



One Water and Stewardship Committee

Authorize Colorado River System Conservation Agreements

Item 8-3

November 13, 2023

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Subject

Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program in 2023

Purpose

To obtain Board approval for agreements allowing water conserved by CVWD and IID to be added to Lake Mead under Reclamation's LC Conservation Program in 2023.

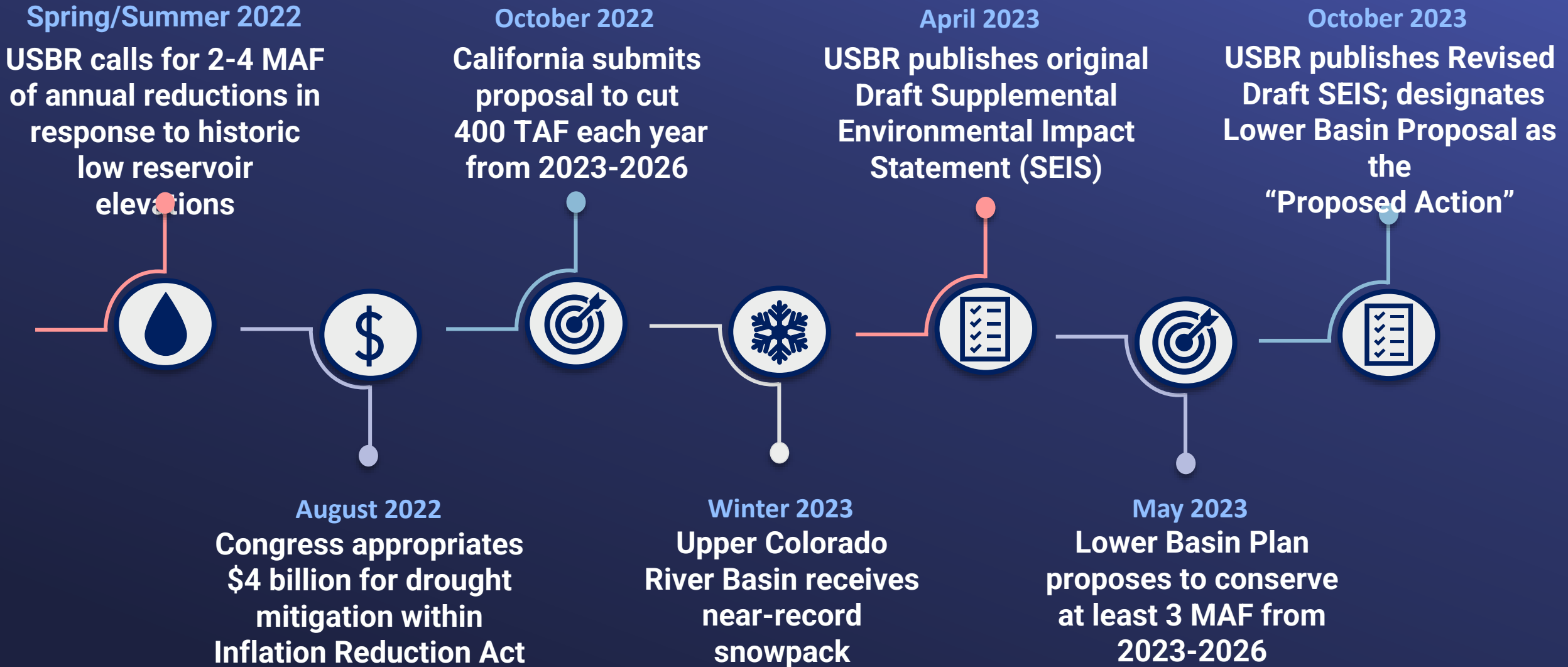
Recommendation and Fiscal Impact

Authorize entering into agreements with CVWD, IID, and SDCWA to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under Reclamation's LC Conservation Program in 2023;
Increased CY 2023 sales by 50,000 AF

Budget

Not budgeted. Metropolitan would benefit from increased revenues through full-service sales to SDCWA

Background



2 California System Conservation Projects

1

CVWD's Groundwater Replenishment System
Conservation Project

2

IID Irrigation Reduction System Conservation
Project

- Concept developed in partnership with IID, SDCWA, and MWD

Metropolitan's Forbearance is Necessary

Forbearance agreements are the mechanism for ensuring conserved water stays in Lake Mead under the priority system

Groundwater Replenishment Reduction in CVWD



CVWD System Conservation Project

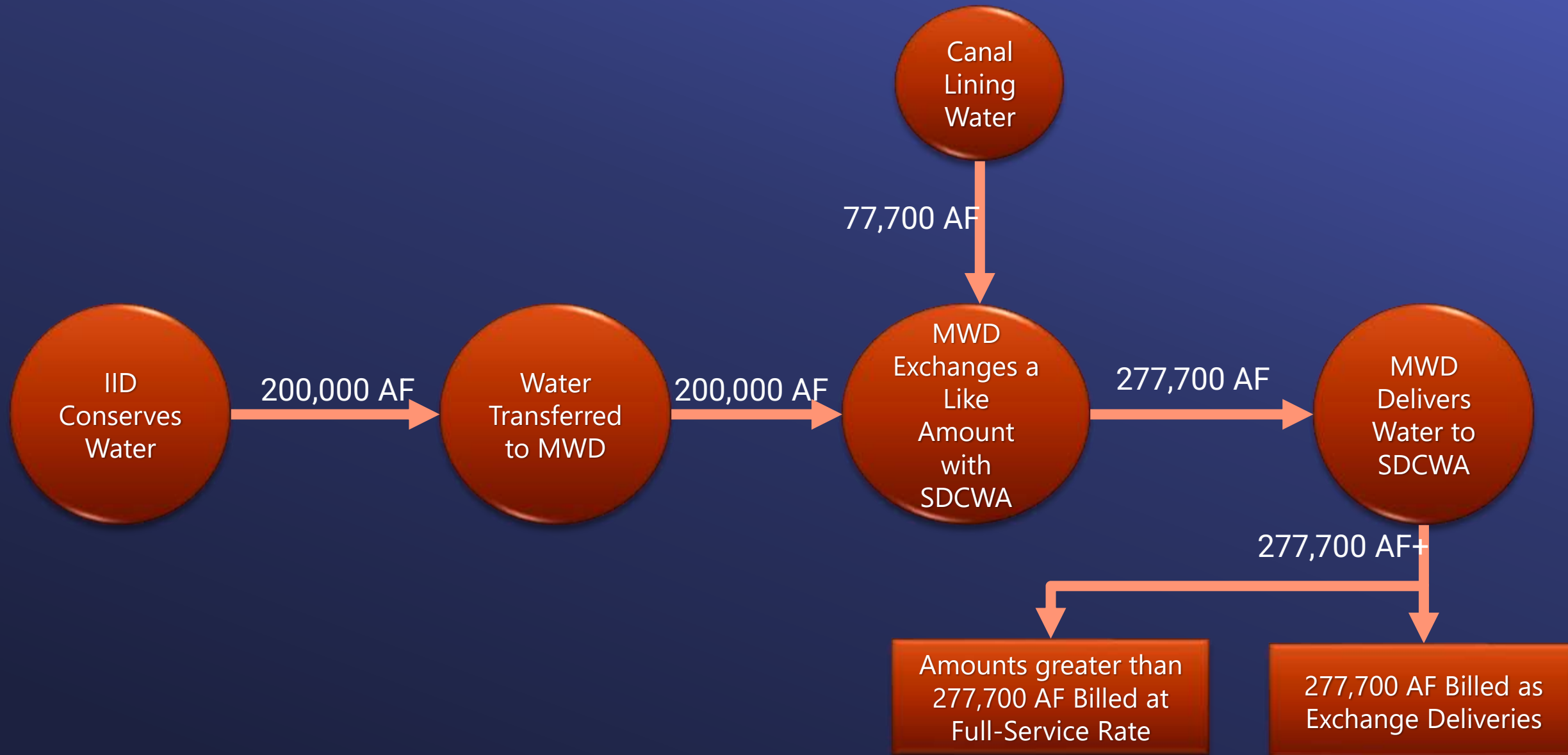
- USBR to fund up to 35,000 acre-feet in 2023
- Reduction in groundwater replenishment deliveries
- Verification through measured limited deliveries to Tom Levy Groundwater Recharge facility
 - ✓ No impact to MWD's Advanced Delivery Account

Irrigation Reduction in Imperial Irrigation District

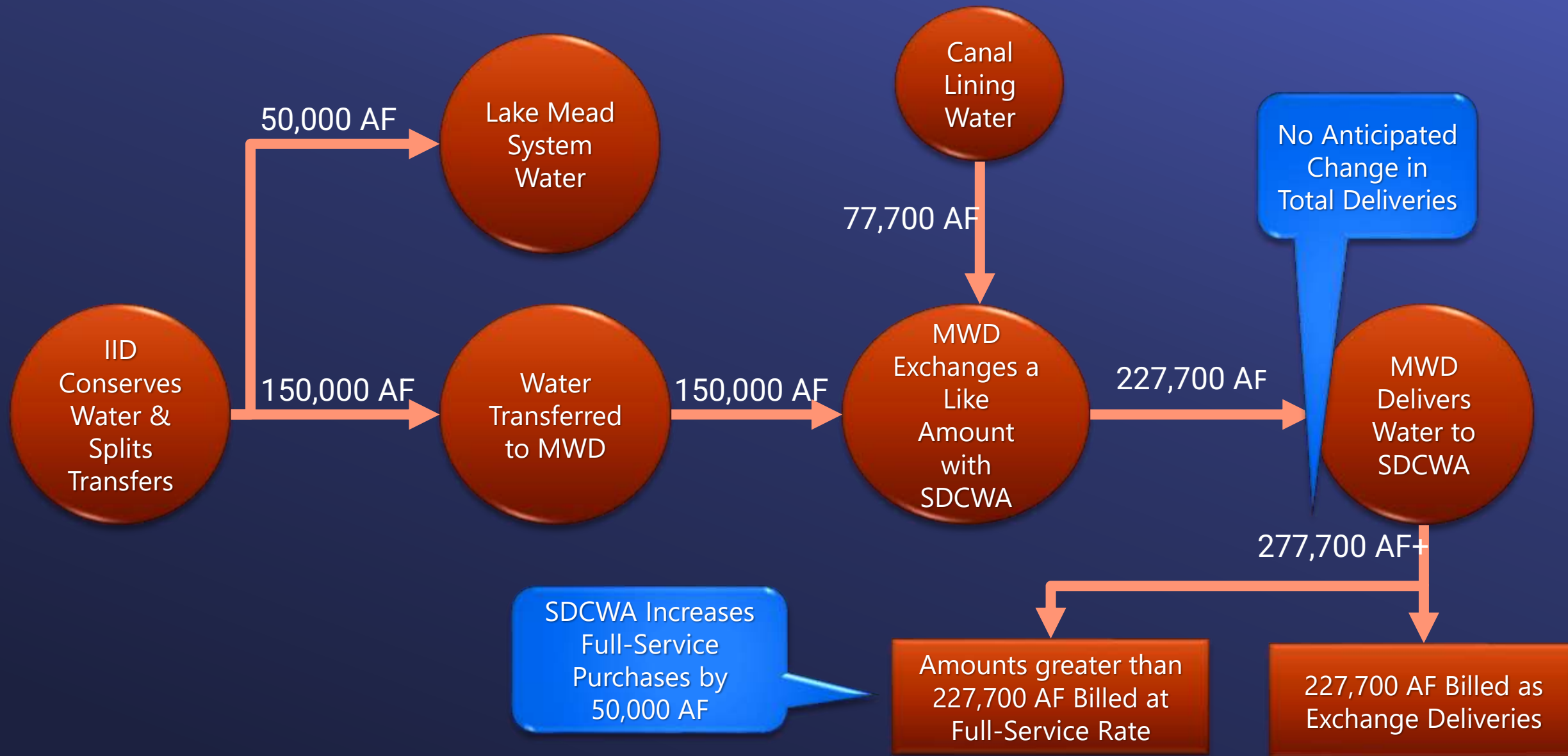
IID System Conservation Project

- USBR to fund up to 115,000 AF in 2023
- Reduced irrigation water due to:
 - ✓ IID's Existing Conservation Programs
 - Up to 65,000 AF
 - ✓ Water planned for transfer to SDCWA
 - 50,000 AF
- SDCWA would pay IID for 150,000 AF of Transfer Water instead of 200,000 AF of Transfer Water

Existing Annual Scheduled SDCWA Deliveries for 2023

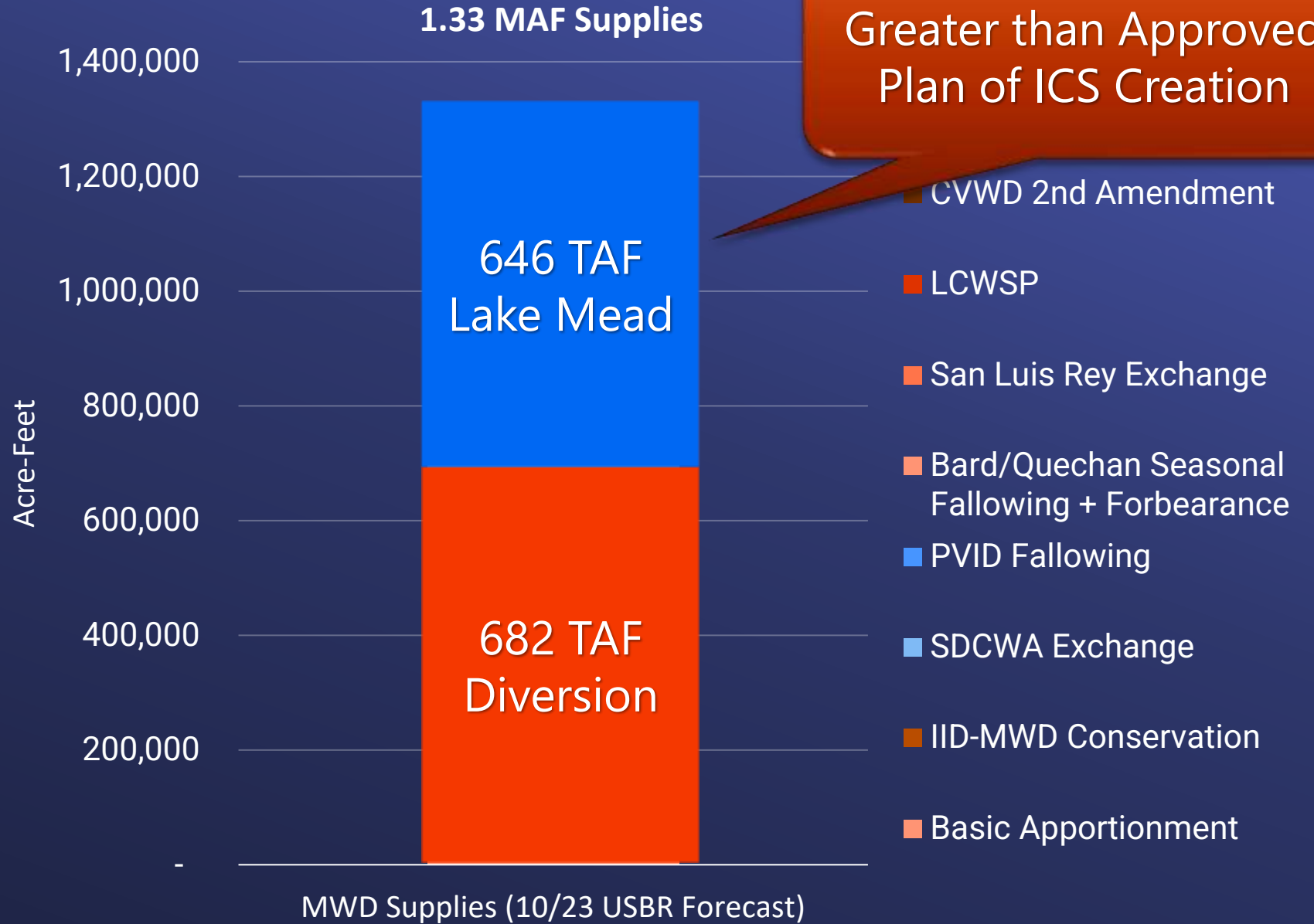


Proposed Annual Scheduled SDCWA Deliveries for 2023



Metropolitan Supplies in Absence of LC Conservation Program*

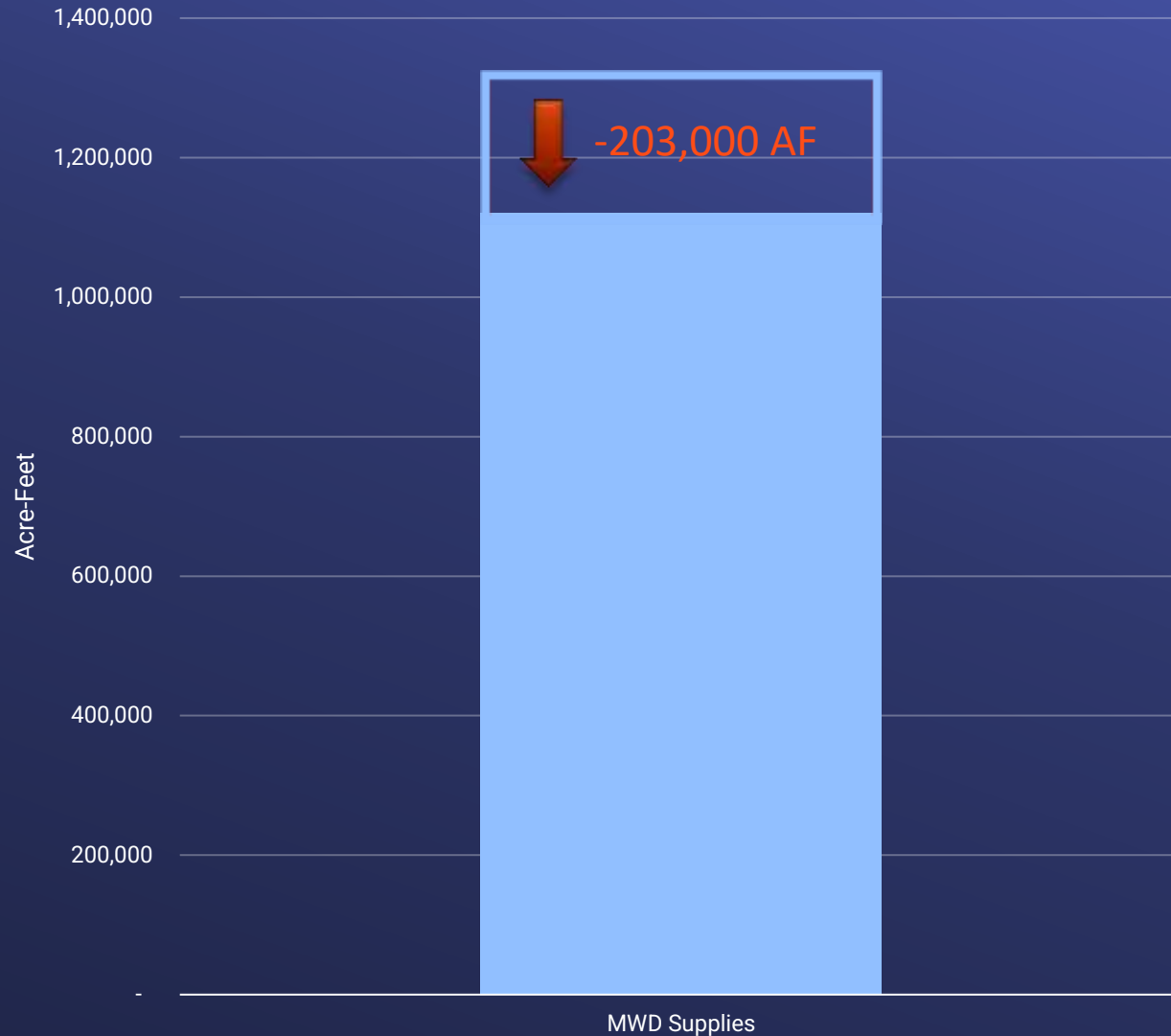
* Includes all MWD LC Conservation Program concepts that have been proposed to USBR in Bucket 1, including IID/SDCWA/MWD concept



2023 MWD Supplies to Decrease for System Conservation Projects*

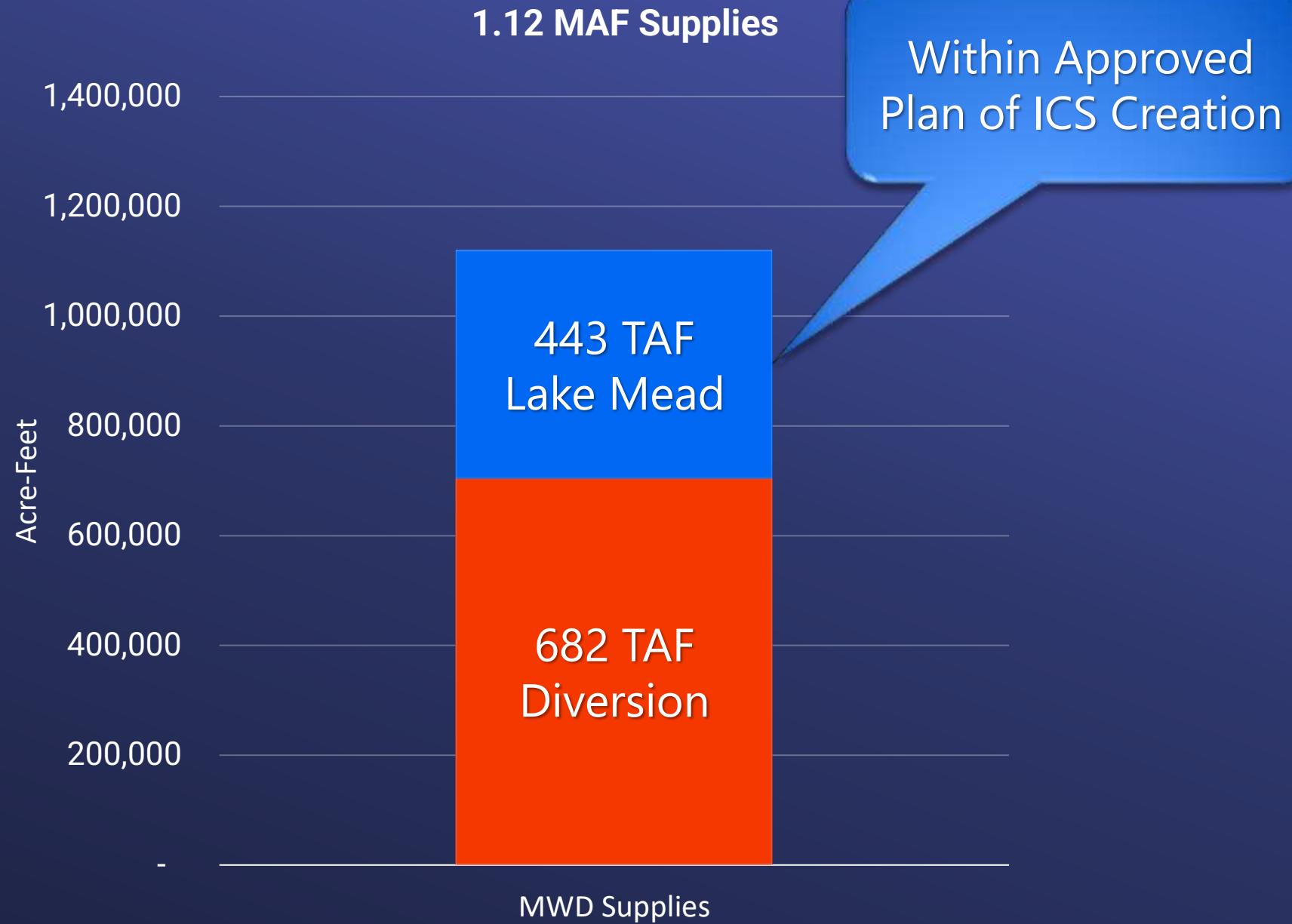
* Includes all MWD LC Conservation Program concepts that have been proposed to USBR in Bucket 1, including IID/SDCWA/MWD concept

1.125 MAF Supplies



2023 Expected Colorado River Supply with LC Conservation Program Projects*

* Includes all MWD LC Conservation Program concepts that have been proposed to USBR in Bucket 1, including IID/SDCWA/MWD concept



Benefits Summary

USBR

- California parties are working together to meet the goals set forth in California's October 2022 letter to conserve water through 2026

IID

- Conserves a portion of the water that the California parties proposed to conserve through 2026

SDCWA

- Reduces its purchases of conserved water from IID and purchases an equivalent amount from Metropolitan at the full-service rate

Metropolitan

- Increases ability of Metropolitan to manage surplus supplies in a wet year that otherwise may not have been captured in a Metropolitan storage account
- Increases revenue by ~\$16 M

Board Options

- Option #1

Authorize the General Manager to enter into agreements with Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and San Diego County Water Authority to allow water to be added to Lake Mead under the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program in 2023.

- Option #2

Direct the General Manager not to enter into agreements under the proposed terms.

Staff Recommendation

- Option #1

