Southern California's dwindling water supply, rolled the past five years by a power struggle and at least one legal challenge, may see more cooperation. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Imperial Irrigation District were honored at The Irrigation Association's International Irrigation Exposition and the National Irrigation Symposium in Phoenix, Ariz.

Water agencies cited for ending feud, cooperating

Another $2.6 million will be paid annually to cover Imperial's direct program cost. Metropolitan will finance 16 conservation projects in the Imperial Valley and, in turn, will receive an estimated 106,900 acre-feet of water per year that would be saved.

The projects included automated control structures, concrete lining of earthen irrigation canals and new reservoirs. The conserved water will remain in the Colorado River and be available for Metropolitan to import into its service area through its Colorado River Aqueduct.

The Metropolitan Water District is expected to be a model for other water agencies seeking more efficient ways to use water. The association's prestigious National Water and Energy Conservation Award also was presented to The Environmental Defense Fund, a national organization in part responsible for creating a negotiating climate leading to the historic pact.

Metropolitan will pay Imperial about $97 million to build conservation facilities in the agricultural district and another $23 million for indirect costs over the first five years of the program.

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These long-feuding water agencies last year had signed an agreement expected to be a model for other water agencies seeking more efficient ways to use water. The association's prestigious National Water and Energy Conservation Award also was presented to The Environmental Defense Fund, a national organization in part responsible for creating a negotiating climate leading to the historic pact.

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