

CALIFORNIA
WATER PLAN
Investing in Innovation & Infrastructure

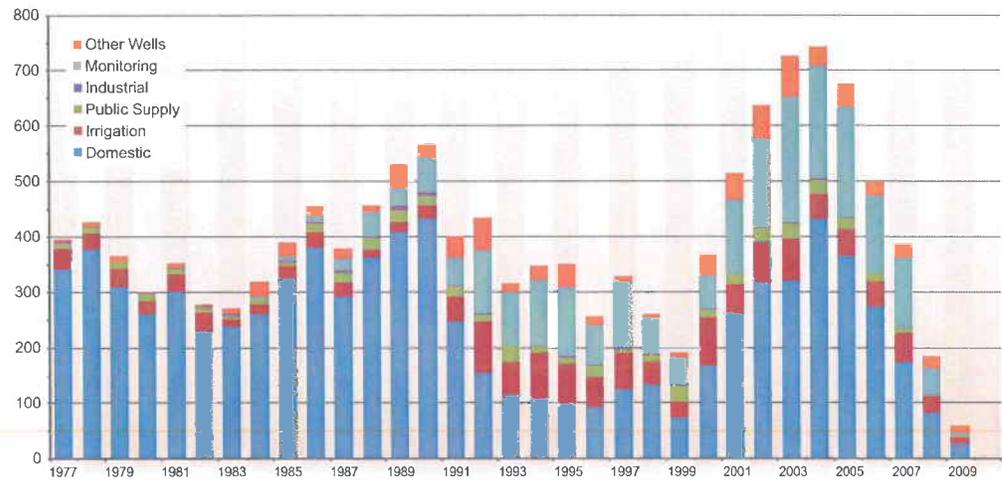
UPDATE 2013

COLORADO RIVER HYDROLOGIC REGION

VOLUME
Regional Reports

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Figure CR-6 Number of Well Logs Filed per Year by Use for the Colorado River Hydrologic Region



Salton Sea

Serving as wintering habitat for migratory and shoreline birds, ranging in number from hundreds of thousands to the low one million, are the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge and the Wister Unit of the Imperial Wildlife Area (WUIWA). The Sonny Bono refuge was established on the southern shores of the Salton Sea in 1998 in honor of the late U.S. Congressman’s advocacy for environmental causes. It consists of 830 acres of land maintained as wetlands with an additional 870 acres planted to forage crops such as alfalfa, wheat, rye grass, and Sudan grass. The habitat was created for the endangered Yuma clapper rail and American Avocet. The WUIWA, located on the southeastern shore, occupies a little more than 7,900 acres of land. It includes salt marshes, freshwater ponds, and native, undeveloped lands.

Restoration activities for the Salton Sea continue to move forward. Progress is being made on the multi-agency The Salton Sea Species Habitat Conservation Project. This is a pilot study on 640 acres of land that will yield different options for aquatic habitat to sustain the sea’s fish and wildlife populations as the surface area of the water decreases and salinity increases. The final environmental impact report/environmental impact statement (EIR/EIS) for the project was released in 2013, and project design is nearing completion. The project is scheduled to begin in 2014.

The Salton Sea Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Plan was released in 2013. The plan is a collaborative effort between DWR, DFW, USBR, and the USGS and provides guidelines for the analysis, management, and reporting of environmental data collected at the Salton Sea that would benefit restoration and management projects and activities.

Implementation will soon commence for three projects selected to receive grant funds through the Salton Sea Financial Assistance Program. The projects will establish a new wetland habitat on the Alamo River in Imperial County, evaluate the feasibility of on-site distillation of water from the Salton Sea for use in remotely located wetland areas, and expand an existing wetland area on the Torres-Martinez Indian Reservation.

Figure CR-7 Monitoring Well Location by Agency, Monitoring Cooperator, and CASGEM Monitoring Entity in the Colorado River Hydrologic Region

