RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Status of the Pilot Run of the Yuma Desalting Plant

Jennifer McCloskey
Yuma Area Office - Area Manager

Colorado River Citizens' Forum
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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Drought Update

- Drought is in its 11th year
- Mead at about 44% of capacity; at elevation 1,087
- 4' more and will reach lowest level since 1937
- Lake began filling in 1935

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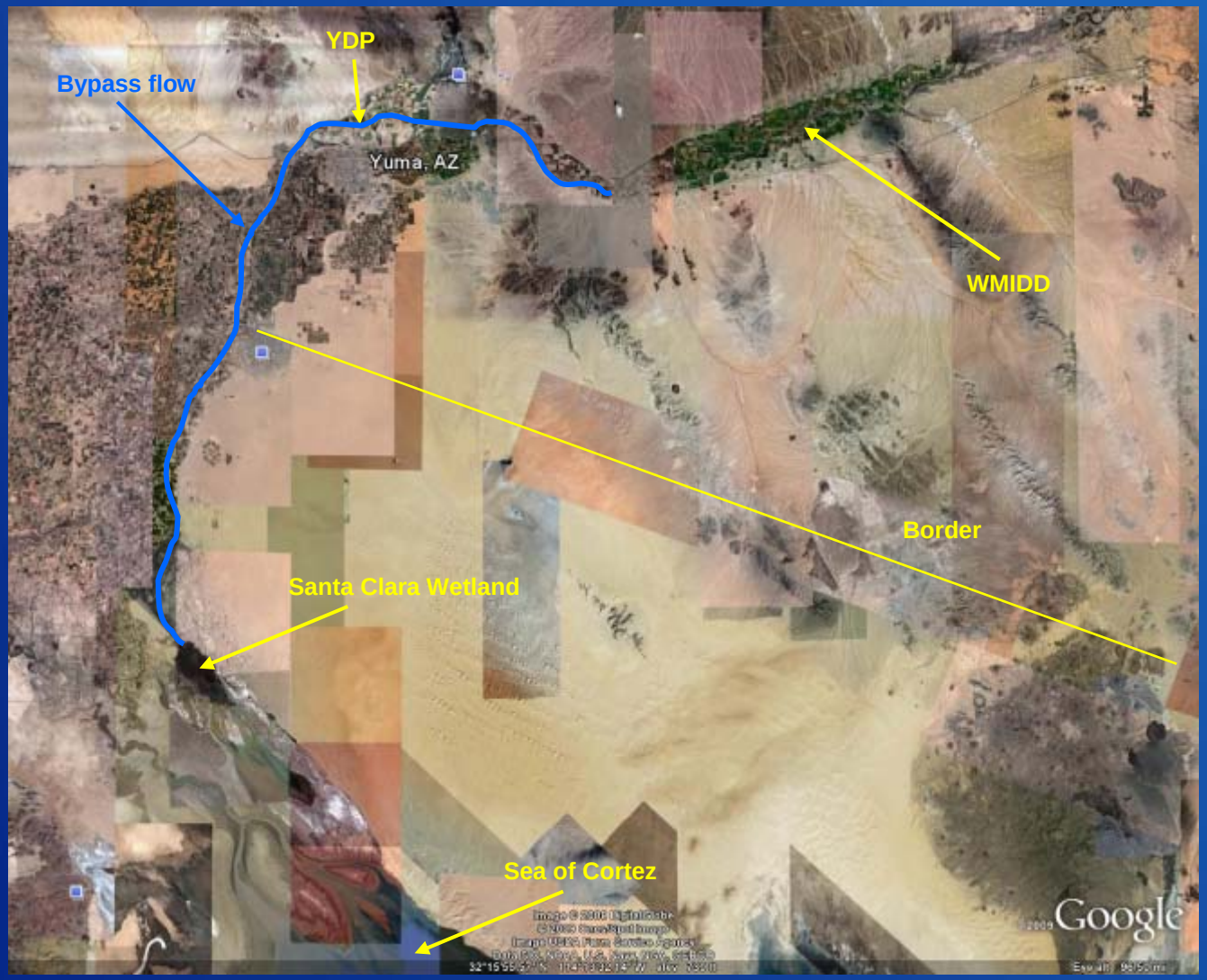
Geographic Overview



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Yuma Desalting Plant

- Built to desalinate the bypass flow
- Each gallon recovered by the plant makes a gallon available in system storage for U.S. use
- 72 Million Gallon per Day (MGD) plant as currently configured
- Conventional pretreatment and cellulose acetate RO membranes
- Construction largely completed in 1992
- Pilot Run commenced on May 3rd

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Funding Partners

CAP
CENTRAL ARIZONA PROJECT

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN NEVADA WATER AUTHORITY

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A Pilot Run is in Progress

- **Purpose:** Gather performance and cost data
- **Duration:** 365 days at up to 1/3 of full operating capacity
- **Water recovered:** 29,000 acre feet (9.5 billion gallons)
- **O&M Cost:** $16.6 million ($12.8 million partner share)
- **Outcomes to date:**
  - Plant is performing better than design specifications
  - 9,000 AF produced to date (100% on-stream)
  - Bio-solids management has presented the greatest challenge
  - Implementation of international agreement with Mexico is underway
  - Run is ahead of schedule and under budget

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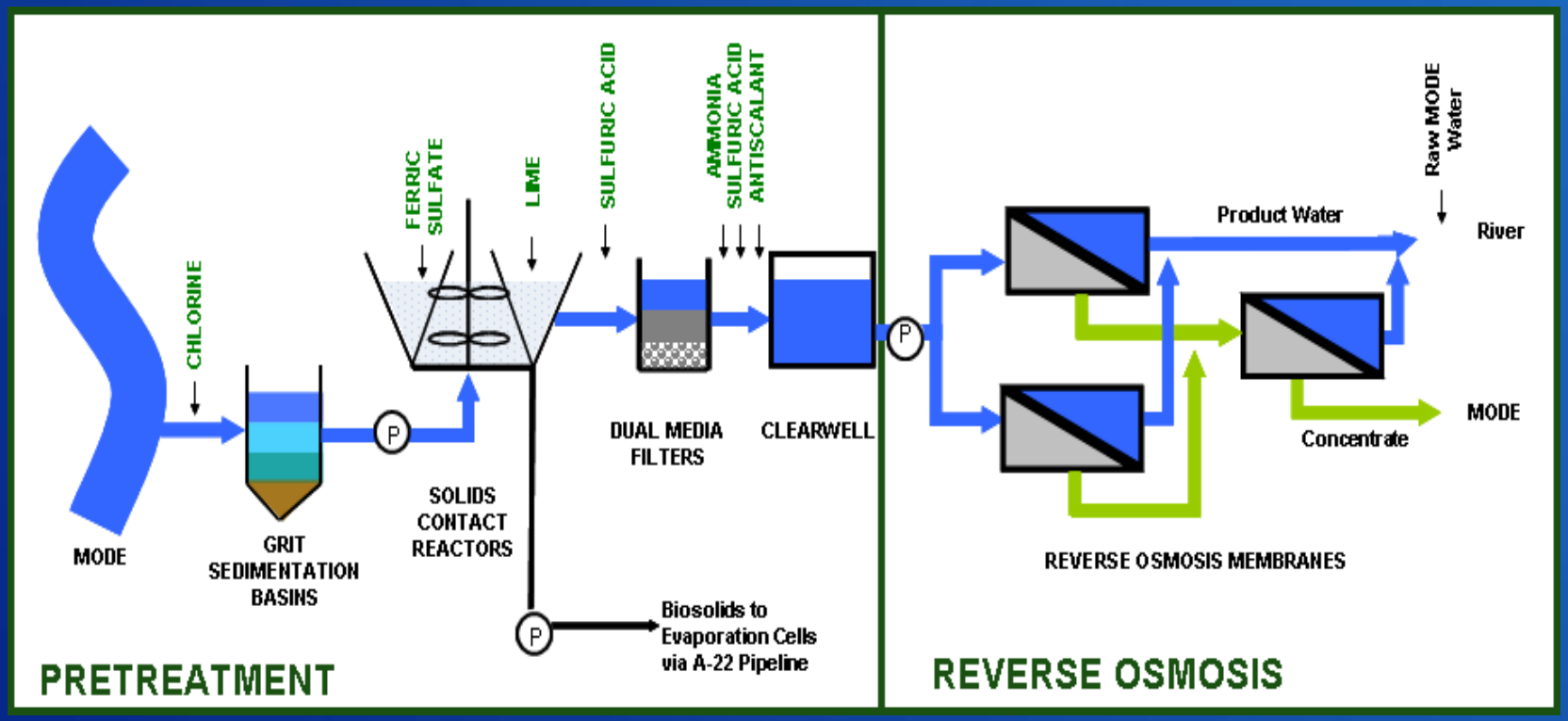
Plant Configuration for the Pilot Run



2,000+ RO membranes

70 % design recovery

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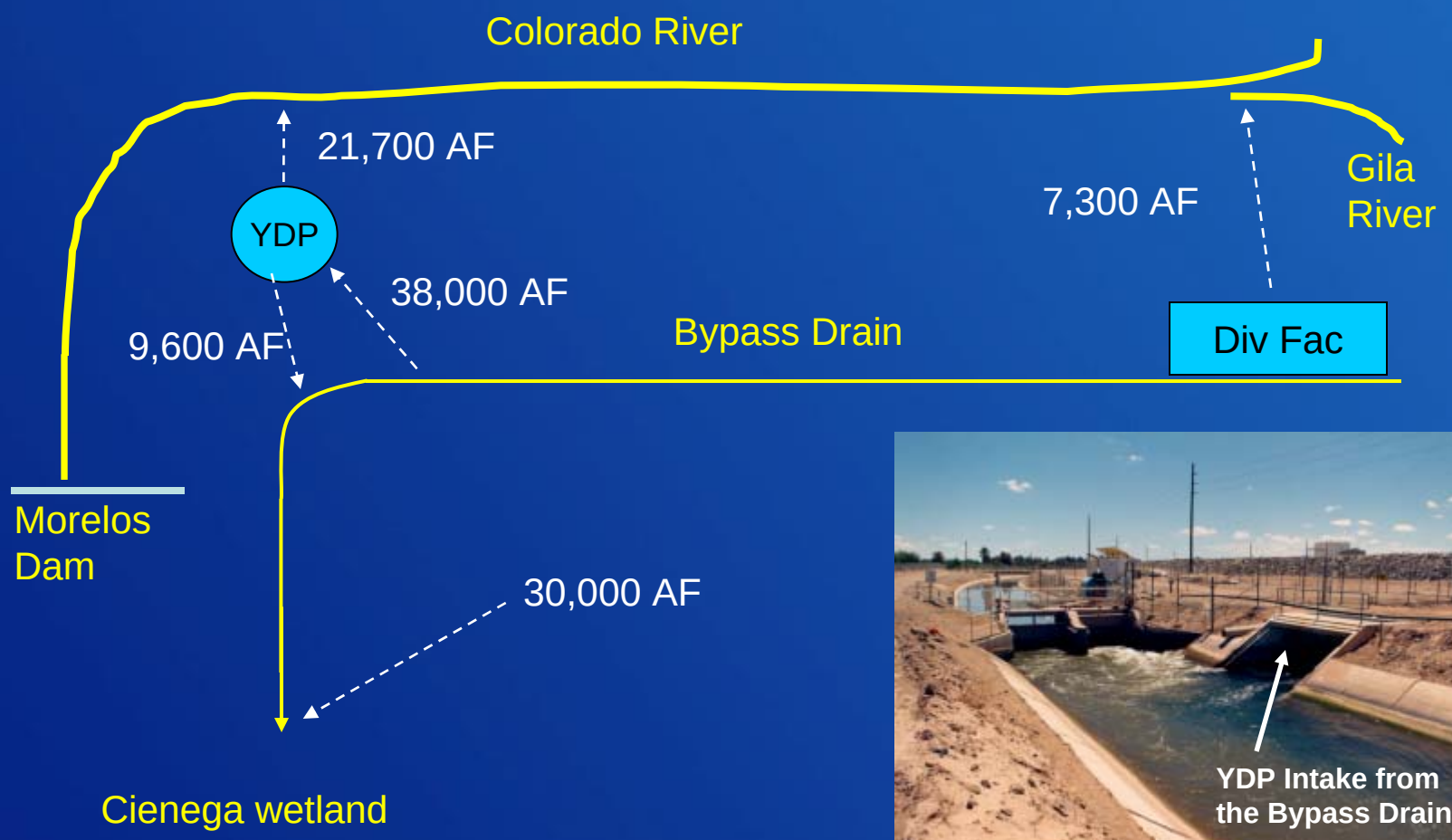
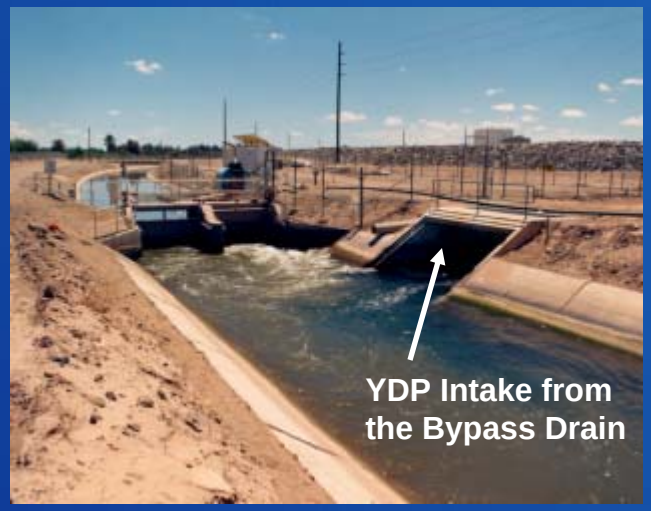
Summary level Water Balance





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Water Quality Improvement Center

Pilot Run results + Research results = Thorough YDP perspective for future decision making

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