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Legislative Water Development Commission

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program: Funding Fix



Candice Hasenyager
Division of Water Resources



BACKGROUND | FUNDING FIX

Salinity Control Program

- Reduce salinity in the Colorado River for U.S. and Mexico
- Water quality standard (Clean Water Act 1972)
- 1974 Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act: Title I & Title II
- Salinity Control Forum and Advisory Council



Identified remaining salinity control

Table 3 - Remaining Potential Salinity Control (2024-2040)*

Project Area	Total Tons/year	Percent remaining
Big Sandy	35,660	33%
West Blacks Fork	26,900	96%
Grand Valley	211,460	43%
Green River	10,400	76%
Henrys Fork	16,120	89%
Lower Gunnison	473,100	63%
Mancos	15,000	63%
Manila	11,100	32%
McElmo (Dolores)	39,940	41%
Muddy Creek	8,060	62%
Paria	30	2%
Price-San Rafael	38,490	18%
San Juan	9,330	15%
Silt	9,460	78%
Uinta	68,800	24%
USDA Tier 2	6,610	41%
Nonpoint Sources*		
TOTAL**	980,460	

*BLM Nonpoint Source controls not included

**Saline Groundwater Sources not included

To date the program has developed more than 1.33 million tons of annual salinity control.



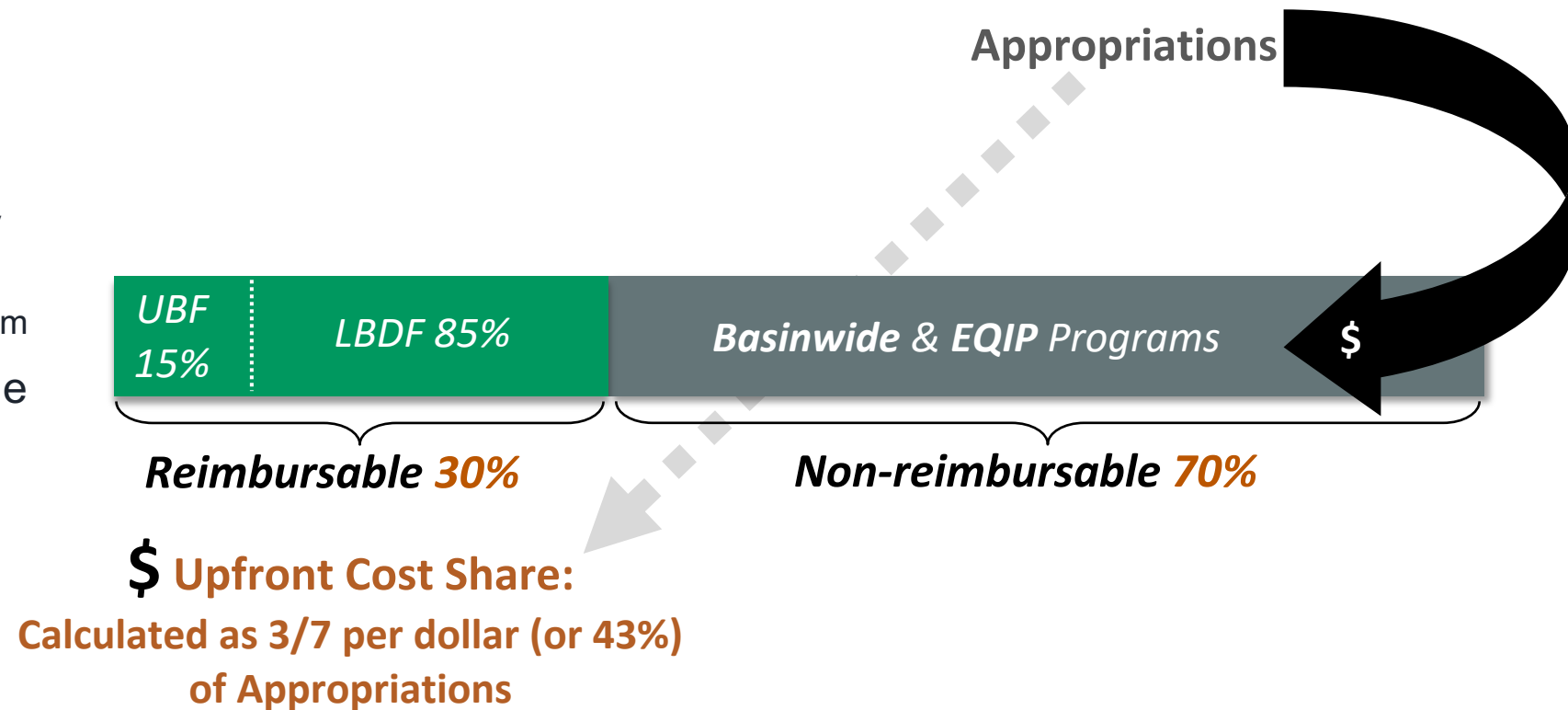
Power Revenues

A large steel arch bridge spans a deep canyon. The bridge has a prominent arch structure supported by vertical steel columns. Below the bridge, a river flows through the canyon. On the right side of the image, several high-voltage power transmission towers are visible, with power lines extending across the scene. The sky is filled with clouds, and the overall scene is a mix of natural and industrial elements.

- Hydropower sales cover reimbursable program funding
- 1984 Hoover Act
- Mill levies are applied to LBDF at 2.5 mills to power customers in CA and NV
- UBF rates are adjusted to meet need

Program Amendments

- Reimbursable portion is 30%
- Additional federal agencies implement salinity programs
 - Initial USDA salinity program was subsumed by Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - No cost share occurs in BLM program
- Bureau of Reclamation Basinwide Program
- Upfront cost share method adopted instead of repayment to Treasury





BACKGROUND | FUNDING FIX

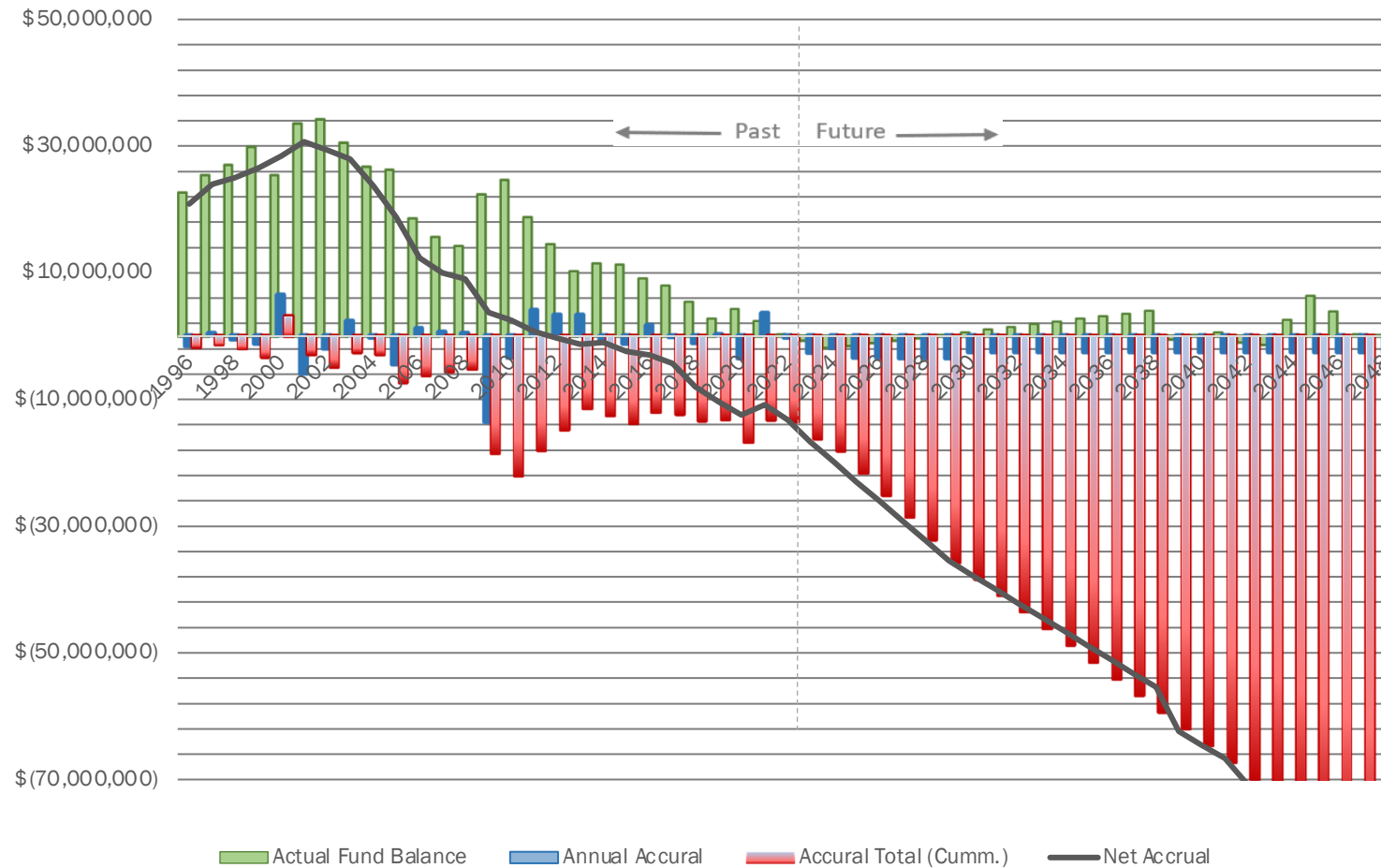
The Problem

- Drought → low reservoirs → reduced hydropower generation → Less funding from LBDF
- The EQIP program has grown since its inception
- Obligation for cost share is not being met



Current Trajectory

Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund Balances



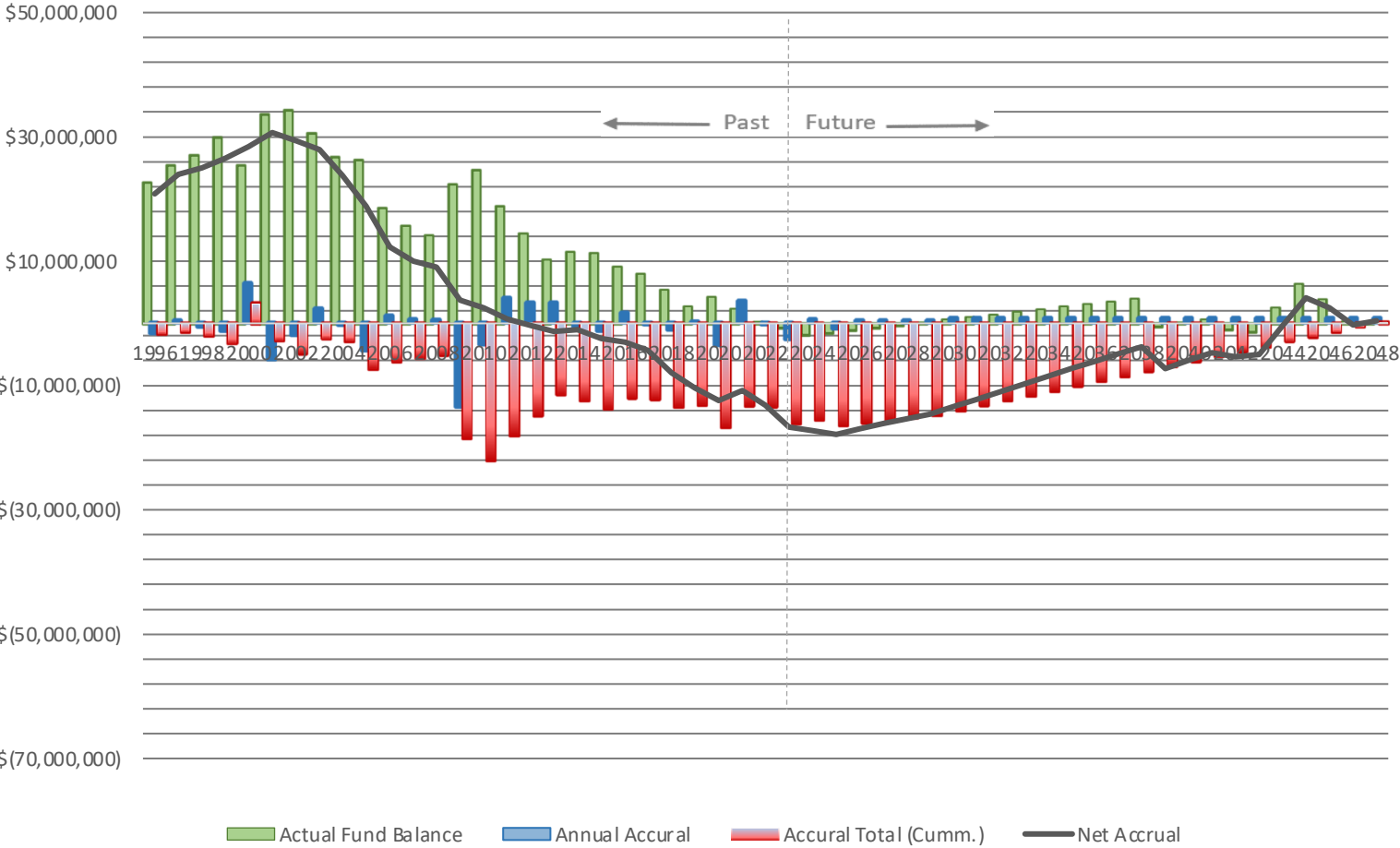
Proposed Fix

Current and Proposed Non-Reimbursable Percentages by Project and Project Element

Name	Unit	Construction	Operations & Maintenance	Replacement	Wildlife
Paradox	1592(a)(1)	75%	75% 90%	75%	75% 90%
Grand Valley	1592(a)(2)	75%	75% 100%	75%	75% 100%
Las Vegas Wash	1592(a)(3)	75%	75%	75%	75%
Lower Gunnison	1592(a)(4)	70%	70%	70%	70%
McElmo/Dolores	1592(a)(5)	70%	70% 100%	70%	70% 100%
Basinwide	1592(a)(6)	70%	70%	70%	70%
EQIP	1592(c)		70% 85%		

Proposed Fix (EQIP only)

Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund Balances



Proposed Fix (EQIP and O&M)

