



Fall 2017

Regional Tribal Operations
Committee Meeting

October 30th, 2017

Welcoming Remarks

Alex Cabillo, Hualapai Tribe
Acting RTOC Tribal Co-Chair

Welcoming Remarks

Alexis Strauss, US EPA
Acting Regional Administrator

Roll Call

Alex Cabillo and Jeff Scott
RTOC Co-Chairs



Review of Summer Action Items

GAP Workgroup

Issue	Resolution
<p>We want better assistance and support from EPA for new Tribal GAP managers. In NV there are a number of new GAP managers which would be better equipped with more training opportunities for GAP.</p>	<p>Rebecca Roose (AIEO) will be attending the next GAP Workgroup call to address these and other questions.</p>
<p>Request to hear a report from AIEO of what they are currently working on and why they haven't reached out to tribes for comment, specifically including the language under consideration for making the Omnibus solid waste funding provision permanent</p>	
<p>Request for Felicia Wright to attend the Annual Conference to provide a detailed update on AIEO projects mentioned at May RTOC.</p>	
<p>Tribal Caucus raised concerns with the lack of tribal comment on AIEO issues including NPM guidance, Omnibus funding provisions, and cuts to contractors. Request that AIEO respond to why the comment process didn't happen or was inadequate and suggest a process for obtaining tribal comments going forward.</p>	
<p>AIEO has identified that ETEPs must cover all EPA programs. Is GAP going to be used as the platform for all media specific programs in the future?</p>	

Issue	Resolution
<p>My new PO requested deliverables that were not included in my work plan. Why?</p>	<p>For individual grant management issues, tribes are encouraged to contact the relevant manager as needed:</p>
<p>Tribes would like a protocol that Project Officers would share in advance a list of topics that would be covered on site visits and what materials the tribe needs to prepare or have at hand. A tribe was surprised by Advanced Monitoring.</p>	<p>Michelle Baker (Acting Tribal Section Manager) 415-972-3206</p>
<p>Tribes would like to see EPA Project Officers read Tribal quarterly reports within a timely manner. Tribes are frustrated when no response is provided until the grant closeout when the PO lists that a task deemed fulfilled within a quarterly report is listed as not complete. We request that EPA POs read quarterly reports and respond within an acceptable timeframe (within 30 days) that the report is accepted, or request updates. If no response is received the report will be considered to be accepted as submitted.</p>	<p>Jason Brush (Tribal Water Section Manager) 415-972-3483</p>
	<p>Stephanie Valentine (Acting Deputy Director, Air Division)</p>

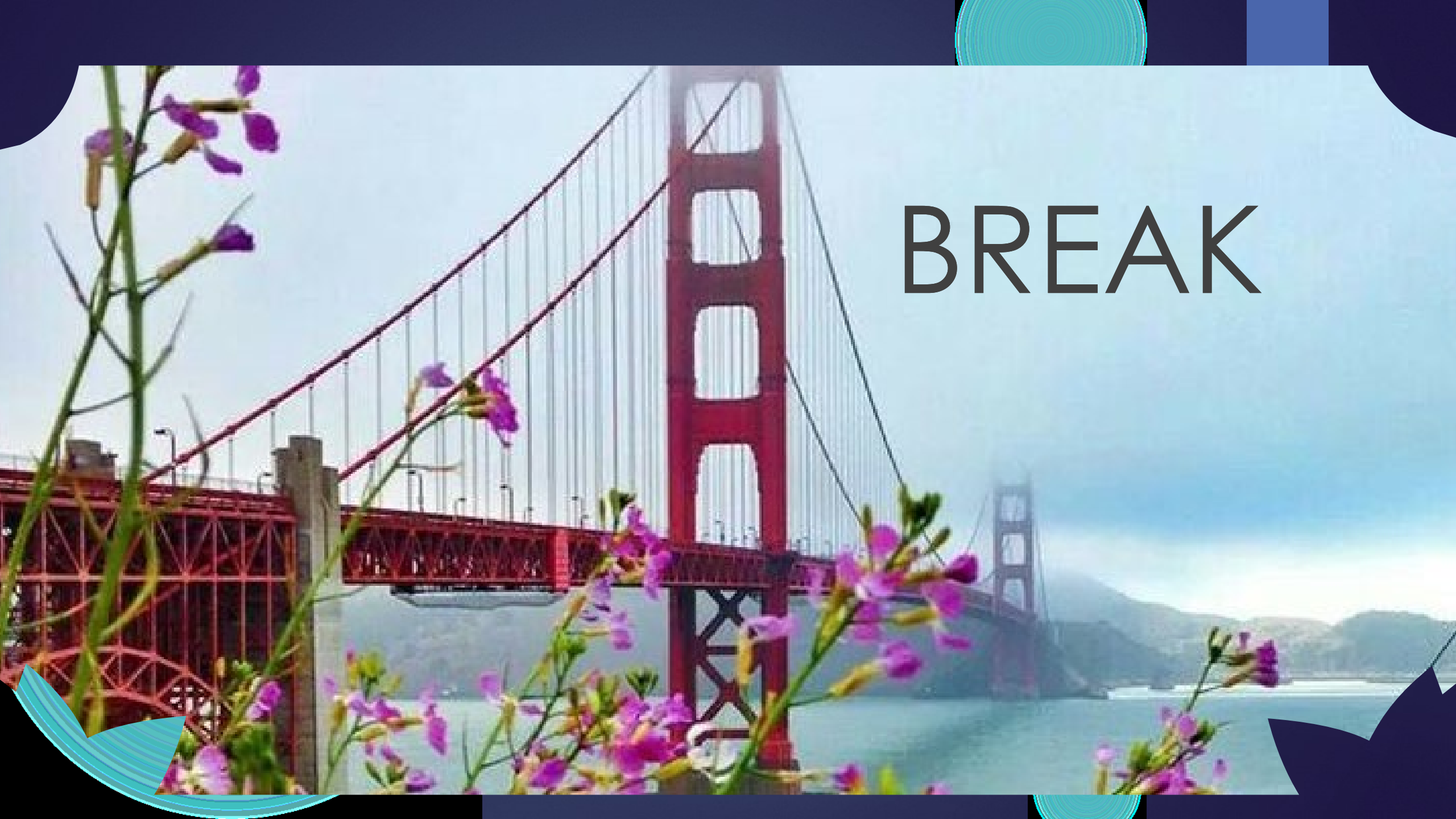
Issue	Resolution
Develop draft success story template to discuss at Annual Conference	<p>Draft GAP Success Story Template copies are here! Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft template• Proposed collection process• Real-world example <p>Please send comments to: Kate Fenimore fenimore.anna@epa.gov by 11/20/17</p>

Tribal Caucus Report

Alex Cabillo, Acting Tribal Co-Chair



EPA Response to Tribal Caucus Report



BREAK



Floating Vegetated Islands: Using TEK for the Development of A Water Quality Program

Wilfred Nabahe, CRIT

Steven Escobar, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe

Using Vegetated Islands to Reduce the Impacts of Non-Point Source Impairments



A case study done by EPA, the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe & the Colorado River Indian Tribes

08/29/2017

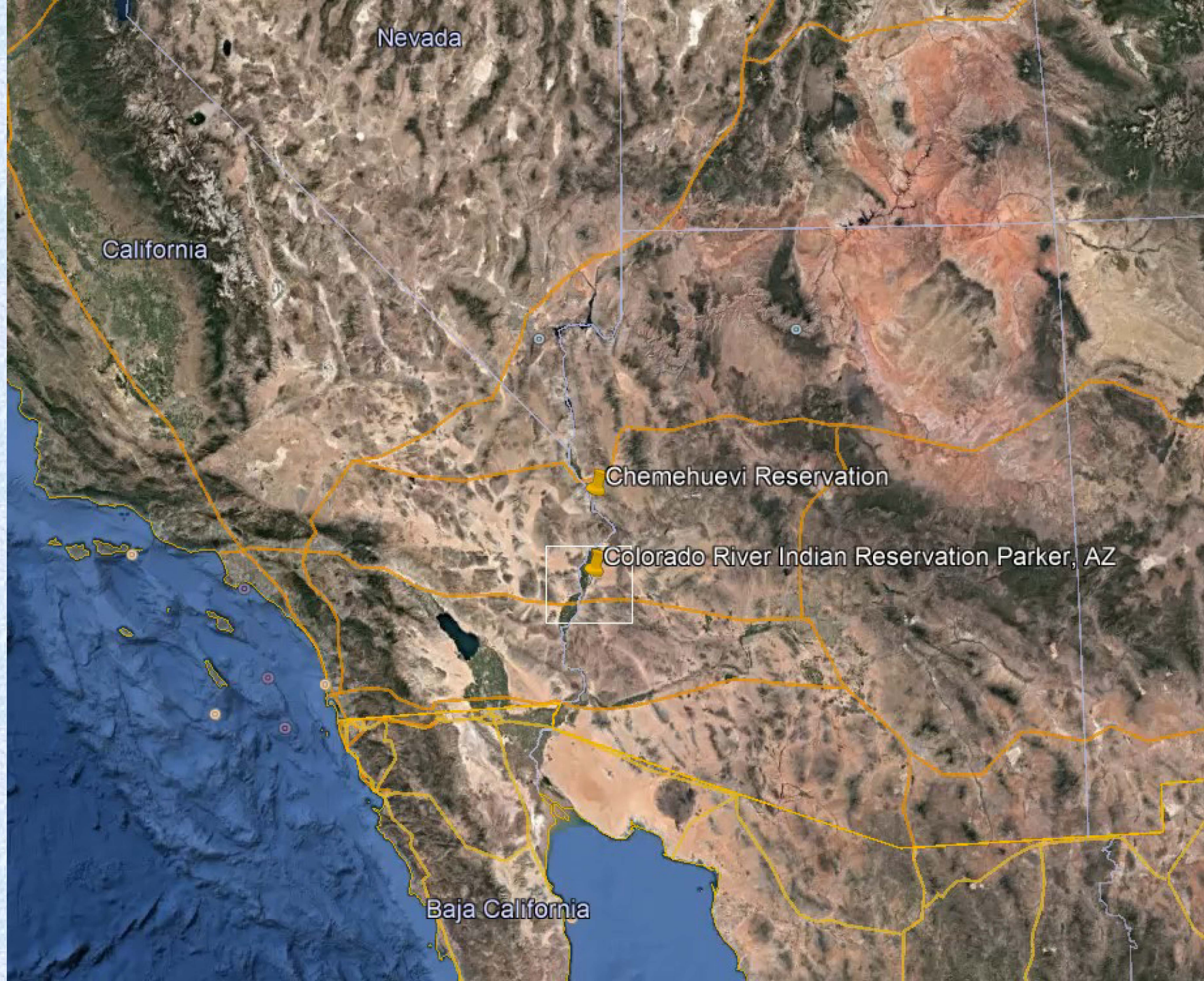
Floating Vegetation Islands: Using TEK for Development of Leading Indicators of Ecosystem Function for BMP Effectiveness, Water Quality Standards, Biological Criteria, and Control of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

Tribal Partners: Steven Escobar and Raymond Mejia, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe
Wilfred J. Nabahe and Terry Dock, Colorado River Indian Tribes

Regional and ORD Partners: Nancy Sockabasin (Region 9) and Tammy Jones-Lepp (ORD NERL)
Regional Lead: Robert K. Hall, Region 9
ORD Lead: Daniel Heggem, ORD NERL

CRIT Island Installed November 2016
Chemehuevi Island Installed February 2017

06/20/2017



Nevada

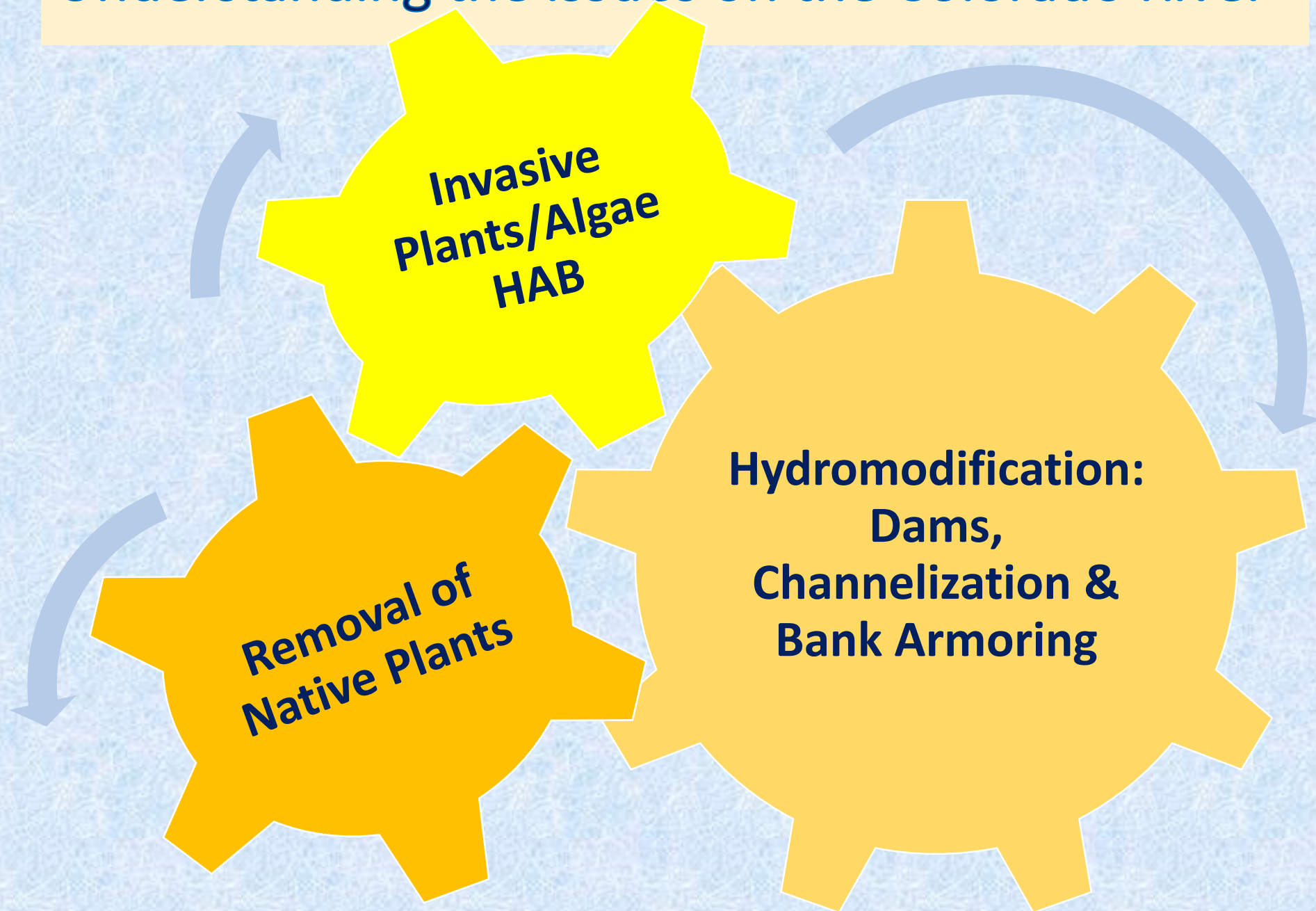
California

Chemehuevi Reservation

Colorado River Indian Reservation Parker, AZ

Baja California

Understanding the issues on the Colorado River





March 1910 :Upstream Needles (Grinell Expedition)

3

No. 297 Subject Looking up the Chemehuevia Valley
Date March 10, 1910 Locality Colorado R., Calif. Collector J. Grinnell



Univ
Mus
March 1910 :Chemehuevi Valley (Grinnell Expedition)



March 1910 :Chemehuevi Valley (Grinnell Expedition)

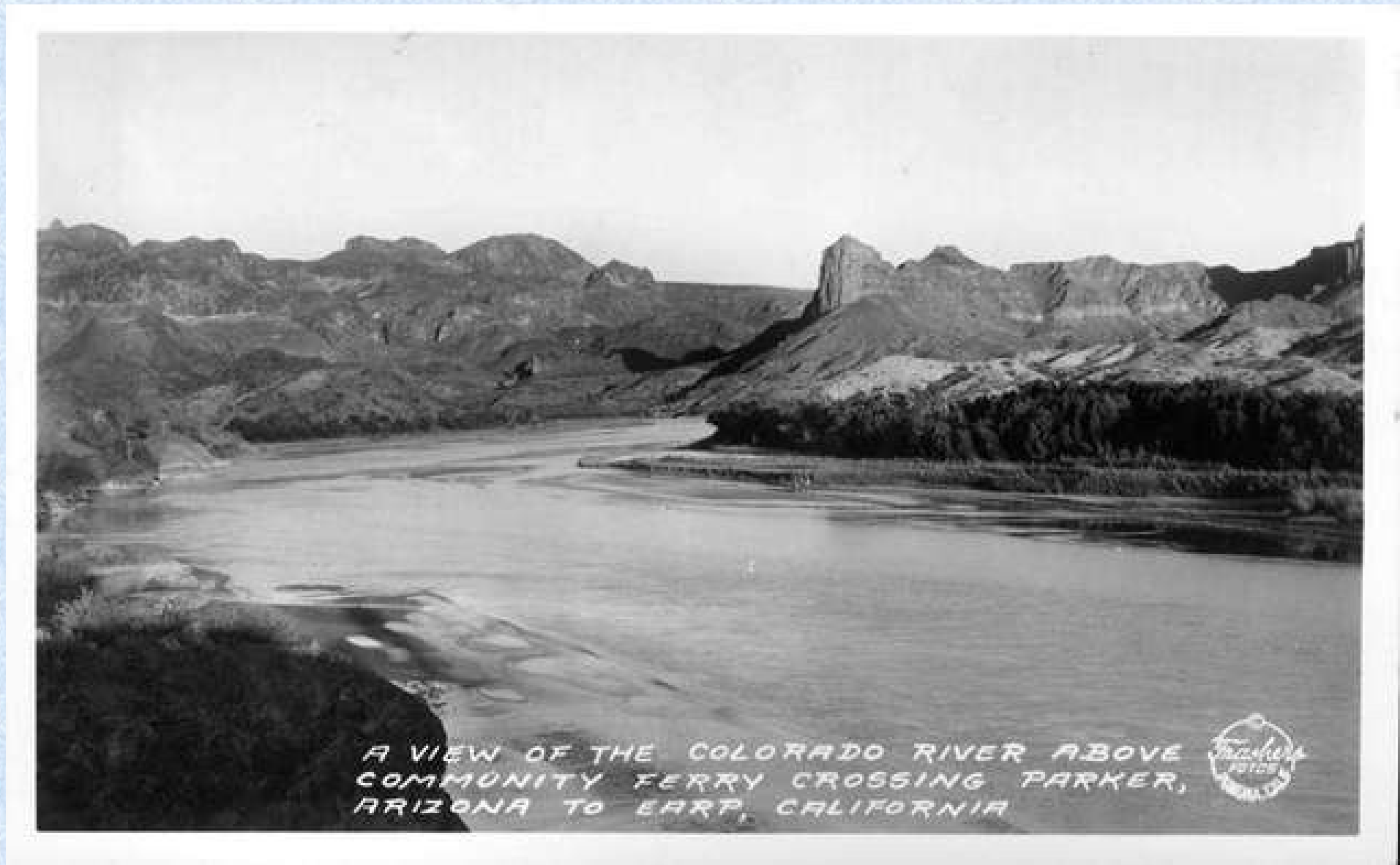


20.

Parker dam site on Colorado River. The preferred
dam site is

1934: Upstream from Parker Dam Site

ve site



1934: Parker Upriver, Buckskin State Park area today



10/25/2017



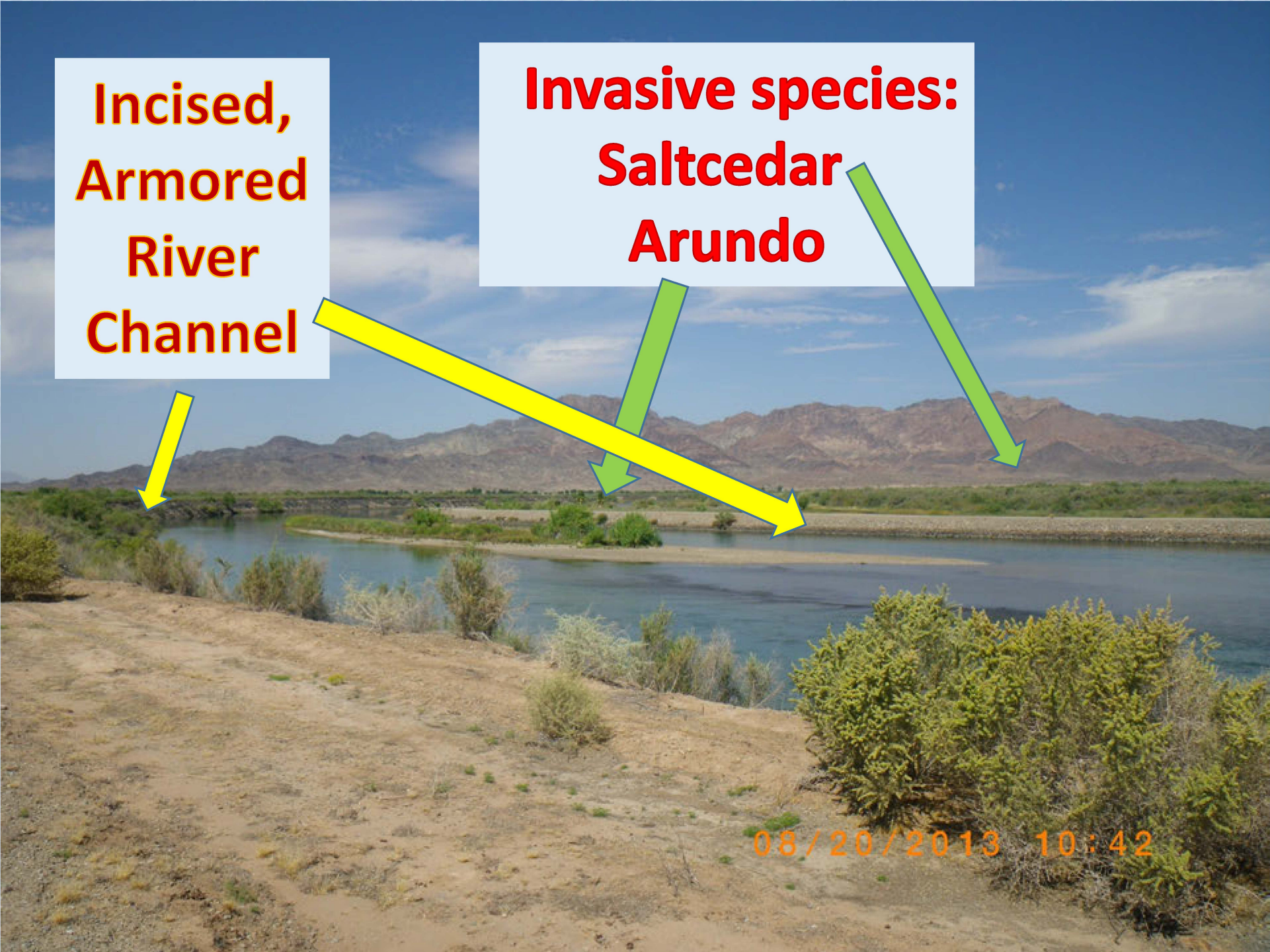
A VIEW OF THE C
COMMUNITY FER
ARIZONA TO EAR



10/25/2017

**Incised,
Armored
River
Channel**

**Invasive species:
Saltcedar
Arundo**



08/20/2013 10:42



**Onset of algal blooms:
HAB suspected illnesses in children**

Regional Sustainable Environmental Science (ReSES) Program



**Robert Hall (who is he?)
How the project came to be**

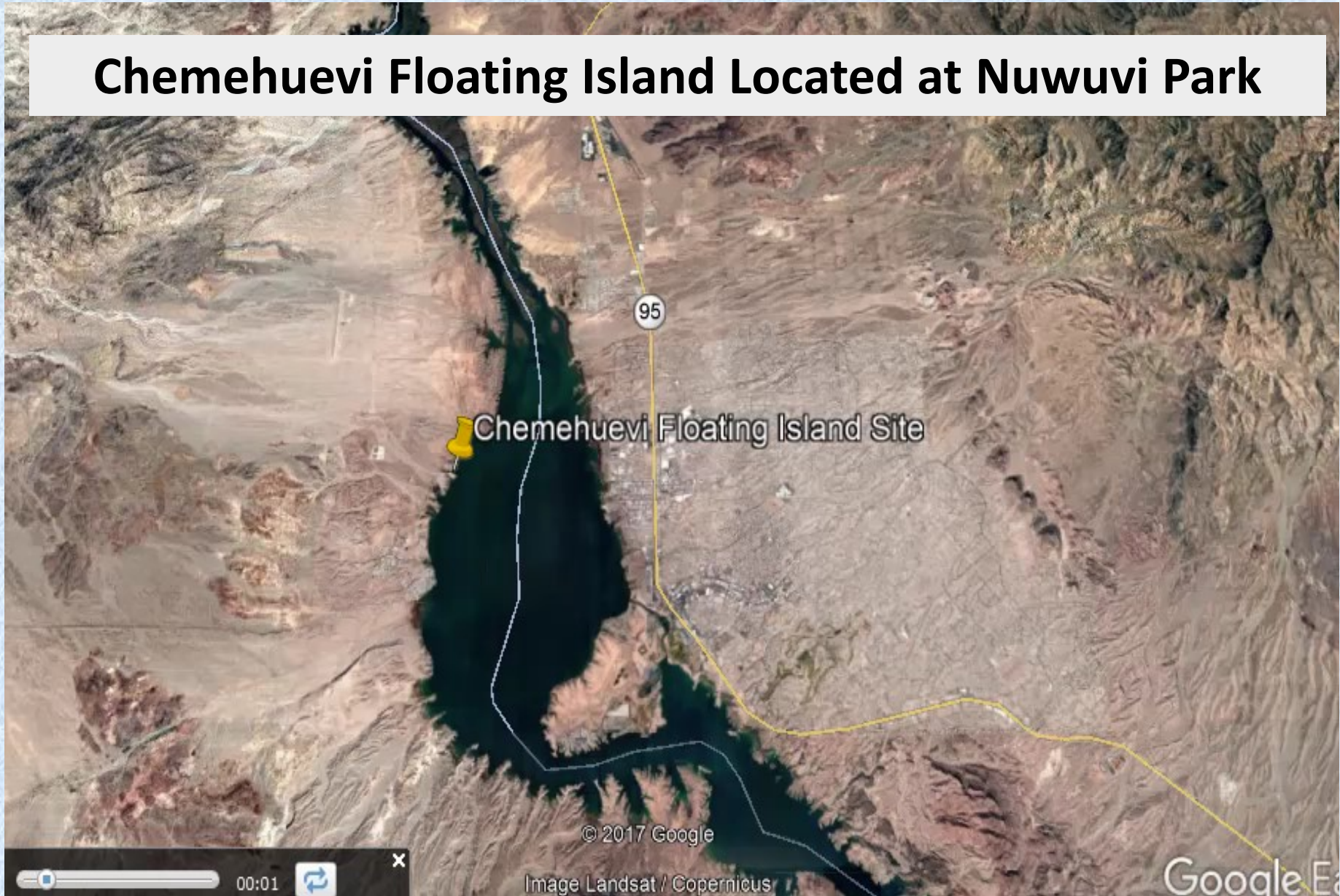
Planning and Installing Vegetated Islands

Selecting best location and timing



Chemehuevi Reservation: Island installed February 2017

Chemehuevi Floating Island Located at Nuwuvi Park



Colorado River Indian Tribes Floating Island Located near NPS Restoration at No Name Lake



- Providing community education about the project and the purpose

- Invite the community to help setup and learn about the possible benefits



- Build community support through participation in the activity to minimize vandalism

Building and Launching the island: Chemehuevi

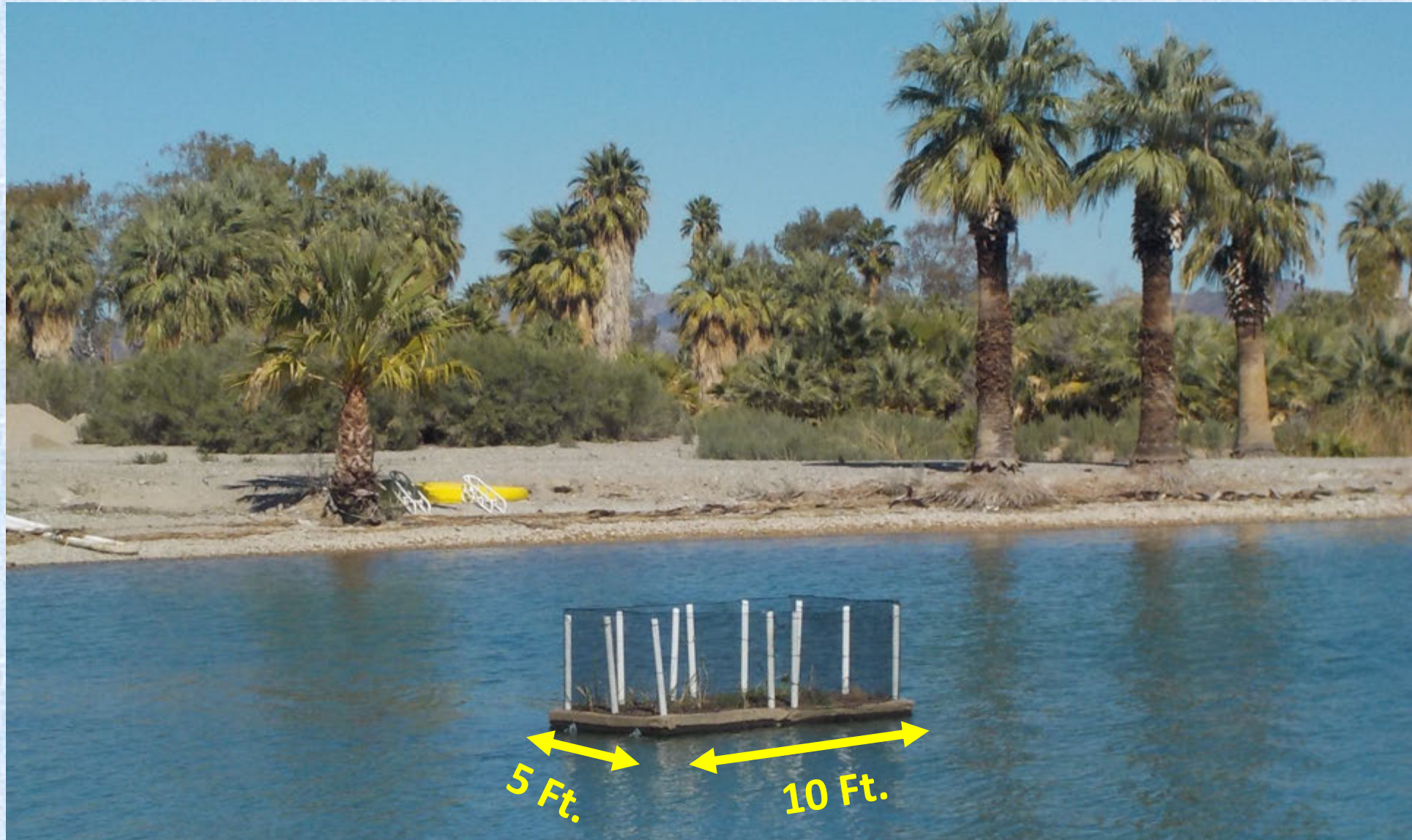
Collecting wetland & riparian plants



Planting them on vegetation island



Chemehuevi Island launched: February 15, 2017



Chemehuevi Completed : February 15, 2017



Building and launching the island: CRIT 11/8/2017

Monitoring Activities

- **Bi-Monthly vegetation monitoring for growth and mortality rates, visual and photo documentation of island, root growth under island and surrounding bay**



- **Continuous monitoring of parameters: pH, Temperature, D.O., T.D.S., Conductivity, Turbidity, Relative Phycocyanin, Relative Chlorophyll (EXO Sonde)**
- **E.coli monitoring: Weekly in summer, Monthly in winter (CIT)**
- **Monthly Multiprobe grab sample up and downstream (CRIT)**
- **Phycocyanin/CHL monitoring**

Monthly vegetation monitoring for growth: Chemehuevi



FEBRUARY



OCTOBER



AUGUST



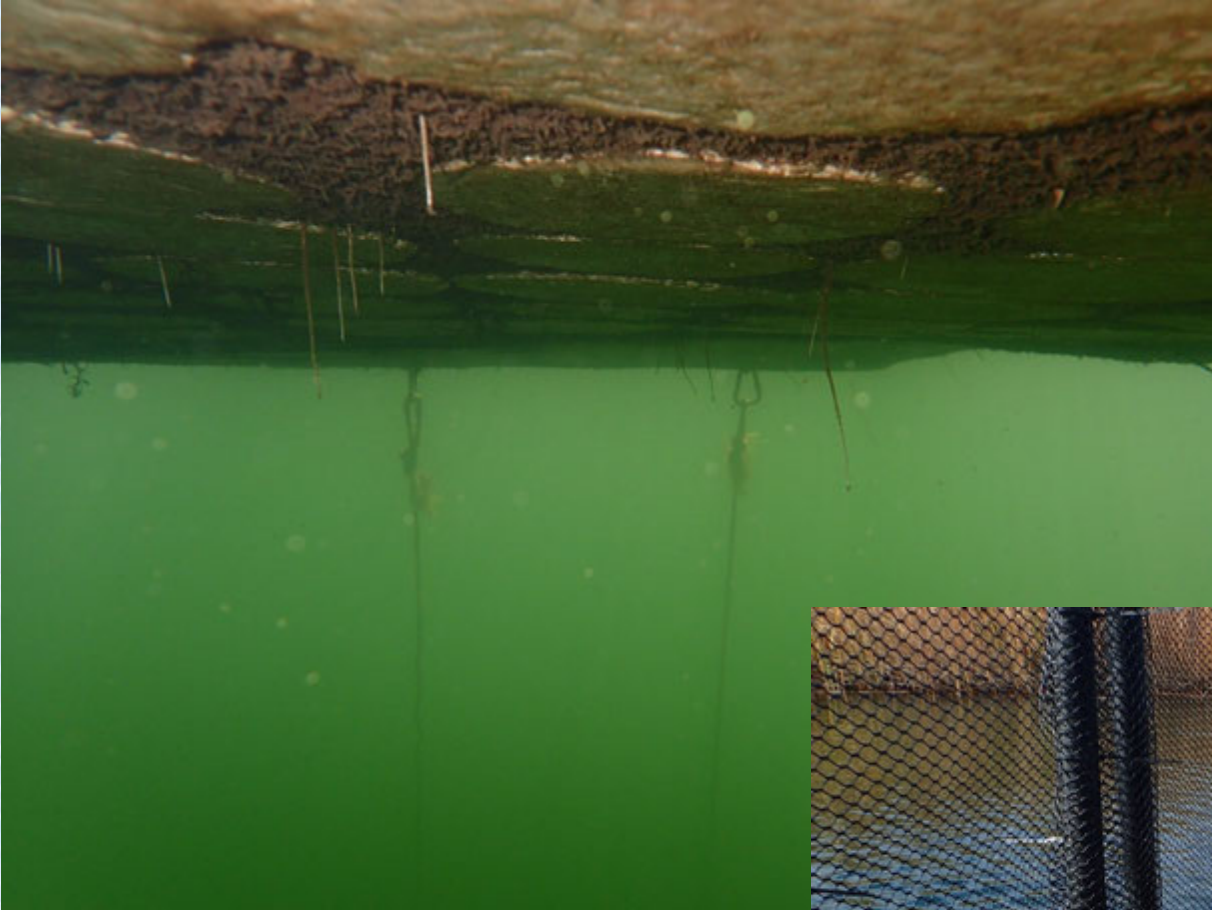
Chemehuevi: One Month





Chemehuevi: Seven Months



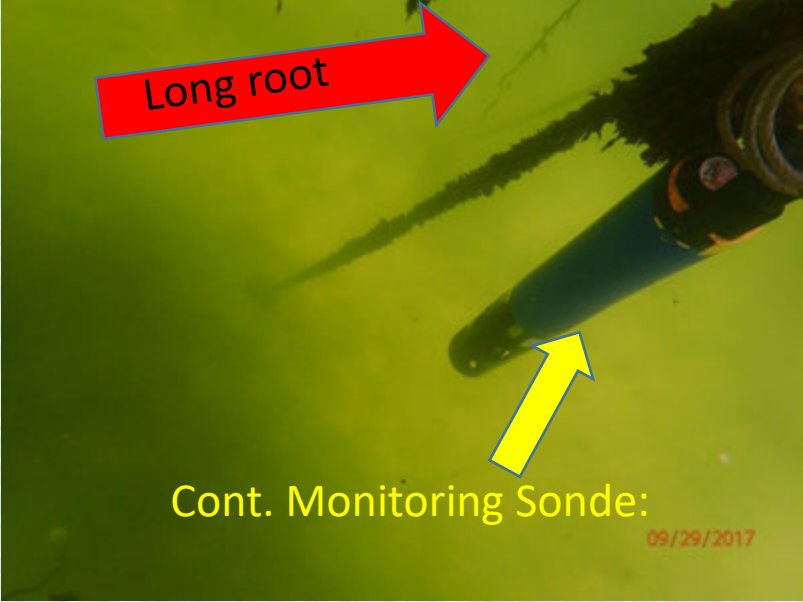


CRIT: One Month after planting

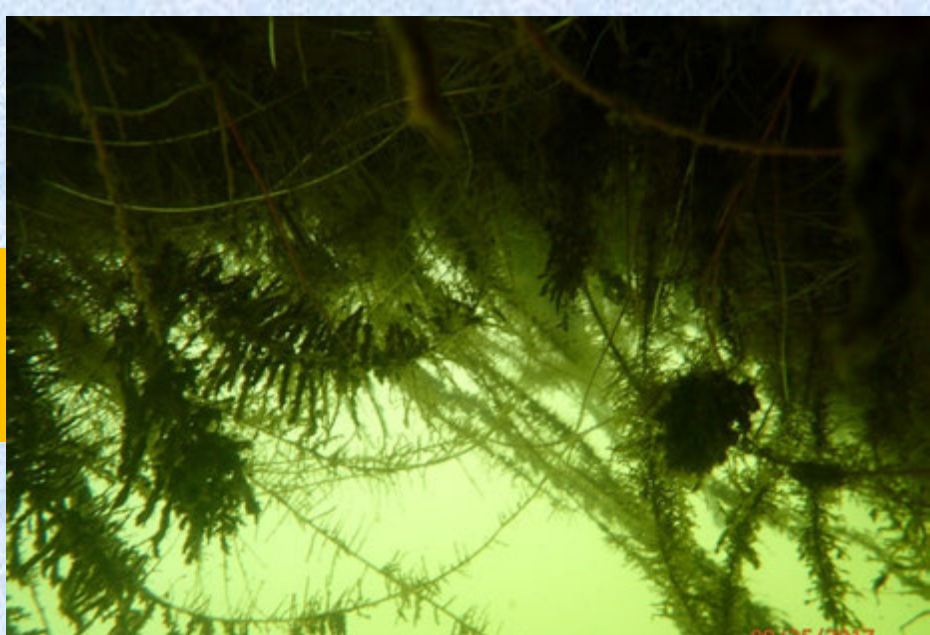


CRIT:
Five
Months



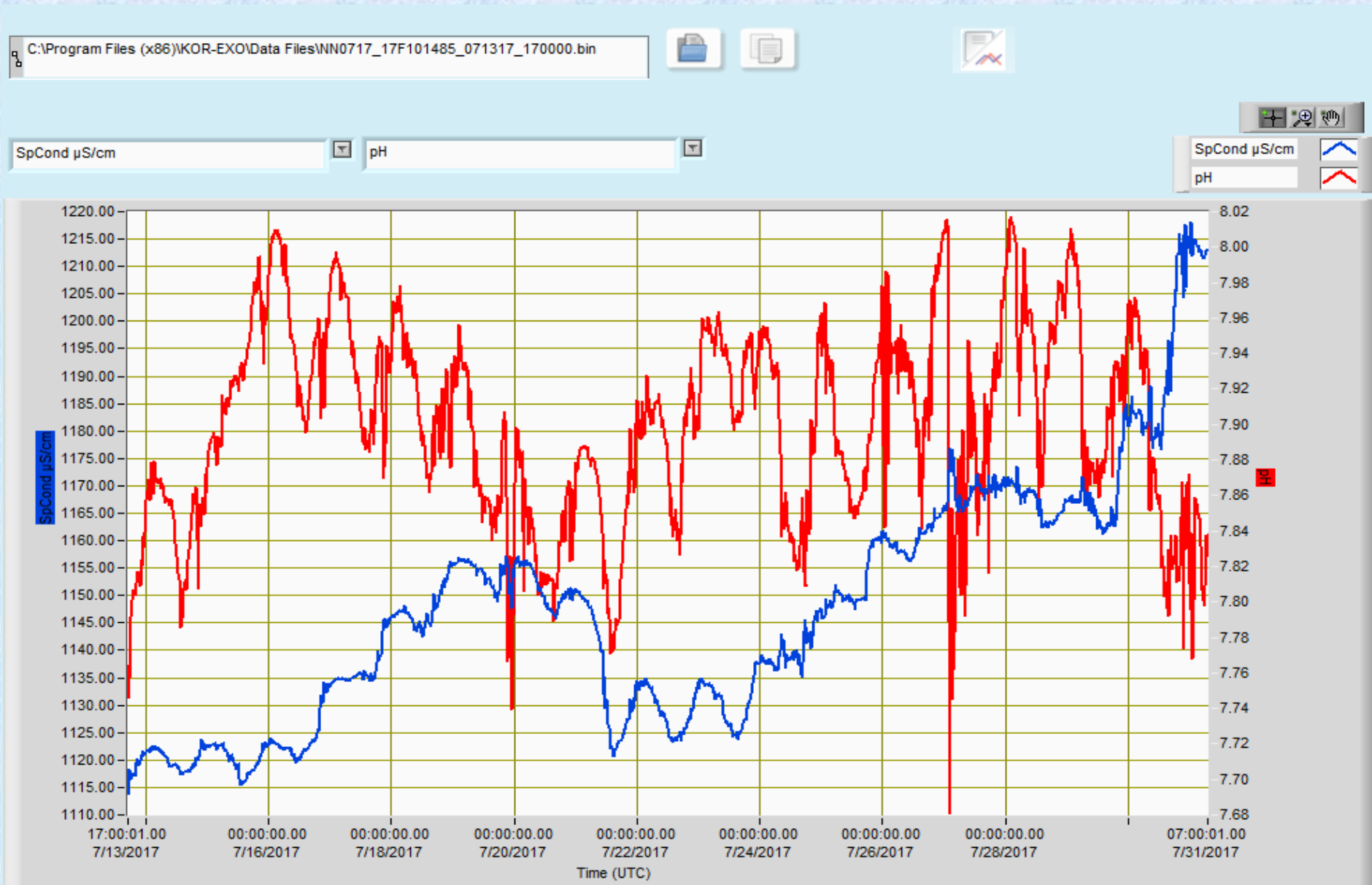


CRIT:
11
Months

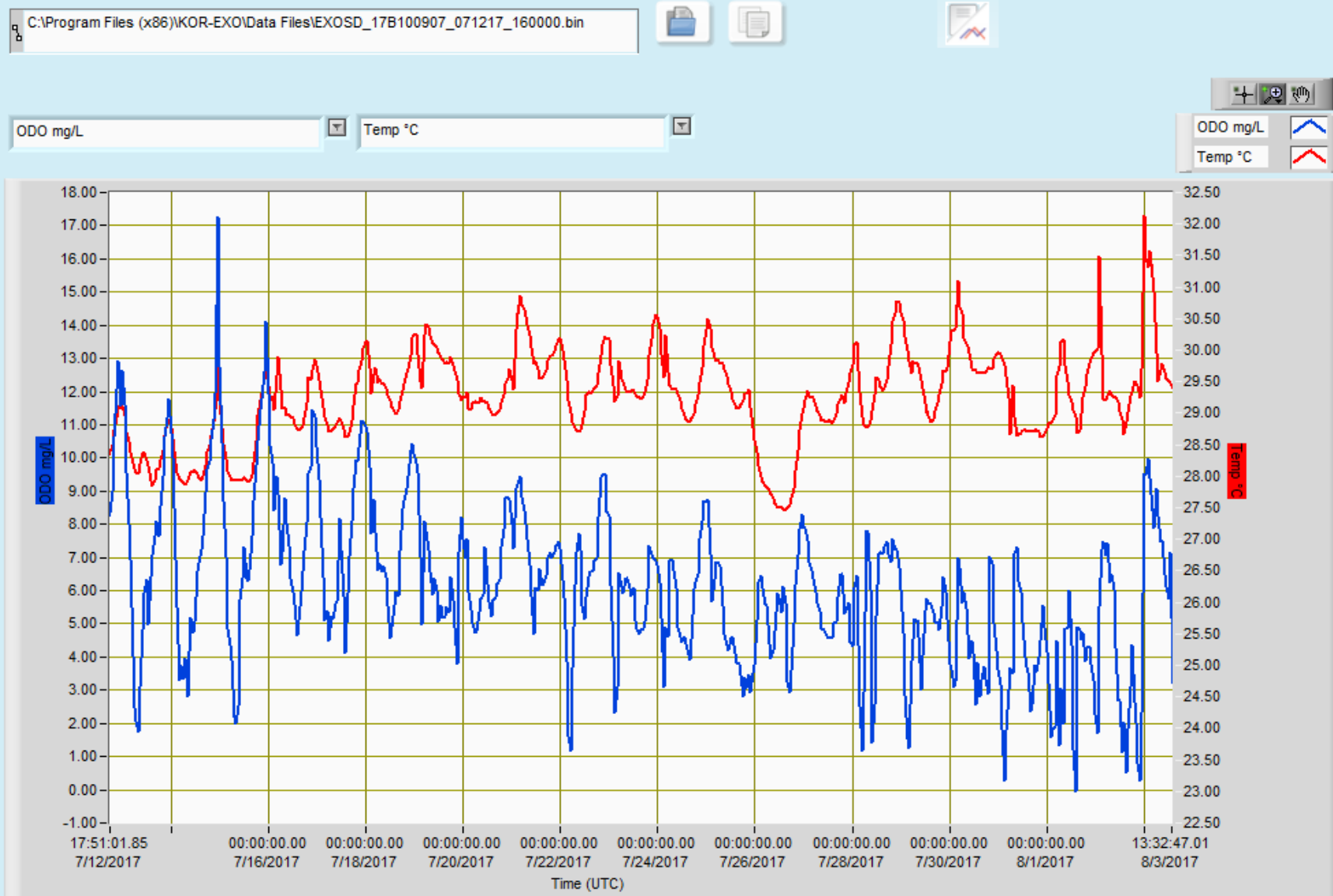


Understanding the data: Making sense of it all

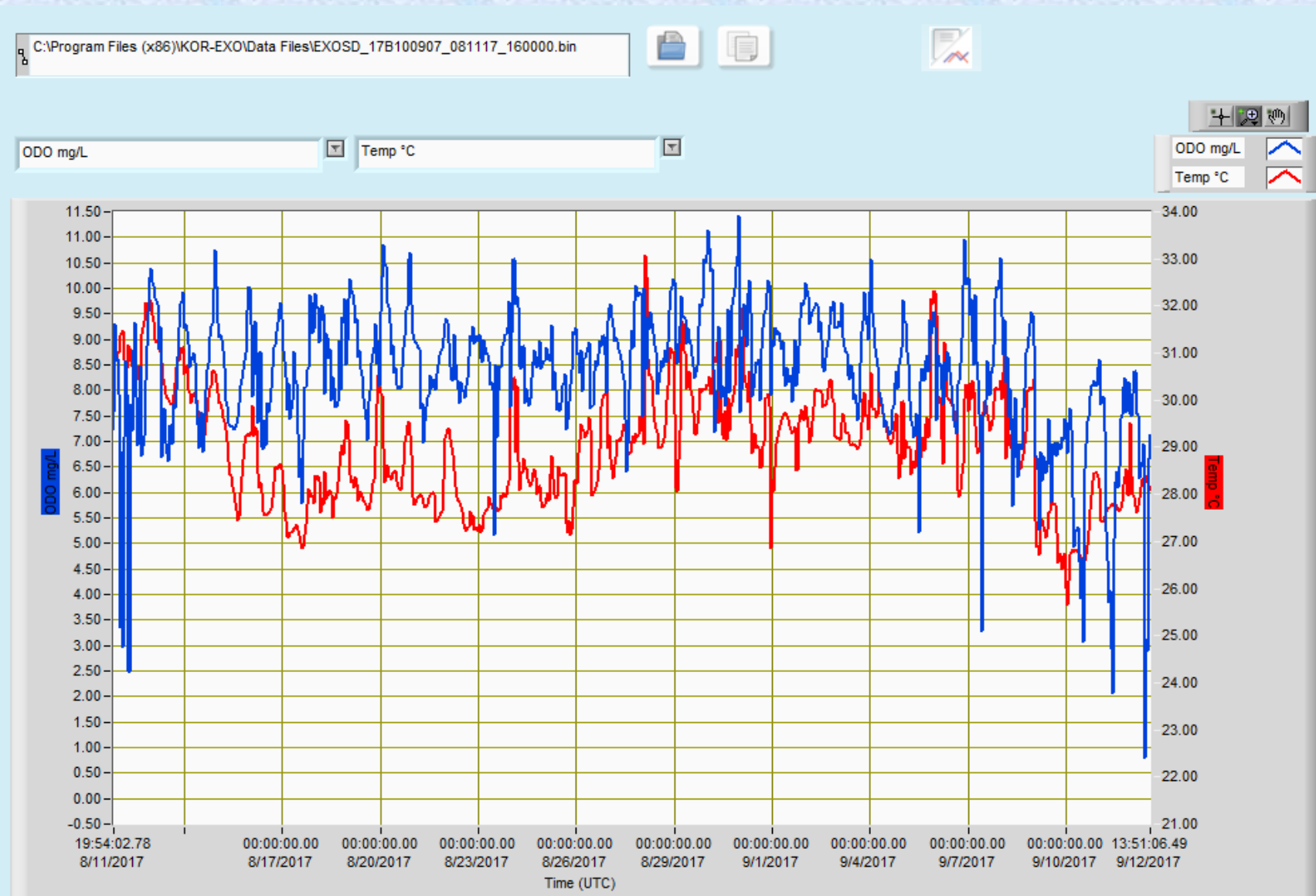
CRIT JULY: Specific Conductivity vs pH



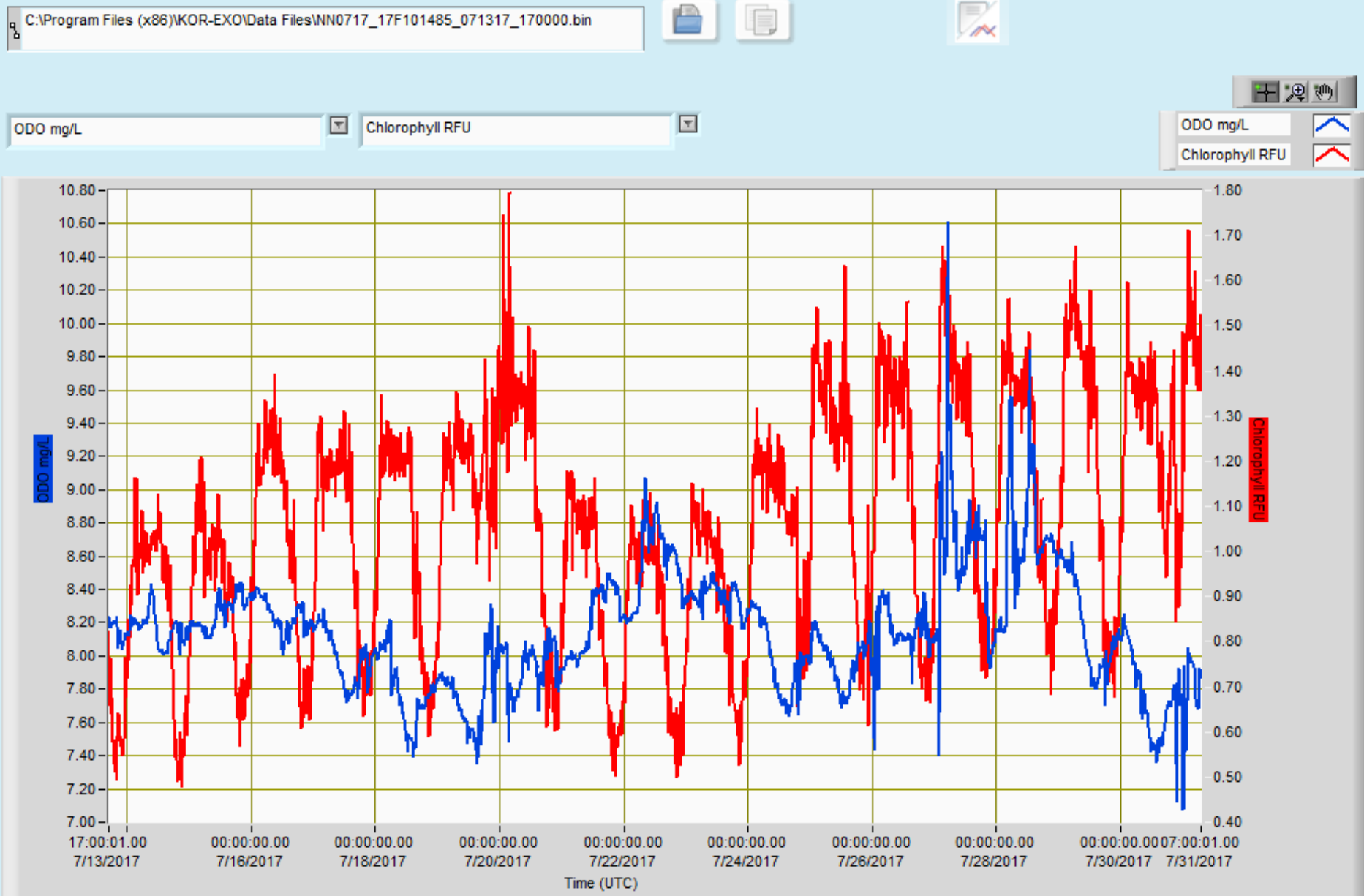
Chemehuevi: July Dissolved Oxygen vs Water Temperature



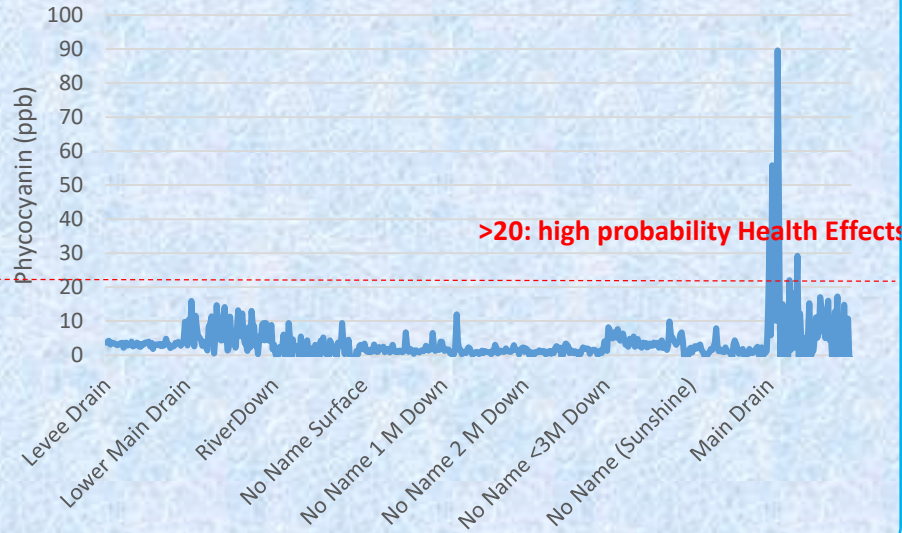
Chemehuevi August Dissolved Oxygen vs Water Temperature



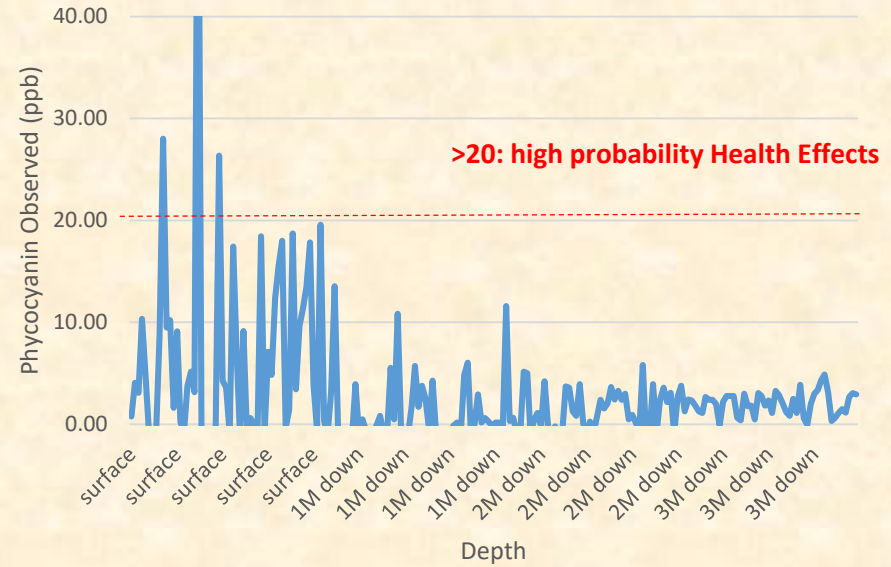
CRIT: July Dissolved Oxygen vs Chlorophyll



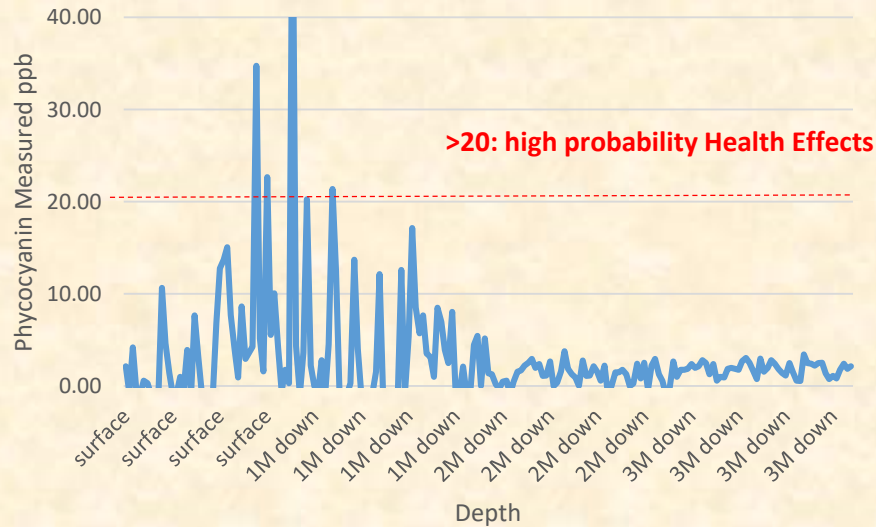
Phycocyanin Meter Readings
at CRIT EPO WQ Monitoring Sites December
2016



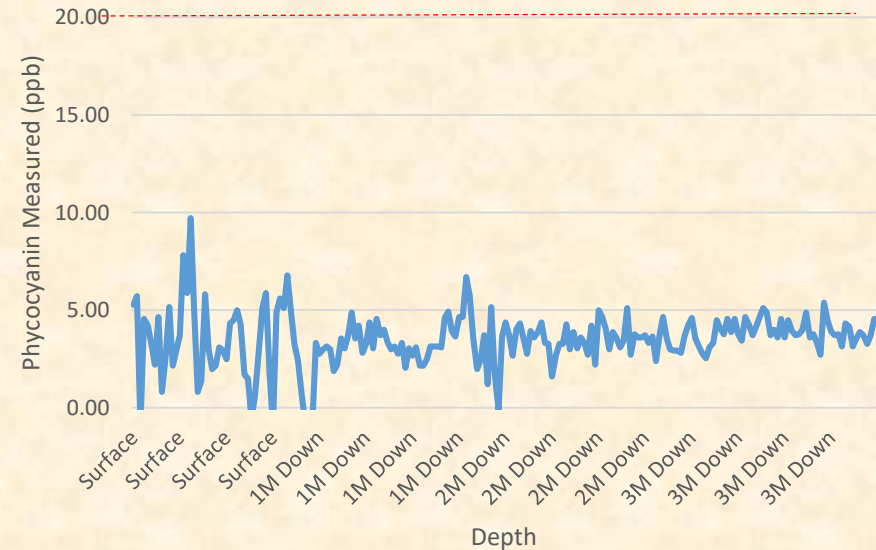
Phycocyanin Measured at No Name Island April
13, 2017



Phycocyanin Measured at No Name Floating
Island May 4, 2017



Phycocyanin Observed at CRIT EPO Monitored
Floating Island at No Name Lake July 13, 2017



Capturing lessons learned/Problem Solving

- There is a learning curve here: new equipment, new forms, new tasks, unknown plants, no SOP's or protocols
- Using native soils along with coconut coir brought in seeds, microbes, insects, etc. There are native plants here never observed previously
- Moving island back to original site, after storm moved it 100 feet! Need a weather station on Chemehuevi side for wind speed and to monitor storm surge height and/or a new type of anchoring for heavy winds, wave suppressor or...
- Trees may not adapt to island life, beavers munching roots
- Aquatic plants on probe (biofouling)
- Not enough communication: lack of travel funds for EPA staff to assist; not enough time for Tribal staff to do research

Discussion and Future Next Steps

- **Need more coverage over the water surface to affect nutrient/algal issues: the modular units are easily enlarged.**
- **Would it be more effective placement in an ag drain?**
- **Design islands for endangered species (Ridgeway's Rail?) Add in pollinator plants for Monarchs?**
- **Hydroponics: are plant choices limited to those that can live with this type of environment?**
- **This proved to be a way to discover plants in seed bank that hadn't showed up at other sites.**
- **Islands could be one way to mitigate hydromodification: adding in native plants and microbes, can be placed next to rip-rap, and will stay wet even when flow is low.**

Questions and Discussion



04/03/2017

Floating Edge Ecosystem Options *(Custom Shapes Available)*

Floating Edge Ecosystem -
Straight



Floating Edge Ecosystem -
Curved



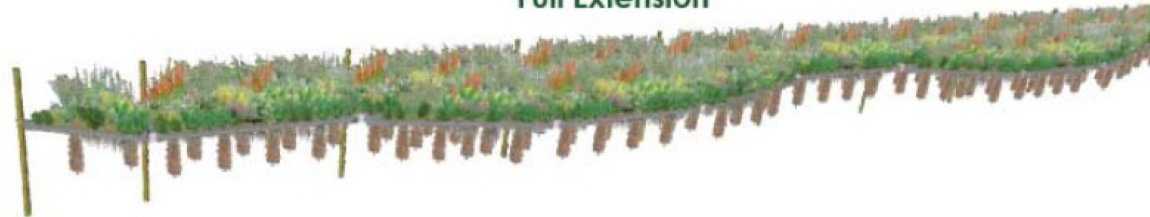
Floating Corner Garden
Ecosystem



Floating Edge Ecosystem -
Full Extension



Floating Edge Ecosystem &
Full Extension



Floating Edge Ecosystem -
Half Extension



Floating Edge Ecosystem &
Half Extension



TECHNICAL FEATURES

- ✓ Marine grade engineering
- ✓ Locking stainless steel Quick Connect System

NTOC Report & Updates

Alex Cabillo, Arizona

Paula Britton, California

Clifford Banuelos, Nevada



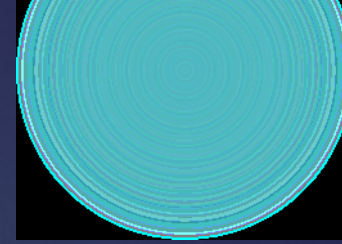
DERA and VW Tribal Funds: Updates and Project Examples

Trina Martynowicz, US EPA



Review New Issues & Action Items

FROM	ISSUE	WHO	WHEN	RESPONSE
Nevada At-Large Tribes: Clifford Banuelos, Elko Band Council	The Nevada Tribes want clarification on the ETEP cover letter signing process. We do not see a written protocol, simply that someone from the Tribe signs it and someone from EPA signs it.	Tribal Section	Will be addressed in meeting	Complete. No signature is required. See RTOC website for link to ETEP explainer document: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-01/documents/region-9-rtoc-winter-2016-presentation-etep-workflow.pdf
Central California Tribes, Javier Silva, Sherwood Valley	Technical Service providers - difference between RCAC and I.H.S. on providing service (drinking water). How far can RCAC go, what level can they reach? Both providing the same service - so what are the plans? Example: Sherwood hauled water for 3 months and didn't have assistance from either RCAC or I.H.S. - neither came to visit. We know RCAC is undermanned for the Central/Northern California Area.	Audrey Johnson		In progress. We are committed to resolving the technical needs of our tribal DW systems. R9 encourages tribes to reach out to your R9 DW Program Manager (or Audrey Johnson) to help facilitate conversations with technical service providers (IHS, RCAC, ITCA, for example) and find amicable solutions. Andrew Sallach will work with Javier Silva of Sherwood Valley Rancheria to facilitate a conversation with IHS and RCAC this week.
Central California Tribes; Nina Hapner, Kashia	Indoor Air Tool Kits - who has them? Cal-EPA? What does EPA have for Tribes? We know there is limited funding if any for Indoor Air. This is certainly a concern given the recent fires.	Stephanie Valentine		In progress. EPA has the IAQ Tools for Schools resources available here: https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools IAQ work can be done under GAP and CAA grants at EPA, but to be thorough and resourceful, we promote the grants from other federal agencies via the Region 9 Tribal IAQ & Health Network. Tribal programs can also get one-on-one technical support and assistance from our office – all they have to do is contact Priyanka Pathak and I can connect them to the appropriate staff, such as Katie Stewart. EPA R9 also partners with ITEP to promote and/or provide IAQ and public health related trainings. We also have outreach materials that we can mail to tribal programs on important topics like the health effects of smoke exposure. Contact Priyanka Pathak for more information: 415-972-3576
Central California Tribes; Paula Britton, Cahto; Nina Hapner, Kashia	Emergency Planning Work Group needs to be reactivated. Tribes affected - should put questions together - what were our road blocks? Wake up call for Tribes. Bring in Tribes with fire departments (i.e. Hoopa, Tule River, Pala, etc.) FEMA, BIA and State Agencies that contract with BIA for fire protection on Tribal Lands.	Tribal Caucus & Sean Hogan	11/30/17	In progress. Sean Hogan will follow up with Nina Hapner for additional information.



FROM

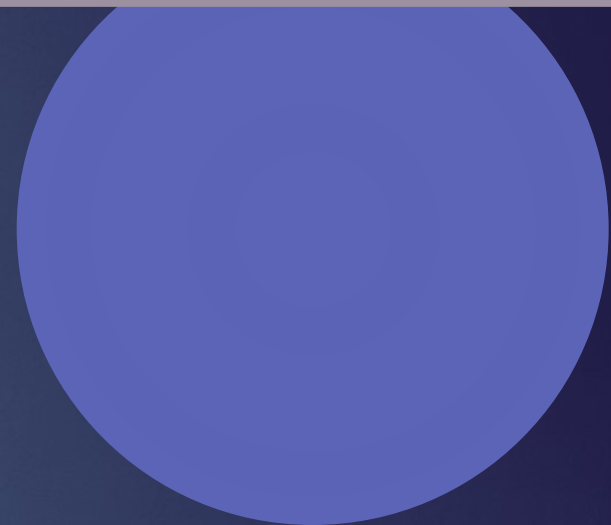
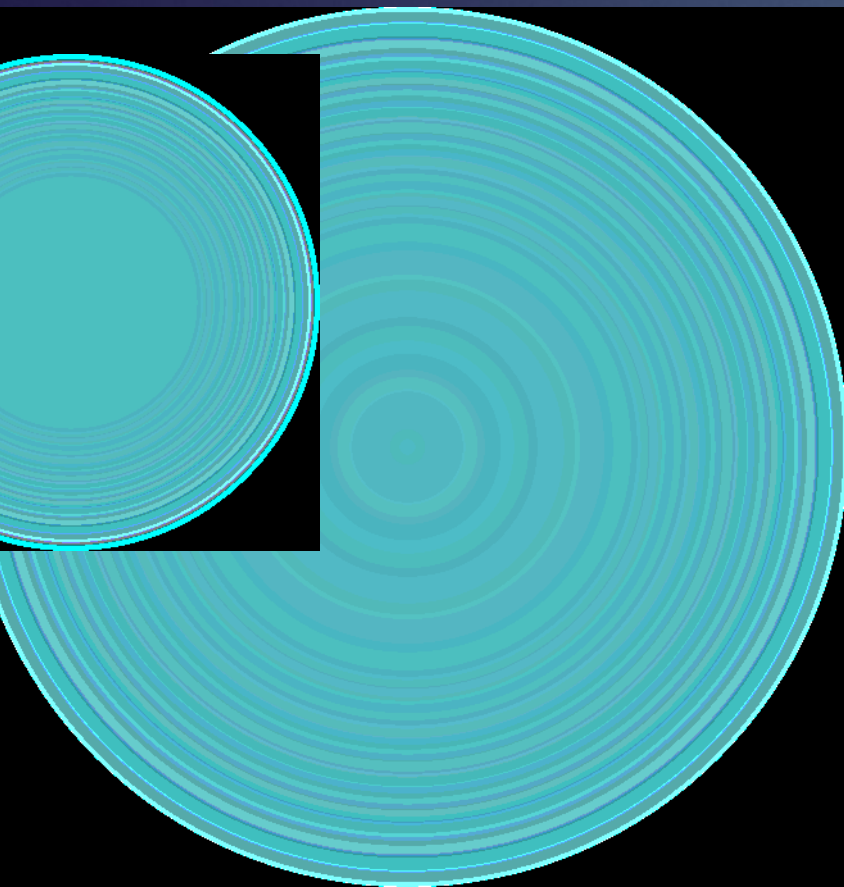
ISSUE

WHO

WHEN

RESPONSE

RCAC



FROM	ISSUE	WHO	WHEN	RESPONSE
Central California Tribes	What is the funding outlook for FY19?	EPA	Will be addressed in meeting	
Central California Tribes; Paula Britton, Cahto	GAP Guidance - Asking Tribes to think about how the GAP Guidance has worked and not worked for your Tribe. Paula Britton will bring this up at the Tribal Caucus as part of the NTOC Report. This is something that the Regional GAP Work Group can work on and provide input to the National GAP Work Group. If the Regional GAP Work Group isn't active, it needs to be re-activated for this topic.	Tribal Caucus		

Closing Comments

Alex Cabillo & Jeff Scott
RTOC Co-Chairs

Thank you for joining us!

You can find all the information from today on the RTOC website:

<https://www.epa.gov/tribal/regional-tribal-operations-committee-region-9>

