

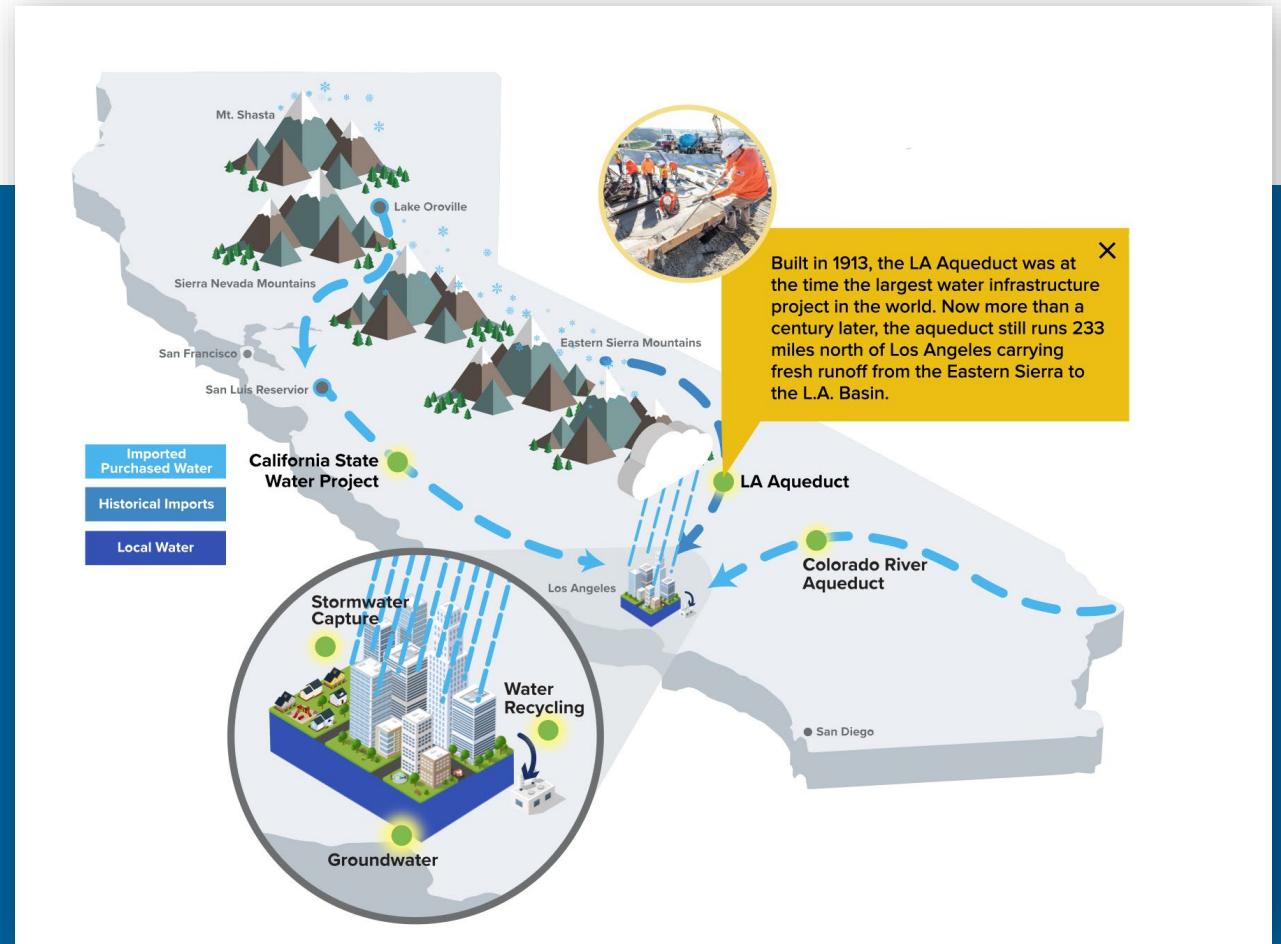
The Eastern Sierra: Mono Lake

March 9, 2023

Why We're Here

The Eastern Sierra

- LA receives anywhere from **10-50% of its supplies** from the Eastern Sierra through the LA Aqueduct, depending on snowpack levels.
 - This includes up to **16,000 acre-feet of remaining supplies from the Mono Basin**, based upon annual lake levels
 - This **16,000 acre-feet** is at risk of becoming **permanently unavailable**
 - Most cost effective water source
 - Loss of enough green energy for up to **179,000 residents** for 1 year

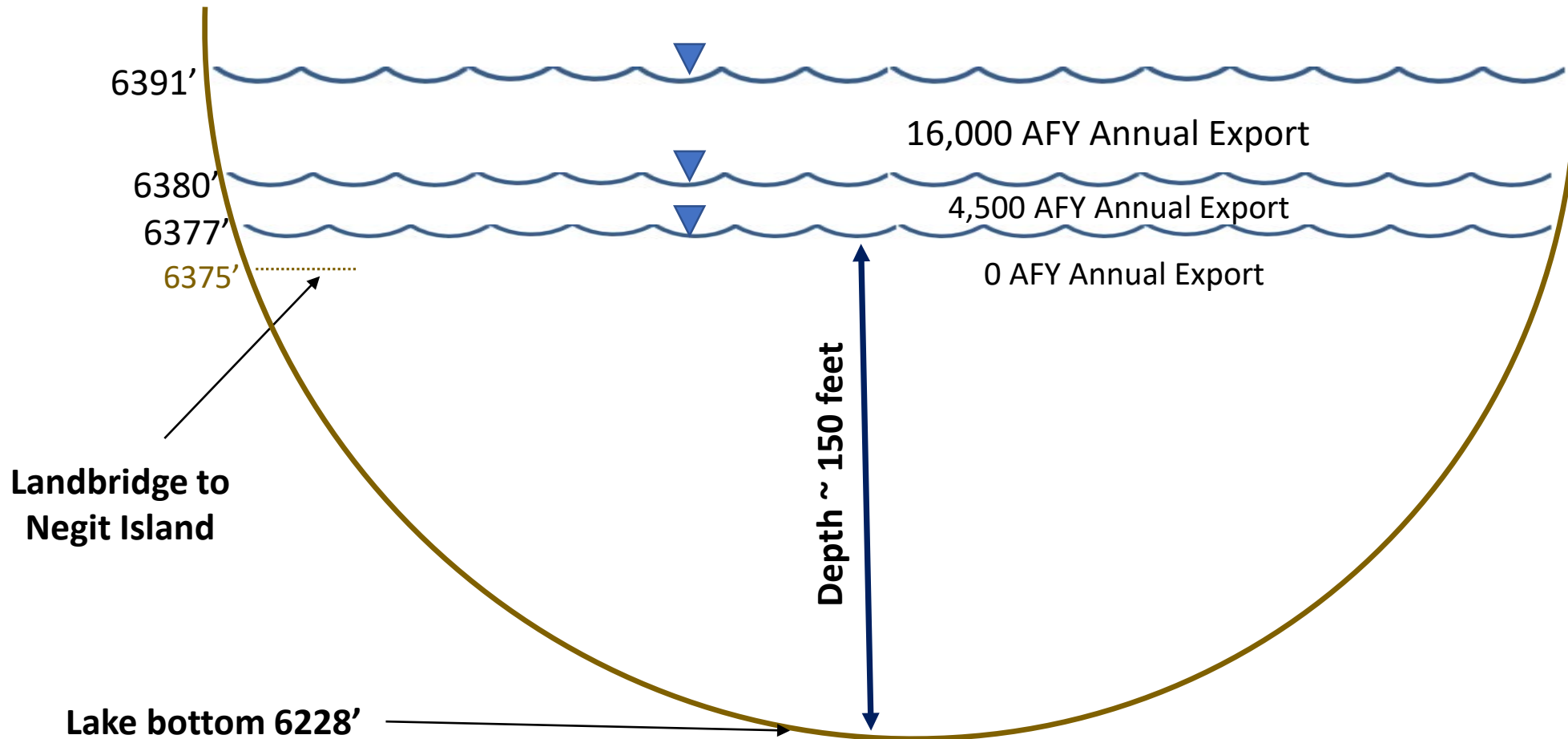


Challenges in Mono Basin: *LA Residents' Water Supply at Risk*

- February 15th - State Water Board held a Workshop to discuss an “emergency action” to protect California nesting gulls at Mono Lake.
- However, there are no emergency conditions, and the gulls are not in danger.
 - Lake levels are nearly four feet higher than the SWRCB threshold.
- This is a coordinated effort led by the Mono Lake Committee to eliminate Angelenos’ water rights in Mono Basin and could threaten your access to water and increase water rates



MONO LAKE D-1631 EXPORT CRITERIA BASED ON LAKE ELEVATION ON APRIL 1ST OF EACH YEAR



How Much is 16,000 Acre-Feet *For Your Neighborhood?*

- **16,000 acre-feet** of water is enough to:
 - Provide **more than 200,000 Angelenos** with water for one year.
 - Serve **all LAUSD schools** for almost two years (9,000 AF/year)
 - Keep **all of LA's local coffee shops** open for two years
- Replacing this 16,000 acre-feet would cost Los Angeles ratepayers **\$44 million (annually) by 2045.**



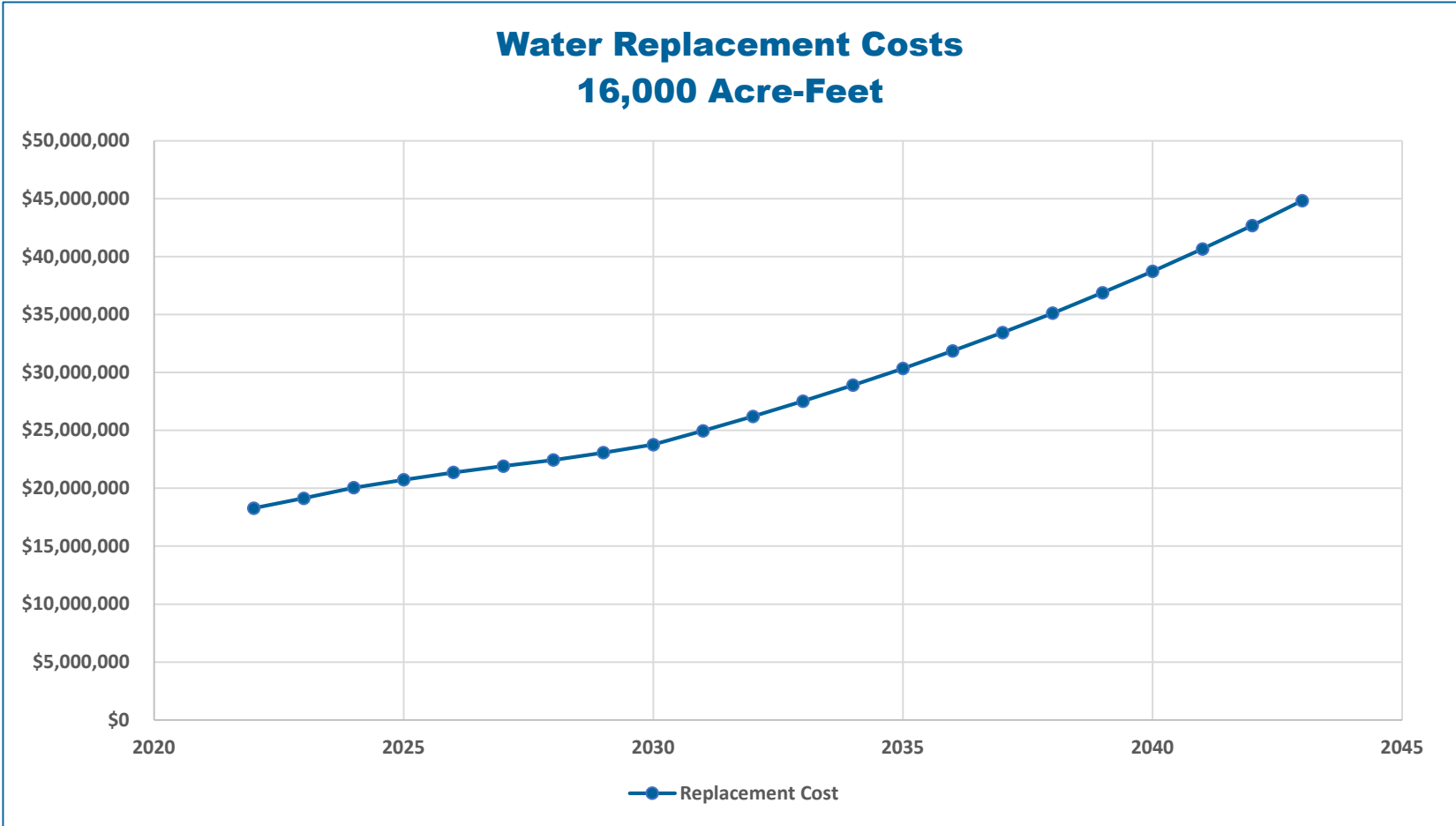
Replacing Water from the LA Aqueduct

Not so Simple.

- **State Water Systems are strained.** There is no guarantee that we can purchase needed water from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD).
 - In 2022, State Water Project allocations were limited to 5% only for health and safety, which doesn't include businesses. LADWP serves 136,000 acre-feet to businesses each year
- **It will increase your bill.** If water from MWD is available and deliverable, purchasing it would cost more than the water from the LA Aqueduct, meaning Angelenos' rates would go up..
- **The water infrastructure does not exist.** Even if we were able to purchase the water, MWD does not have the appropriate infrastructure to directly replace LA Aqueduct water with purchased supplies.

Ratepayer Costs

Depending on the year, replacing the 16,000 acre-feet from the LA Aqueduct with water from the State Water Project could cost ratepayers between \$18 and \$44 million.



Los Angeles is Investing in Local Supplies

LADWP is doing everything possible to expand local supplies and reduce reliance on imports:



Conservation: With mandatory water conservation ordinances in place since 1977, 50 million+ square feet of turf replaced and 500,000+ new high-efficiency appliances, Angelenos are using 44% less water per year than they were 40 years ago.



Water Recycling: Through Operation NEXT, LADWP aims to recycle 100% of the city's wastewater.



Stormwater: LADWP is forecasting 100 additional stormwater projects over the next 15 years to double our capacity.

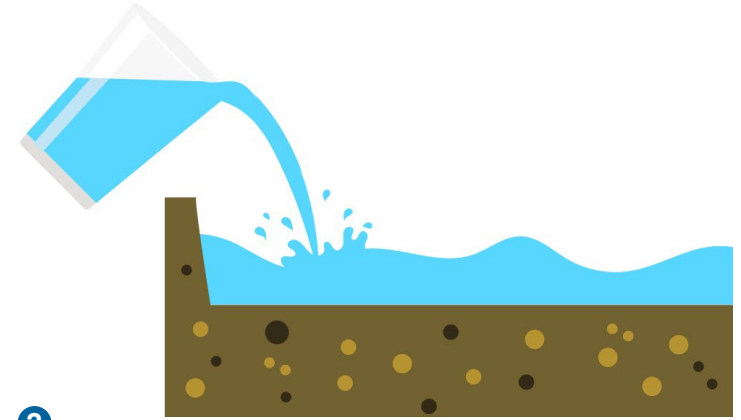


Groundwater: LADWP is remediating the San Fernando Valley basin, which will increase our groundwater storage capacity by restoring full use of the basin.

Local Supplies Cannot Replace Imported Water

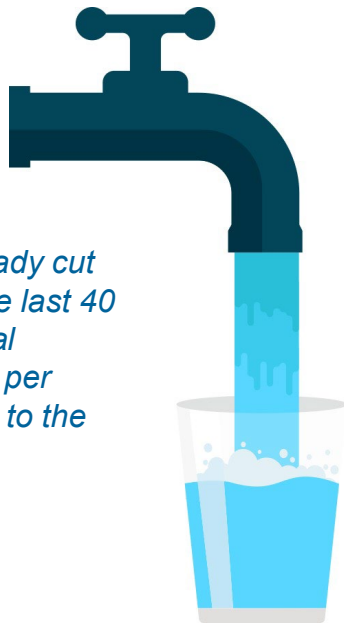


1 SoCal receives very little precipitation each year – more stormwater projects will only provide more water during extremely wet years

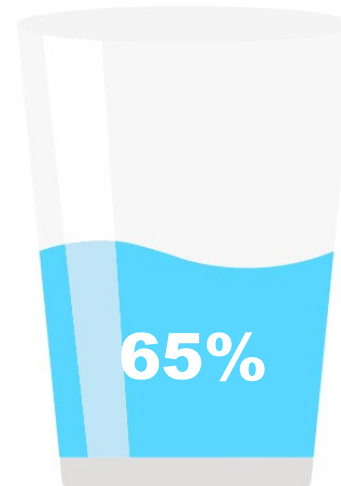


2 Local groundwater basins must be replenished, treated and protected from outside contamination, which is challenging for paved over urban areas like Los Angeles

3 LADWP provides water to Angelenos who have already cut water use by 44% over the last 40 years – LADWP residential customers use 74 gallons per person per day compared to the statewide average of 91



4 Because we can only recycle water used inside, for every drop we serve we can recycle 65%. And through the treatment process we lose another 15%



5 Foundational imported supplies refill the glass so the cycle can start again

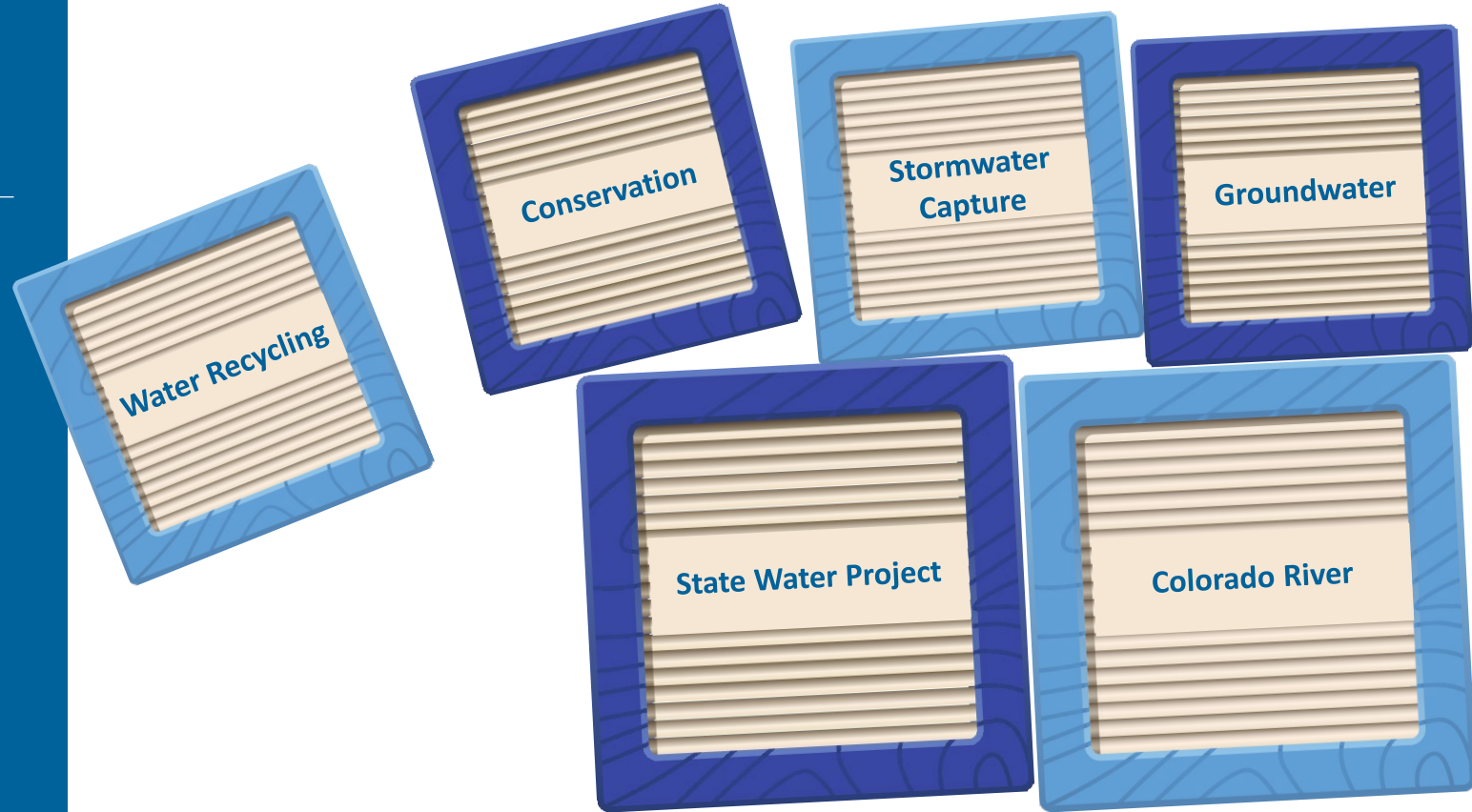
Southern California Will Always Need Imported Water

Imported water is the foundation and keeps our local supply projects running smoothly.



The LA Aqueduct is Critical

Without LA Aqueduct supplies, LA's entire water system would be less stable – we would have less water to store, recycle and conserve.



Thank You

Our Ask for You

Send a support letter to State Water Board as **Individual Rate Payer** and on behalf of the Neighborhood Council (time permitted).

- SWB staff will be accepting written comments on the workshop until **4:00 p.m. on March 17, 2023**. Please submit written comments to:
<mailto:MonoLake@waterboards.ca.gov>

Additional Information

- **Southern California Water Coalition Video**
 - <https://youtu.be/KAC4W99I8I0>
- Questions?