

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Diesel Fuel Spills along the Lower Colorado River



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Diesel Fuel Spills along the Lower Colorado River

Presented by:

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100+ Years of Water Management

1902

1922

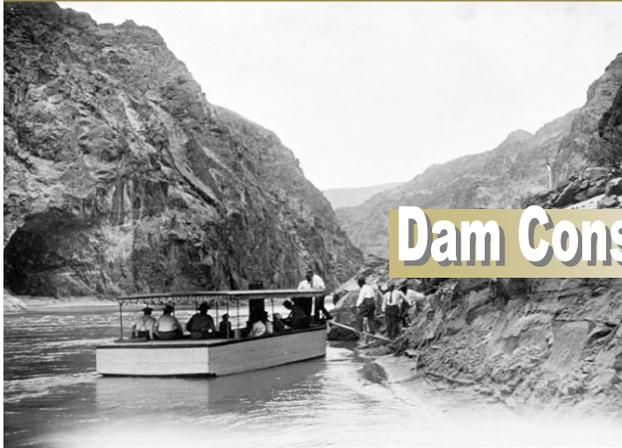
1942

1966

1987

1993

2006



Dam Construction



Indian Tribes



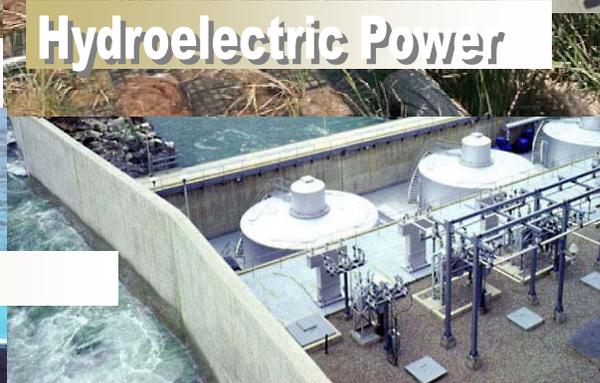
Hydroelectric Power



Conservation



Recreation



Water Delivery



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Reclamation has the West Covered

Working as a team to ensure Reclamation-wide programs and activities *exceed our customers' expectations.*



Colorado River “Water Master”

- Reclamation acts on behalf of the Secretary to **fulfill Water Master’s role**
- Water Master role stems from Boulder Canyon Project Act and Supreme Court Decree in Arizona vs. California
- Water and power contracts and deliveries

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- Complex body of laws, court cases, and regulations that **guide use of river water and the operation of dams**
- Colorado River Compact of 1922
 - Divided the basin into two halves
 - Established apportionments between the upper and lower basins
 - Provided legislation for river regulation and development
- Vehicle used to meet water obligations and manage challenges



Water Delivery

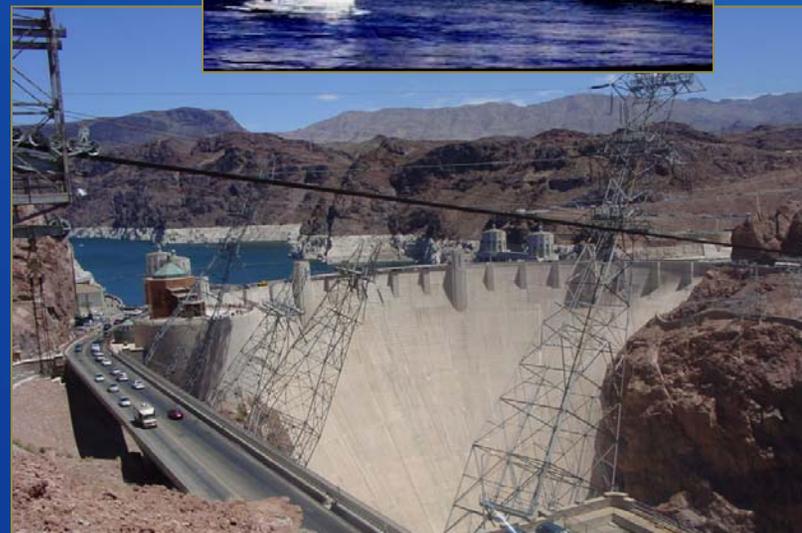
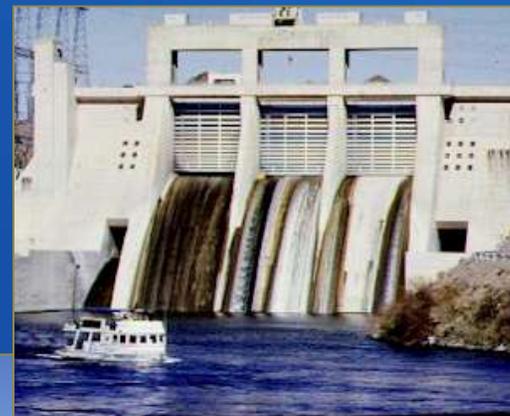
- Annually delivers **9 million acre-feet (maf)**
- Irrigates **3 million acres**
- Serves **20 million people**



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- Powerplants in Lower Colorado generate **6 billion Kwh/yr** of electricity
- Equivalent to **11.4 million barrels of crude oil**
- Has the capacity to serve at least **2 million people**

Davis Dam



Hoover Dam

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Recreation

**15 major
recreation areas**

- ★ Reservoirs and Trails
- ★ Wildlife Viewing Preserve

**12 million
visitors each
year**

- ★ Fishing and Hiking
- ★ Horseback Riding
- ★ Water Sports



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Cultural Resources

- Four National Wildlife Refuges
- Cultural Sites Stewardship
- Enhance and protect fish and wildlife habitat, natural, cultural and recreational resources



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Flood Control and Drought Protection



Summer 2004

- **Key Objectives:**
 - Carry out Secretary's role as watermaster of the lower Colorado River in consultation with lower Colorado River Basin States
 - Provide operate and maintain the lower Colorado River
 - Meet water delivery requirements
- **Administer agency programs**
 - Lower Colorado River Response Plan
 - Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP)

- **Multi-stakeholder effort that will provide ESA coverage for 50 years**
 - **Conserve and protect endangered species and their habitat**
 - **Protect environment while ensuring continued water and power operations (Section 7/10 covered actions)**
 - **Prevent future listings of additional species**



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MSCP Overview

Continued

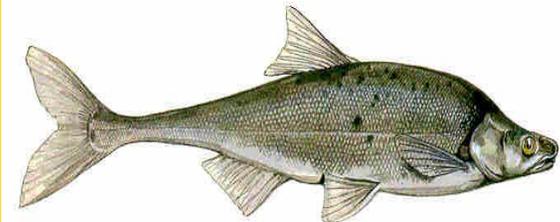
Conservation Goals Include:

**Stock 660,000 sub-adult Razorbacks
and 620,000 Bonytail Chubs**



**Restore 8,100 Acres of Riparian and
Aquatic Habitat**

Research and Monitoring



Bonytail Chub



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Farmers Bridge



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Spill Site



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City and County Response Agencies



RIVERSIDE COUNTY

- Fire Department
- Environmental Health

IMPERIAL COUNTY

- Fire Department
- Sheriff's Office

LA PAZ COUNTY

- Fire Department
- Sheriff and Board of Supervisor
- Health Department
- Administrator
- Public Works

CITY OF YUMA



YUMA COUNTY

- Sheriff's Office



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State Response Agencies

CALIFORNIA



ARIZONA



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Federal Response Agencies

- Bureau of Reclamation - Yuma Area Office
- Colorado River Indian Tribes Police
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Cibola and Imperial National Wildlife Refuges
- Bureau of Land Management
- Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9
- Marine Corps Air Station - Yuma, Arizona

Other Interested Agencies

- Irrigation Districts
- News Media
- Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9
Cleanup Contractor
- Marine Owners and Operators

3,000 – 4,000 Gallon Tanks



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Source of Release



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Intake Pump



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Sheen at Spill Site



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All-American Canal Headworks



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Looking at Top of Imperial Dam (East)



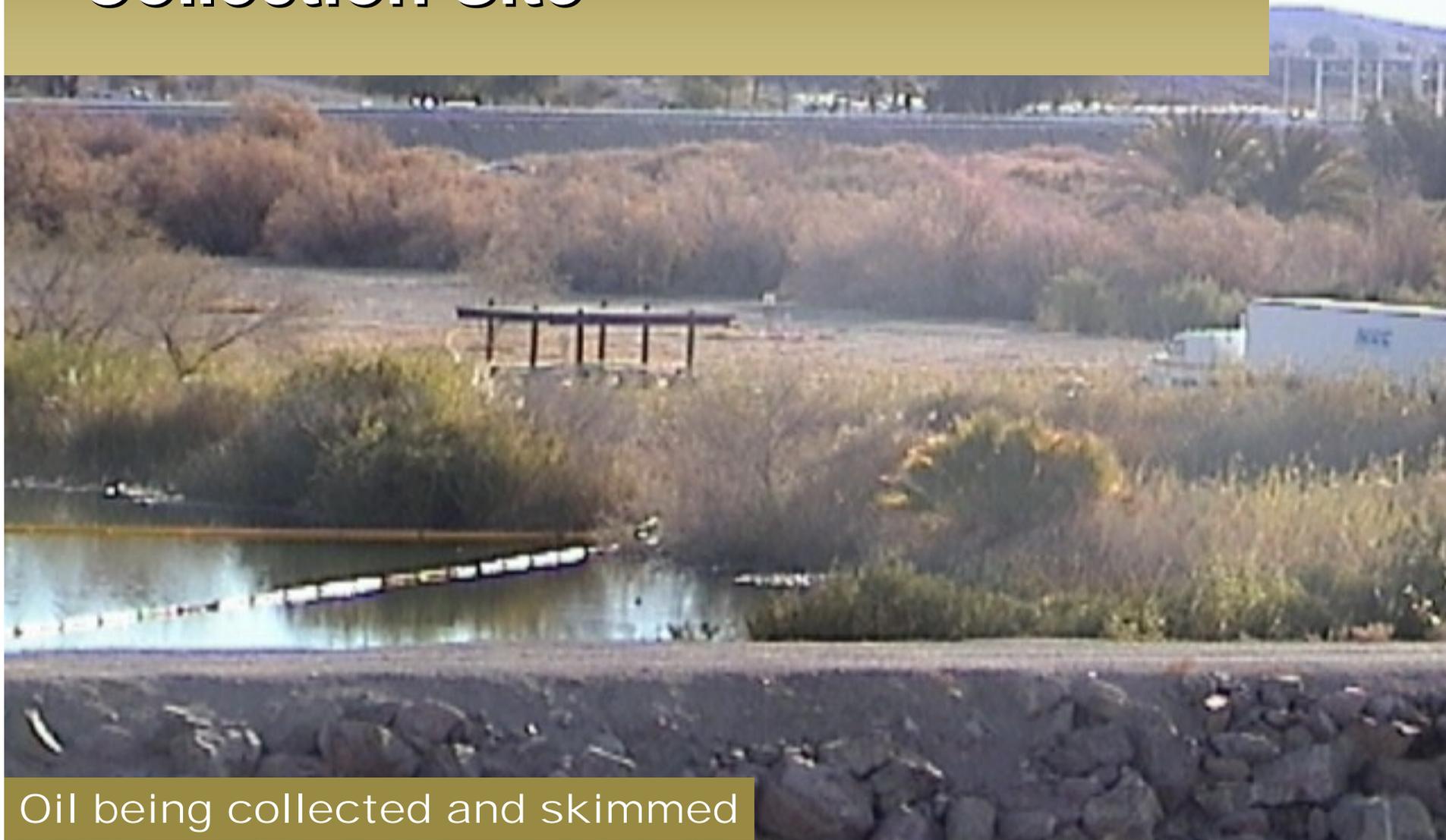
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Downstream of Imperial Dam



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Collection Site



Oil being collected and skimmed

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Collection Site



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Recovery Equipment (Rotary Drum Skimmer)



Skimmer removing oil from river

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Recovery Equipment (Pump for Drum Skimmer)



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- Lower Colorado River Response Plan
- Communication and Planning
- Unified Command
- Resources
- Funding
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment
- Spill Prevention Control and Counter Measures

Lower Colorado River Response Plan

- During the incident it was realized that the **lower Colorado River Response Plan** was outdated
- The **current plan is dated July 1993**

- There has been **very little planning with other federal, tribal, state and local agencies for spills that occur on the lower Colorado River**
- **Communication with these agencies only occurs when there is an incident**
- **Also, with a plan in place, agencies along the lower Colorado River would know who is in charge of an incident and where the resources are located**

- **Who is in charge during an incident on the lower Colorado River?**
- **Large impact - Many agencies with resources that could be affected – multi-jurisdictional**
- **Numerous action plans and support personnel engaged**

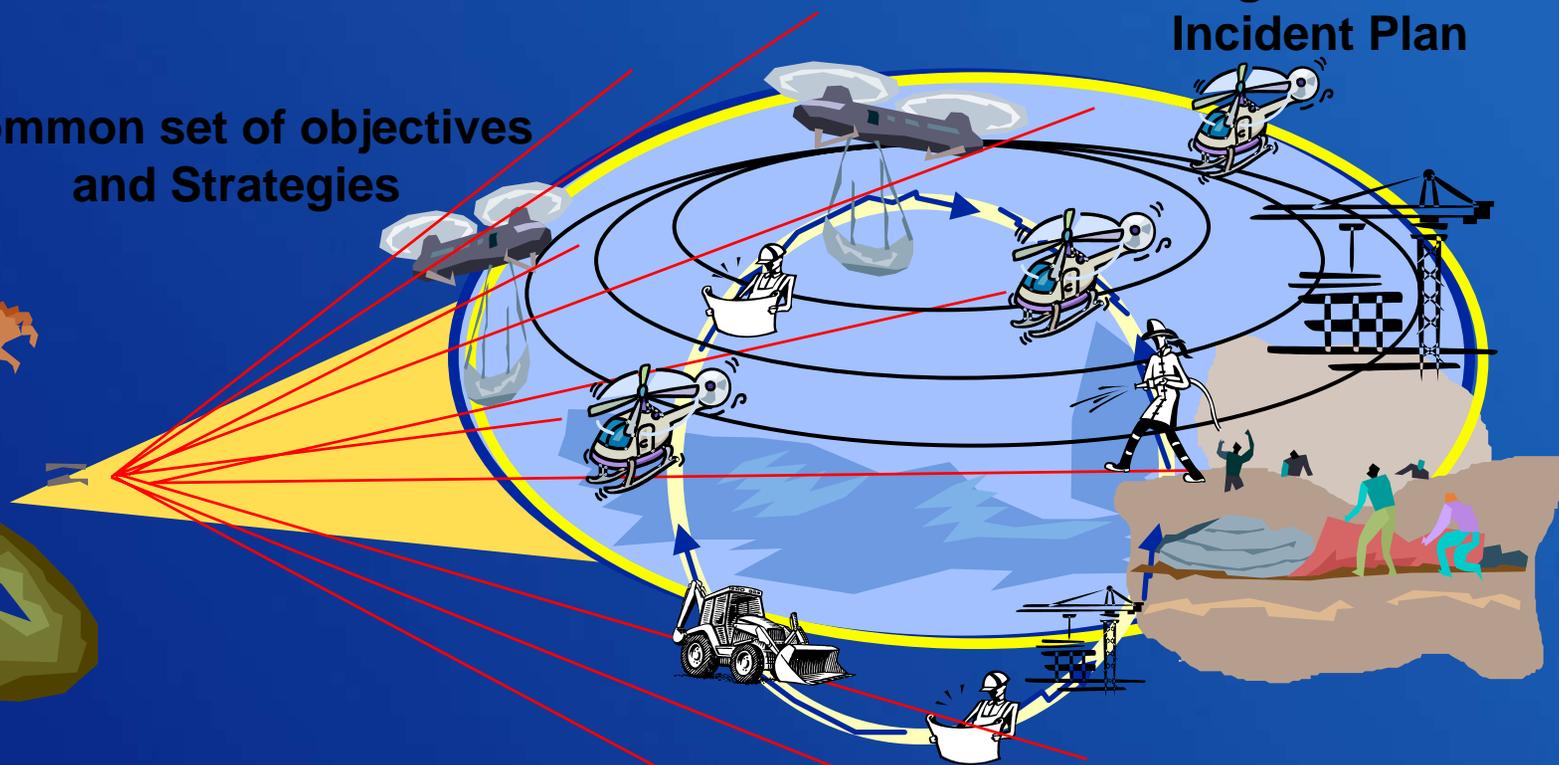
Centralized Command Authority and Coordination

many agencies...one voice...one goal

Single Action
Incident Plan

Common set of objectives
and Strategies

Coordinates multi-agency
resources and personnel



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- During the incident many resources were needed
- Typical questions were:
 - Who has **swift water spill boom**?
 - Who has **oil recovery equipment**?
 - Can we borrow a **boat**?
 - Where can we get **trained personnel**?

- During the response, EPA provided funding through the **Oil Pollution Liability Trust Fund** administered by the Coast Guard

- 1. Contact the National Response Center (NRC) to report the spill at (800) 424-8802**
 - Get a report number from the NRC
 - Specifically request a Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) from your EPA Region
- 2. Contact the FOSC**
 - Request a Federal Pollution Removal Number (FPRN). This is the number that opens up the Oil Liability Trust Fund and allows for spending (This funding comes from the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard will work with the Responsible Party for cost recovery)

- 3. If the situation warrants, EPA will show up on site and/or send out a STARC contractor to monitor cleanup activities**
- 4. The cost documentation package prepared by the DOI (lead Federal Agency) must be sent through:**
 - DOI-Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) for completeness**
 - Then sent forward to EPA for approval of cost**
 - EPA will forward package to the Coast Guard**
 - Coast Guard will send funds to the lead Federal Agency**

Steps to Getting Funding

Continued

5. For assistance contact:

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Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region

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Boulder City, NV 89006

Office: (702) 293-8060 **Cell:** (702) 378-2400

Help is also available from DOI-OEPC Oakland

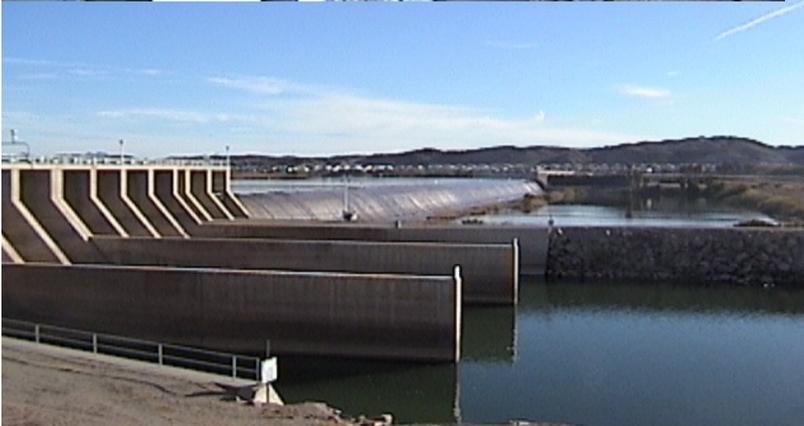
Office: (510) 817-1477

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- It was determined by the Department of the Interior Bureaus that there were no damages to natural resources during this incident

- With this incident EPA took the opportunity to look at SPCC issues along the lower Colorado River, to including portable pumps for irrigation intake and fueling operations along the river

Freshwater Spill Symposium



Questions?

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