

# Southern Nevada Water Authority Lake Mead Intake No. 3

## The Last Straw?

WESTCAS  
October 29, 2015



# Underlying Intake No. 3 Factors

- Lake Mead is the primary water source for So. Nevada – 90% of supply
- No guarantees on:
  - Lake water quality
  - Lake water level
- Nevada is responsible for:
  - Water treatment
  - Water conveyance

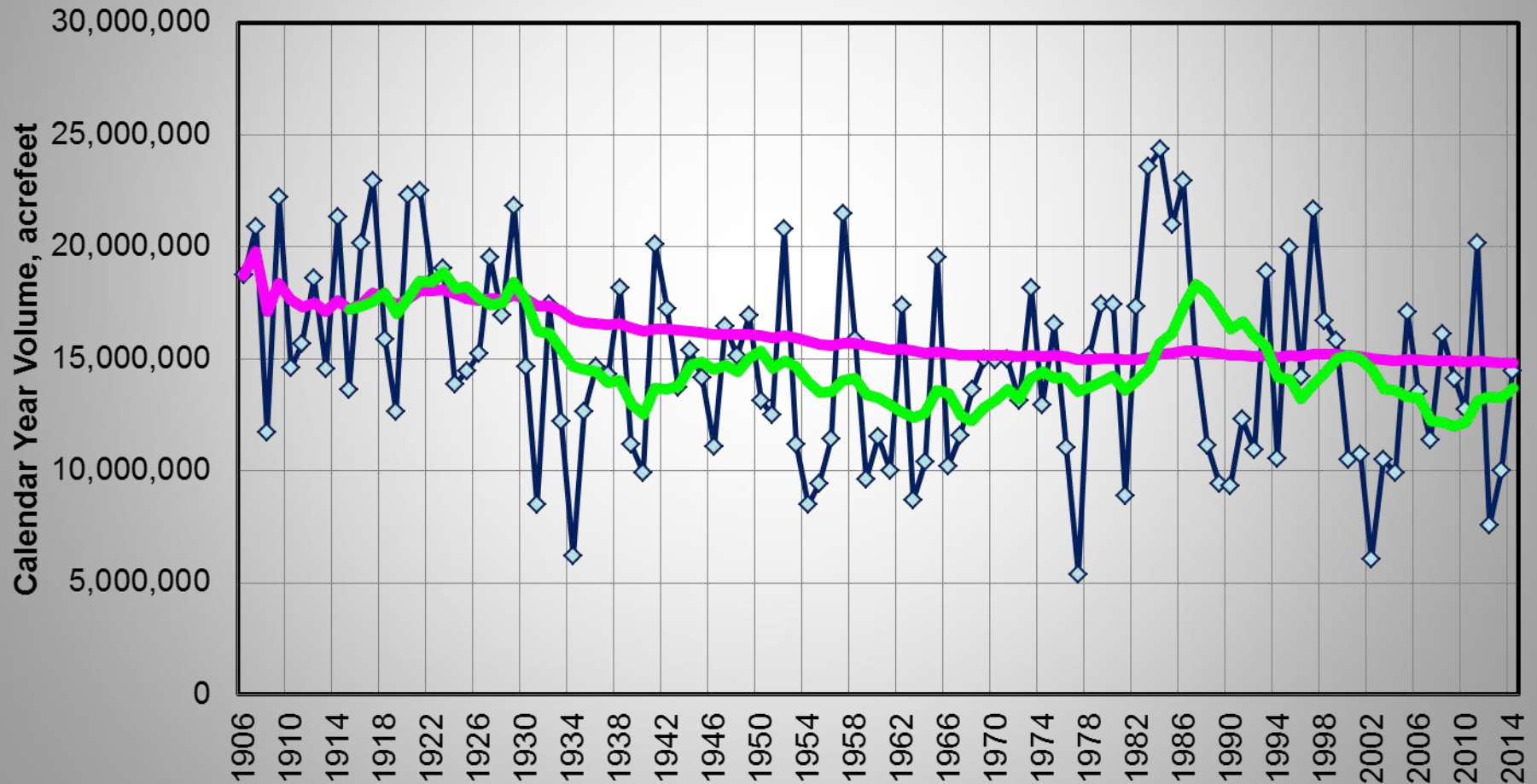


When lake water level was high, as it was from 1975 to 2000, there were no difficulties achieving water quality and water conveyance objectives.

# Colorado River Water Supply Trends

## Natural Flow at Lees Ferry

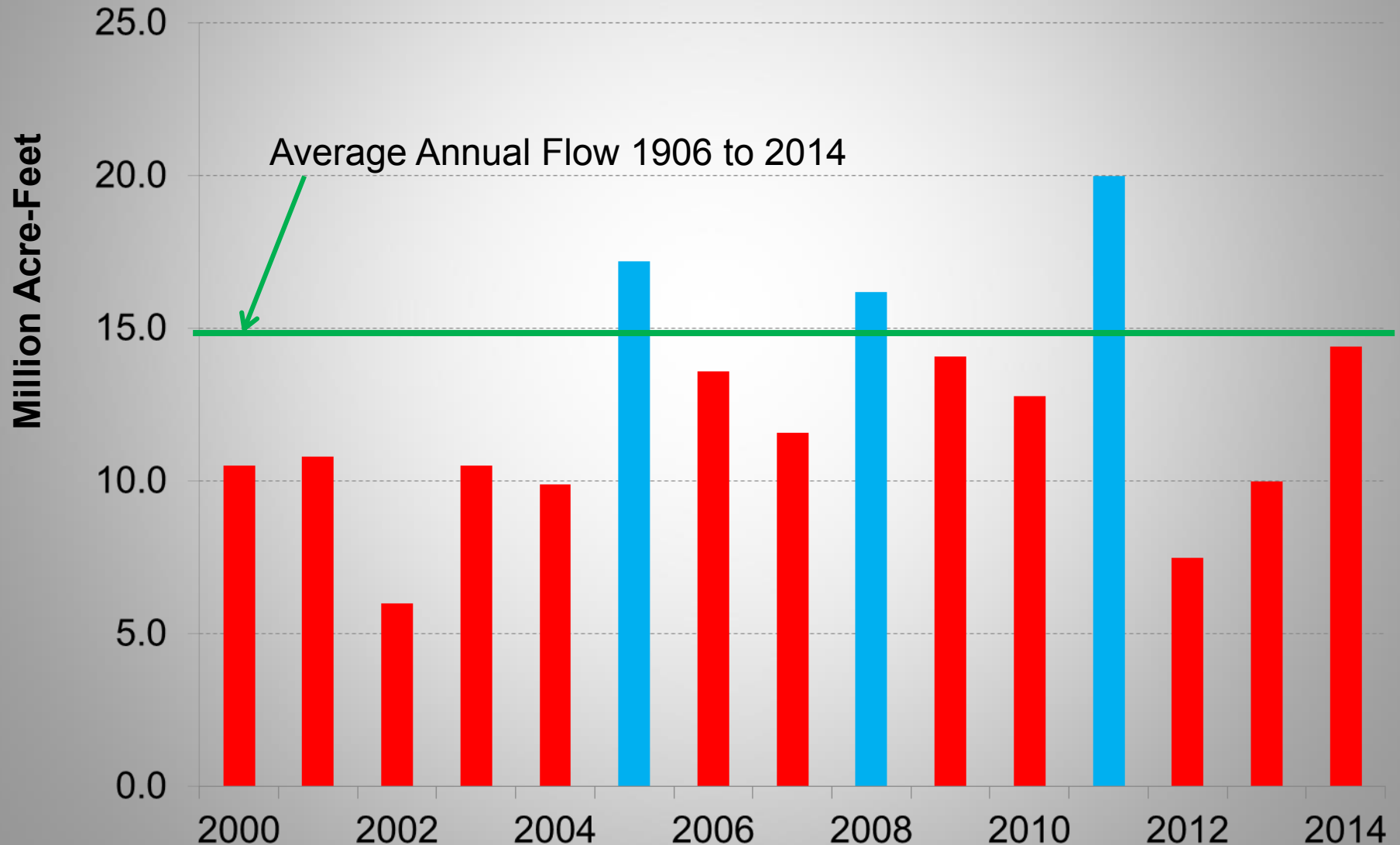
—◇— Natural Flow    — Average    — 10-Year Average



Note: 2013 and 2014 data are provisional

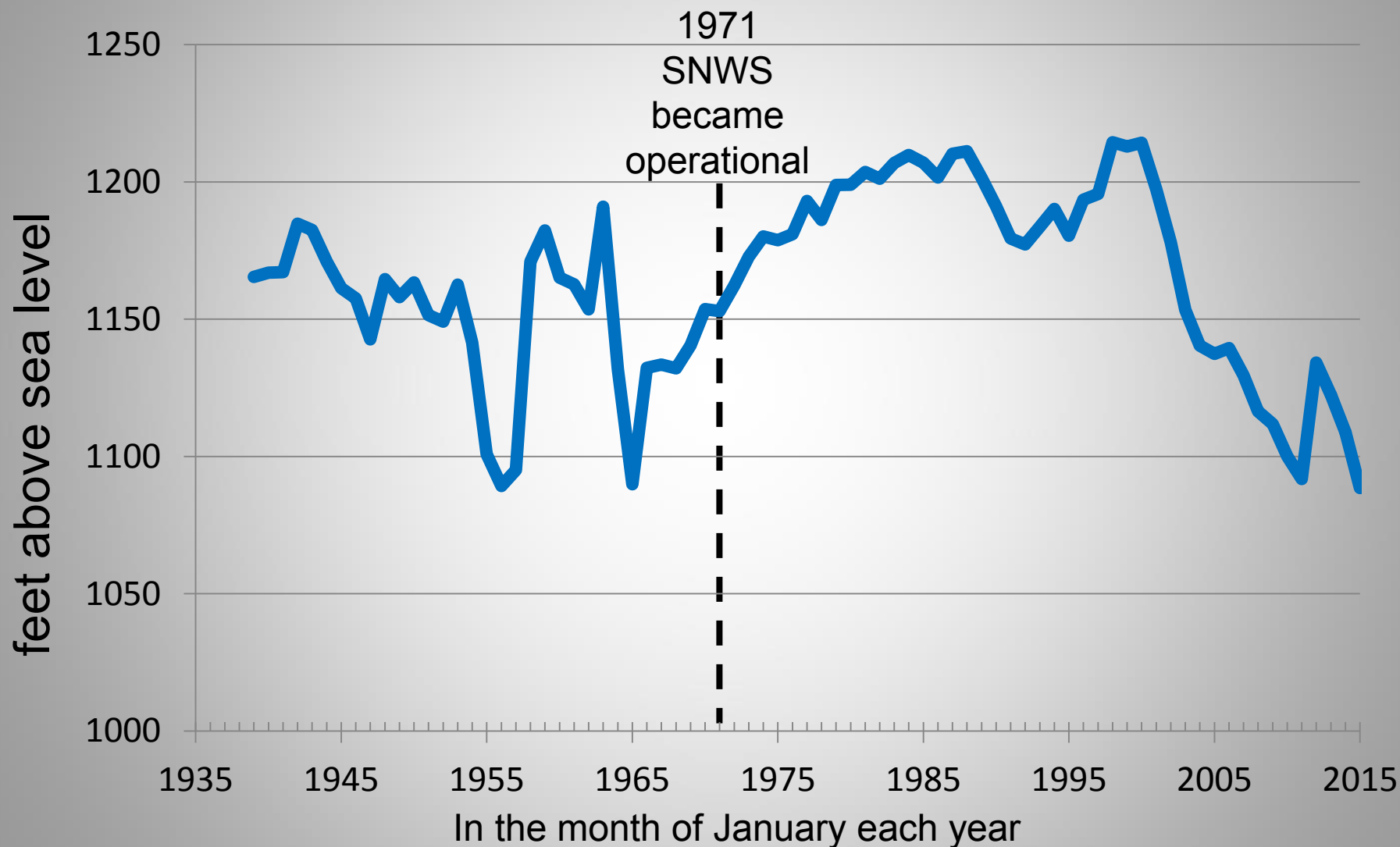
# Colorado River Water Supply Trends

## Annual Natural Flows at Lees Ferry





# Lake Mead Historic Water Elevations



# Lake Mead's Boulder Basin



Las Vegas  
Wash

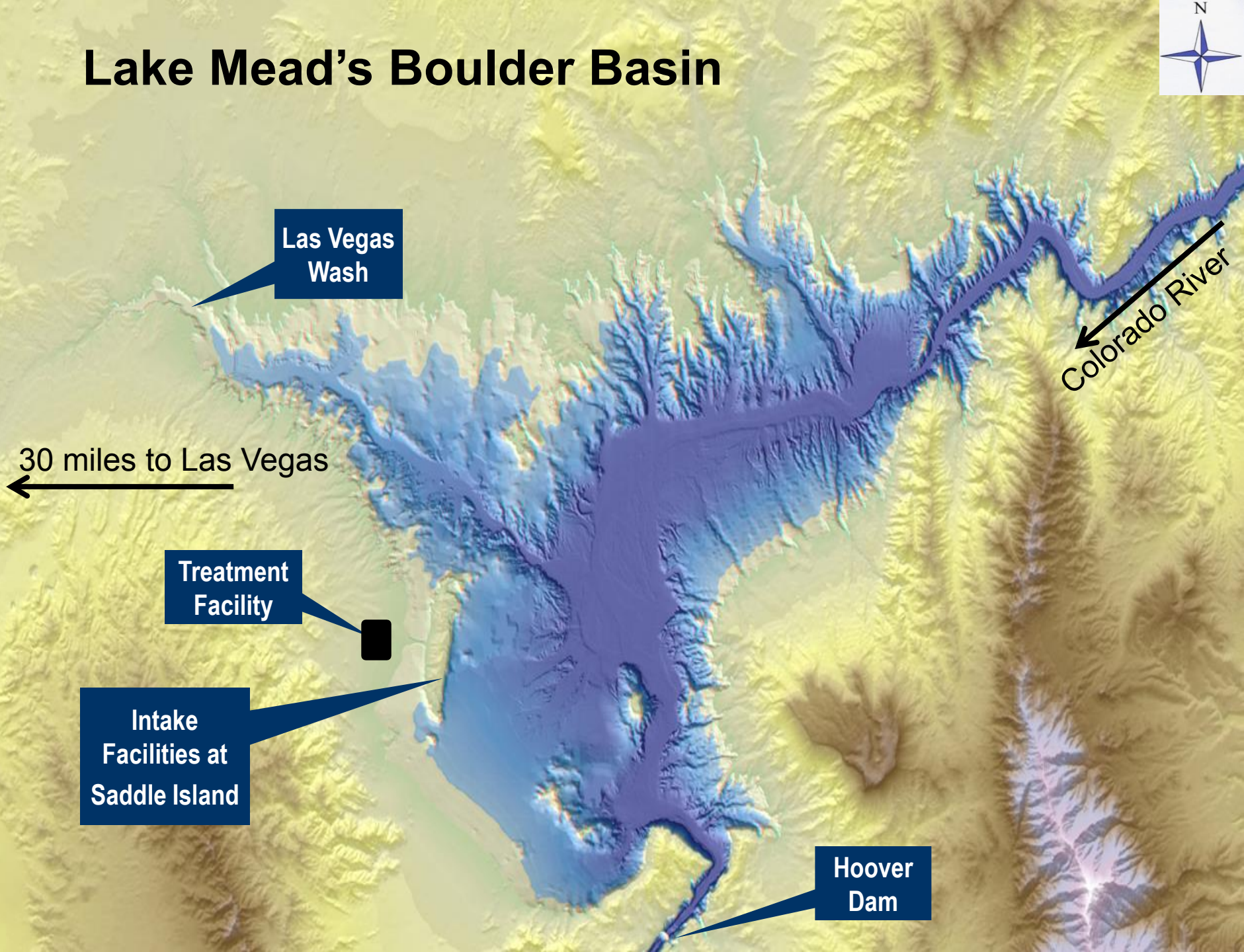
Colorado River

30 miles to Las Vegas

Treatment  
Facility

Intake  
Facilities at  
Saddle Island

Hoover  
Dam

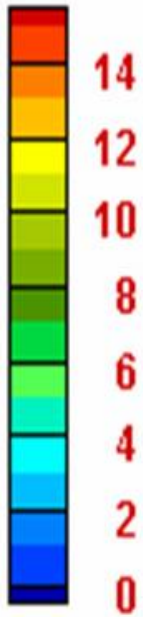


# Las Vegas Wash Discharge Primary Source of Undesirable Constituents

Lake Elevation 1,169-ft.

Algae growth at the surface – an indicator of many other constituents

Chlorophyll  
( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )



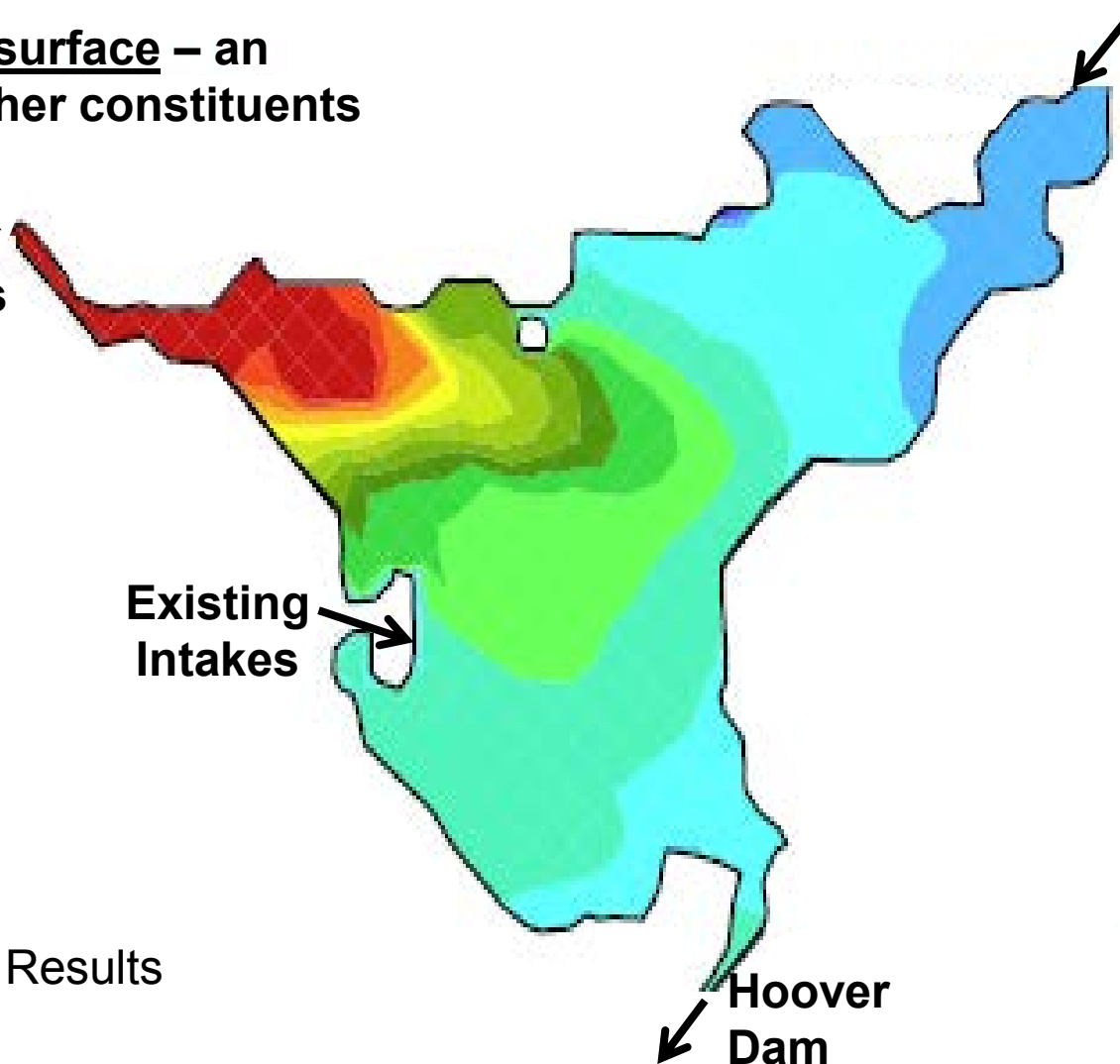
Las Vegas Wash

Existing Intakes

Colorado River

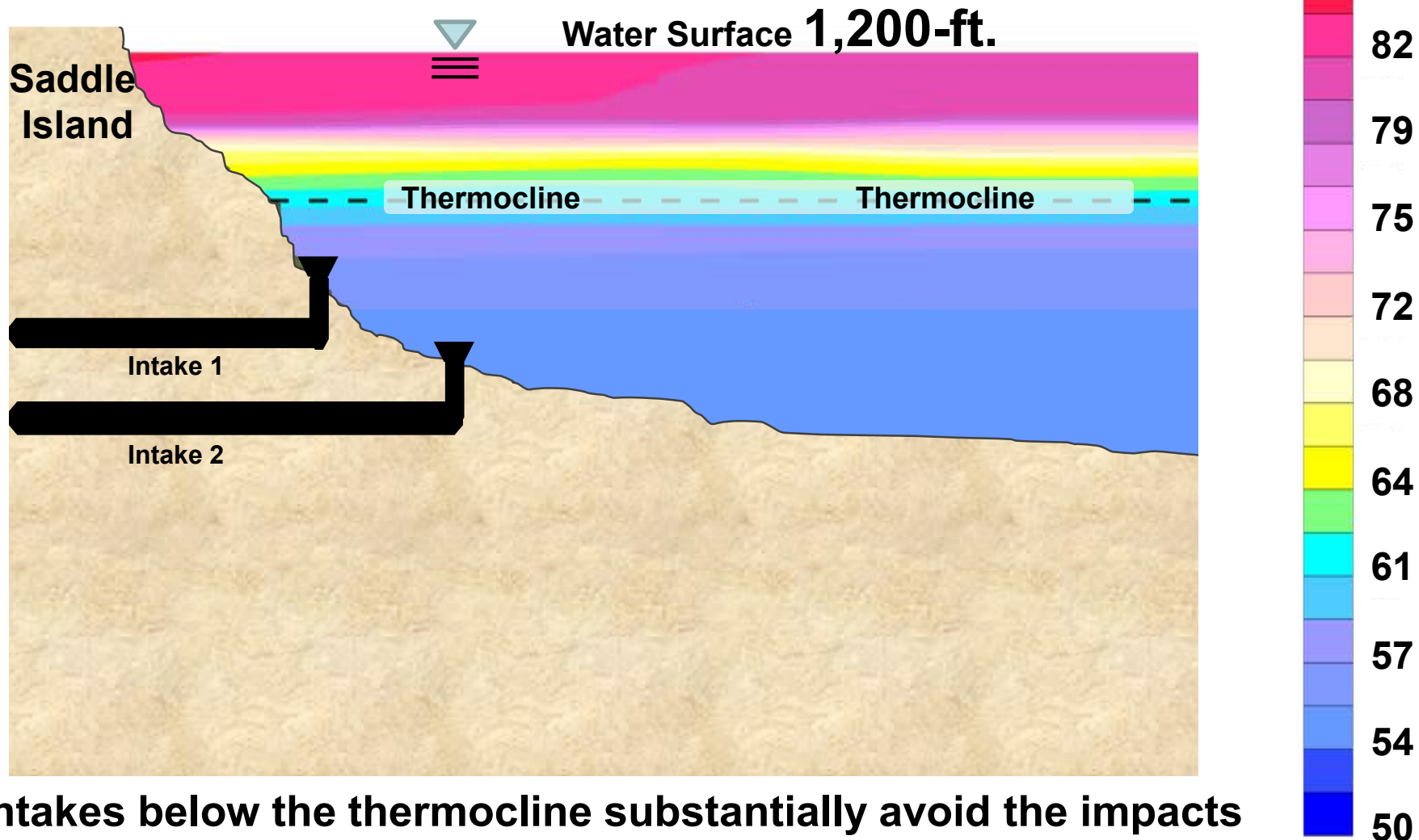
Hoover Dam

2004 Computer Model Results



# Water Quality of Lake Mead

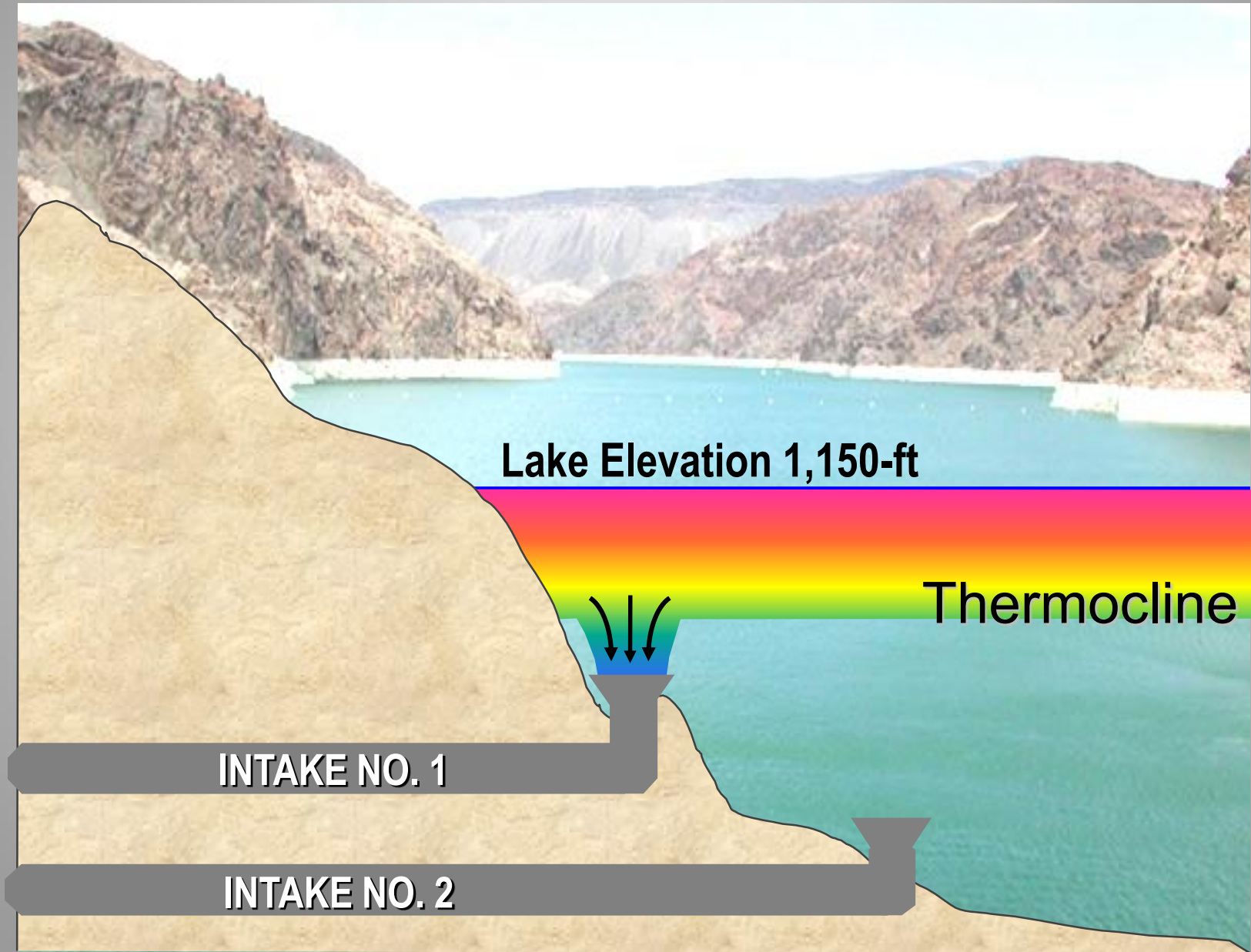
## Aug. 2000



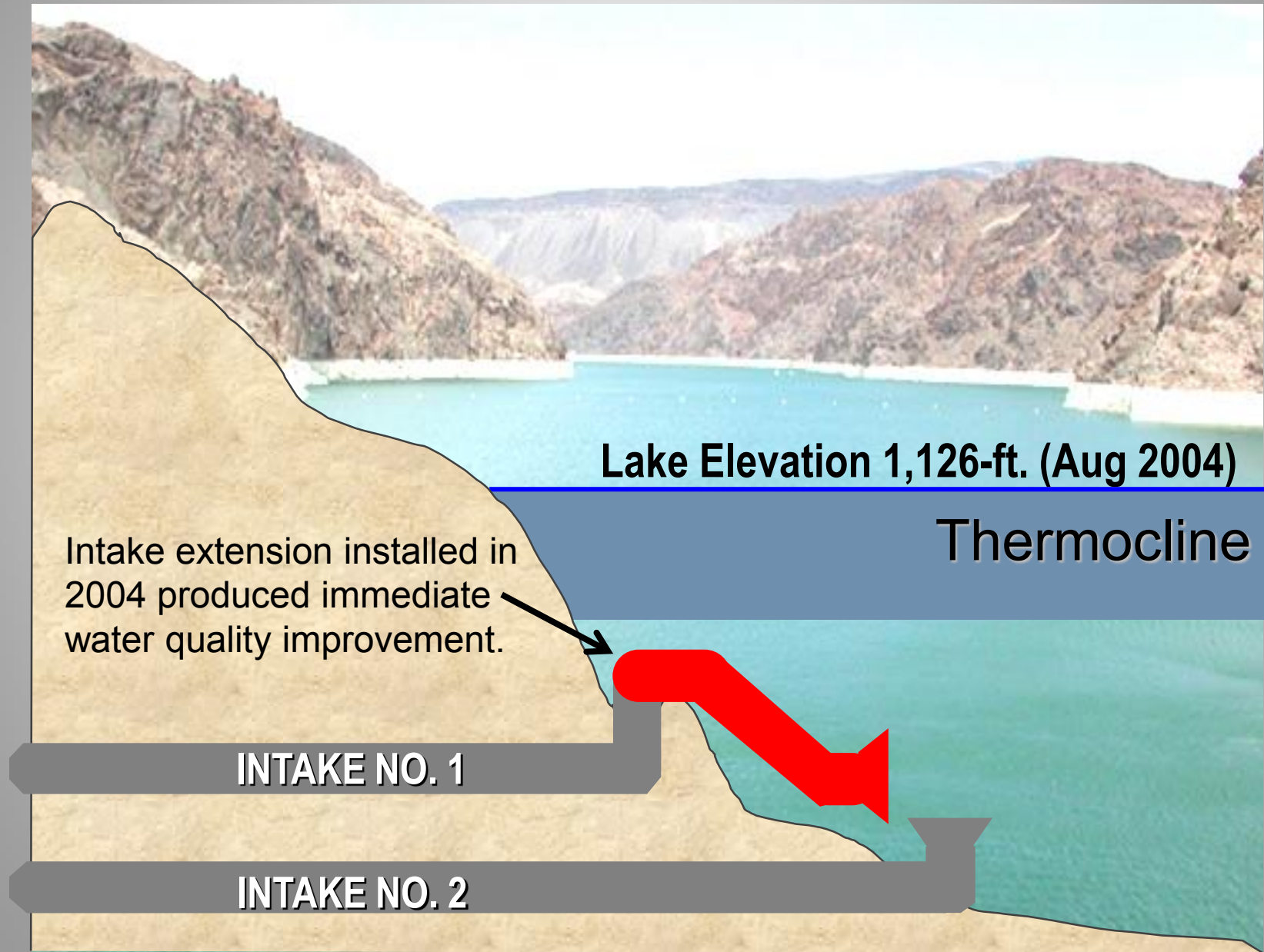
**Intakes below the thermocline substantially avoid the impacts of poor water quality effects from Las Vegas Wash discharges**



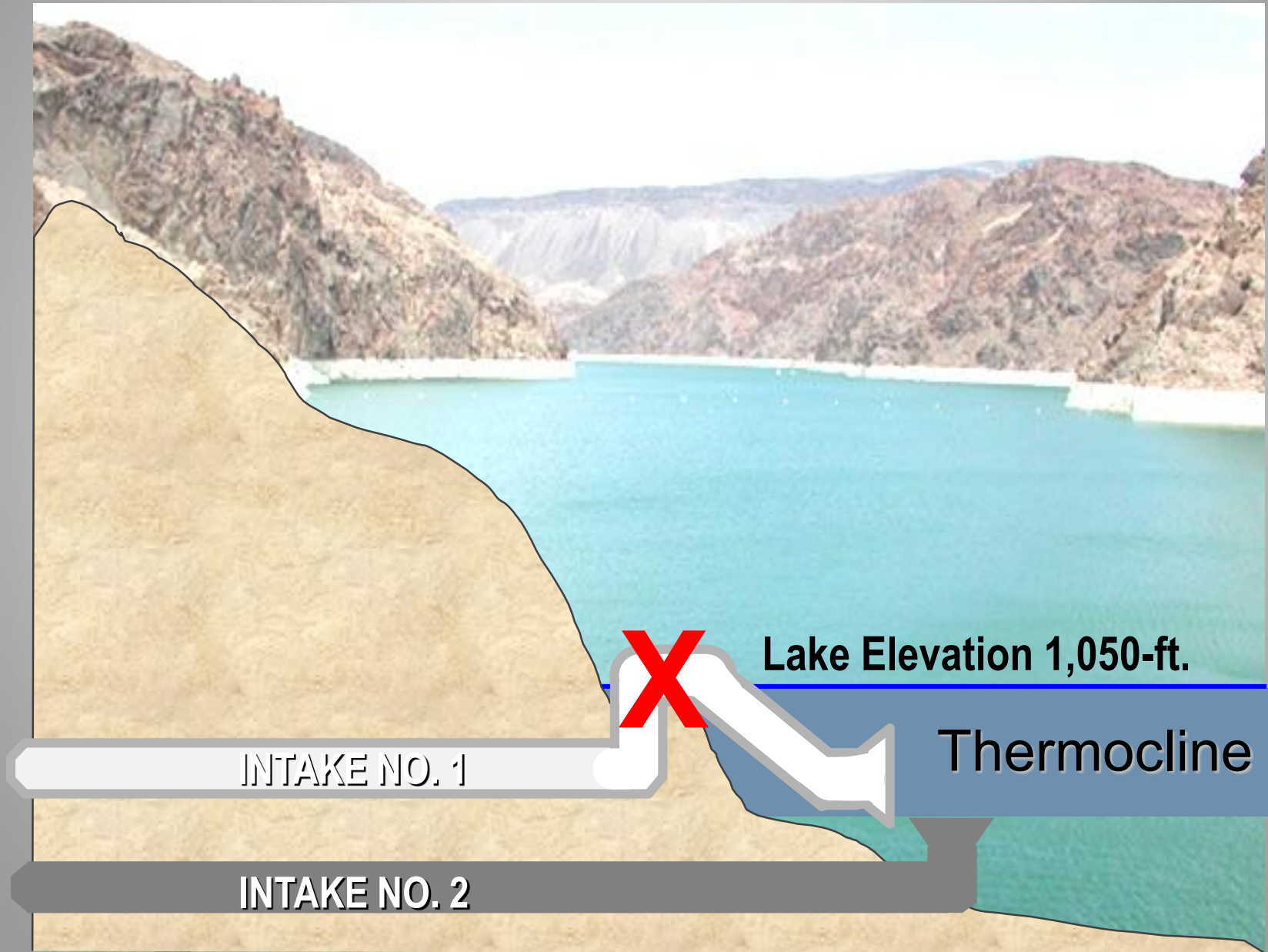
# Impact of Lower Lake Level in 2002



# Initial Water Quality Response to Lower Lake Level

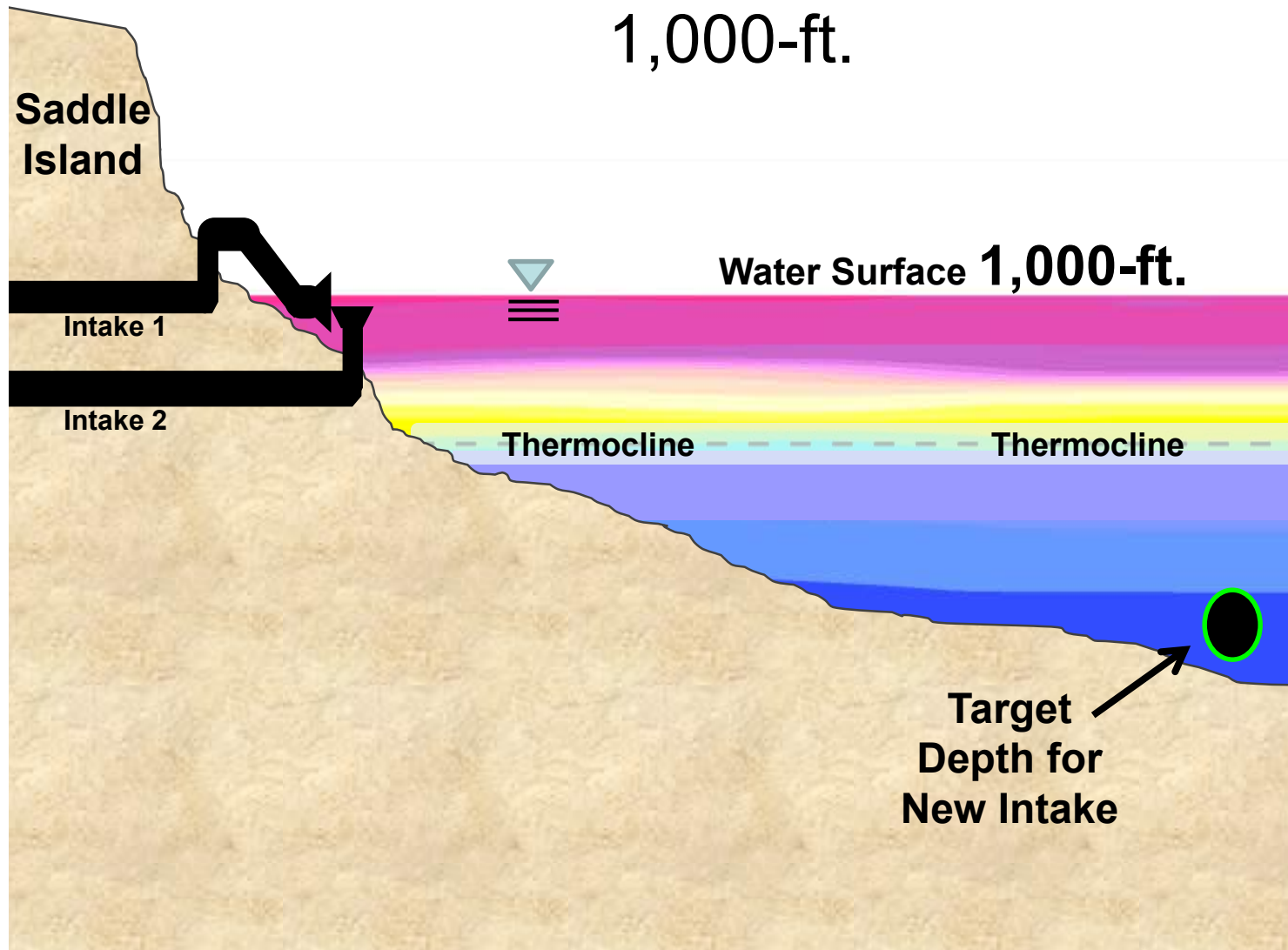


# Lake Levels Below Elevation ~ 1,050 Ft Puts Intake No. 1 Out of Service



# Water Quality of Lake Mead

Temp.  
(°F)







# **Tunnel Intake Concepts Evaluation 2004 - 2005**

## **Major Factors Considered**

- Water quality variations around the Lake
- Geologic conditions
- Lake bottom topography
- Construction feasibility
- Environmental impacts and permitting
- Construction cost & schedule
- Long-term maintenance and replacement cost

# Shrinking Lake Shoreline



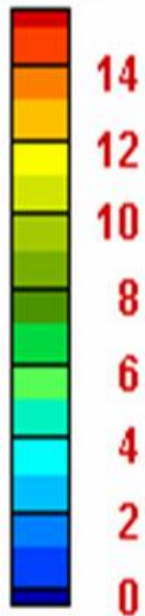


# Existing Las Vegas Wash Discharge

Lake Elevation 1,000-ft.

Algae growth at the surface – an indicator of many other constituents

Chlorophyll  
( $\mu\text{g/L}$ )

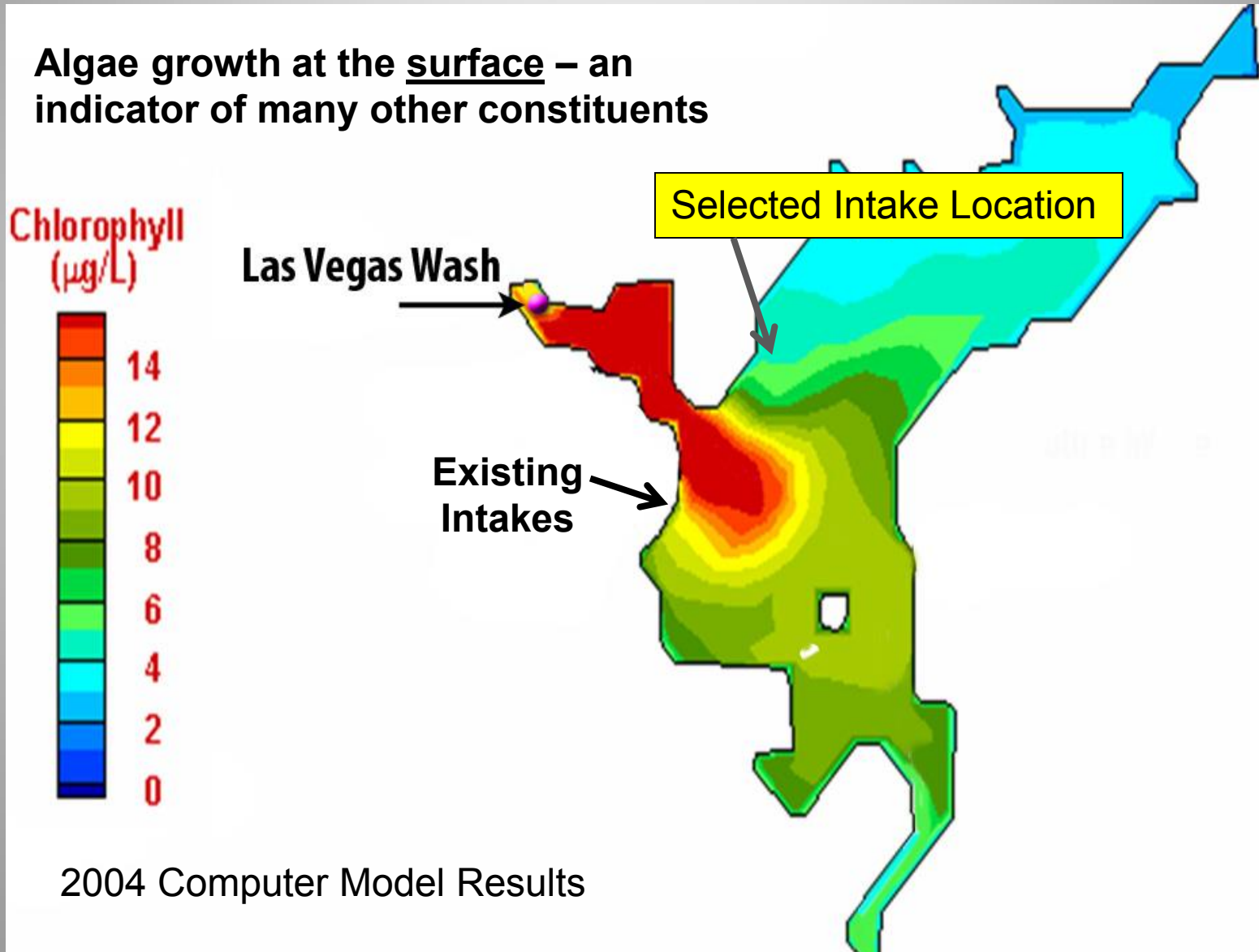


Las Vegas Wash

Selected Intake Location

Existing  
Intakes

2004 Computer Model Results





# Lake Mead Intake No. 3 Primary Components





# Tunnel Boring Machine On Site - 2009







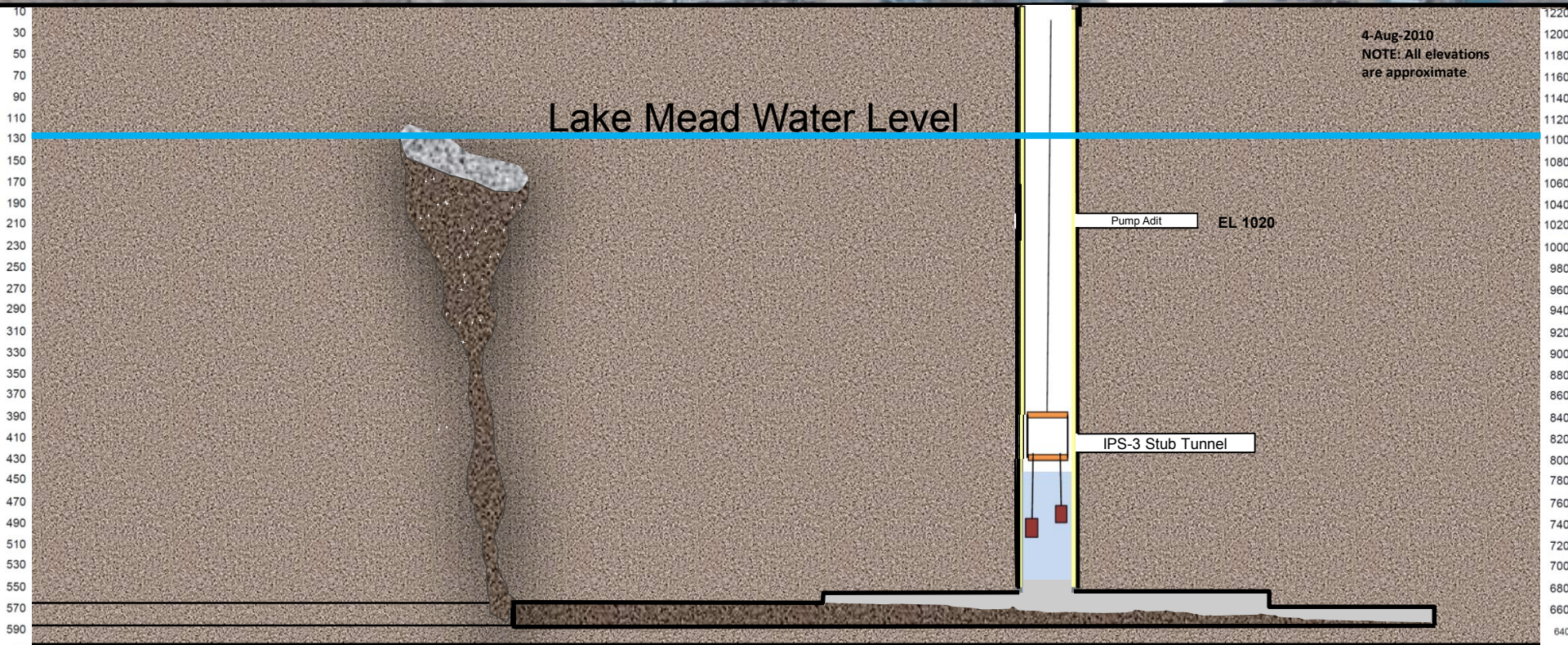
# **15,000 Concrete Liner Segments**





# July 1, 2010

## Ground Incursion from Fault Zone











08/25/2010 06:51

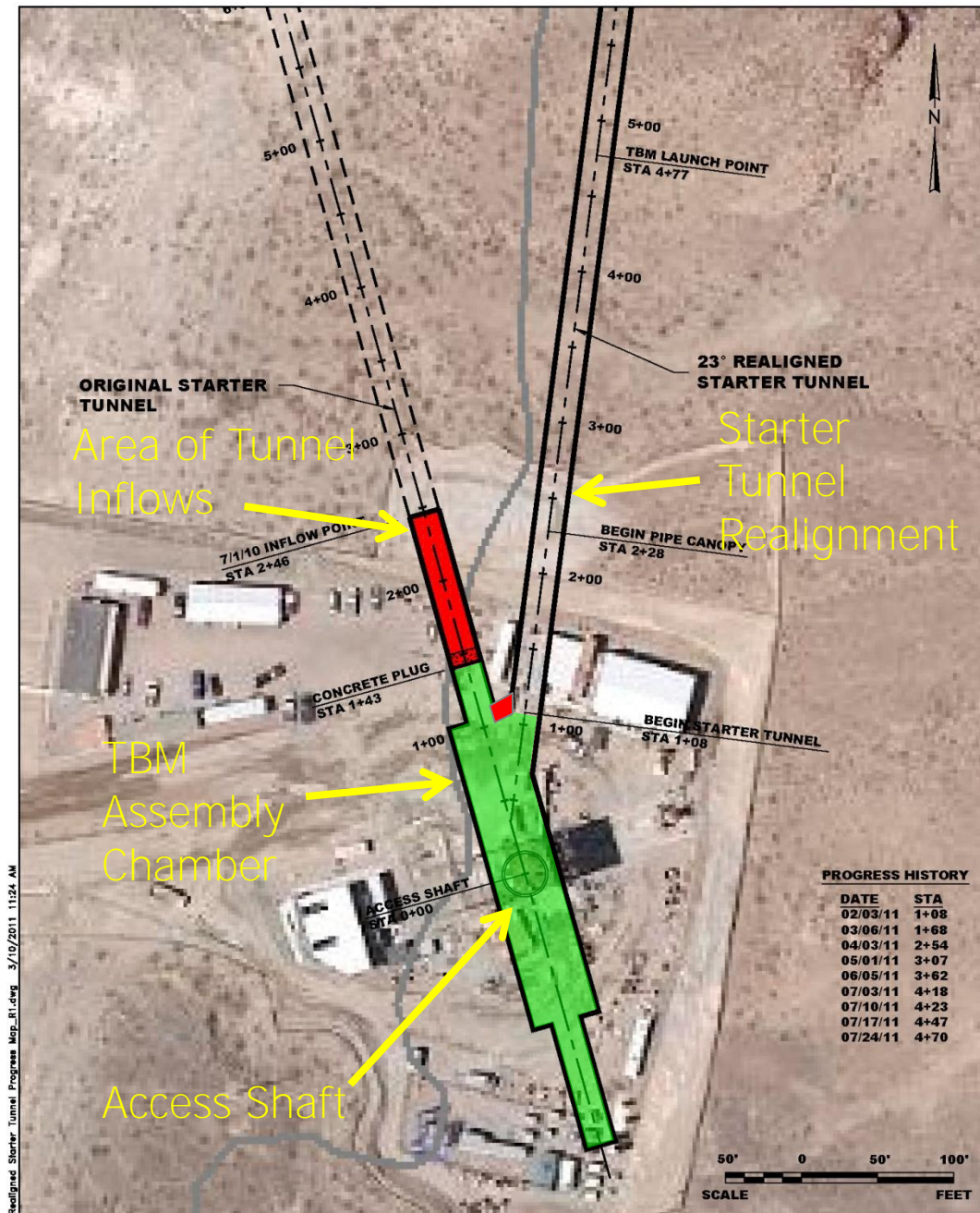
**Starter tunnel**



8/27/10 Graveyard  
TBM Chamber  
looking at Eastwall and tail tunnel







- After the July 2010 inflow event, inflows occurred again in October and December.
- In January 2011, work began on a new Starter Tunnel alignment to bypass the fault zone.



# Feb 15 – Concrete Support Pillar In Place



Old  
Starter  
Tunnel

New  
Starter  
Tunnel

Pillar

2/15/11 @ 23:30  
old and new starter tunnels



# Assembly Chamber



8/16/11 @ 04:30



# Tunnel Boring Machine Underground - 2011



09/12/2011 15:47



# Intake Riser Fabricated Off-Shore





# Assembled Intake Structure Conveyed to Intake Site



15 Feb 2012



# Irreparable Cutter Disks

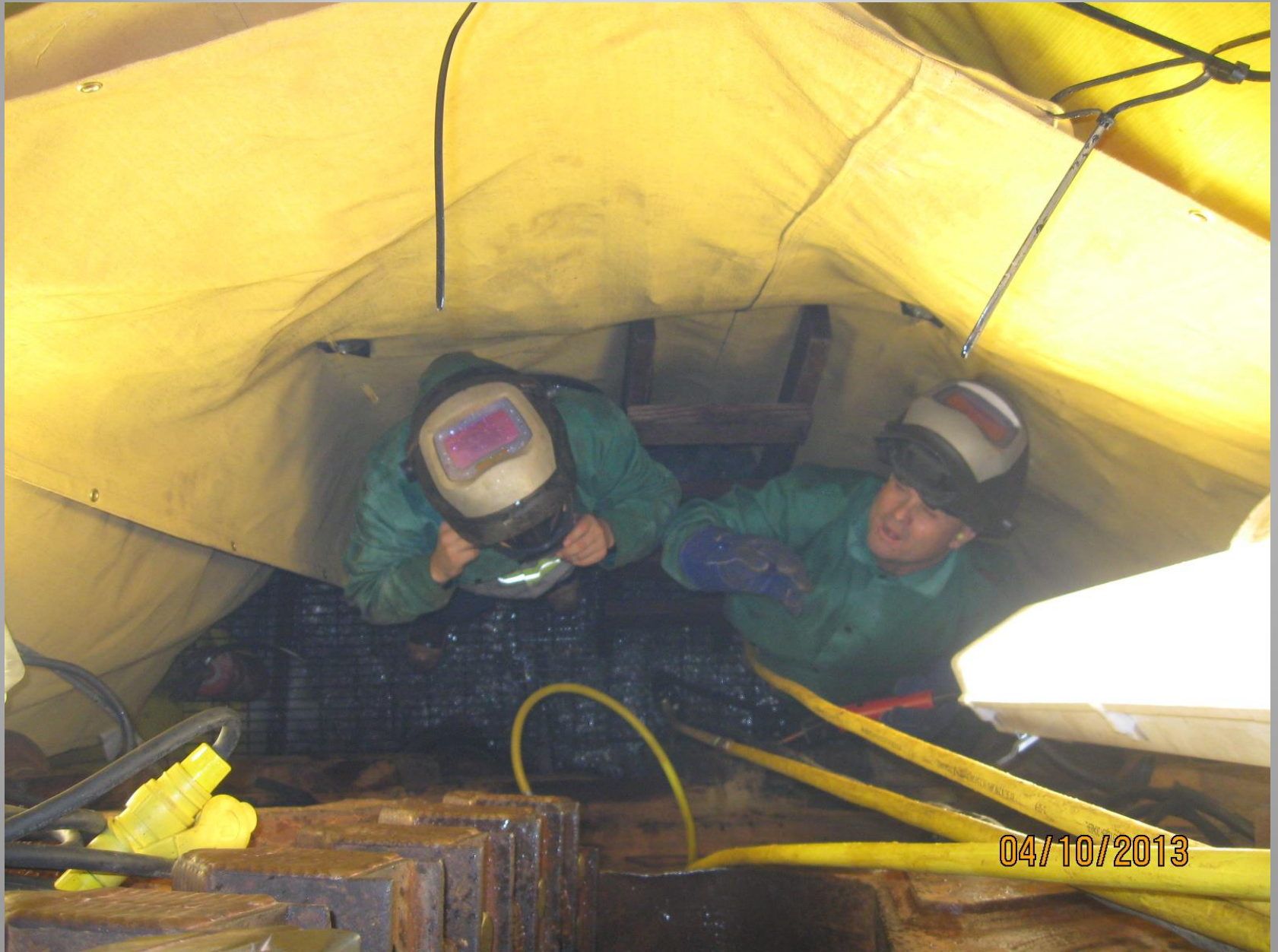


2013 Mar 29





# Working Niche In Front of TBM





# Main Bearing Seal Replacement





# TBM Docks with Intake Structure





# Lake Mead Intake No. 3 Phased Completion

**Completed  
Mar 2012**

INTAKE STRUCTURE

INTAKE TUNNEL (01)

**Tunnel Completed and  
Connection Made Dec 2014**

ACCESS  
SHAFTS  
(Complete)

**Completed August  
2014**

LOW LAKE LEVEL  
PUMPING STATION  
(IN DESIGN AND UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION)

DISCHARGE PIPELINES

**Completed  
Jun 2010**

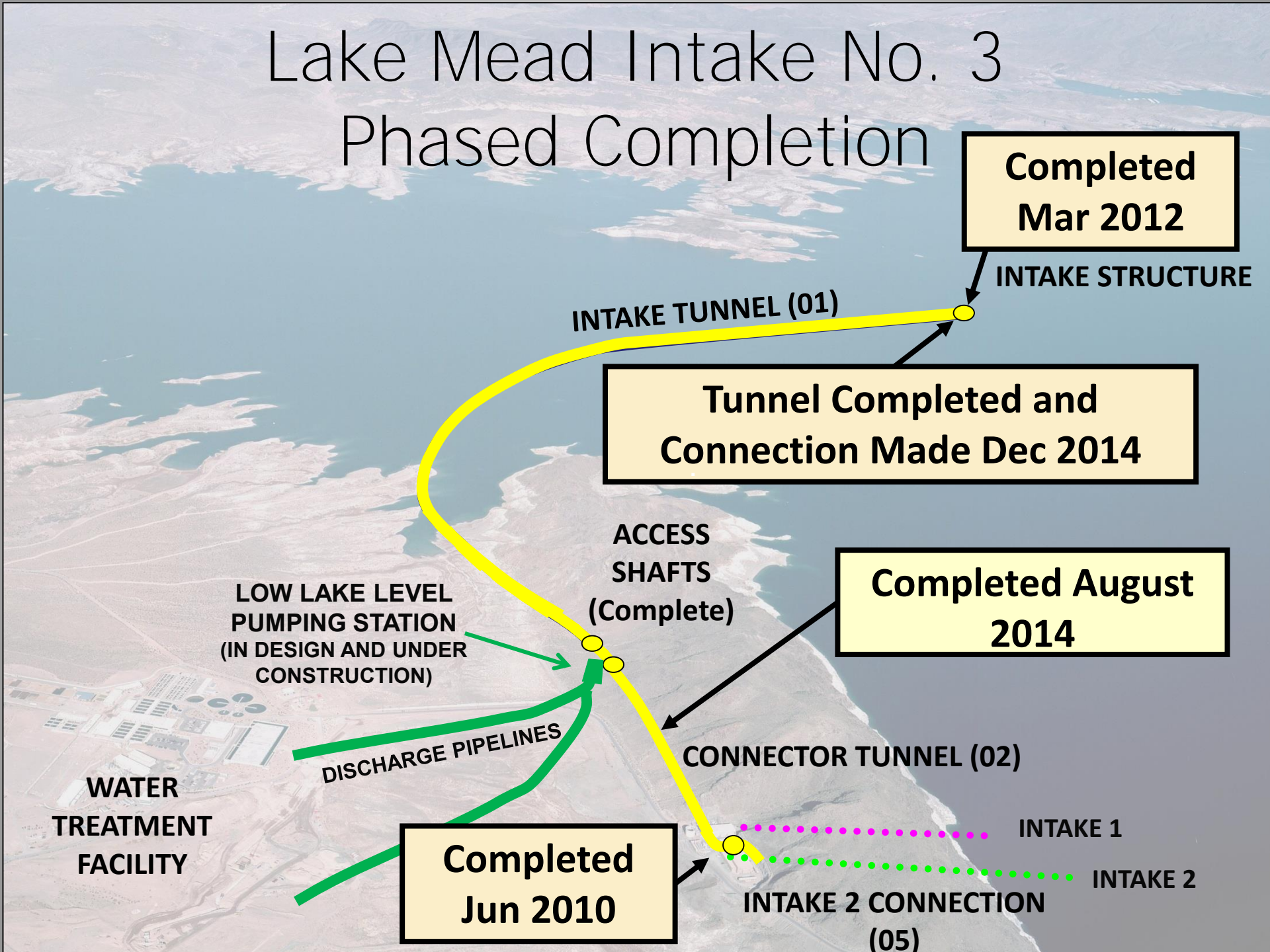
CONNECTOR TUNNEL (02)

WATER  
TREATMENT  
FACILITY

INTAKE 1

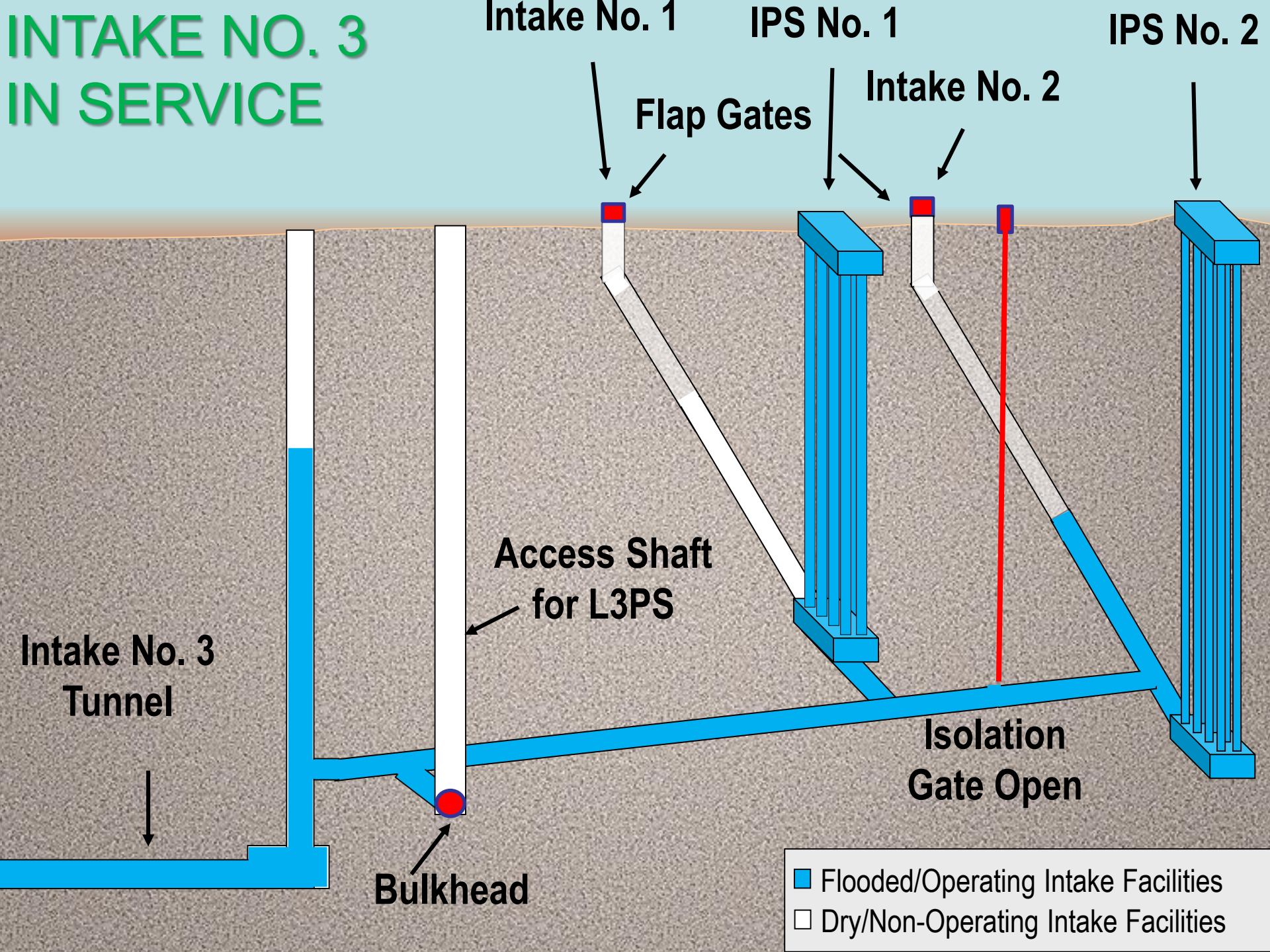
INTAKE 2 CONNECTION  
(05)

INTAKE 2



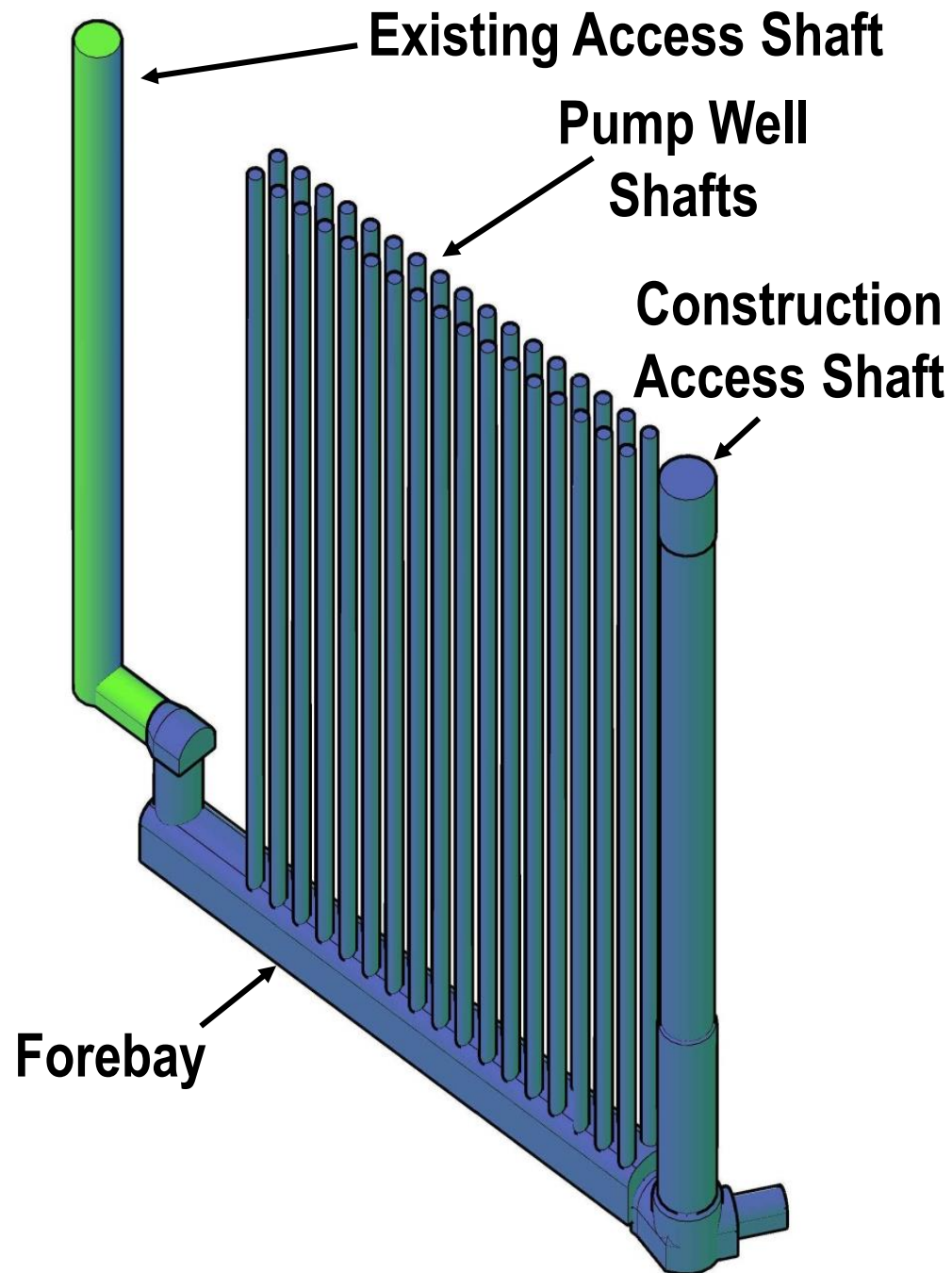


**INTAKE NO. 3  
IN SERVICE**



# Low Lake Level Pumping Station (L3PS)

- Approved as part of advisory panel recommendations in December 2014.
- Connects to the Intake No. 3
- Substitutes for Intake Pumping Stations 1 and 2 at very low lake levels.
- Will operate between lake elevations 875 and 1060.
- Added to Major Construction and Capital Plan in May 2015.
- Construction started June 2015
- Anticipated completion 2020





Questions?

