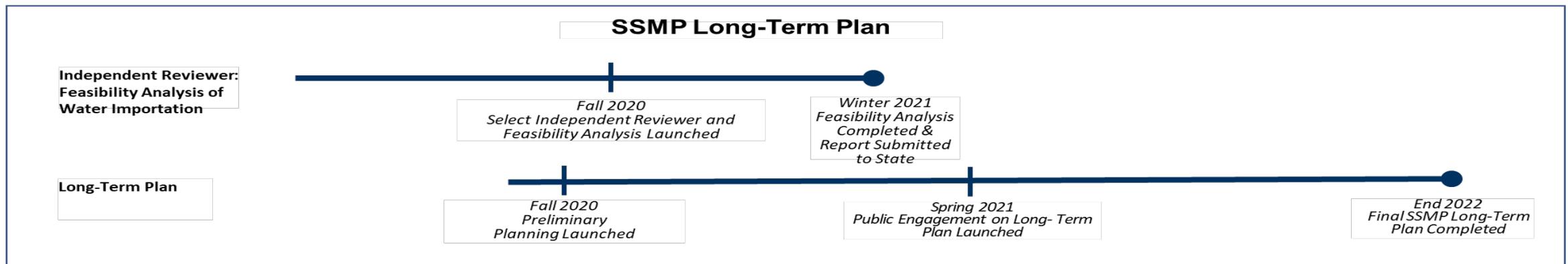
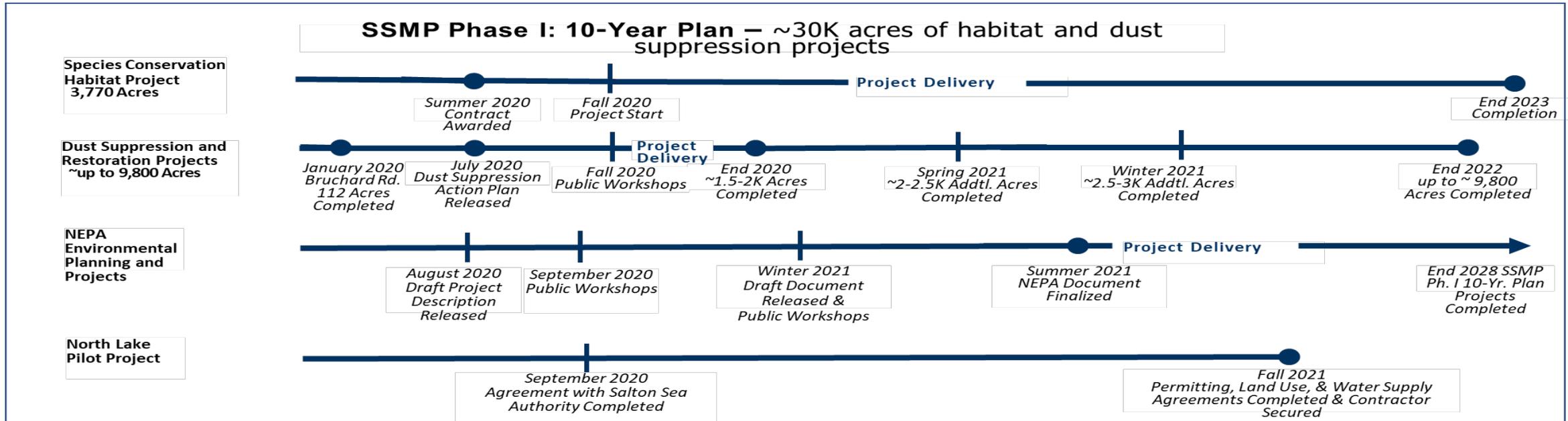
Presentation to the State Water Resources Control Board

Arturo Delgado, Assistant Secretary, Salton Sea  
August 19, 2020

# Overview – Program Priorities

- **Making significant, visible progress on implementing the Salton Sea Management Program's Phase 1: 10-Year Plan**
- **Establishing a long-term pathway beyond 10-Year Plan**
- **Building the capacity of SSMP team**
- **Strengthening partnerships with local leaders and communities**

# Salton Sea Management Program Project Delivery Timeline



# Priority

***Making significant, visible progress on implementing the Salton Sea Management Program's Phase 1: 10-Year Plan***

# Making Progress: Construct Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) Project



- Create habitat and suppress dust on approximately 3,770 acres of exposed lakebed.
- Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. selected in July as best-value design-build entity.
- Work to begin this fall; construction completed by 2023.

# Making Progress: Complete Several Thousand Acres of Dust Suppression and Restoration Projects



- Dust Suppression Action Plan released in July
  - Five public workshops held
  - 30-day public comment period on initial draft
  - Consulted with air quality authorities, major landowners, and tribes
- Project delivery through end of 2021
  - January 2020: Bruchard Road Project 112 acres completed
  - December 2020: 1,500 – 2,000 additional acres completed
  - March 2021: 2,000 – 2,500 additional acres completed
  - December 2021: 2,500 – 3,000 additional acres completed
- Streamlined permitting, land access agreements
- Develop agreements with specialized contractors, local partners to expedite project implementation
- Prioritize temporary dust control within footprint of SCH project upon approval

## Making Progress: *Examples of Dust Suppression and Restoration Projects*

- Temporary Surface Roughening



- Vegetation Establishment and Shallow-Water Habitat



# Making Progress: *Examples of Dust Suppression and Restoration Projects*

- Shallow Flooding

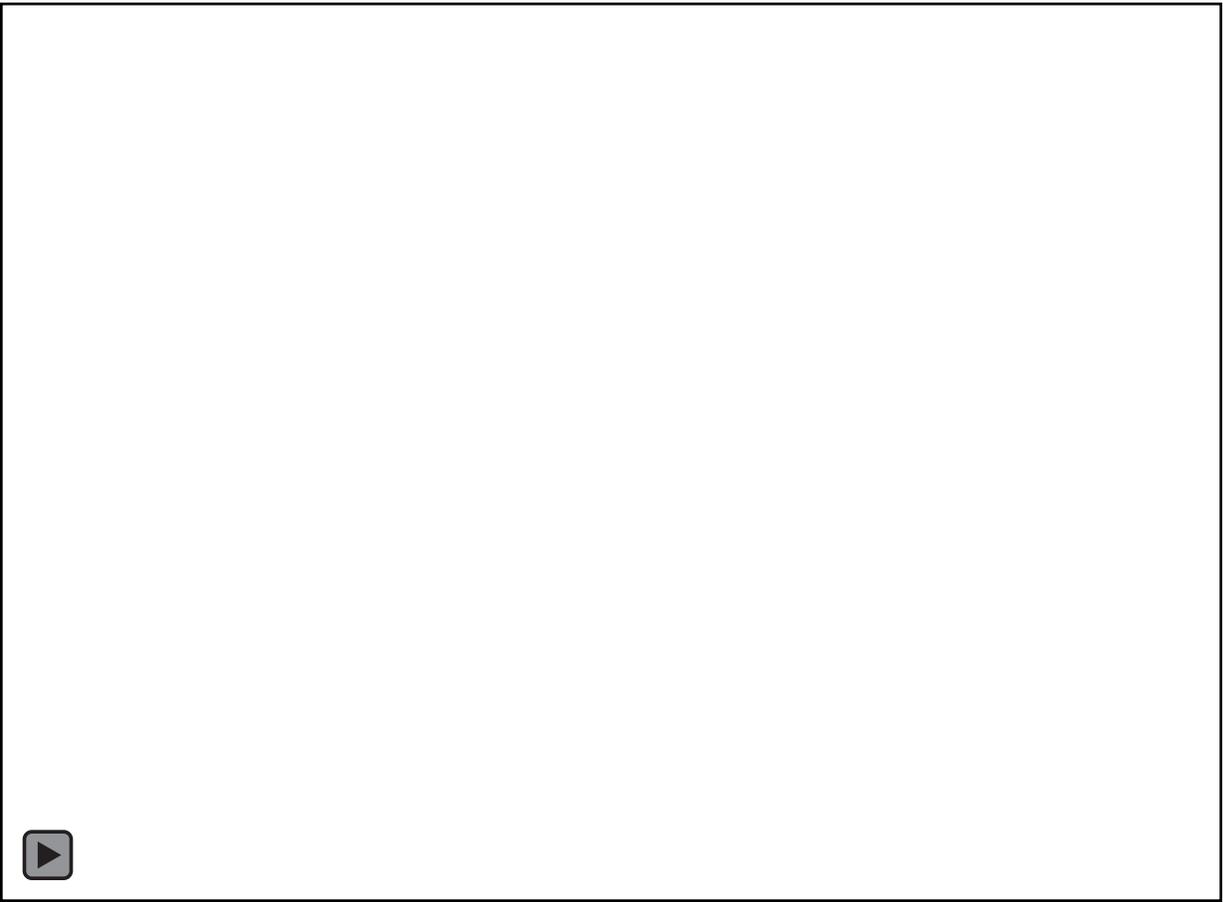
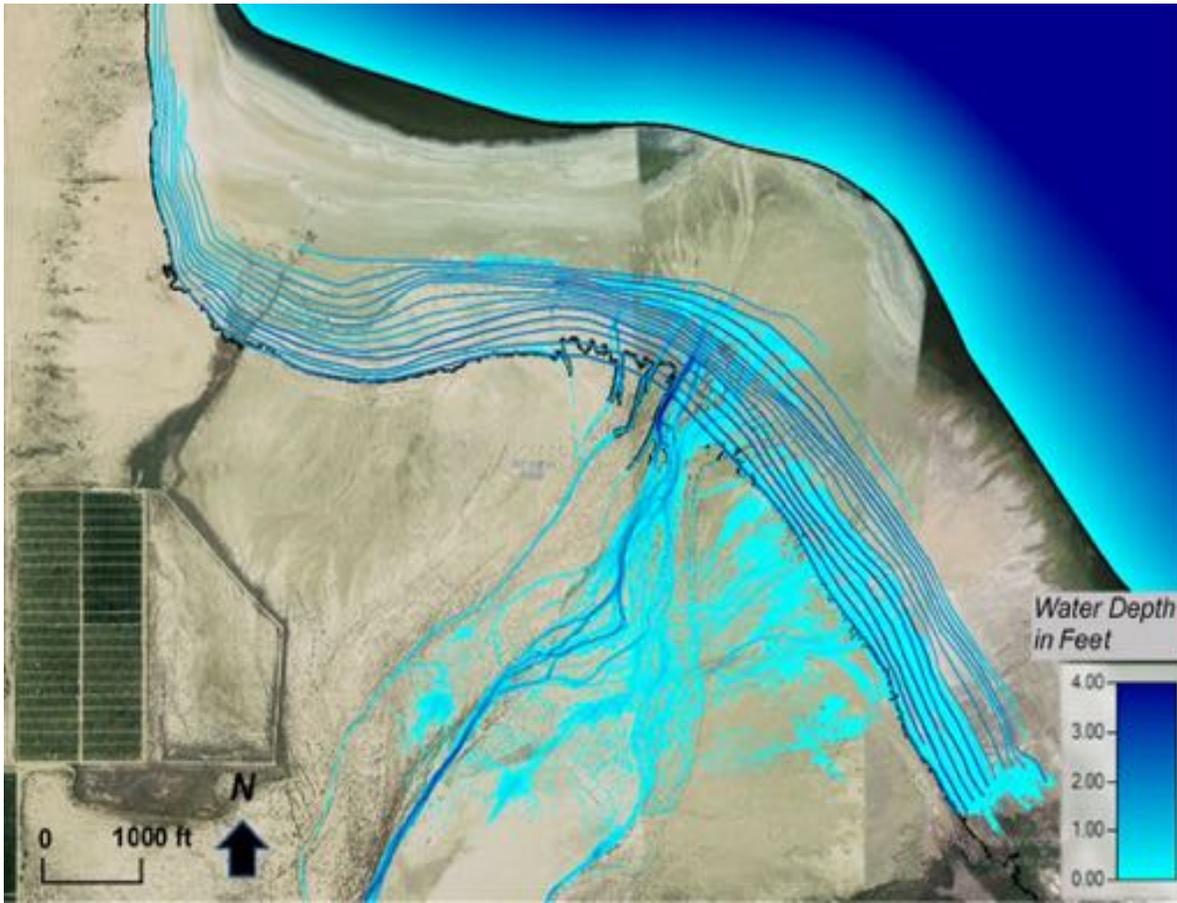


- Sand Fencing

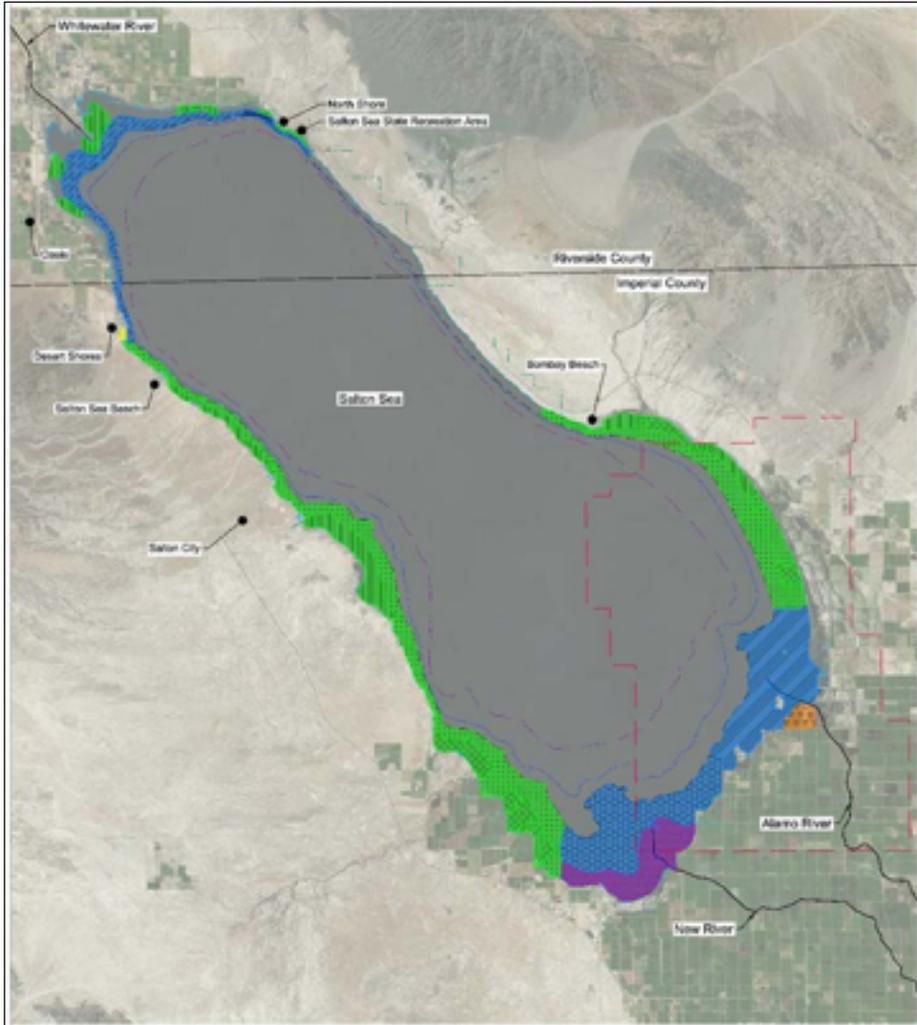


## Making Progress: *Examples of Dust Suppression and Restoration Projects*

- Simulation of Stormwater Spreading on the San Felipe Fan.



# Making Progress: Complete Environmental Planning for SSMP 10-Year Plan Projects

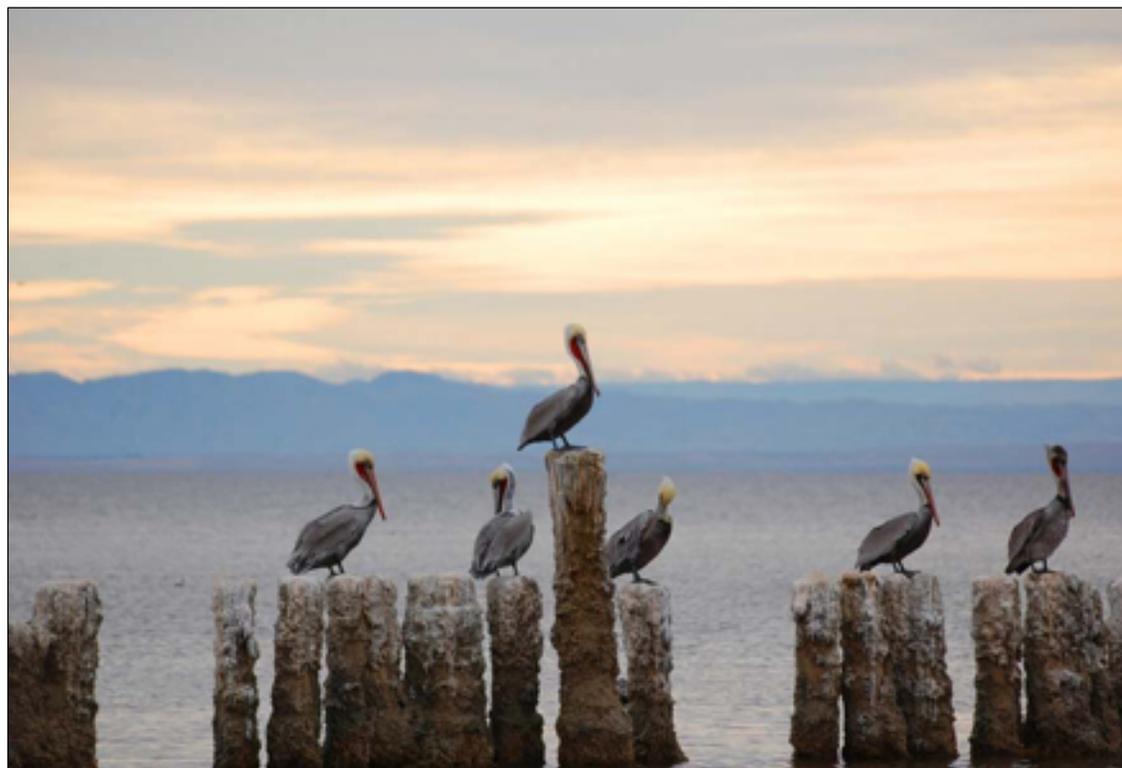


- SSMP and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completing NEPA:
  - August/September 2020: Release Draft Project Description, hold public workshops
  - Winter 2021: Release Draft Environmental Assessment, hold public workshops
  - Summer 2021: Issue Final Environmental Assessment
- Comprehensive NEPA compliance enables implementation of 10-Year Plan projects, such as:
  - **Aquatic habitat** around SCH and Alamo River
  - **North Lake Project**, including first phase 156-acre North Lake Pilot Project
  - **Dust Suppression and Restoration Projects** on exposed lakebed around perimeter of Sea

# Priority

***Establishing Long-term Pathway  
Beyond 10-Year Plan***

# Establishing Long-Term Pathway: *Advance Development of Long-Term Plan*

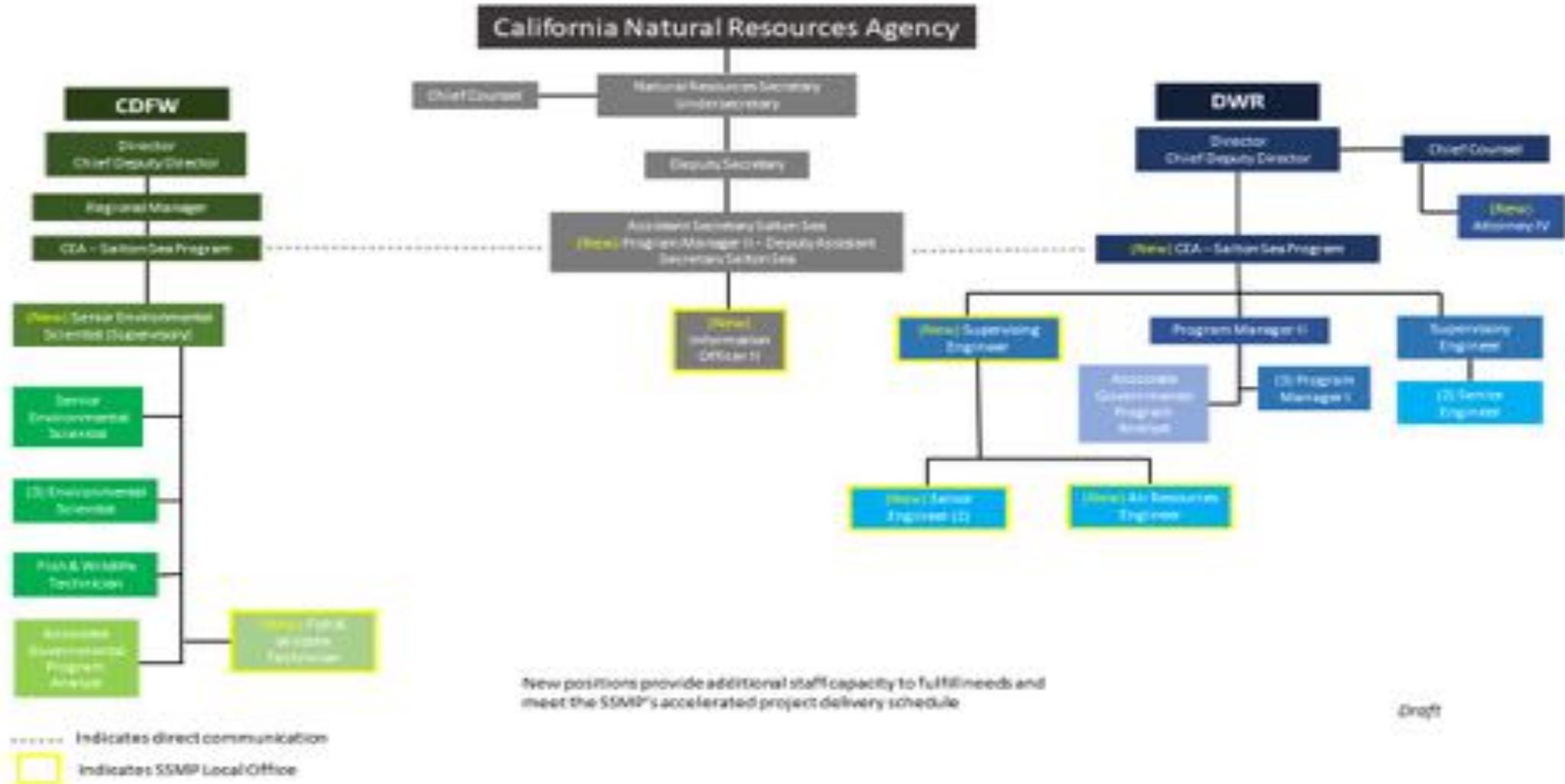


- Develop Long-Term Plan to establish a strategy for long-term restoration
- Evaluate range of feasible restoration alternatives to inform Plan, including project build-out based on projected future water inflows to a potential whole-sea alternative based on water importation, if feasible.
- Path Forward:
  - Fall 2020: Select Independent Reviewer and begin feasibility analysis of water importation.
  - Spring 2021: Launch public engagement on Long-Term Plan.
  - Winter 2021: Complete feasibility analysis of water importation.
  - End of 2022: Complete final Long-Term Plan and submit to the SWRCB.

# Priority

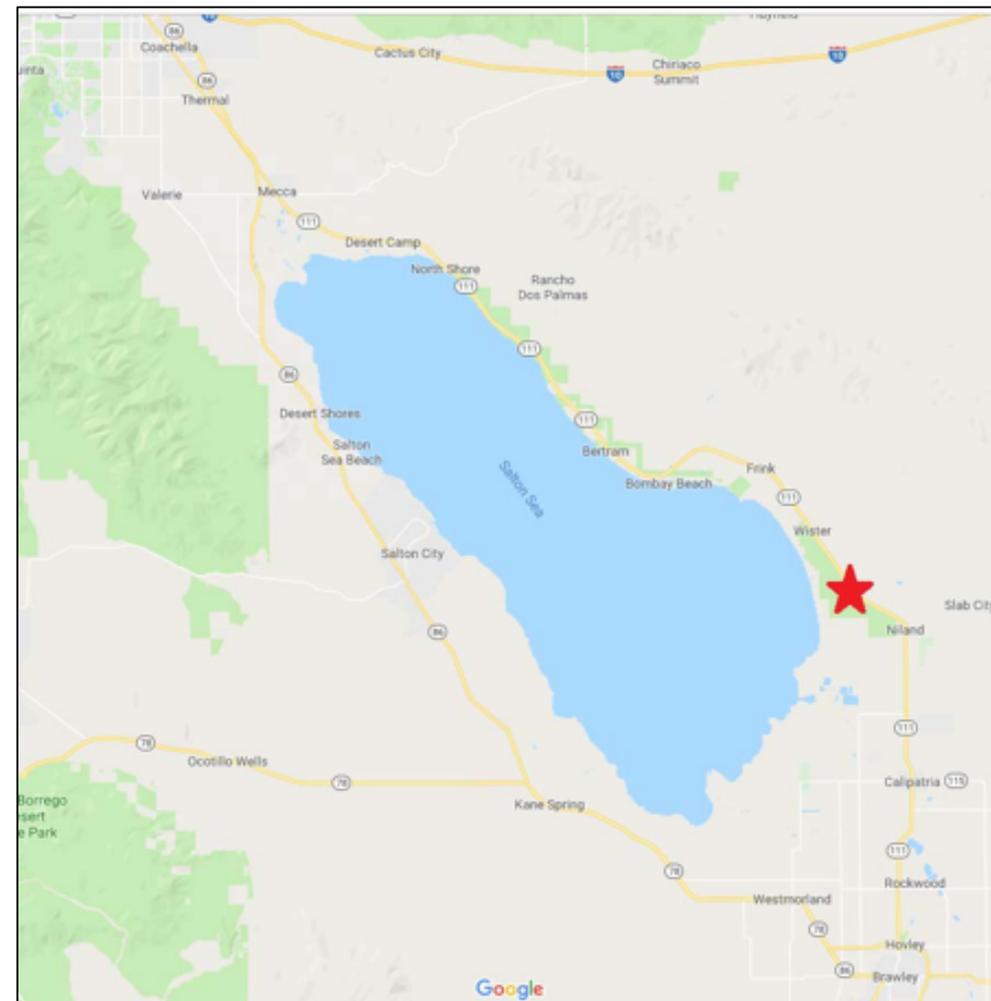
***Building the capacity of SSMP team***

# Building Capacity: Enhance organizational capacity to increase the pace and scale of ecological restoration



## Building Capacity: *Establish Temporary Local Salton Sea Office – Wister Wildlife Area*

- Enhance business operations and increase SSMP local presence
- Centrally located to all current and future state-funded habitat and air quality projects
- Centralized location to key communities
- State-owned public facility
- Short lead time compared to other options



# Building Capacity: Establish Temporary Local Salton Sea Office – Wister Wildlife Area

Key Locations	Distance from Wister in miles
New River (SCH)	20
SBNWR	12
Alamo River	8
California State Recreational Area	25
Whitewater River (North Lake)	35

Nearest Communities	Distance from Wister in miles
Bombay Beach	12
Brawley, CA	25
Westmorland	27
El Centro	45
Coachella Valley (Indio)	50
Palm Springs	70

# Priority

***Strengthening partnerships with local leaders  
and communities***

# Strengthening Partnerships: *Community Engagement*



- Community Engagement Plan refined in collaboration with SSMP Engagement Committee, final expected in September 2020
- Instituting routine touchpoints with stakeholders, local leaders, governmental agencies, tribal governments
- Working with committee chairs to streamline overall SSMP advisory committee structure
- Frequent updates / transparency via comprehensive website at [www.saltonsea.ca.gov](http://www.saltonsea.ca.gov) and electronic newsletter

# Strengthening Partnerships: *Engaging with Partners*



- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Salton Sea Authority
- MOU with Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
- Addressing scientific data gaps and identifying priorities for monitoring
- Collaborating with local partners through agreements to increase project delivery capacity

# In Closing



- Ongoing challenges, including air quality issues magnified by COVID-19 pandemic, demand focused, urgent and collaborative work
- SSMP Team is laser-focused to scale up and make significant progress to deliver several thousand acres of priority projects
- Simultaneously developing path forward for long-term restoration of the Sea beyond the 10-Year Plan
- Significantly enhancing organizational and operational capacity
- Strengthening partnerships with local leaders and communities to complete projects that improve conditions for local communities and fish and wildlife dependent on Sea.