

## Working Group Updates - Habitat



Advisory Committee  
September 20, 2005  
Holtville, California

### Update on Habitat Working Group

#### ◆ **Third Habitat Meeting on September 8, 2005 in Ontario**

#### ◆ **Topics addressed:**

- Revised habitat goals and conservation objectives
- Relative value of shallow freshwater and saline habitats to birds (PRBO presentation)
- Preliminary configurations (@ 600,000 acre-feet/year)
  - ◆ South Sea
  - ◆ North Sea
  - ◆ South Sea combined
  - ◆ North Sea combined

## Revised Habitat Goals and Objectives

### ◆ Revised overall goal

- *Restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the permanent protection of the wildlife dependent on that ecosystem*

### ◆ Added habitat objective

- *Restore long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea*

## Freshwater vs. Saline Habitats

### Conclusions

- ❖ Presence/absence of vegetation is primary determinant of bird species composition
- ❖ Salinity and depth determine prey composition and availability
- ❖ High salinity ponds will have high invertebrate biomass of limited diversity, and vegetation will be easier to control
- ❖ Low salinity ponds will have fish, greater diversity of invertebrates, but vegetation will be harder to control



# Review of Preliminary Configurations

## Habitat Considerations

### ◆ Salton Sea

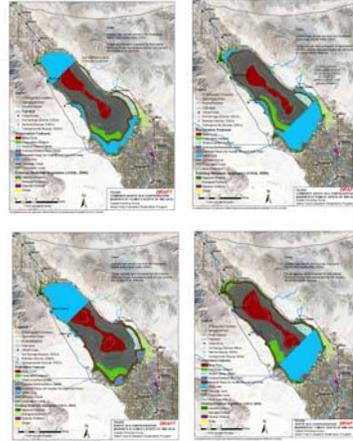
- size of residual Sea
- level of water treatment
- location
- elevation

### ◆ Managed freshwater marsh

- proportion relative to created shallow saline habitat
- level of treatment
- seasonality
- location

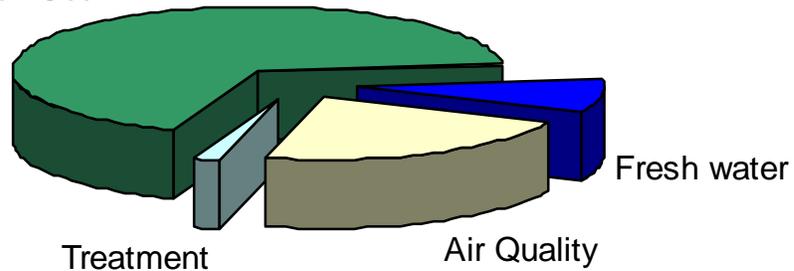
### ◆ Managed saline marsh

- proportion relative to created freshwater marsh
- location



# Water Budget Considerations (allocation of inflow)

Salton Sea



## Discussion and Feedback

- ◆ **“Historic levels” and use of 1999 as baseline**

- use of all historical information

- ◆ **Habitat protection**

- potential conflict between human activities and wildlife
- arrangement of habitats and protection of areas

- ◆ **Created freshwater habitat**

- relative proportions (fresh/saline)
- retain management flexibility
- use adaptive management



## Habitat Working Group Next Steps

- ◆ **Next meeting on October 6, 2005**
- ◆ **Discuss options for preserving upland (e.g., agriculture) habitat values**
- ◆ **Discuss potential habitat protection strategies**
- ◆ **Review and discuss historic habitat and wildlife use of the Salton Sea ecosystem**
- ◆ **Discuss shallow water habitat management**