

Transforming the Riverfront of Yuma, Arizona

March 28 , 2018



WRRC CONFERENCE “ THE BUSINESS OF WATER ”

WATER AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY



YUMAS

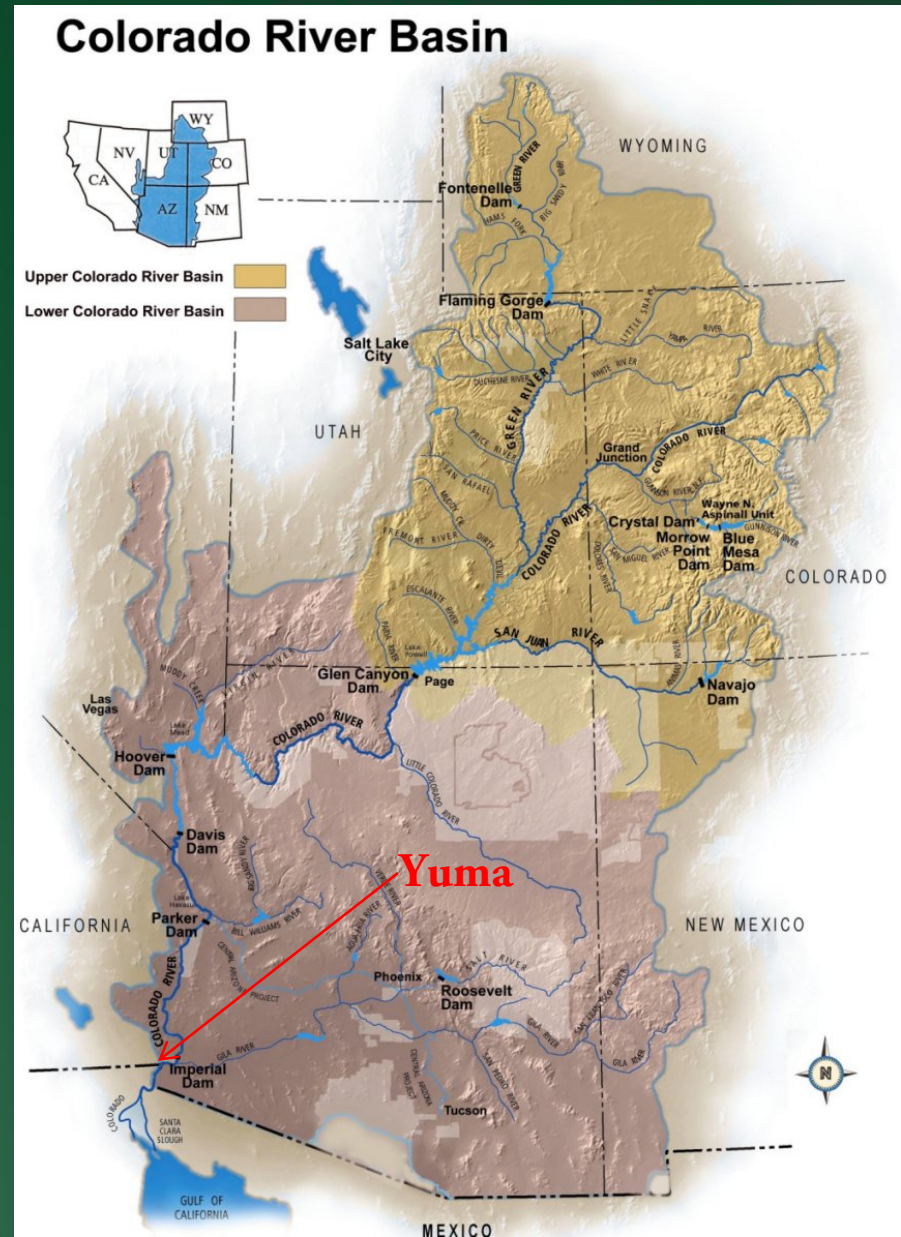
UNIQUE LOCATION

4 Large Dams

- Glen Canyon
- Hoover
- Davis
- Parker

Smaller Weirs

- Headgate Rock
- Palo Verde Weir
- Imperial Dam
- Laguna Dam
- Morelos Dam
- Colorado Weir (in Delta)



Yuma Crossing Before the Dams



THE COLORADO RIVER AT YUMA

Yuma Crossing After the Dams



Flooding threatens Yuma



Before...



...and After



Yuma Farming: A \$2 Billion Industry of Winter Fresh Vegetables



Imperial Dam



Remnant
of the
Colorado
River



A No Man's Land Cuts Yumans Off from the Colorado River





A Jungle of Non-Native Vegetation

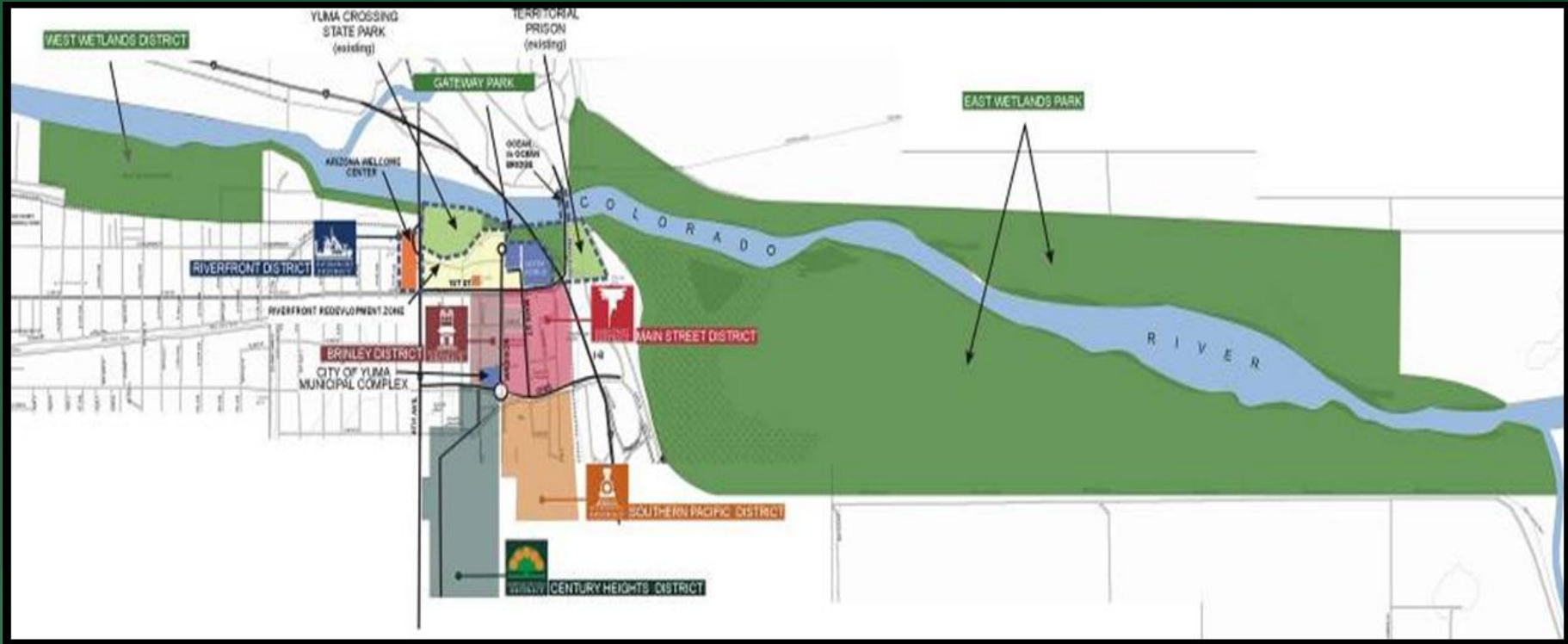


The Challenges

- Reversing a century of environmental degradation on the Lower Colorado River
- Reconnecting a desert southwest community cut off from the river... recreationally and commercially
- Weaving new commercial development into a National Historic Landmark
- Preserving Yuma's water rights to sustain agriculture, the foundation of its economy



National Heritage Area: A Framework for Public and Private Investment



Integrating Seven Miles of Redevelopment along the Colorado River

- **Yuma West Wetlands: An Early Action Project**

From city dump to riverfront park

- **Yuma East Wetlands**

A restoration of both wetlands and community trust

- **Downtown Riverfront Redevelopment**

New development within a National Historic Landmark



Yuma West Wetlands: 2002

Past

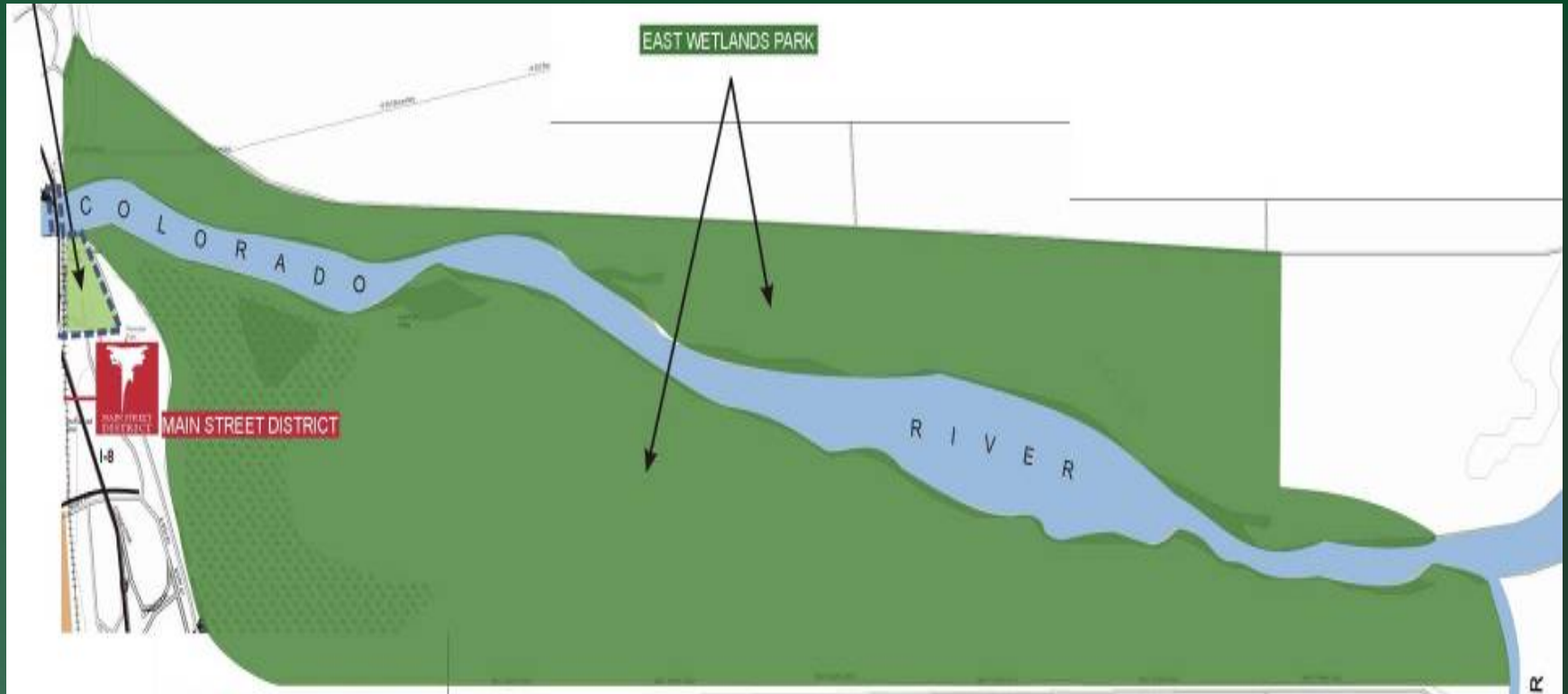


Present



An \$8 million investment from local, state
and federal funding sources

Yuma East Wetlands



The Ancestral Lands of the Quechan Indian Nation



Why is this date important?

February 28, 2002



Yes, this is wetlands restoration



A Powerful Partnership Brings a \$10 Million Investment in Wetlands Restoration



Building Partnerships by Accessing Agricultural Expertise for Restoration



What we were told was ☒ technically impossible ☒



North Channel Revegetation Project Site, 2009



Rich Soil, flood irrigation, and Yuma farmers' genius



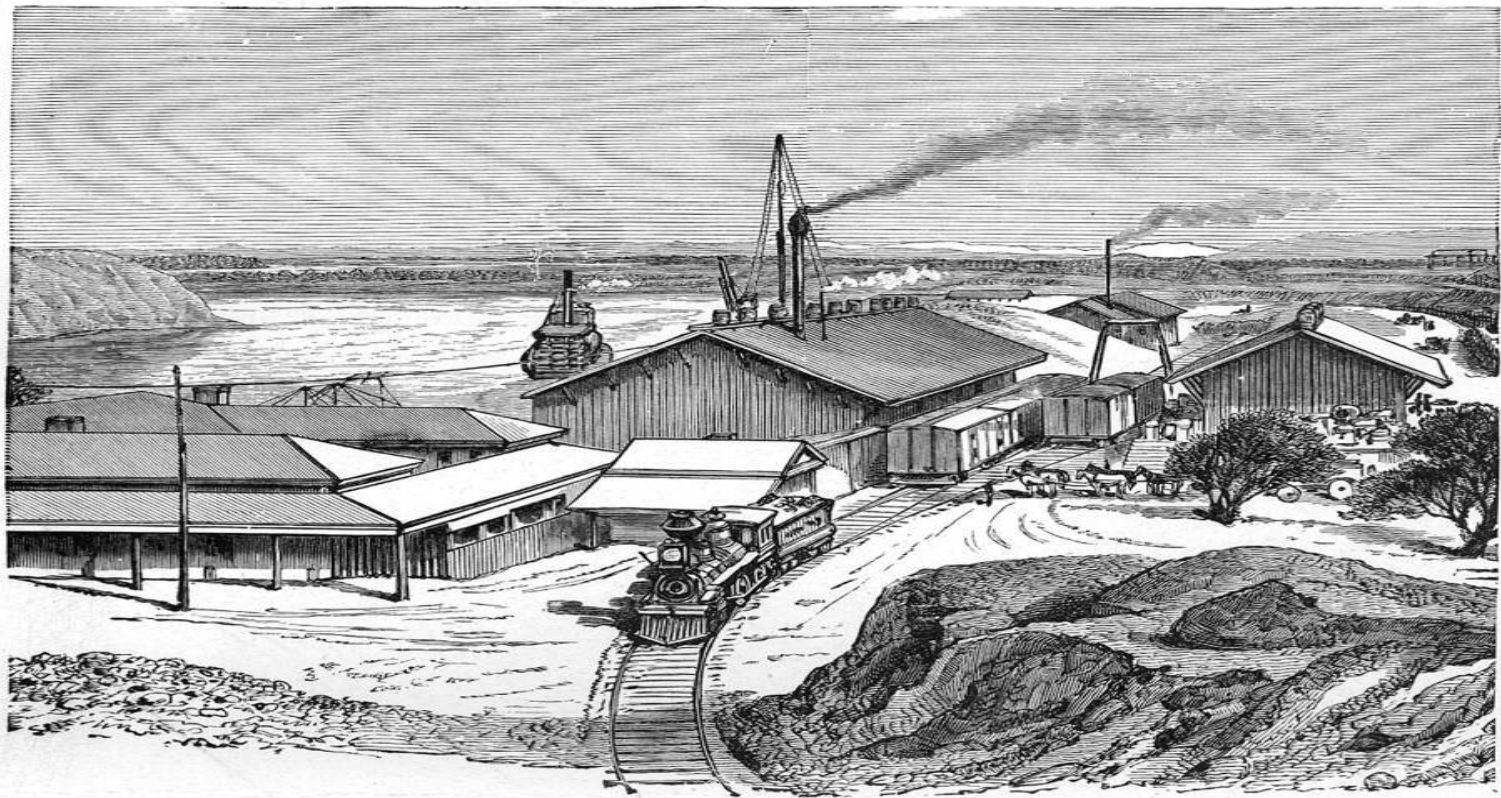
North Channel Revegetation Project Site, 2017



East Wetlands: After Restoration
400 Acres of Restored Wetlands
250,000 Native Trees Planted



The Challenge of New Development in a Threatened National Historic Landmark



RAILROAD DEPOT, YUMA, ARIZONA.

Downtown Riverfront: An Untapped Resource





Yuma Crossing Design Guidelines



Integrating history and tourism, resulting in a \$30 million private investment



Integrating park development with commercial development



The Public Sector's Role: Gateway Park Site (2002)



Gateway Park (2007): A \$4 Million Investment



Looking Forward

- Promoting River Tourism
- Telling the story of the future of the river where it is actually happening: Yuma and a National Park.....
- “Canary in the coalmine”: A river that disappears 70 miles from the ocean
- Taking pro-active steps to protect Yuma agriculture



A NATIONAL PARK FOR YUMA?



Steamboat Structural Abstraction

Storehouse

Solar Panels

Existing Visitor Center

New Visitor Center

Outdoor classroom

Water cistern demonstration

Owens Valley of the 21st Century?



Or Sustainable Agriculture ?



Quantity & Quality

Reservation Main Drain
82,210 AF

Pilot Knob
670,482 AF

NIB
1,406,283 AF

Imperial Dam
5,877,844 AF

Laguna Dam 301,894 AF

W-M Main Drainage Canal
(Bypass Drain)
108,000 AF

Yuma

- DPOC #1 – 20,824 AF
- DPOC #2 – 17,101 AF
- DPOC #3 – 10,101 AF
- DPOC #4 – 2,054 AF

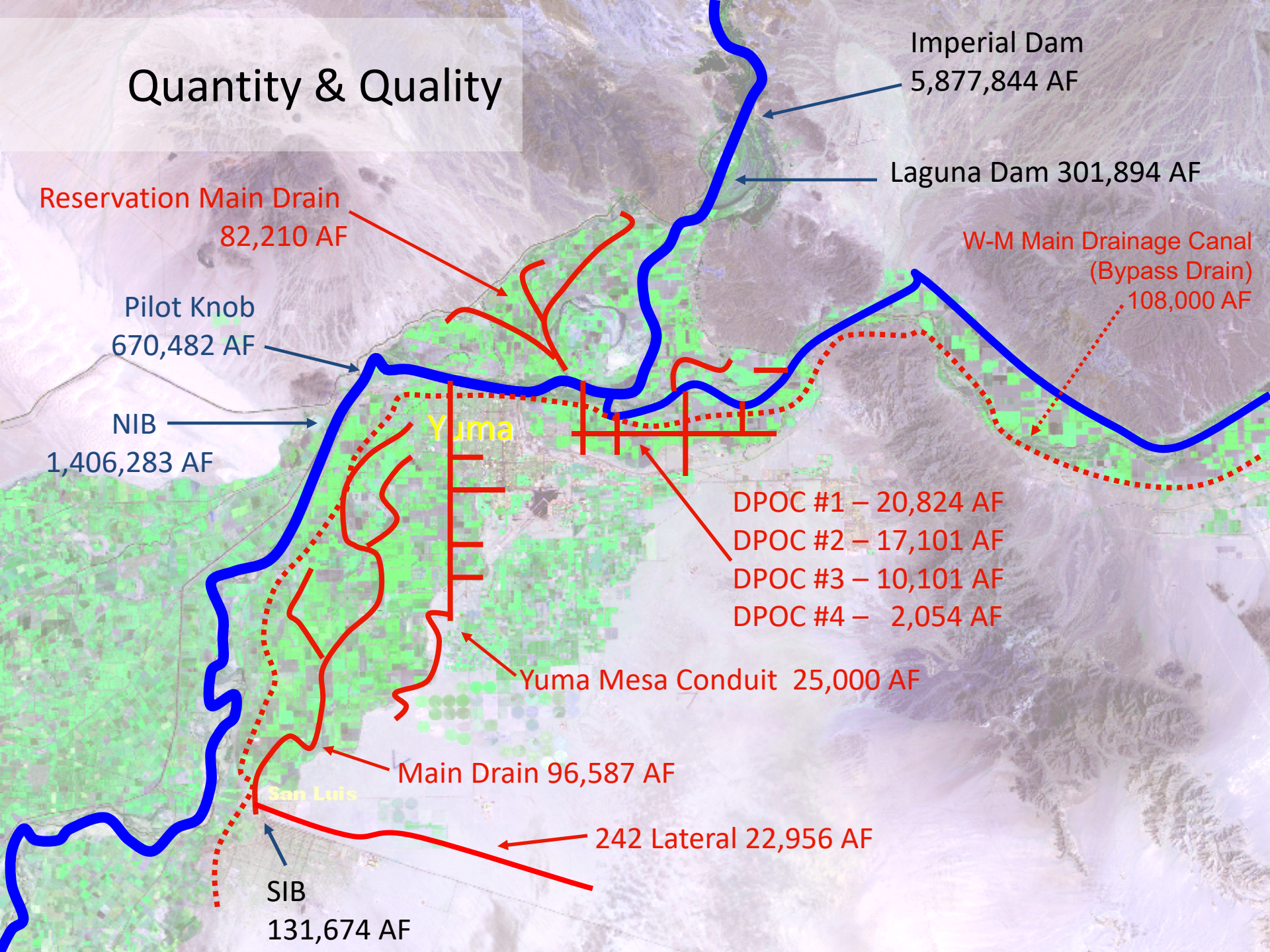
Yuma Mesa Conduit 25,000 AF

Main Drain 96,587 AF

San Luis

242 Lateral 22,956 AF

SIB
131,674 AF



Yuma: A Hidden Asset of 49 Million Acre Feet of Water



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