

Solar Power&Water desal looking forward

As Solar Power&Water desal comes on stream according to our forecasts, the water picture changes, including especially in the Colorado River system.

Reminder

What we replace downstream in effect produces a like amount for consumption upstream, effectively new water, not River water.

Replacements include:

- ☛ The relatively small amount of Ciénega Communities River water: 5,193 af/yr
- ☛ 400,000 af/yr for Wellton-Mohawk IDD
- ☛ 1.5 million af/yr Mexico Treaty water
- ☛ 3.3 million af/yr for IID, coupled with our Salton Sea to Imperial Lake conversion, liberating 3.9 million af/yr which can be traded
- ☛ The balance of the 4.4 million af/yr California allocation, or an additional 1.1 million af/yr

Previously I have said this new water and the swaps would necessitate or cause the revision of the Colorado River Pact or the Law of the River. But perhaps not. Let these regulations continue to apply to all Colorado River water, as now, but not to the new water Solar Power&Water would provide or cause. Part of what this means is that the new water can be priced to prevent its wasteful use. Water companies have the option to impose restrictions on the use of this new water, such as requiring stringent conservation methods as a condition of use, including for agriculture. It is worth pointing out that the new or desal water will be accompanied by the power produced. The consequence is that all the costs for the water can be borne by power sales, in effect making the water free to the water companies or the distributors, including Reclamation. This does not make it any less precious.

The water quantities noted above sum to 6.9 million af/yr, accompanied by 35,964 MW of sustainable solar power. The water augments the Colorado River by 51% for a River flow of 13.5 million af/yr. And there can be more. This drought-proof additional water can help sustain growth long beyond our lifetimes. Water (and power) agencies elsewhere in the world, supported by Solar Power&Water power and desal water, each will have their own set of conditions, and their own applications. We all will try to stay ahead of Malthus.

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