



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

# **WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER**

## **Desalination in Israel**

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**MSSC 2018 Annual Salinity Summit**  
**February 8, 2018**

**[wrrc.arizona.edu](http://wrrc.arizona.edu)**

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## Public Policy Review

by Sharon Megdal

### Visit Shows Israel Faces Similar Water Management Issues as Arizona



I traveled to Israel this summer to present a paper at a conference and to meet with researchers and other water professionals to learn about Israeli water management and policy. My perception was that, while quite a bit of Arizona-Israeli collaboration on technical water issues seemed to have occurred, less had taken place in the social science and policy arenas. I hoped to build upon recent col-

laboration. I explained that desalination along coastal California has the potential to enable landlocked Arizona to gain more Colorado River water. Israel, like the United States, has long considered seawater desalination. Repeated droughts there have prompted a program to construct several plants over a five-year period to eventually deliver 315 million cubic meters of freshwater. With construction having begun in 2003, the plant in Ashkelon was built through a public-private partnership as a build-operate-transfer project. In 2005, the plant produced



# 2009 WATER RESOURCE

Volume 17, Number 4

Fall 2009

## Arizona, Middle East Water Issues Focus of WRRC Workshop

*Arizona, Israel, Palestinian Territories Share Common Concerns*



**AZIP**  
Arizona-Israeli-Palestinian  
Water Management & Policy Workshop

The Arizona-Israeli-Palestinian Water Management and Policy Workshop (AzIP for short), a Water Resources Research Center project that

was two and a half years in the planning, focused on critical water issues of the three and

and semi-visit

Complicating their task are the formidable political issues that trouble the waters, and much else in the Middle East. Arizona water affairs, too, are marked by the need to consider and negotiate the

claims of sovereign entities, specifically neighboring Mexico and Indian nations. Arizona fortunately does not have to contend with the worrisome, highly-charged political climate prevailing in the Middle East.

It is hoped that the workshop will pay a long-term benefit by promoting peace. By working together to identify research needs and developing an international, collaborative research program, workshop

### Special Workshop Edition of Newsletter

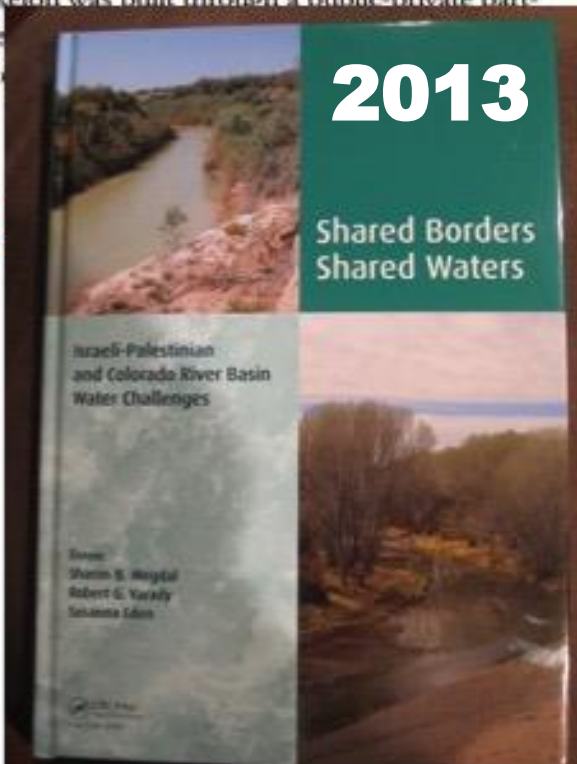
This issue of the *Arizona Water Resource* newsletter provides information about the Arizona, Israeli, and Palestinian Water Management and Policy Workshop. (See page 8 for workshop agenda.) Additional information about the workshop is available at the WRRC web site.

2013

Shared Borders  
Shared Waters

Israel-Palestinian  
and Colorado River Basin  
Water Challenges

Edited by  
Sharon S. Megdal  
Robert G. Varady  
Suzanna Edou





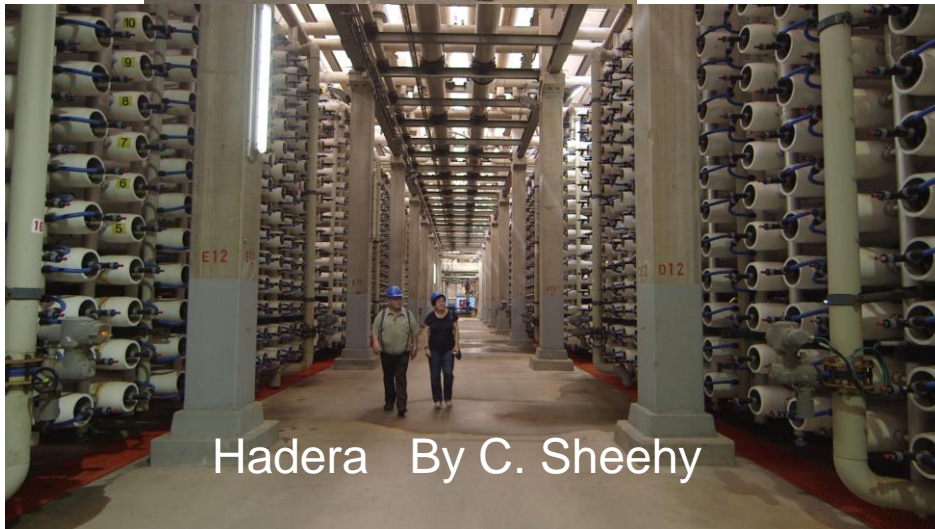
# 2015

BeyondtheMirage.org

Filming done October 2015



Sorek



Hadera By C. Sheehy



Palmachim



# 2016

Sorek Desalination Plant, November 20, 2016



## Public Policy Review

### **Bridging Through Water**

by Sharon B. Megdal

November 20, our day in Israel, included visiting the Yad Hanna Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is located just on the Israel side of the Green Line and wall separating the West Bank and Israel. Treating the wastewater from the West Bank



# 2017



## Public Policy Review

Photos, clockwise from top left: View of reception area for Cutting-Edge Solutions to Wicked Water Problems conference; Conference co-chairs Dror Avisar and Sharon B. Megdal; Sorek Desalination Plant field trip participants; Panel at Sept. 12 WATEC conference; Central Arizona Project Board members Jennifer Brown and Mark Taylor with Sharon B. Megdal.

Photographers: Gefen Ronen Eliraz, Jennifer Brown, and Michelle Baruch

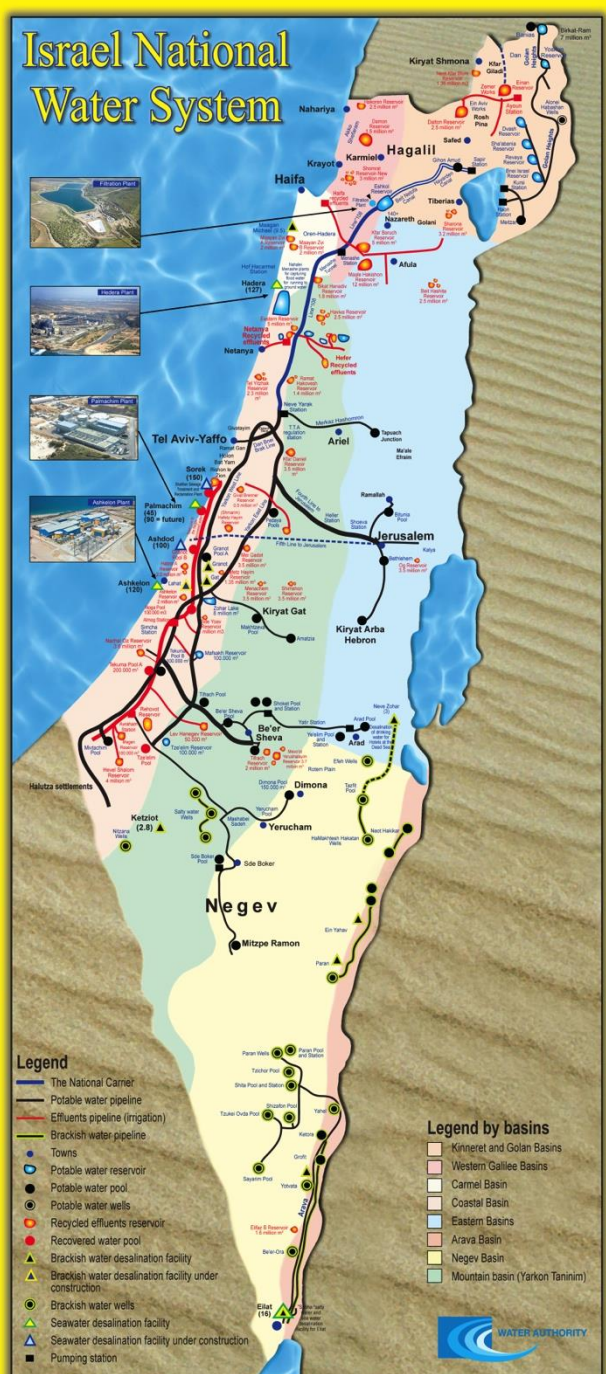
## Comparing Experiences and Lessons Learned: The September 2017 International Conference on Cutting-Edge Solutions to Wicked Water Problems

climate, the imbalance between growing demands for water relative to supplies, and transboundary water and wastewater challenges, including pollution. Different regions face different problems, but the pathways to solutions often have common or similar elements. Israel is well known for its leadership in deployment of desalination technology, drip irrigation, and water reclamation, which has enabled it to address the scarcity of natural freshwater resources. While Israeli water management has influenced the work





# Israel National Water System



# Centralized authorities

- Israel Water Authority (changed to Authority from Commission in 2006)
  - Has significant powers for planning, water allocations, and rates
- High degree of reuse of water, mostly by agriculture
- Has deployed desalination technology, both seawater and brackish water
- Has been a leader in public-private partnerships
- Strong national identity with water
- Has addressed scarcity while preserving a vibrant agricultural sector



# “Replumbing” the System

## Main Policy Points and Recommendations Administering the National Freshwater System

State of Israel



- ✓ The national water system will be administered in a centralized and integrated manner.
- ✓ The Sea of Galilee will be designated primarily for use in northern Israel.
- ✓ Supply to the center of the country will be based on desalination plants, as a supplementary source to natural water sources.
- ✓ High supply reliability in the central, regional and local supply systems (aiming to establish: looped systems, a number of consumer connections from a range of water sources, storage, etc.)

# Israel has water and wastewater master plans

State of Israel



## Main Core Issues

1. Water balance, analysis under uncertainty (scenarios)
2. Management of the potable water system
3. Management of sewage and treated wastewater
4. Management of natural water sources
5. Water quality
6. Demand management
7. Urban water management
8. Water and agriculture
9. Management of drainage and runoff water
10. Water and energy
11. Environment and water for nature



# August 2012 Israel Water Master Plan, p. 54

**Table 1 – The National Water Balance – Basic Scenario**

Population			Water Sources (mcm/year)							
Year	National popn. (millions)	Per capita consumption (cu.m. per capita per year)	Year	Natural freshwater (1)	Brackish (direct consumption)	Treated wastewater (incl. Dan Region STP)	Desalination of brackish waters	Desalination of sea water (2)	Additional Required (3)	Total supply *
2010	7.6	100	2010	1,200	174	450	23	280	4	2,131
2020	9.1	99	2020	1,140	150	573	50	750	9	2,672
2030	10.9	98	2030	1,080	140	685	60	750	50	2,765
2050	15.6	95	2050	1,020	130	930	70	750	671	3,571

In 2008, an additional 46 mcm of floodwater was used that was not taken into account.

(1) Total average replenishment of natural freshwater, less losses for water with less than 400 mg. of chloride per liter.

(2) "Desalination" – according to the approved government decisions.

(3) "Required supplement" = the difference between total consumption of freshwater (bottom table) and total sources of freshwater.

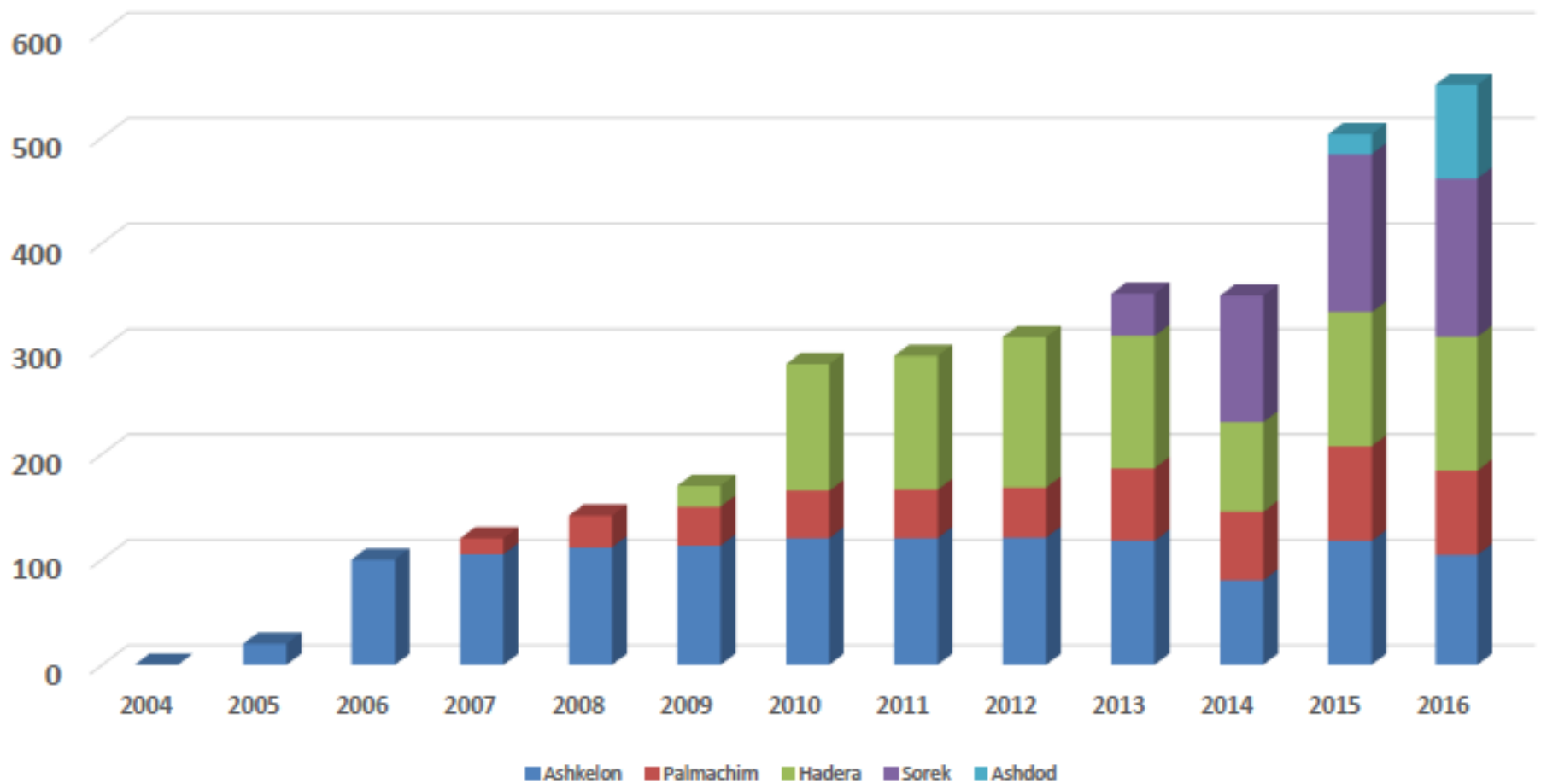
Year	Urban	Water Consumption (mcm/year)												Total consumption
		Industry			Agriculture				Regional *	Reservoir storage recovery	Nature and landscape**		Unforeseeable	
		Fresh-water	Brackish	Total	Fresh-water ***	Brackish	Treated wastewater (incl. Dan Region STP)	Total			Fresh-water	Total		
2010	764	90	30	120	500	144	400	1,044	143	0	10	60	0	2,131
2020	902	95	30	124	490	120	528	1,138	143	200	50	95	70	2,672
2030	1,064	99	30	129	470	110	645	1,225	143	0	50	90	114	2,765
2050	1,482	108	30	138	450	100	900	1,450	143	0	50	80	278	3,571

\* Regional consumption includes supplies to the PA and Jordan.

\*\* Some of the treated wastewater used for nature and landscape is treated wastewater that is not actually used, and flows in riverbeds.

\*\*\* The decline in consumption of freshwater for agriculture is contingent on conversion to high quality treated wastewater, and a change in definitions of well protection radii.

## SWRO Facilities - Annual Production



\* 2016 – Projected data



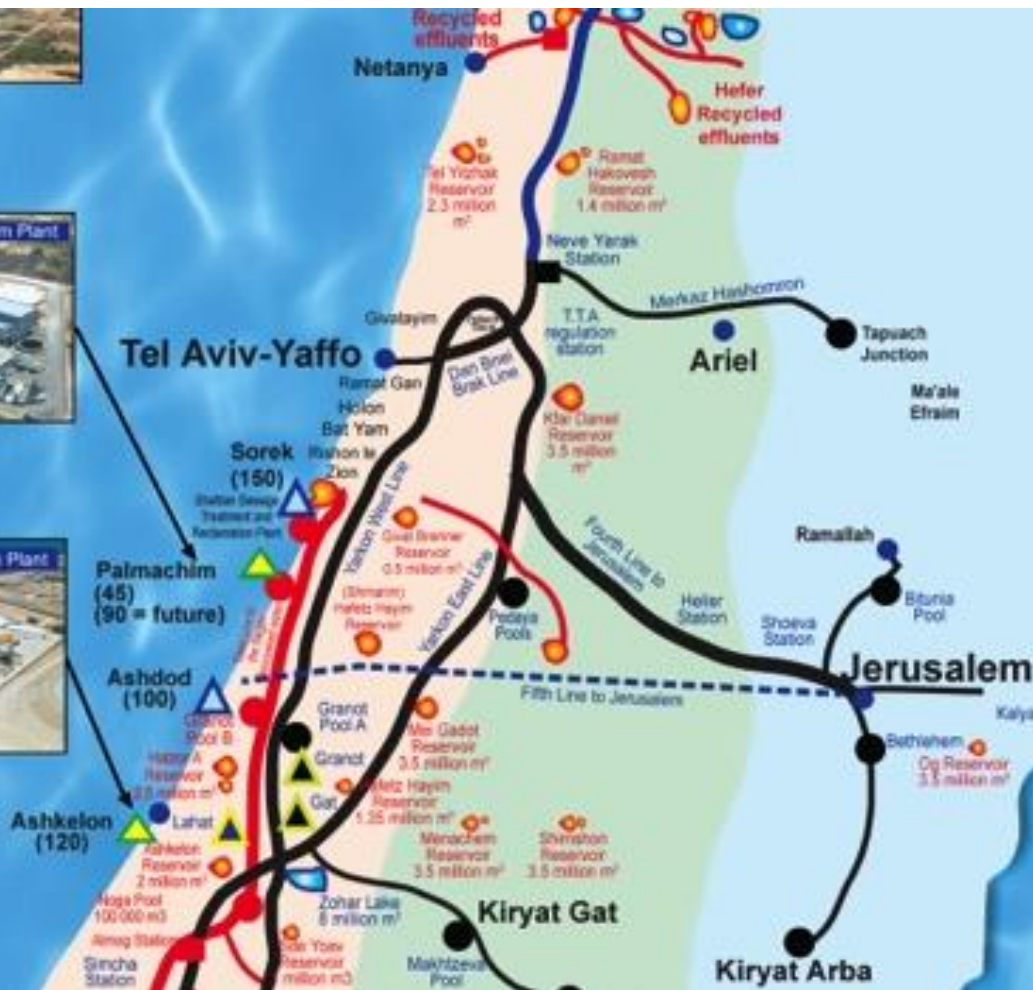
# Israel National Water System



# HADERA









# SOREK

<http://www.water-technology.net/projects/sorek-desalination-plant/>

Notice something unusual about this?  
(Photo from web)







# **PALMACHIM**

By C. Sheehy

# ASHDOD

<http://www.battus.co/portfolio-item/ashdod-desalination-plant/>

## Ashdod Desalination



The Ashdod desalination plant

1/15/2018

Globes English - Ashdod desalination plant repair costs spiral

**GLOBES**  
ISRAEL'S BUSINESS ARENA

## Ashdod desalination plant repair costs spiral



2 Aug, 2017 17:33 Sonia Gorodeisky and Amiram Barkat

The state wants the faults corrected urgently, due to concern about a severe water crisis resulting from four straight drought years.



## Ashkelon Desalination Plant

An award-winning, milestone plant for the desalination industry

When completed, The Ashkelon reverse osmosis [desalination](#) plant was by far the world's largest and most advanced desalination plant. With a huge capacity of up to 330,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day and with extremely high efficiency levels, the Ashkelon desalination plant achieved one of the world's lowest ever prices for desalinated water. In 2010, due to the unmatched success of the plant, it was expanded by nearly 20% to 392,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day, providing clean water for more than a million people.



### Overview

**Capacity:** 396,000 m<sup>3</sup>/day

**Technology:** [Reverse Osmosis \(RO\)](#)

**Project Type:** Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT)

**Location:** Ashkelon, Israel

**Footprint:** 70,000 m<sup>2</sup> (350m x 200m)

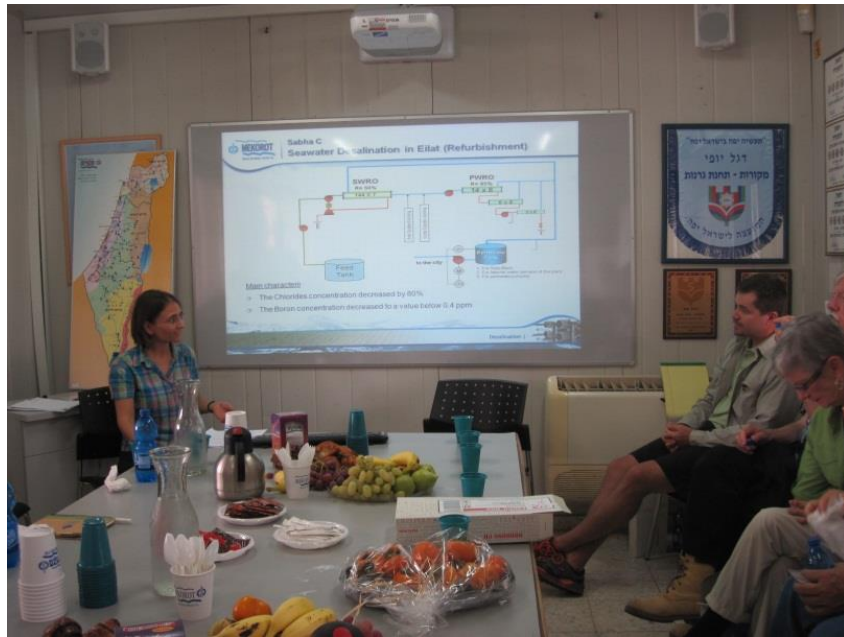
**Commission Date:** 2005



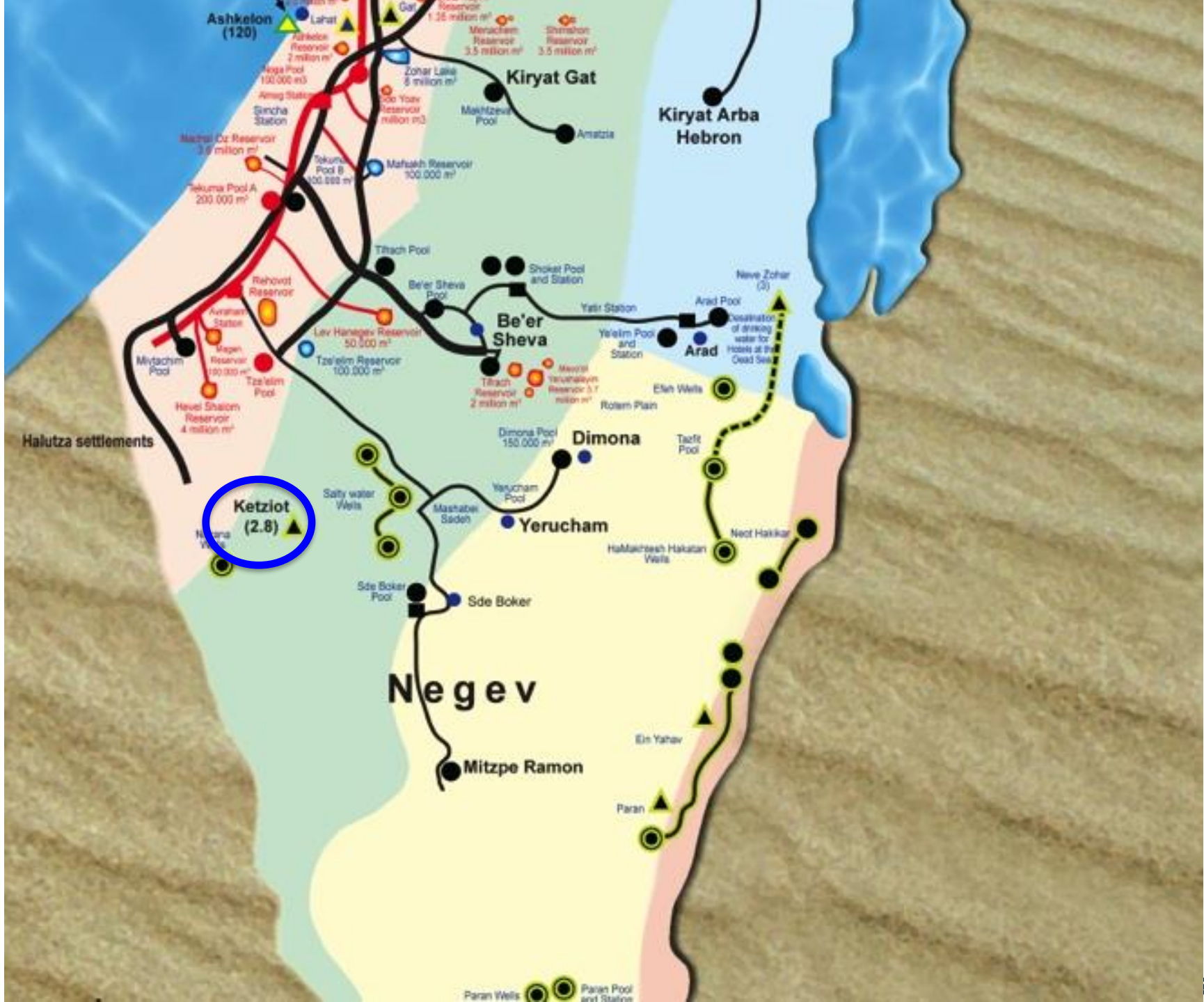
# Brackish Water Desal – Granot Brine goes to the Mediterranean



# Granot Brackish Water Desal Plant









# **Brine Evaporation Ponds Kzi'ot Brackish Water Desal Plant**



# Legend

- The National Carrier
- Potable water pipeline
- Effluents pipeline (irrigation)
- Brackish water pipeline
- Towns
- Potable water reservoir
- Potable water pool
- Potable water wells
- Recycled effluents reservoir
- Recovered water pool
- Brackish water desalination facility
- Brackish water desalination facility under construction
- Brackish water wells
- Seawater desalination facility
- Seawater desalination facility under construction
- Pumping station



# Legend by basins

- Kinneret and Golan Basins
- Western Galilee Basins
- Carmel Basin
- Coastal Basin
- Eastern Basins
- Arava Basin
- Negev Basin
- Mountain basin (Yarkon Taninim)



[www.water.gov.il](http://www.water.gov.il)

The Water Authority

# Red Sea Desalination in Jordan and related water exchange





# **Red Sea-Dead Sea Project (RSDS Project)**

- The Project aims at producing 65 MCM/year of Desalinated Water and discharging 235 MCM/year of Mixed Water to the Dead Sea.
- The 235 MCM/year discharge to the Dead Sea is a mix of Brine Water from the Desalination Plant with Red Sea Water.
- Of the 65 MCM/year of Desalinated Water produced, 30 MCM/year is to be supplied to the Jordanian Delivery Point and 35 MCM/year to the Border Delivery Point.

Source: Document provided by Oded Fixler, Israel Ministry of Regional Cooperation

- Plus exchange (sale) of other water to the north of Israel to Jordan; also water to be provided to the Palestinian Authority

# Summary Points

- Obvious differences between the regions, particularly with respect to land availability, legal and regulatory framework, and politics
- Israel has overcome many obstacles and “problems”
  - Drought a key driver
- Role of the private sector in financing
- There are significant opportunities to “compare notes” when looking for solutions to water management challenges
- Addressing water issues across borders is of importance
- I have many contacts there, some of whom come to the US quite often
- Opportunities to travel there





**Thank you!**

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