

*“The farmer has  
to be an  
optimist, or he  
wouldn't still be  
a farmer.”*

**WILL ROGERS**



**MITIGATING THE  
IMPACT OF  
AGRICULTURAL WATER  
CONSERVATION IN  
LOCAL FARM  
COMMUNITIES**

**PVID/MWD  
Forbearance  
& Fallowing  
Program**

*What have we  
learned thus far &  
how does the  
future look?*

# **FARMING IN THE PALO VERDE VALLEY**





- **Palo Verde Valley has most senior water rights in CA**
- **PVID has 244+ miles of main and lateral canals**
- **Downward sloped**
- **Flood irrigation**



# LONG-TERM FOLLOWING



- **35-year agreement entered in 2004 with MWD**
- **Ag to Urban transfer**
- **Up to 35% of the Palo Verde Valley can be fallowed, approx. 26,000 acres**
- **At execution, the largest and longest water transfer of its kind in California history**

# COMMUNITY IMPACT?

## *Initial Concerns:*

- **Less acres in production**
- **Reduction of agriculture workforce?**
- **Reduction in scale of local agricultural economy and vendor infrastructure?**

# COMMUNITY MITIGATION

## Community Improvement Fund

- Non-profit, formed in 2006
- \$ 6 million from MWD
- \$ 6.25 million in grants and loans to the community
- Today worth \$ 7.9 million

# WHAT DO WE THINK ABOUT IT ALL?

- **Large cash injections**
- **Guaranteed income**
- **Lacks flexibility**
- **Absentee landowners,  
not all funds stay  
local**

***New  
Partnership:  
2023-2026  
SCIA***

- **Short term Colorado River system water conservation**
- **Reclamation funds to create system conservation that would otherwise go to MWD under the Following Program with PVID**

# COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT COLLABORATIVE

- **Approx \$8 Million from SCIA Bucket 1 directly to shovel ready projects**
- **Funds dispersed by grant applications**

**“Accelerating the future of the Palo Verde Valley, now; building a collaborative and sustainable community with targeted investments”**





**LOOKING  
FORWARD**

HOW CAN WE  
BUILD UPON  
OUR 20 YEARS  
OF EXPERIENCE  
AND MAKE  
THINGS EVEN  
BETTER?



- **Leverage data & cultivate basin partnerships**
- **“On farm” conservation?**

# ON FARM CONSERVATION

- **Funds stay local**
- **Flexible**
- **More acres in production**
- **Minimize negative impact**
- **Advancements in  
technology & knowledge**

**“Agriculture is our  
wisest pursuit, because  
it will in the end  
contribute most to real  
wealth, good morals  
and happiness”**

**-Thomas Jefferson**