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MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

INFORMATION CENTER & BOOKSTORE

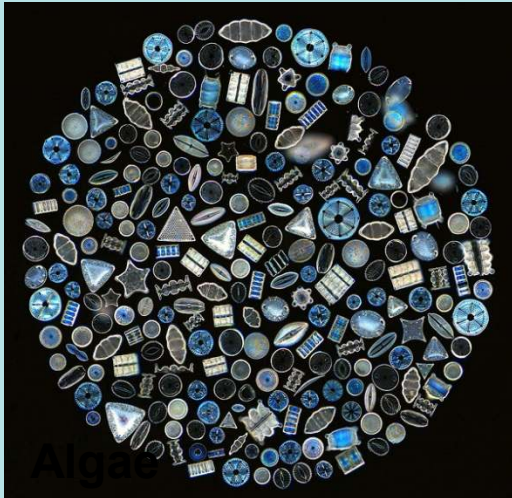




ISS004E12318

Sunrise, Mono Lake, Mono Basin, May 23, 2002, from the International Space Station.





Algae



Brine Shrimp



Alkali Flies



Birds





















Los Angeles

Mono Lake

© 2013 Google
Image Landsat
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
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Google earth

Imagery Date: 4/9/2013 37°20'21.13" N 119°33'07.10" W elev 4211 ft eye alt 88.59 mi

SATURDAY MORNING, JULY 20, 1905.

TITANIC PROJECT TO GIVE CITY A RIVER.

Thirty Thousand Inches of Water to be Brought to Los Angeles.

Options Secured on Forty Miles of River Frontage in Inyo County—Magnificent Stream to be Conveyed Down to the Southland in Conduit Two Hundred and Forty Miles Long—Stipendous Deal Closed.

INDEPENDENCE (Cal.) July 28.—[Exclusive Dispatch.] Agents representing Los Angeles city have secured options on about forty miles of frontage on the Owens River north of Owens Lake. Fred Eaton, ex-Mayor of Los Angeles, and the superintendent of the Los Angeles water works were in the valley in an automobile the early part of this week. Two days ago they closed the last outstanding options. The price paid for many of the ranches is three or four times what the owners ever expected to sell them for. Everybody in the valley has money, and everyone is happy.

Three months ago Eaton bought the holdings of the Rickey Cattle Company, comprising about 50,000 acres of water-bearing land. It was then thought that Eaton was going into the stock-raising business here, but it has since been learned that he was securing options for Los Angeles city. Eaton has made every option solid and secured all the land the city wanted. The deal is riveted.

THE value that has held the San Fernando Valley between Los Angeles and the northern end of Owens Lake, in the territory an immense amount of water is about to be secured by the magnificent project of modern engineering and back to the headwaters of the Owens River will be turned the flow of a thousand mountain streams that ages ago were tributaries of the current that now past the site of the ancient pueblo of Los Angeles to the ocean.

The desert has yielded up its wealth. The problem of Los Angeles' water supply has been solved for the next hundred years.

Thirty thousand inches of the purest snow water to be taken from the bed of the Owens River in Inyo county, eight in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and conveyed for a distance of 247 miles over wild plains and through the heart of mountain range to be emptied into mighty reservoirs at the headwaters of the Los Angeles water system.

Already the United States government has given its consent; the route has been surveyed and the water-bearing land has been purchased outright by the Los Angeles Water Commissioners. The last obstacle to the success of the negotiations has been closed.

By a planned expenditure that will amount to \$1,000,000, the Los Angeles water department has obtained possession of all the water rights that give to the city a supply equal to at least ten times the flow of the Los Angeles River.

The enterprise is one of titanic proportions; the reality transcends the rights of imagination. The engineers say that a few centuries ago Owens River was a tributary to the Los Angeles River; that a mighty earthquake threw mountain ranges across the river bed, making the stream tributary to a salt lake, and that they have evolved a feasible plan for harnessing these mountains and bringing the water again into the San Fernando Valley.

ENORMOUS SUPPLY.
Not only will the water be sufficient for the domestic needs of Los Angeles, even though the population increases to a couple of millions, but there will be a surplus sufficient to supply Pasadena, Long Beach, Reno, Merion, and half a dozen other suburban cities.

For four years the water; it will require that length of time to bore the thirty miles of tunnels through the mountain range. Then will Los Angeles county indeed become the Promised Land. More persons than milk and honey were in the flow of the pure mountain water—say a population of over 500,000, and a city of 1,000,000.

THE Times announces this morning the most important movement for the development of Los Angeles in all the city's history—the closing of the preliminary negotiations securing 30,000 inches of water, or about ten times our present total supply, enough for a city of 2,000,000 people. In brief, the project is to bring this water to Los Angeles from Owens River in Inyo county, a distance of 240 miles, at a cost of about \$23,000,000. Options on the water-bearing lands have been closed by the city's representatives and a series of bond issues will be asked of the voters. This new water supply, immense and unending, will make Los Angeles forge ahead by leaps and bounds and remove every specter of drought or enormous streams of the purest mountain water pouring in here, Los Angeles best supplies in the land; she will have water to sell to the San Fernando San Diego; she will have assured her future for a century. There is no will be forthcoming.

...sented during a number of trips to his son's ranch near Independence, the peculiar formation of the land along the route of the wagon road from Mojave to the Owens River Valley. The engineers now all agree on what he first ascertained: that waters of the Owens River, centuries ago, forced down through the arid valley from what is now Owens Lake, passing near the present site of Mojave and finally emptying into the Los Angeles River in the San Fernando Valley. A series of mighty upheavals obliterated the rise of a number of the lower Sierras, throwing mountains across the path of the stream and for long centuries at least the river has straggled into Owens Lake.

That was a great stretch of water, ten miles wide and thirty miles long, and it was a perfect level, and it was that they contain no living thing. The engineers are now working through the mountains that block the path of the river and bringing a canal from Chubb's Butte, a few miles west of Independence and Lone Pine, by way of Mojave to Los Angeles.

INDEPENDENCE SACRIFICED.
It is the village of Independence that will probably be hardest hit. The town is hope silver partly by the trade of the southern in the valley, and partly by the travel to and from the gold fields of Western Nevada. The trail to Goldfield and Halfway passes through Independence, and it is one of the chief stations on the route.

A number of the outstanding ranchmen have regarded the appropriation of

...land from Lone Pine to Mojave. A great deal of the territory lies in a gold-bearing district. The water in the head of the Owens River here, in many places, flows with silver sand. Some of the lacerations will be run through lacerations in which are promising ledges of gold and copper ore.

Already the engineers are recruiting



SUPT. MULHOLLAND, of Waterworks.

...the sake of the time when the Shoshone Pacific built its first line into Los Angeles—the time when the Chinese were the work with horses they could make their money working gold in their shafts.

U. S. GOVERNMENT CONGRESSIONS United States Engineer J. B. Lipphin-

...other end. Thirty thousand inches of water means more to Los Angeles than all the gold hidden away in the California mountains.

LAST SPIKE IN DEAL CLOSED.

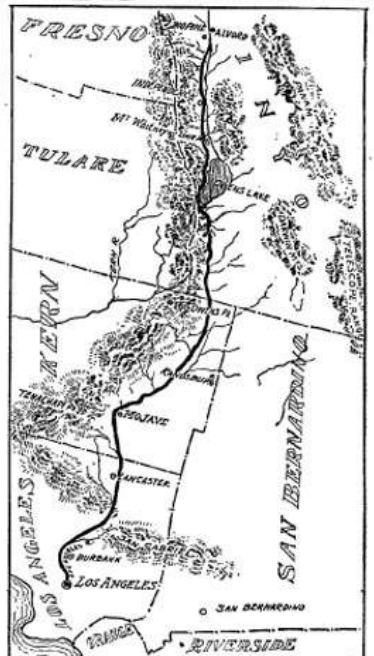
SUPT. MULHOLLAND BRINGS THE GLAD TIDINGS.

Says Options are Filled and Los Angeles Business Owners of Thirty Thousand Inches of Purest Snow Water—Would Give All the Credit to Others.

Reached and harassed by the almost intolerable desert wind and sun Superintendent Mulholland returned yesterday afternoon from a driving nine days' automobile trip into the heart of the Owens River country, bearing the glad tidings that "The last spike has been driven; the options are all secured; the deal by which Los Angeles city becomes the owner of thirty thousand inches of the purest snow water has been made."

In the greatest gratification born of a knowledge that the vexed water question has at last been solved, Superintendent Mulholland laughed like a schoolboy. "Fred Eaton did it. He has been working on it for thirteen years. He is the greatest natural engineer that the West has ever known. He has made it possible for us to accomplish the greatest scheme of water development ever attempted in this country."

What Mulholland did not say was that it was himself that finance his scheme; that he has made the price on



Showing route of 240-mile conduit from Owens River to Los Angeles.

FINANCIAL DARING IN GETTING OPTIONS.

IT WAS the very daring of the proposal to buy, on a large scale, the most valuable in this country, and turns it over to the city for the water rights involved that has made the negotiations successful. Water remains have been so frequent and so close to the Sierra country that mention of the possibility that Los Angeles would be the owner of thirty thousand inches of the purest snow water was regarded by the city's representatives as a threat to the city's credit.

It was the periodic discovery of the Pure Gold Mine, something that happens once a month, and just never occurs. The chief difficulty encountered was from the Los Angeles soil. A wonderful enterprise to attempt construction of the full size of a small army of partly private contractors, and the Los Angeles city here who would have considered it a miracle to see the city's representatives in the Owens Lake country and to secure the water rights over at least a part.

The purchase has been made without the necessity of securing a single option from other than the owner before direct credit on all parties overcame.

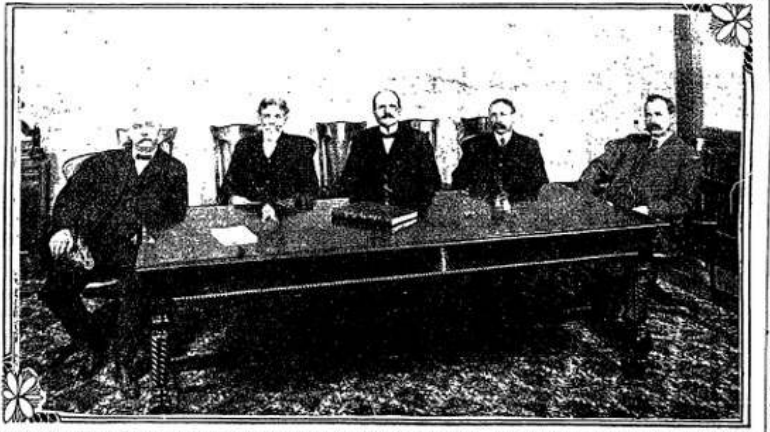
The first \$25,000 was expended after the trip made by the Mayor, the City Attorney and Water Commissioners Fay and Elliott. It was a heart-breaking trip, but it was worth it. The city's representatives are now waiting Mr. Eaton for the purpose of inspecting the city with a view to forming a company and appropriating the price of a great summer resort.

So important were they with the secondly inappreciable supply of water that Mr. Eaton refused to get options without further aid. This, of course, was without official authority, but the members of the party insisted that it was time to set and set quickly; they felt that they could not take any more time in this matter. The action later received the official approval of the Water Board, since then all the deeds to property and all the contracts have passed through the City Attorney's office. The City Attorney himself has placed his O.K. on every transaction.

Then followed a series of correspondence with J. H. Newell, chief of the United States Reclamation Department, conducted from this end through J. B. Lipphin, United States engineer in charge of the department, and was completed last the water was being obtained for the city by private contract. Mr. Lipphin contacted the Washington authorities by the city of Los Angeles in the road purchaser and the government agreed to stand aside and give Los Angeles an opportunity to utilize the Owens River water supply.

All this time Mr. Eaton was busy negotiating in getting options from the farmers and cattle raisers throughout the length and breadth of the valley. The number of acres which the farmer John Pitt put up on Mr. Eaton to induce him to buy striking land that is really no less valuable than a lava flow, are cities that have grown up in independence with the valley. That Eaton stood for them all and gave the water was one of the never-ending things.

Superintendent Mulholland and the government engineers now will make every sale of the deed and that these men will work up the matter, day after day, until the time that the job was on the ground. The city's representatives are now waiting Mr. Eaton for the purpose of inspecting the city with a view to forming a company and appropriating the price of a great summer resort.



Los Angeles Water Board, which secures 30,000 inches of water for the city. From left to right, J. J. Fay, J. M. Elliott, M. H. Sherman, William Mead, Fred L. Baker.

...miles of river front north of Owens Lake. This includes practically every riparian water right in the western end of the valley. Purchase of the private land also means buying outside a valley in which are located over 200 people. It probably means the wiping out of the town of Independence, which has a population of over 200, and a city of 1,000,000.

Mr. Eaton in the valley was a visitation of Providence. He took to himself vast claims to find them specifically worthless or unworkable. He had secured a number of options from Los Angeles with offers for all the land in sight. In the eyes of the members he was a land man. When they all

...and the rest. Mr. Perkins, who has but few lines, claiming the diagonous spurs of the Owens River Valley. But he has wanted Independence to look after some of Mr. Eaton's proposals. It is through Mr. Lipphin that the water board secured its concession from the government.

...along the line of the proposed canal; that he has few lines, claiming the diagonous spurs of the Owens River Valley. But he has wanted Independence to look after some of Mr. Eaton's proposals. It is through Mr. Lipphin that the water board secured its concession from the government.

The Mono Lake watershed and the City of Los Angeles



1962



1968



1995



2008



Clean Air Act violations





RUSH CREEK 1964

FORD

Water Diversion Impacts

Mono Basin Streams



- Lost 19 miles of fisheries, streams, streamside forests, and broad bottomlands habitats
- Lost premier Sierra trout fishery



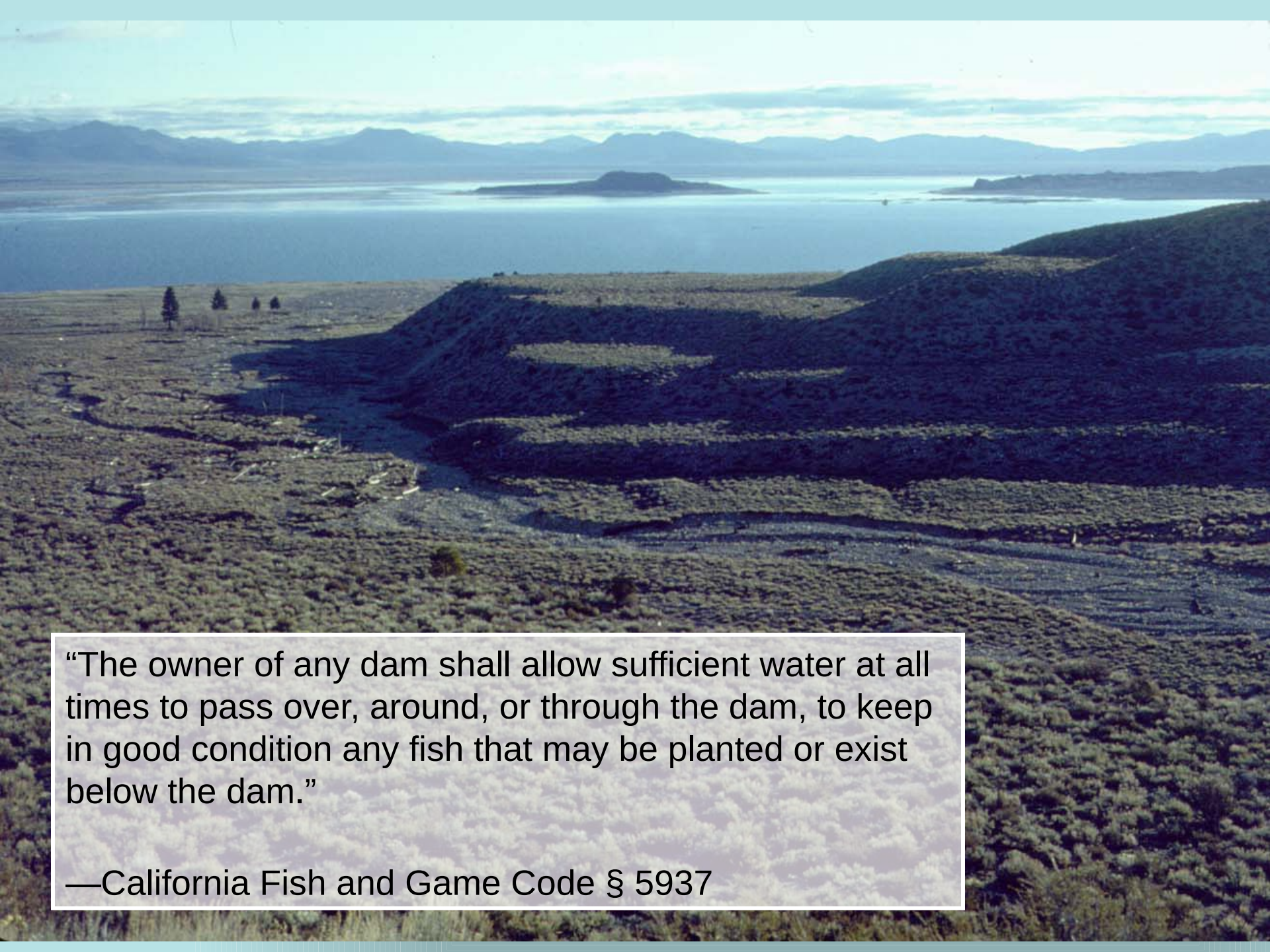


“By the law of nature these things are common to mankind –the air, running water, the sea and consequently the shores of the sea”

– Institutes of Justinian, Roman times

“The public trust ... is an affirmation of the duty of the state to protect the people’s common heritage of streams, lakes, marshlands and tidelands....”

– The Mono Lake Decision, Supreme Court of California, 1983



“The owner of any dam shall allow sufficient water at all times to pass over, around, or through the dam, to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below the dam.”

—California Fish and Game Code § 5937



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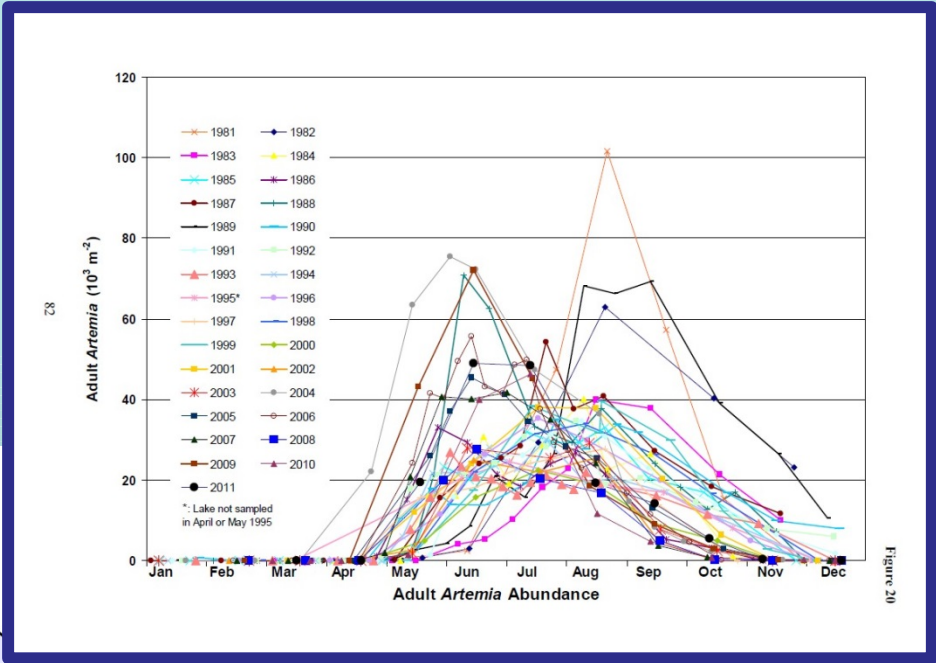


Figure 20

Mono Lake
1946 m asl

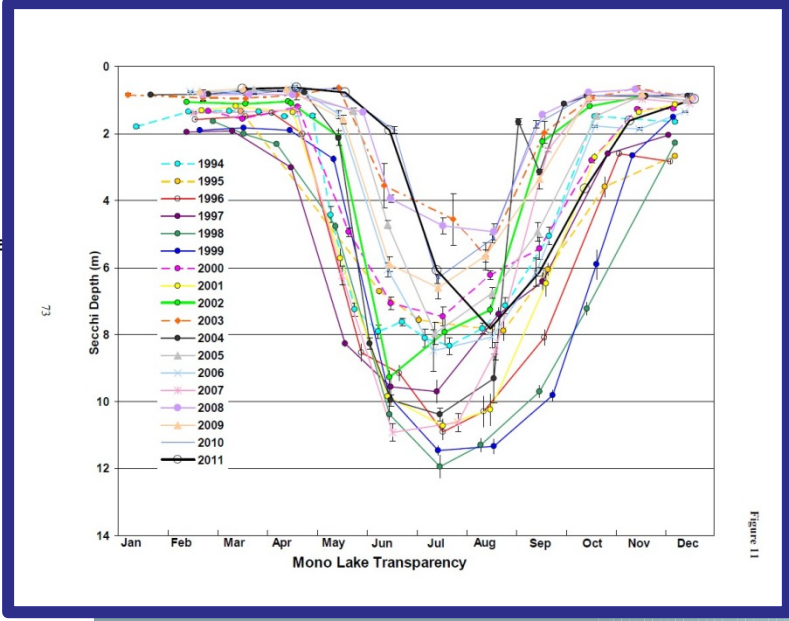
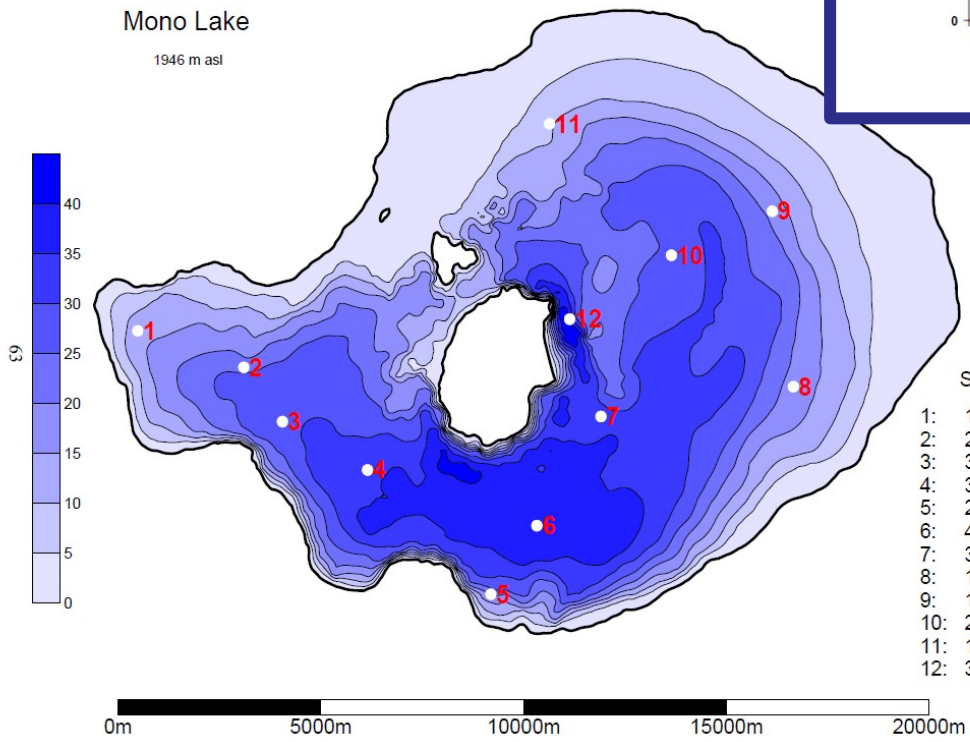


Figure 11

MONO LAKE WATERFOWL POPULATION MONITORING

2013 Annual Report



LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER
PREPARED BY DEBBIE HOUSE
WATERSHED RESOURCES SPECIALIST
BISHOP, CA 93514
April 2013

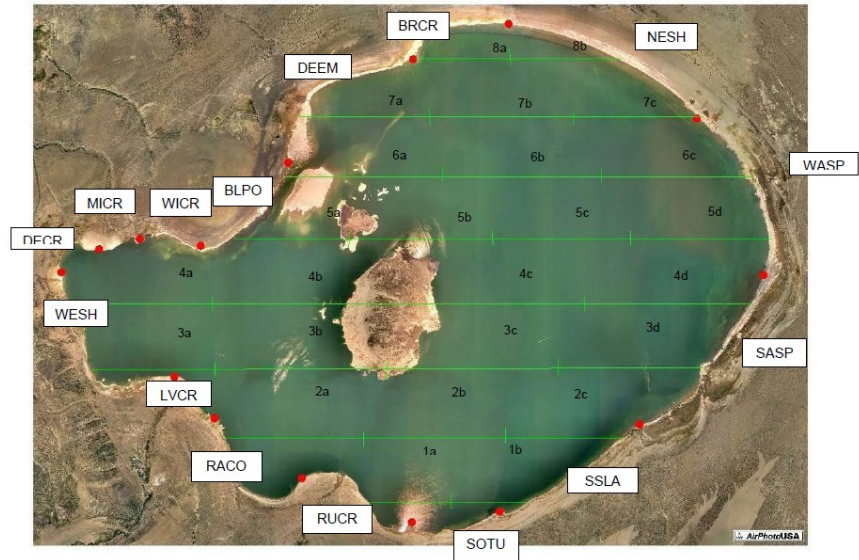


Figure 2. Mono Lake Fall Aerial Survey Lakeshore Segments, Boundaries, and Cross-Lake Transects





Adaptive Management



State Water Board restoration goals for Mono Lake tributaries: Rush, Lee Vining, Walker & Parker creeks

- 1. Restore functional and self-sustaining stream systems with healthy riparian ecosystem components.**
- 2. Restore self-sustaining trout populations with fish in good condition.**













Mono Basin Monitoring
RY2009 Review



**Mono Basin Stream
Restoration and Monitoring
Program:**

**Synthesis of Instream
Flow Recommendations
to the
State Water Resources
Control Board**

**and the
Los Angeles Department
of Water and Power**

FINAL REPORT

Prepared by:

McBain & Trush, Inc.
980 7th St.
Arcata, CA 95521

and

Ross Taylor and Associates
McKinleyville, CA 95519

April 30, 2010



The Synthesis Report
evaluates whether the
current flow regime is
achieving the State
Water Board goals of:

“functional and self-
sustaining stream
systems with healthy
riparian ecosystem
components”

“trout in good
condition.”



Benefits of the new streamflows

A comparison of Rush Creek flows under the current and new streamflow rules

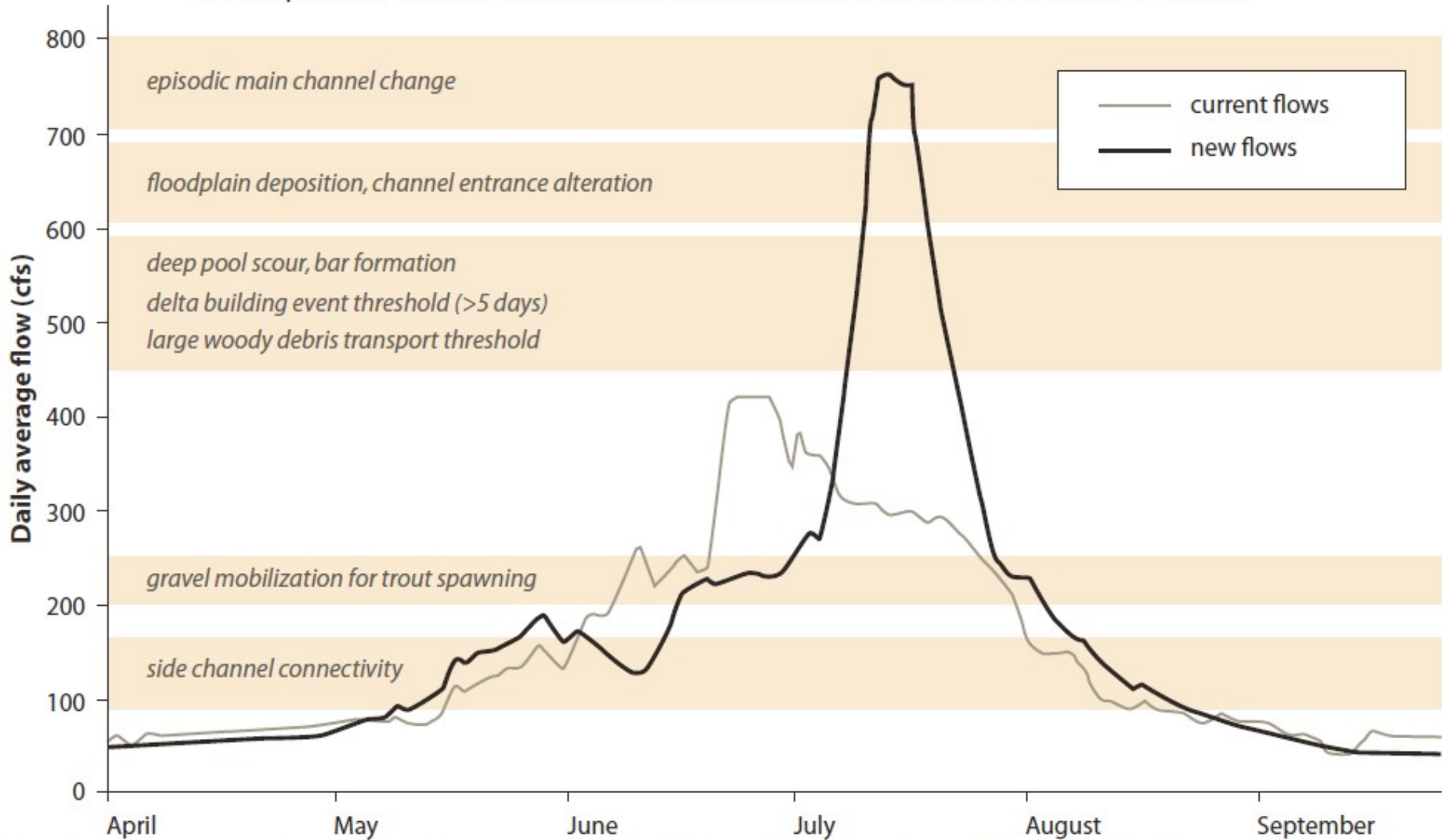
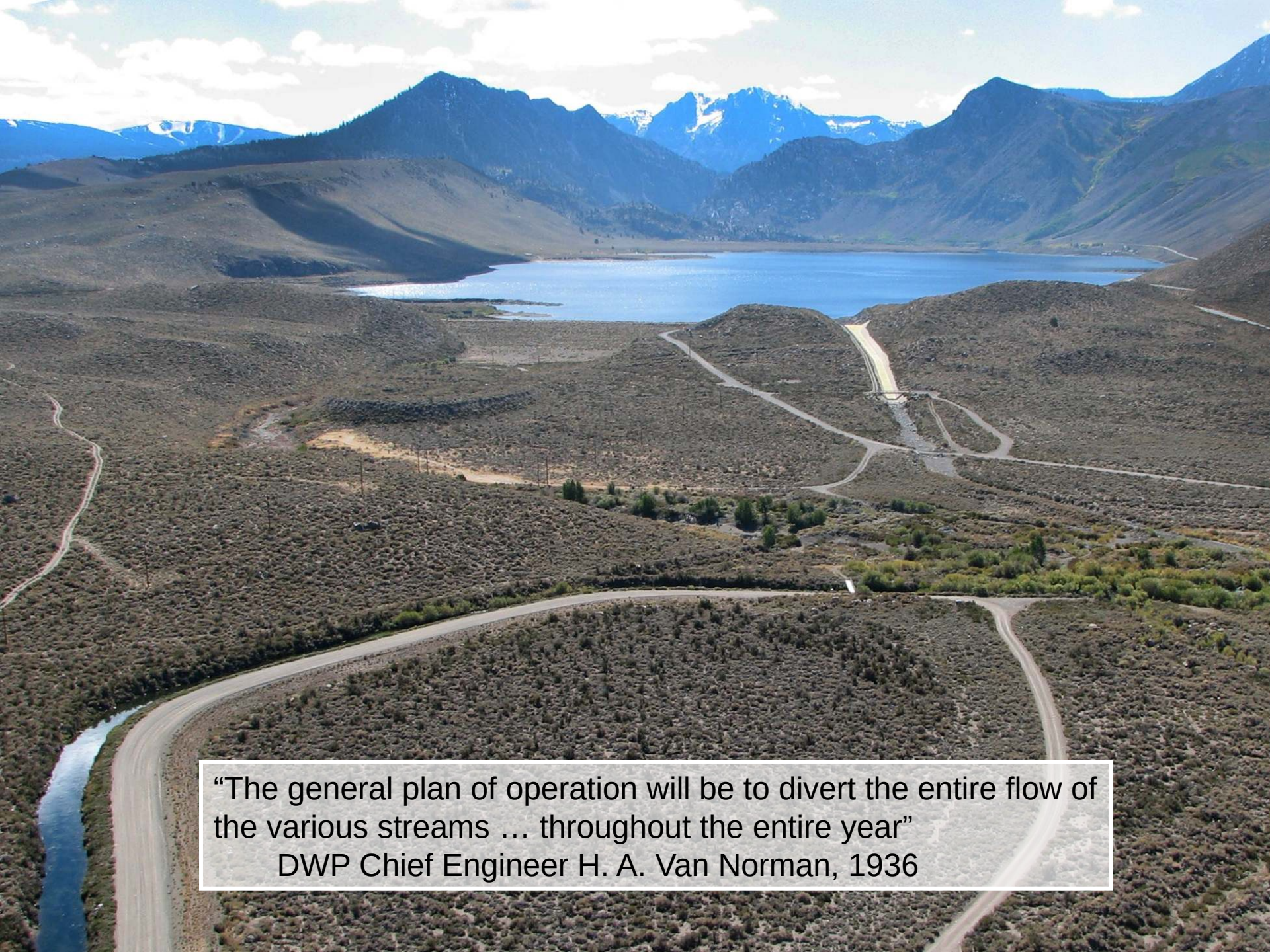


Figure 2: A comparison of wet year streamflows required in the Rush Creek bottomlands. Currently, the highest flow that can be reliably achieved is approximately 400 cubic feet per second. With the new Agreement, much higher streamflows will be reliably delivered.



“The general plan of operation will be to divert the entire flow of the various streams ... throughout the entire year”
DWP Chief Engineer H. A. Van Norman, 1936

MAVEN'S NOTEBOOK

A water, science, and policy blog

Home About BDCP Road Map Resources Donate to Maven's Notebook

« Second draft of the Delta Science Plan now posted
 Maven's Minutes from the California Water Commission: Will the state meet its 20x2020 water conservation goal?
 Plus an update on SWP contract negotiations, the public benefits of water storage projects, a Statewide Water
 Action Plan and more »

AUG 25 2013 News worth noting: DWP and Mono Lake reach agreement, increased Trinity River flows, sandhill crane, Rim Fire updates, water bond comments, and a tribute to Taugher

Water
DWP and Mono Lake Committee reach agreement: Innovative agreement between DWP & the Mono Lake Committee will continue restoration of Mono Basin streams without reducing exports to Los Angeles, reports the Committee's blog, The Mono-Logue: "... The science is in, the plan is written, and now this critical agreement will deliver the stream restoration that the fish, forests, and wildlife of the Mono Basin have been promised. This win-win agreement implements significant



Stream Agreement Achieved

What's Next for Restoration?

Free Drawing

Fall Catalog









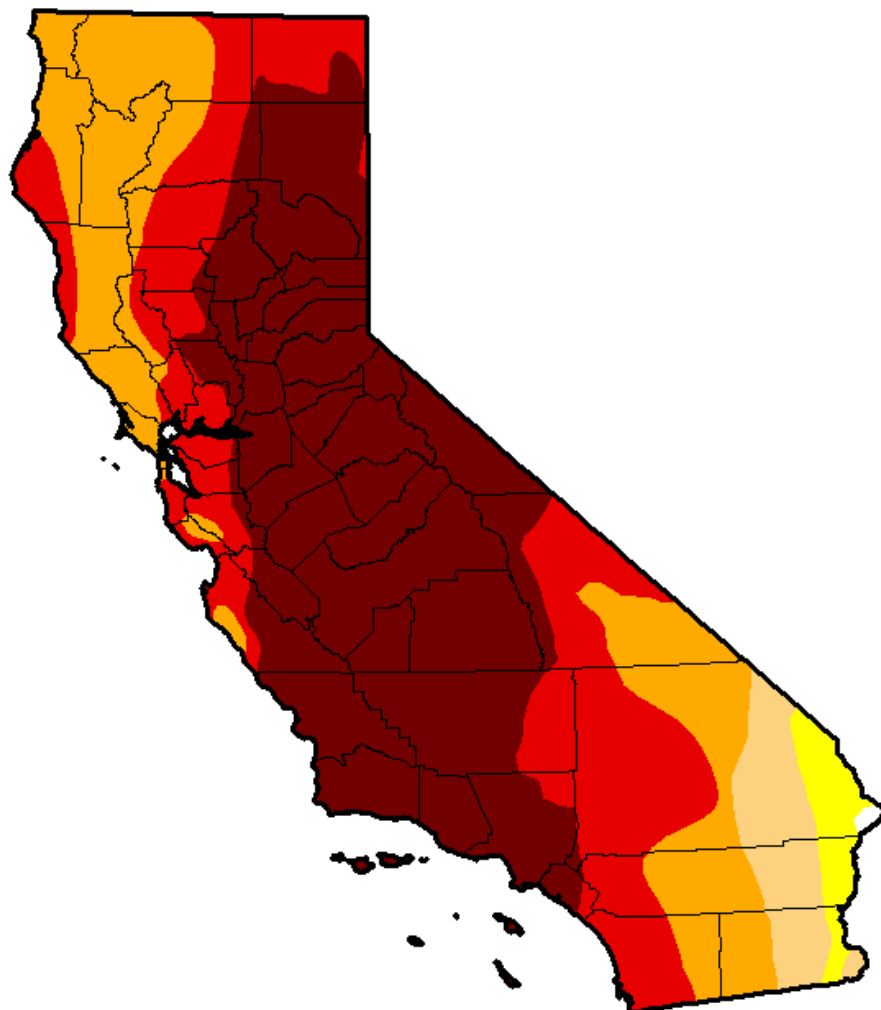






U.S. Drought Monitor California

October 20, 2015
(Released Thursday, Oct. 22, 2015)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.14	99.86	97.33	92.27	71.08	46.00
Last Week <i>10/13/2015</i>	0.14	99.86	97.33	92.36	71.08	46.00
3 Months Ago <i>7/21/2015</i>	0.14	99.86	97.35	94.59	71.08	46.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>12/02/2014</i>	0.00	100.00	98.12	94.34	77.94	32.21
Start of Water Year <i>9/29/2015</i>	0.14	99.86	97.33	92.36	71.08	46.00
One Year Ago <i>10/21/2014</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.04	81.92	58.41

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

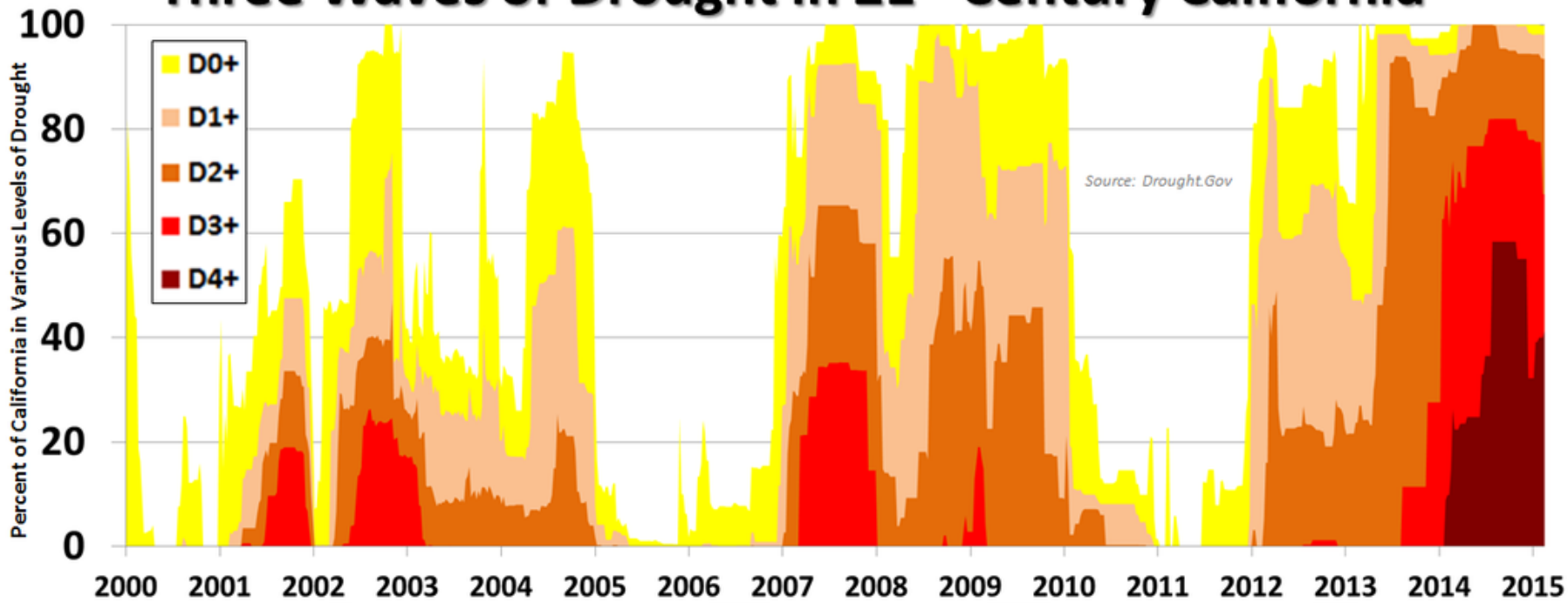
Author:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Three Waves of Drought in 21st Century California



Source: Drought.Gov

Interact With Us



Weather.Gov/Hanford



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Spring 2014



Spring 2015





Los Angeles Times

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THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2015

latimes.com



DON KILBEN/Los Angeles Times

PEOPLE WALK on the exposed lake bed at Mono Lake, whose tributaries supply water to the city of Los Angeles; in the foreground is a gauge used to measure water depth, now yards away from the shoreline.

An ominous level

Mono Lake crisis threatens wildlife, L.A.'s water supply

By LOUIS SABAGUN

MONO LAKE, Calif. — As this drought-stricken body of salt water recedes, the repercussions mount: Its exposed alkaline flats are giving rise to dust storms. A haven for endangered migrating birds has become more vulnerable to predators. And Los Angeles' ability to divert snowmelt from the region — which it has done for seven decades — could be cut off.

In recent months, the Department of Water and Power has reduced its take from Mono's tributaries by more than two-thirds. Still, the 1-million-year-old lake is within two feet of the level that state officials say threatens the alpine ecosystem at the base of the eastern Sierra Nevada.

Unless the region gets a significant amount of rain by the next official water level reading in April, Mono may fall to 4,377 feet in elevation, triggering a halt to any diversions. The California State Water Resources Control Board established the limit in 1994 to resolve a dispute between environmentalists and the city 350 miles south.

Of particular concern is further exposure of a land bridge that coyotes could cross to access the second-largest California gull colony. [See *Mono Lake*, A12]

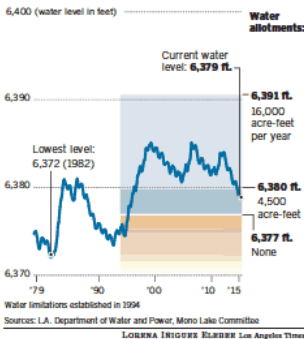


California drought report card
latimes.com/drougthereportcard and CALIFORNIA, 12

Less water for L.A.?

If the water level in Mono Lake falls just two more feet, diversion of water to L.A. must be halted.

Mono Lake's water level governs how much L.A. can take



Water allotments established in 1994
Sources: L.A. Department of Water and Power; Mono Lake Committee
LOUISA THROCKMORTON/Los Angeles Times

'I am sorry,' the Boston bomber tells his victims

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's first statement comes at formal sentencing.

By RICHARD A. SERRANO

BOSTON — In a thick Russian accent — with his head bowed and body shaking — the man who appeared cold and emotionless throughout his trial for bombing the Boston Marathon two years ago stood in federal court Wednesday and apologized for detonating one of two explosives at the historic race.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 22, stood nervously in a courtroom packed with survivors, jurors, lawyers and the federal judge who would shortly thereafter formally sentence him to death. He repeatedly invoked his Muslim faith while telling victims, "I am sorry for the lives I have taken, for the suffering I have caused you, and for the terrible damage I have done. Irreparable damage."

He added, "If there is any lingering doubt, let there be no more. I did do it along with my brother." Of the bombings, he said, "I am guilty."

The words of admission and regret, the first he has uttered publicly, followed the powerful testimony of several dozen victims and relatives of the dead gathered in the courtroom earlier in the day, 23 of them — some still angry and suffering, others ready to move on and forgive — told the judge how the April 15, 2013, bombings had forever ripped apart their lives.

Many dismissed Tsarnaev's statement as inadequate. "A simple, believable apology would have been nice," said Lynn Julian, an aide. [See Boston, A13]



SCOTT ELLIS/Conti Images

BOMBING victim Erika Brannock, left, arrives at court, where the death sentence was confirmed.

DEPUTIES GUILTY IN JAIL VISITOR BEATING

By JOEL RUBIN

Three Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies were convicted Wednesday of beating a handcuffed man bloody and then lying to cover up the abuse.

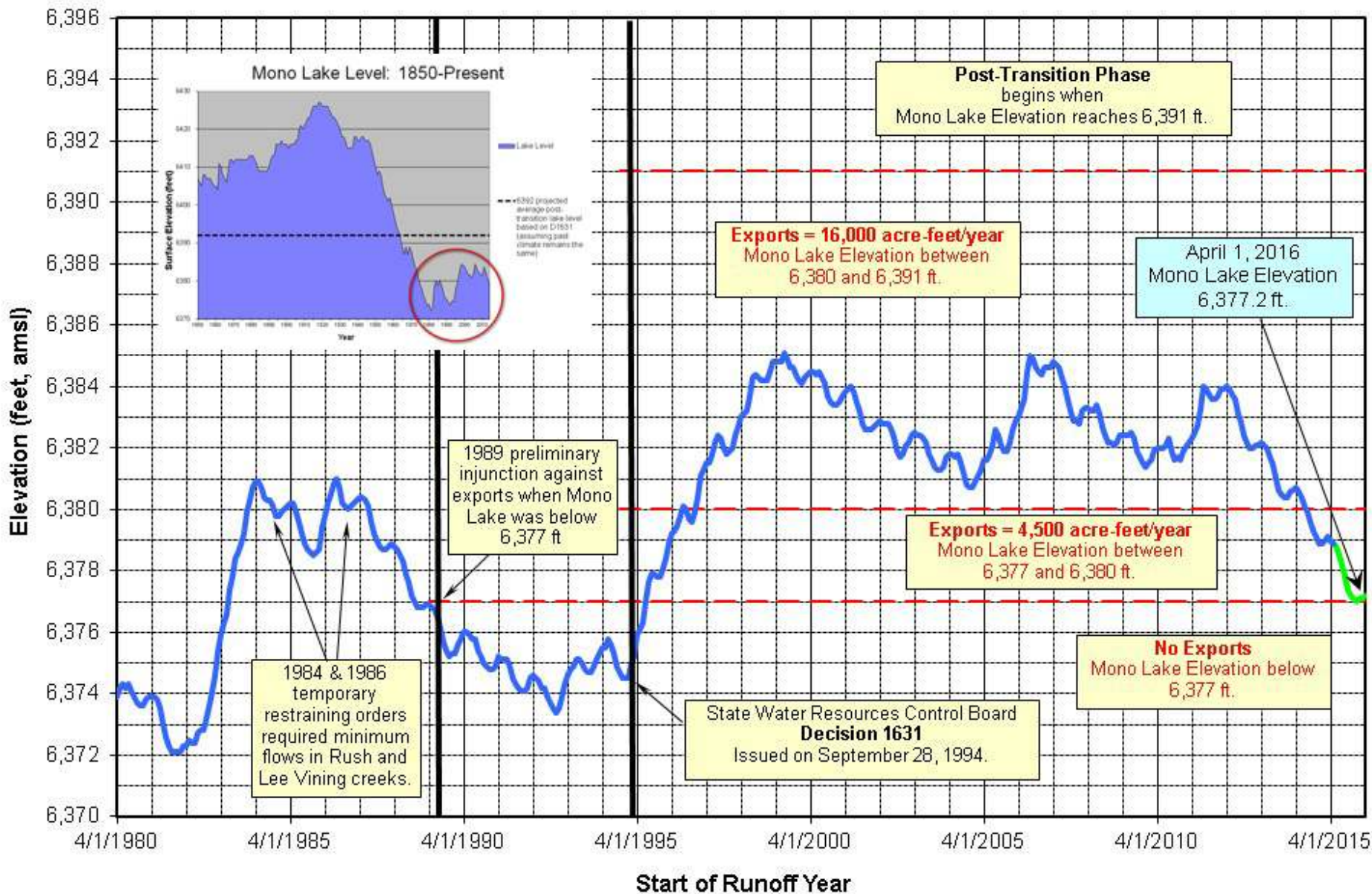
A federal jury deliberated for only four hours before returning guilty verdicts against Deputies Sussie Ayala and Fernando Luviano and former Sgt. Eric Gonzalez, who supervised the incident and boasted about the assault in a text message to a colleague.

The trial, in which two

NEWS ANALYSIS

America seeks

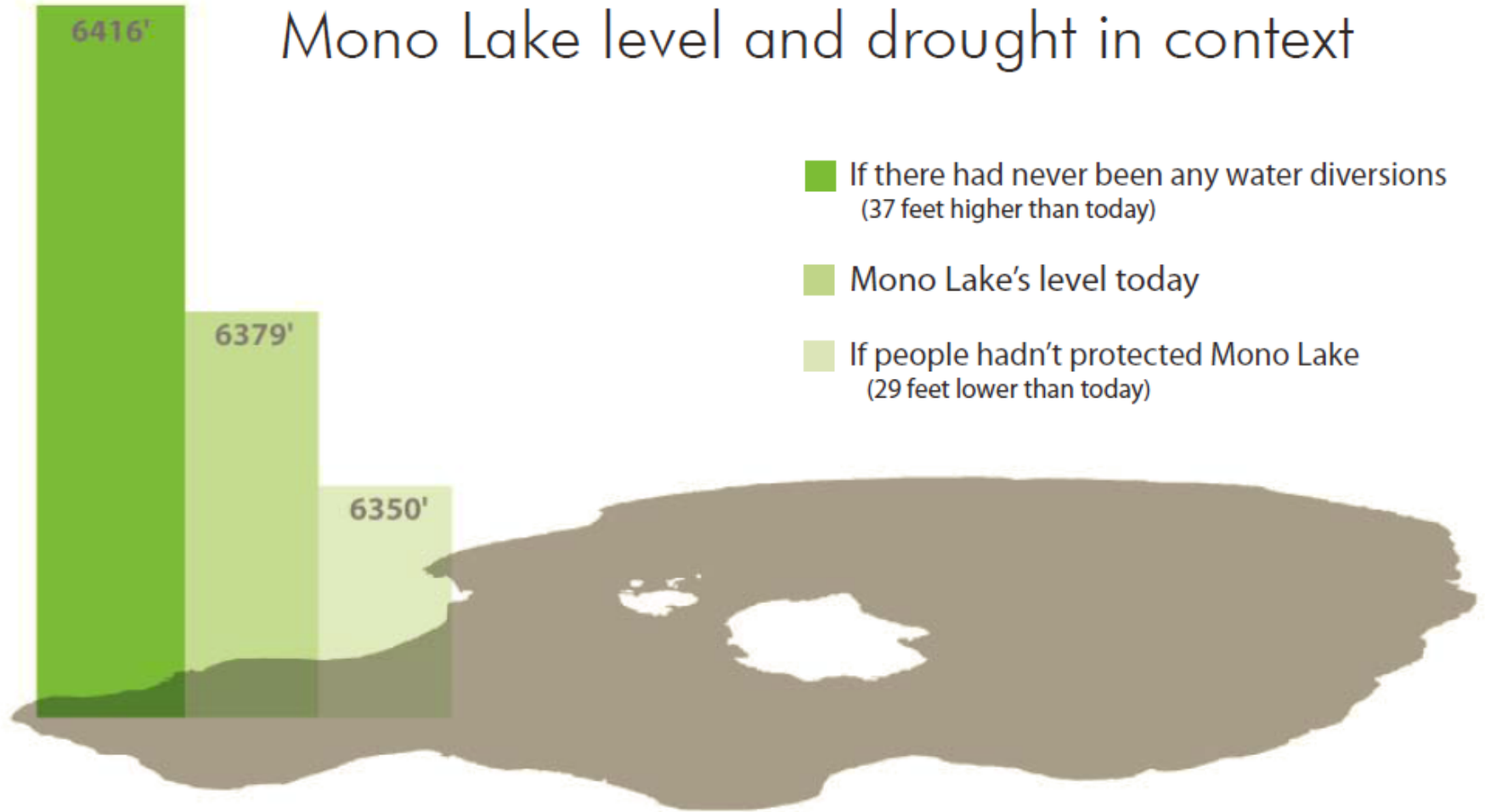
Mono Lake Elevation







Mono Lake level and drought in context



Green bars represent Mono Lake's volume at three key levels.

