

## **Hydrologic Focused Technical Group Meeting March 26, 2008**

### ***Revised Constraints/Assumptions***

#### **Program Constraints/Assumptions**

- Information collected as part of the monitoring plan will be used to inform and guide future management actions that could be implemented with or without a restoration program.

#### **Environmental Constraints/Assumptions**

- Replacement of Salton Sea habitat values and functions will necessarily be accomplished through the creation of habitat and not by retaining a whole Salton Sea.
- Created habitats will not replicate all habitat types of the current Salton Sea ecosystem, but would be designed to replace functional ecological equivalent values.
- Model projections indicate that salinity levels are expected to exceed 60 mg/L by 2016, thereby resulting in the loss of the tilapia fishery that supports fish-eating birds.
- Early start habitat is expected to buffer the loss of the fishery but will not fully replace it.
- Any future management action involving habitat creation would maintain a minimum salinity of 20 mg/L in created habitats; small inclusions of fresher water might be necessary to support bird drinking, bathing, and reproduction.
- Additional fish/invertebrate species could be introduced to created habitats to increase diversity and improve ecosystem function.
- Brine sink will continue to have bird habitat value after fish are extirpated, because anticipated turnover of the aquatic community in the brine sink would still provide important foraging opportunities for birds given their plasticity in their feeding habits.

### **Engineering/Physical Constraints/Assumptions**

- Any future habitat creation will be constructed below elevation -230 (primarily on exposed seabed).
- Geothermal resources will be taken into consideration.

### **Hydrological Constraints/Assumptions**

- Sources of inflow water to implement future management actions will remain unchanged from the current sources. These sources are limited to incidental drainage from irrigated areas in the basin, municipal WW flows, runoff and percolation from precipitation in the basin, and possible groundwater withdrawals.
- Quantity, quality, and reliability of inflows will vary from present conditions.

### **Legal Constraints/Assumptions**

- Any future management actions will need to comply with applicable laws.