

A landscape photograph of the Salton Sea. The foreground is filled with large, light-colored, irregularly shaped rocks or concrete blocks. Behind the rocks, there are green bushes and trees. In the background, a body of water (the Salton Sea) stretches across the frame, with a distant shoreline featuring more vegetation and palm trees under a clear blue sky.

# SAVING THE SALTON SEA

An outline of the Salton Sea Management Program Phase I: 10-Year Plan





# THE SALTON SEA IS...

- California's largest lake
- Saltier than the ocean
- An essential rest and refueling stop for about 400 species of migratory birds traveling along the Pacific Flyway
- 236 miles below sea level and has been intermittently wet and dry for centuries





# THE SALTON SEA WAS...

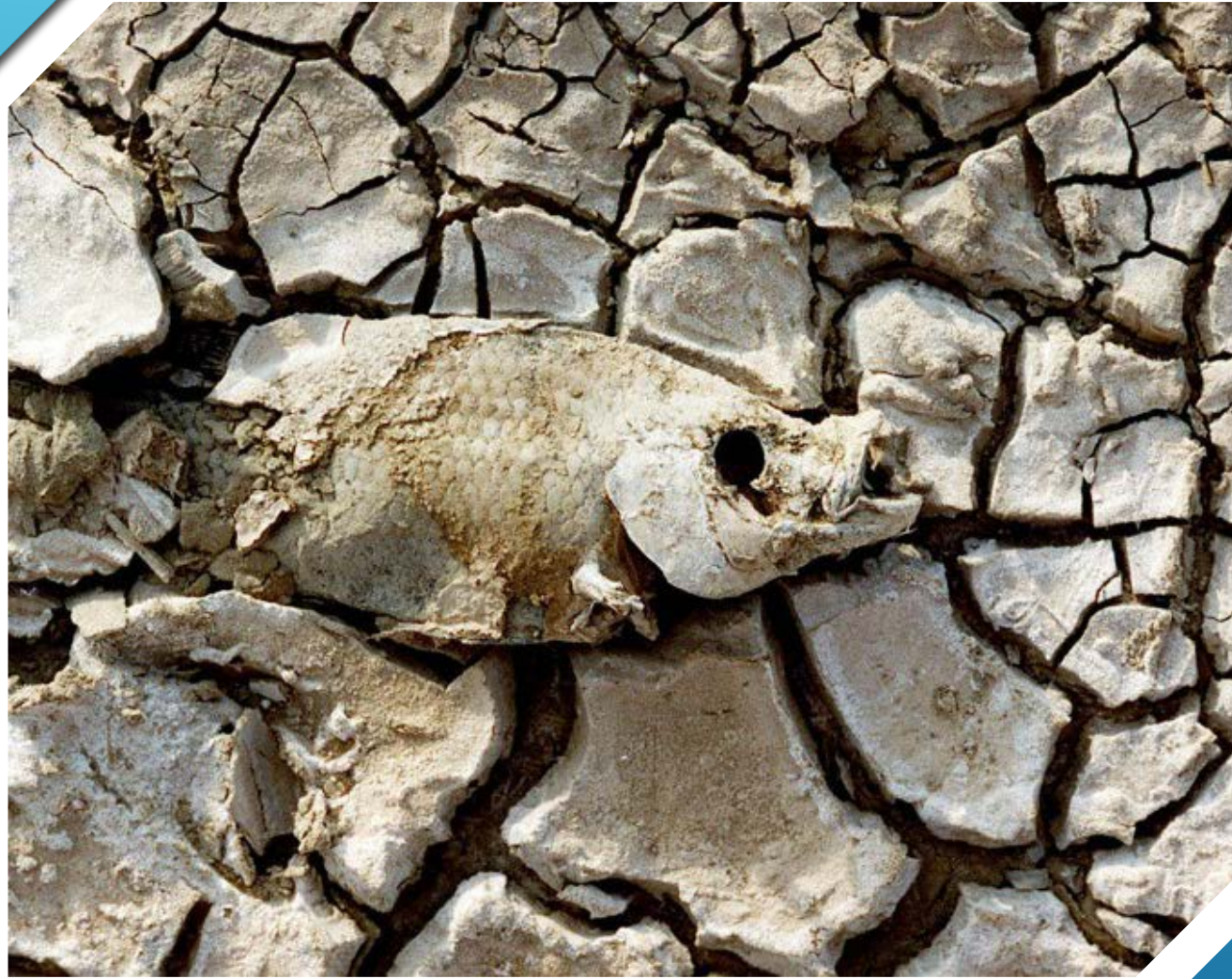
- A fabulous vacation destination that attracted more visitors than Yosemite
- A healthy place to raise crops, businesses and families, until...



# THE SALTON SEA

began to dry up.





## THE DRYING SEA

- ▶ Though natural, the drying threatens The Sea and the ecosystem around it.
- ▶ The lake loses about 1.3 million acre feet of water a year, killing tilapia and the birds, who feed on them.

- ▶ The dry earth left behind, called playa, forms toxic dust clouds that ride desert winds to the Imperial and Coachella valleys where it aggravates respiratory problems of area residents, chokes crops and puts the region's tourist industry in jeopardy. Think about the Coachella Music and Arts Festival just 35 miles away. What if playa dust crashed that party?
- ▶ Imperial County, which houses half the lake, has the highest asthma-hospitalization rates in the state.
- ▶ Because the lake received agricultural run off for over a century, the dust also contains pesticides with heavy metals and carcinogens as very likely additives.

Source: The Atlantic magazine <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2015/11/the-airborne-toxic-lake-event/414888/>  
Saltonseasense.com/faq

## *"WIND-CHELA" AKA "THE DUST BOWL" OF 2013*



Dust is a growing issue at the Coachella Music and Arts Festival. The 2013 storm stunned the Wu-Tang Clan. The Red Hot Chili Peppers likened it to the Dust Bowl of the 1930s.





# AND NOW,

life around The Sea is moored,  
awaiting much needed help.



# THE KEY TO THE FUTURE OF THE SEA

The **Salton Sea Management Program Phase I: 10-Year Plan** aims to build a network of ponds and wetlands on receding shoreland totally nearly 30,000 acres. These efforts promise to improve air quality, grow wildlife habitat and boost water quality enough to minimize hazards to human health and the entire ecosystem of the Salton Sea in the near term.





## 'SHOVEL-READY' PROJECTS

The plan includes projects, many of which are ready for groundbreaking. They address salinization, dust and loss of water and habitat. And the program calls for federal, state and local agencies and community members to participate in:

- Red Hill Bay Project to restore habitat on the southeast shore
- Torres-Martinez Wetland project, an effort of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians to build shallow wetlands along the northern edge of the Salton Sea
- Water backbone infrastructure that convey river and Sea water to air quality and habitat projects.
- Species Conservation Habitat Projects (saline impoundments along the southern shore to support fish and wildlife)

# FOCUS AREAS

The 10-year plan focuses on key components and locations:

- ▶ New River East and West
- ▶ Whitewater River
- ▶ Alamo River North and South
- ▶ Water delivery infrastructure

It prioritizes projects based on their proximity to water sources and completed environmental clearance

## NEAR-TERM DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

Current projects include:

- ▶ New River East – Species Conservation Habitat
- ▶ Red Hill Bay
- ▶ Torres Martinez Wetlands

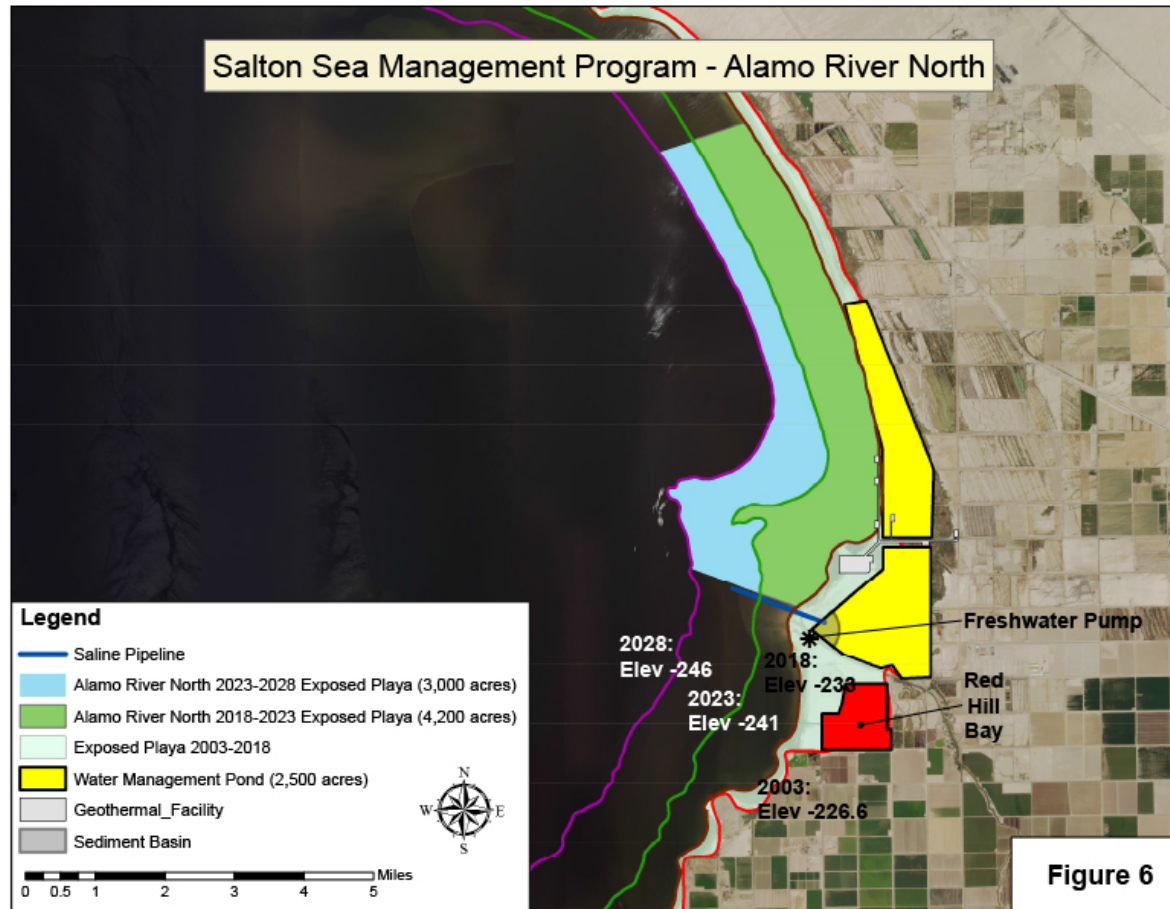
Proposed for 2018 and 2019

- ▶ New River west
- ▶ Whitewater River

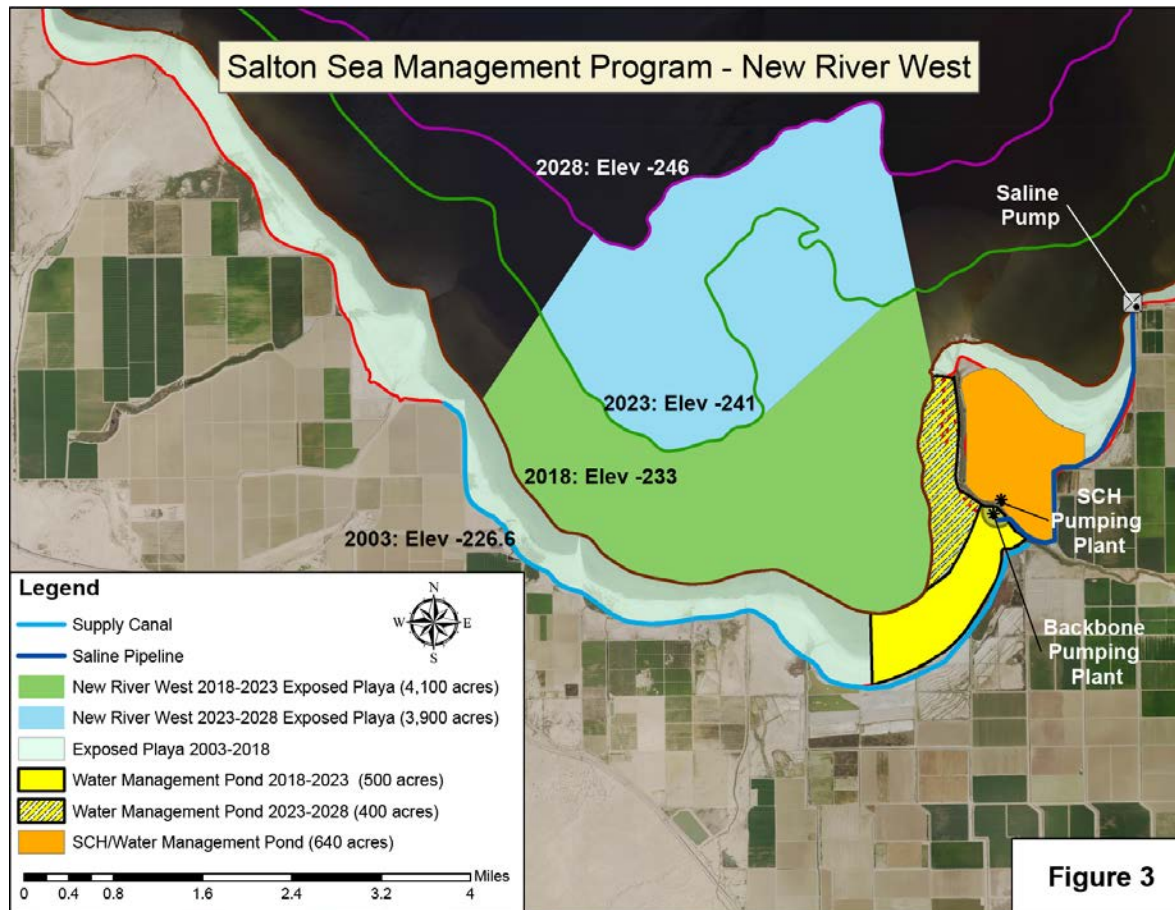


## ALAMO RIVER – RED HILL BAY

The first of many restoration projects, Red Hill Bay broke ground in November 2015. It diverts enough Alamo River water to cover 400 acres of exposed lakebed. This will create a shallow-water habitat for over 400 bird species and prevent dust from rising off an exposed Sea floor.



## SPECIES CONSERVATION HABITAT (PHASE 1)



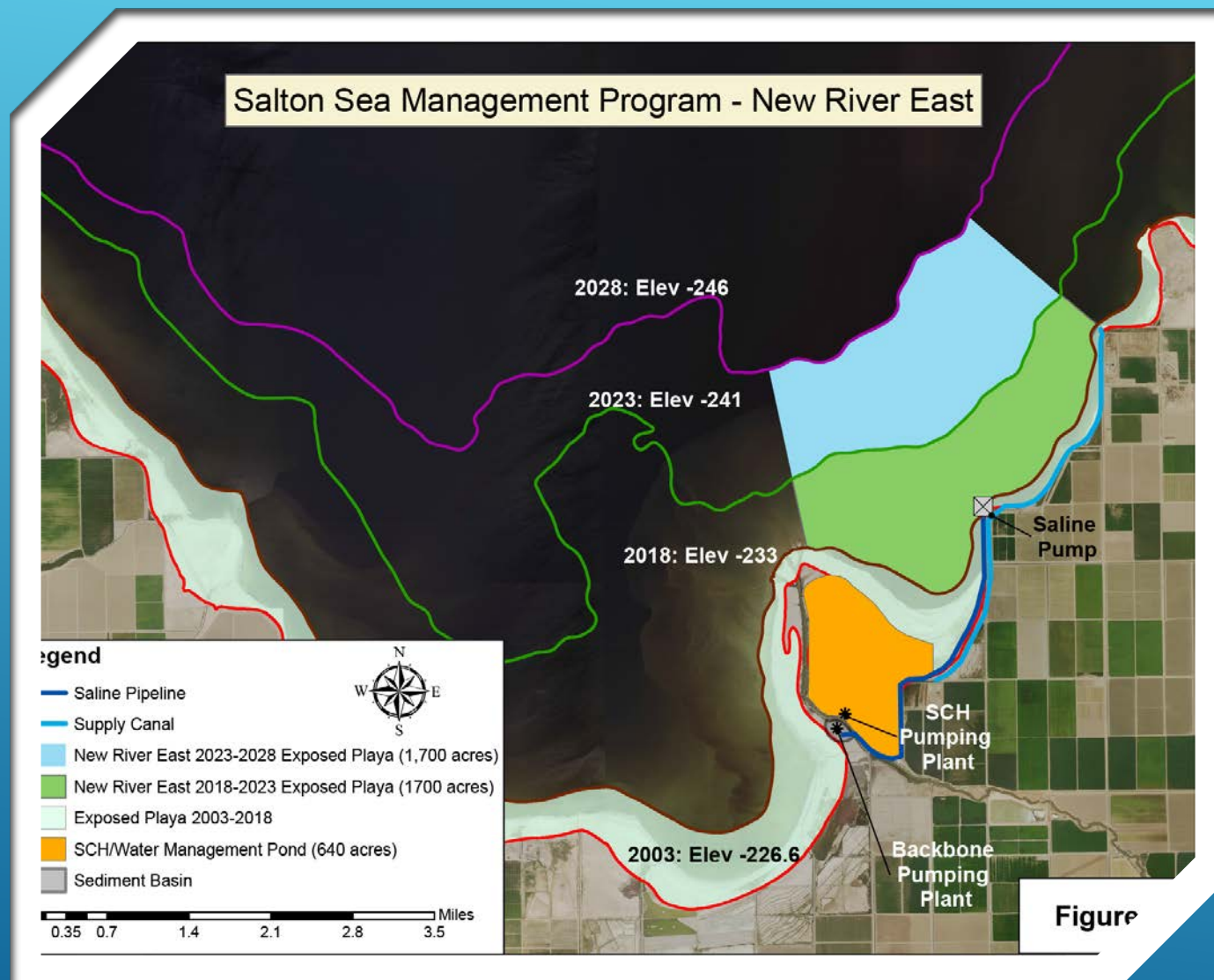
- ▶ Improve berm and levee to create bird habitat
- ▶ Bring salinity to levels tilapia can tolerate and reduce Selenium, which can be toxic if inhaled
- ▶ Construction is expected to start in the fall of 2019



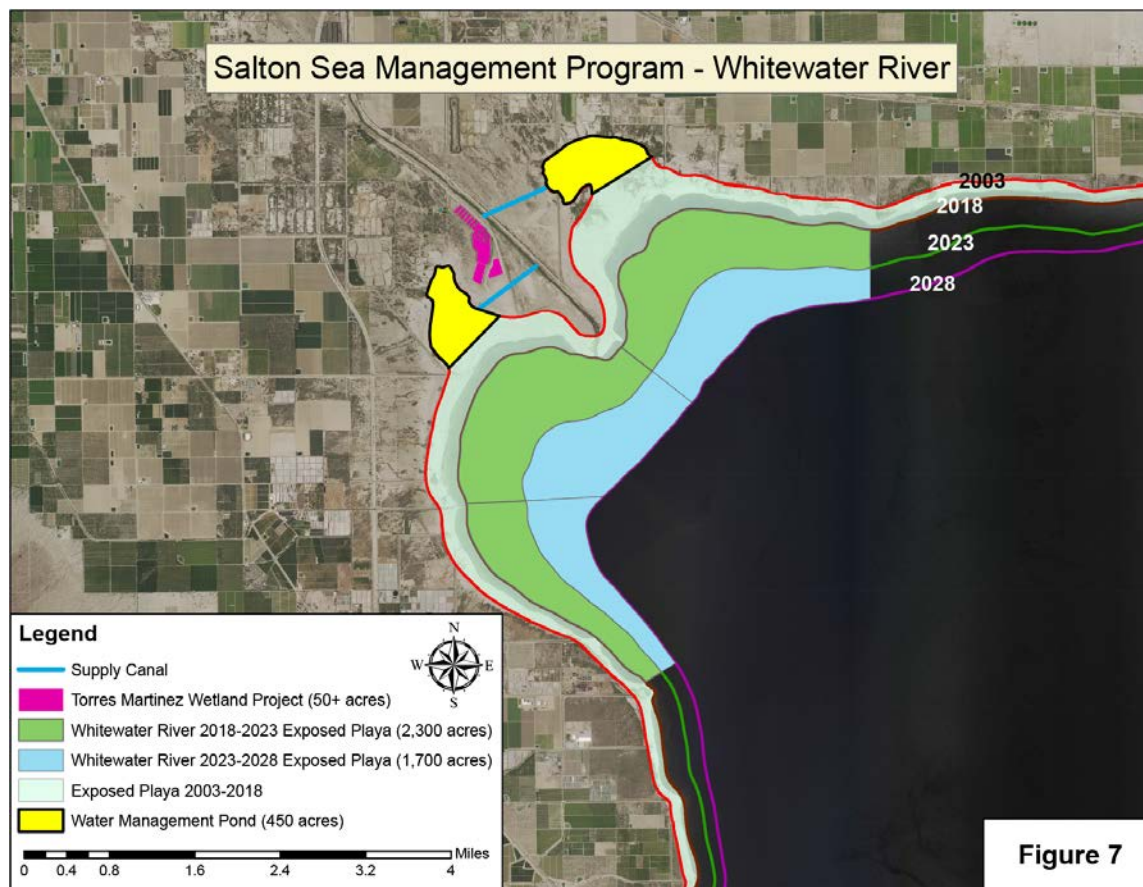
# THE NEW RIVER BRINGS WATER TO THE SEA

The New River is an essential water source.

- ▶ This project stores agricultural run off from the New and Alamo rivers
- ▶ Wets thousands of acres of potentially emissive playa



# WHITEWATER AND THE TORRES MARTINEZ WETLANDS



- Recreates a dry pond, restoring freshwater wildlife habitat while covering exposed playa
- Installed a solar power array to run the water pump
- Construction began in 2016 and water flowed in on April 12, 2018





# THE SALTON SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ensures area residents can breathe easy and  
these birds can feed here because...

A wide-angle photograph of a seascape at dusk or dawn. The sky is filled with dark, textured clouds, with a bright light source on the horizon creating a rainbow that arches over the water. The ocean is dark and choppy, meeting a sandy beach in the foreground. The overall mood is somber yet hopeful.

THE SALTON SEA WILL BE SAVED!