



# Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, June 27, 2019  
10:00 a.m.

Imperial Irrigation District  
Bill Condit Auditorium  
1285 Broadway Avenue  
El Centro, CA 92243  
(760) 482-9618



**AGENDA:** **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**DATE:** **Thursday, June 27, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**LOCATION:** **Imperial Irrigation District**  
**Bill Condit Auditorium**  
**1285 Broadway Avenue**  
**El Centro, CA 92243**  
**(760) 482-9618**

**SSA Director Jeff Hewitt will be attending via videoconference from:**

**County Administrative Center**  
**4080 Lemon Street, 5th floor**  
**Conference Room D**  
**Riverside, CA 92501**  
**Ph: (951) 955-9500**

*A copy of the complete agenda packet is available for viewing or download at:*  
<http://saltonseaauthority.org/ssa-board-of-directors-meeting-6/>

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**II. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

*This is the time set aside for any Board Member to ask questions or address any issue posed by a member of the public.*

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Board relating to any matter within the Authority's jurisdiction. **This Public Comments time is reserved for matters not already on the agenda. The law prohibits members of the Board from taking action on matters not on the agenda.***

*Citizens are invited to speak on any item listed in the agenda upon presentation of that item.*

***Remarks shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes unless additional time is authorized by the Board.***

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR – Receive, Approve, and File (*see attached*)**

A. Minutes of May 23, 2019

B. Warrant Register Ratification for May 2019

C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2018 – 4/30/2019

D. Approval of letter to International Boundary and Water Commission calling for action to address public and environmental threats from degraded New River water quality from Mexico impacting Imperial County and the Salton Sea

## **V. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Consider adoption of proposed Salton Sea Authority annual budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20
- B. Election of Officers, effective July 1, 2019
  - 1. Election of President of Board
  - 2. Election of Vice-President of Board
  - 3. Election of Treasurer of Board
  - 4. Election of Secretary of Board
- C. Consider approval of resolutions updating signatories on SSA's bank accounts
  - 1. Res. No. 19-07 Rabobank
  - 2. Res. No. 19-08 Pacific Western Bank
  - 3. Res. No. 19-09 Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)
- D. Consider Appointments to *ad hoc* Committees
  - 1. *Ad Hoc* Executive Committee
  - 2. *Ad Hoc* Finance Committee
  - 3. *Ad Hoc* Personnel Committee
  - 4. *Ad Hoc* Projects Committee
- E. Consider Appointment of *ad hoc* Selection Committee to review proposals and select contractor to provide state advocacy support for funding

## **VI. REPORTS**

- A. General Manager's Report on Activities – (Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority)
- B. Standing Reports from Federal and State Partners
  - 1. FEDERAL: US Bureau of Reclamation – (Genevieve Johnson, Program Manager for the Salton Sea)
  - 2. STATE: Salton Sea Management Program – (Bruce Wilcox, Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy)
- C. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – (Steve Quartieri, Acting District Superintendent, California State Parks)
- D. Salton Sea Action Committee – (Juan DeLara, President)

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**  
Thursday, September 19, 2019, 10:00 a.m.  
**No meeting in July or August**

Coachella Valley Water District  
Steve Robbins Administration Building  
75515 Hovley Lane East  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
(760) 398-2651

*Any public record, relating to an open session agenda item, that is distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting is available for public inspection in the lobby at the front desk of the County Law Building located at 82995 Highway 111, Indio, CA 92201.*



# **OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**

## **SALTON SEA AUTHORITY**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

#### **May 23, 2019**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority” or “SSA”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by Thomas Torte, Jr., President, at 10:01 a.m., May 23, 2019, at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92260, (760) 398-2651.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Hanks led the Pledge of Allegiance

#### **ROLL CALL:**

##### **DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Thomas Torte, President  
Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice-President  
Alex Cardenas, Secretary  
Luis A. Plancarte, Treasurer  
James C. Hanks, Director  
Jeff Hewitt, Director  
G. Patrick O’Dowd, Director  
V. Manuel Perez, Director  
Altrena Santillanes, Director

##### **AGENCY**

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Imperial County  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Riverside County  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Riverside County  
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

*\* Board Member Santillanes arrived at 10:03, as noted in the text*

*In keeping with the Salton Sea Authority Bylaws, there being at least three of the five member agencies represented, and a single Director carrying the vote of both Directors when the second Director of the same agency is absent, a Quorum was declared, and the meeting proceeded.*

##### **DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Ryan E. Kelley, Director

##### **AGENCY**

Imperial County

## **SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT**

Phil Rosentrater, Executive Director/General Manager  
Bob Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel

## **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

Pat Cooper  
Cindy Byerrum  
Alexander Schriener  
Pat Conlon  
Dan Farris  
Nikola Lakic  
Tina Shields  
Juan DeLara  
Joan Taylor  
Emmanuel Martinez  
Robert Cheng  
Ronald Spears  
Suzie Earp  
Jann Conlon  
Frank Ruiz  
Rebecca Zaragoza  
Anna Grandys

## **AGENCY**

Riverside County  
PCG Client  
Earth Systems  
CPD  
CVWD  
Geothermal World Wide Inc.  
IID  
Federated Insurance, SSAC  
Sierra Club  
IID  
CVWD  
  
WRI CSUSB  
  
Audubon  
Leadership Counsel  
City of Indian Wells

## **II. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

A. Director Plancarte...

*\* Director Santillanes arrived at 10:03 during Director Plancarte's comment.*

## **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- A. Ron Spears spoke on Salton Sea Restoration
- B. Nikola Lakic promoted his long-term solution for the Salton Sea
- C. Ernesto Partida had staff read his prepared statement sharing the results of his investigations and some ideas he has for the Salton Sea.

## **IV. CONSENT CALENDAR – Receive, Approve, and File**

- A. Minutes of April 25, 2019
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for April 2019
- C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2018 – 3/31/2019

*Director Perez **moved** that the Consent Calendar be approved. **Seconded** by Director Cardenas. **Unanimously carried.***

## V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Federal Issues Update (Lisa Moore, Conservation Consulting)

## VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Review Proposed 2019-2020 Budget to Approve at June 27, 2019 SSA Board Meeting

A draft budget was provided for the Board members to review prior to next meeting's request for approval. SSA GM Phil Rosentrater gave a brief overview of the proposed budget: no change to contributions from member agencies; there are a couple of positions advanced in anticipation of \$20M funding from the state (something that is anticipated but still needs to happen) per direction received so far from State Parks to anticipate receipt of the funds and to provide contract positions in the budget that could be reimbursed through that source. This was done and is a new section in this budget. The other piece that he wanted the Board to be aware of is that the SSA has added a grants manager position on contract who is working very well to expand SSA's capacity to bring in additional monies and enhance SSA's position to make an impact at the Salton Sea.

Director Perez said the SSA needs to do at the State level what Ms. Lehman is doing on behalf of the SSA at the Federal level. "The money is already there, we just have to figure out how to get it." He asked if there were a way, in this budget, to integrate the need to hire a lobbyist at the state level. Mr. Rosentrater responded that there is capacity in the budget – that there is a way to move forward if it is the pleasure of the Board. Discussion followed regarding how to go about this.

*Director Perez **moved** to add an action item to this meeting's agenda to direct staff regarding contracting for lobbyist services to get the \$20M funding from the state during this session. **Seconded** by Director O'Dowd. The motion carried unanimously*

*Director Perez **moved** to direct staff to put together protocols for the hiring of a lobbyist, the selection process, a committee. **Seconded** by director O'Dowd.*

Director Cardenas asked to discuss some details before the vote so there can be action next month. Discussion followed.

GM Rosentrater recommended that there be a subcommittee of the Board in advance of next Board meeting to flesh out details.

Director O'Dowd suggests that staff put out an RFP asking candidates what type of services they would recommend and what would they do.

Director O'Dowd wondered if there were a line item in the budget the Executive Director could charge that against without having to amend the budget. Executive Director Rosentrater responded that there is provision for technical assistance, and said it would be helpful to have additional input from the Board from a subcommittee of members willing to engage in that conversation.

*Director Hewitt made a substitute **motion** to give the Executive Director the authority to select a candidate not to exceed \$30,000. **Seconded** by Director Hanks. **Unanimously carried.***

The meeting was recessed at 11:35, reconvened at 11:49.

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Consider Authorization of New Bank Account**

Executive Director Rosentrater introduced the item. The CPA and SSA staff met with the *ad hoc* finance committee. In anticipation of SSA overseeing a minimum of \$20 million in state funds, and because ownership of SSA's current bank had changed, the CPA reviewed SSA's banking relationship and compared current rates and services to those offered by banks offering government accounts in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. From that meeting, staff came back with a recommendation to switch to Pacific Western Bank that is better equipped to handle that type of volume and a government banking relationship.

*Director Perez so **moved**. **Seconded** by Director O'Dowd. **Unanimously carried.***

For-the-record correction to original memo: It was erroneously stated in the recommendation paragraph that Pacific Western Bank had over \$194 billion of public funds on deposit. The correct figure was \$194 *million*.

### **B. Consider Authorization to Deposit Reserve Funds with Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)**

Executive Director Rosentrater introduced the item. The analysis presented to the *ad hoc* finance committee in the previous item showed that SSA is earning a low interest rate on funds held in reserve at the current bank. Staff recommended the current account be closed and the funds on reserve be transferred to a Local Agency Investment Fund – a more secure and higher paying fund widely used by local government agencies.

*Director Plancarte so **moved**. **Seconded** by Director O'Dowd. **Unanimously carried.***

### **C. Consider Adoption of Resolution in Recognition of Local Unity**

Executive Director Rosentrater presented to the Board a proposed resolution for their approval, recognizing the consensus among all of its member agencies, as well as every city council, plus tribes and major environmental organizations across the Salton basin who have also adopted resolutions of support for this collaborative approach to develop a Perimeter Lake concept as part of the SSMP.

This resolution was the culmination of a request months back by Director Ryan Kelley for the community to show support for the Imperial County-Riverside County MOU with resolutions of support of their own and to bring those results back to this Board as is being done today.

The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) requested a change on the 4<sup>th</sup> page of the original Resolution to remove the NGOs from the list of those in support of the Perimeter Lake, and to emphasize their support for deep water habitat elements of the

North Lake in keeping with the text of their resolution of support. This change was made in the first two paragraphs of the fourth page of the proposed resolution.

Director Cardenas reminded the Board of the shovel-ready SCH project, which is part of the Perimeter Lake.

Discussion ensued on whether North Lake and SCH should be mentioned separately.

Director O'Dowd made it clear that he and Director Estrada are not authorized to make commitments on behalf of CVWD and that what they are supporting here is the Perimeter Lake *concept*, not implementable projects the particularities of which would all have to be negotiated, documented, and finalized.

Public comment: Joan Taylor, of Sierra Club, clarified that the reason the North Lake language was requested by Pacific Institute on behalf of the NGOs is because the NGOs are undecided about the Perimeter Lake, but are very enthusiastic about the North Lake and feel that the state has an obligation to create deep water to sustain the fishery as part of the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife's obligations under the QSA. Taking out the reference to the NGO's support of the North Lake could make it appear that they had decided in favor of the Perimeter Lake. She offered that the Board could, instead, remove the reference to the NGOs and know that they are behind the SSMP – that they are enthusiastic and pushing hard to get projects done and are very enthusiastic about projects on the North Lake as well as on the South. She deferred to the Board's judgment whether the NGOs are included in this resolution.

Director Perez suggested, in that case, that both the North Lake and SCH be mentioned.

To clarify, Exec. Dir. Rosentrater proposed the last paragraph be amended to read: “**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority recognizes this historic gathering of support for the Perimeter Lake, *to include SCH and North Lake*, to include...”

Public comment: Matt Dessert, Air Pollution Control District of Imperial County, said that, as far as air pollution, he appreciates the recognition of the projects and encourages the Board to mention the NGOs and the habitat projects, as in the past sometimes there was a competition between the varieties of projects.

***Motion** by Director Perez to approve with the proposed modification as read by GM/Exec. Director Phil Rosentrater. **Seconded** by Director Hewitt. **Unanimously carried.***

*\* Director Perez left at the completion of this item.*

## **VIII. REPORTS**

### **A. General Manager's Report on Activities**

SSA's GM/Executive Director Rosentrater invited questions or comments on his GM report that was included in the agenda packet. There were none.



B. Federal and State Partner Reports:

1. FEDERAL: US Bureau of Reclamation

Genevieve Johnson, Program Manager for the Salton Sea, was unable to be present so SSA GM/Executive Director reported on her behalf that the Bureau is working cooperatively with other agencies regarding a launch point for research vessels to be able to perform required monitoring of the Sea. It is looking possible that the harbor to the North Shore Yacht Club might be able to be dredged to accommodate research vessels.

2. STATE: Salton Sea Management Program – (Bruce Wilcox, Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy)

Is celebrating the recording of the easements at SCH yesterday thanks to Tina and several other staff at IID and CNRA, RFP soon, probably late 2019 for responses coming back.

And gave an update on air quality issues.

*\* Director Hewitt left at the end of Mr. Wilcox's report*

C. Water Resources Institute

Suzie Earp, Director and Archivist, gave an update on activities at the Water Resources Insititute

D. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – (Steve Quartieri, Acting District Superintendent, California State Parks) (not present)

E. Salton Sea Action Committee – (Juan DeLara, President) (not present)

*\* Directors Estrada left prior to adjournment,*

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, *Board President Thomas Torte Jr. invited a motion to adjourn. Director Cardenas so moved. Seconded by Director O'Dowd. Unanimously carried.* The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

Thursday, June 27, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Imperial Irrigation District

Bill Condit Auditorium

1285 Broadway Avenue

El Centro, CA 92243

(760) 482-9618

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## Checking Account Activity

May 1, 2019 through May 31, 2019



Warrant	Warrant	Vendor	
Date	Number	Name	Amount
Beginning Cash			\$ 137,268.47
05/17/2019	EFT	American Express	(3,142.77)
05/20/2019	16493	Best, Best & Krieger	(6,900.06)
05/20/2019	16494	Bravata, Lisa	(227.73)
05/20/2019	16495	Cultivating Conservation	(4,100.00)
05/20/2019	16496	Davis Farr LLP	(1,692.00)
05/20/2019	16497	OfficeTeam	(3,636.00)
05/20/2019	16498	Platinum Consulting Group LLC	(5,356.25)
05/20/2019	16499	Rosentrater, Phil	(1,264.98)
05/20/2019	16500	SystemGo IT LLC	(699.50)
05/23/2019	EFT	Verizon Wireless	(267.14)
05/23/2019	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	(1,224.34)
05/29/2019	16501	RivCo EDA	(114,036.55)
05/29/2019	EFT	Rabobank MMA Acct.	110,000.00
Net Activity			(32,547.32)
Ending Cash			\$ 104,721.15

**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance**  
Year to Date through April 30, 2019

	General Fund	Wetlands Grant 1	Wetlands 2	TOTAL
<b>1 INCOME</b>				
2 <b>Local Government/Member Assessments</b>	\$ 610,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 610,000
3 <b>State of California Grants</b>	-	-	-	-
4 <b>Pooled Cash Allocated Interest</b>	1,638	-	-	1,638
5 <b>Miscellaneous Revenue</b>	7,703	-	-	7,703
6 <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	619,341	-	-	619,341
<b>7 EXPENSE</b>				
8 <b>SSA Administration</b>				
9 <b>Salaries</b>				
10 <b>Salaries - GM / Executive Director</b>	97,960	-	-	97,960
11 <b>Grant Support</b>	6,443	-	-	6,443
12 <b>Executive Director Support</b>	46,083	-	-	46,083
13 <b>Admin Support A</b>	37,079	-	-	37,079
14 <b>Admin Support B</b>	29,471	-	-	29,471
15 <b>Total Salaries</b>	217,036	-	-	217,036
16 <b>Employee Benefits</b>				
17 <b>Employee Benefits - GM / Exec. Dir.</b>	30,622	-	-	30,622
18 <b>Employee Benefits - Other SSA Staff</b>	57,683	-	-	57,683
19 <b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	88,306	-	-	88,306
20 <b>Audit/Accounting</b>	58,083	-	-	58,083
21 <b>Contract Attorney</b>	43,694	-	-	43,694
22 <b>Equipment Maintenance</b>	7,245	-	-	7,245
23 <b>Capital Equipment</b>	-	-	-	-
24 <b>Equipment Lease</b>	447	-	-	447
25 <b>Insurance</b>	6,704	-	-	6,704
26 <b>Office Exp/Operating Supplies</b>	1,575	-	-	1,575
27 <b>Office Exp/Online Services</b>	2,251	-	-	2,251
28 <b>Postage, Mail</b>	773	-	-	773
29 <b>Printing Services</b>	937	-	-	937
30 <b>Dues, Subscriptions</b>	11,819	-	-	11,819
31 <b>Communications</b>	4,400	-	-	4,400
32 <b>Travel/Mileage</b>	59,675	-	-	59,675
33 <b>Technical Support - Consultant</b>	-	-	-	-
34 <b>Technical Support - Engineering</b>	-	-	-	-
35 <b>Technical Support - General</b>	-	-	-	-
36 <b>Contract Svc / Website</b>	-	-	-	-
37 <b>Utilities</b>	-	-	-	-
38 <b>Grants &amp; Advocacy</b>	12,300	-	-	12,300
39 <b>Project Manager</b>	-	-	-	-

**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance**  
Year to Date through April 30, 2019

	General Fund	Wetlands Grant 1	Wetlands 2	TOTAL
40 <b>Total SSA Administration</b>	515,246	-	-	515,246
41 <b>Wetlands Grant Administration</b>				
42 <b>Contract Svcs/Attorney</b>	-	-	1,573	1,573
44 <b>Total Wetlands Grant Administration</b>	-	-	1,573	1,573
45 <b>Wetlands Grant Technical</b>				
46 <b>Contract Svcs/LCP</b>	-	-	-	-
47 <b>Contract Svcs/Construction</b>	-	-	-	-
48 <b>Transfer In/Out Grant Administration</b>	-	-	-	-
49 <b>Total Wetlands Grant Technical</b>	-	-	-	-
50 <b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	515,246	-	1,573	516,819
51 <b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 104,095</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (1,573)</b>	<b>\$ 102,522</b>

*\*No assurance is provided on these financial statements. The financial statements do not include a statement of cash flows. Substantially all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. are not included.*

# Salton Sea Authority

## Balance Sheets

As of April 30, 2019

General Fund	Wetlands Grant 1	Wetlands 2	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	TOTAL
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### 1 ASSETS

#### 2 Local Government/Member Assessments

#### 3 Checking/Savings

4	Cash - Checking	\$ 250,074	\$ -	\$ (2,806)	\$ -	\$ 247,268
5	Cash - Money Market	120,073	-	-	20,991	141,064
6	Cash - RivCo Fund	115,981	-	-	-	115,981
7	RivCo investment fund	182,022	-	-	-	182,022
8	Cash - Petty Cash	156	-	-	-	156

9	Total Checking/Savings	668,306	-	(2,806)	20,991	686,491
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#### 10 Other Current Assets

11	Prepaid Items	9,049	-	-	-	9,049
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12	Total Other Current Assets	9,049	-	-	-	9,049
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13	TOTAL ASSETS	677,354	-	(2,806)	20,991	695,540
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### 14 LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### 15 Liabilities

#### 16 Current Liabilities

17	Accounts Payable	22,059	-	-	-	22,059
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#### 18 Credit Cards

19	Credit Card Payable (Visa)	1,118	-	-	-	1,118
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20	Credit Card Payable (AE)	1,676	-	-	-	1,676
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21	Total Credit Cards	2,794	-	-	-	2,794
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#### 22 Other Current Liabilities

23	Accrued Expenditures	126,367	-	-	-	126,367
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24	Accrued Payroll	5,701	-	-	-	5,701
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25	Accrued Vacation	9,239	-	-	-	9,239
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26	Total Other Current Liabilities	141,308	-	-	-	141,308
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27	Total Current Liabilities	166,160	-	-	-	166,160
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28	Total Liabilities	166,160	-	-	-	166,160
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#### 29 Equity

30	Fund Balance	407,099	-	(1,233)	20,991	426,858
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31	Net Income	104,095	-	(1,573)	-	102,522
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32	Total Equity	511,194	-	(2,806)	20,991	529,380
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33	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 677,354	\$ -	\$ (2,806)	\$ 20,991	\$ 695,540
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May 29, 2019

Jayne Harkins, Commissioner  
International Boundary and Water Commission – U.S. Section  
4171 North Mesa, Suite C-100  
El Paso, TX 79902-1441

Re: Letter in Support of the County of Imperial's Efforts Requesting Immediate Action to Address Ongoing Deficiencies in the Mexicali Sewage Infrastructure and Resulting Contamination of the New River and Surrounding Areas of the County of Imperial.

Dear Commissioner Harkins,

On behalf of the Salton Sea Authority I am writing to request that the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission ("IBWC") take immediate action to address serious threats to human health and the environment in Imperial Valley and the Salton Sea caused by ongoing deficiencies in Mexicali Sewage Infrastructure.

In 1980, the IBWC identified the New River border sanitation problem as, "...the most urgent, and should be the first to be resolved for the benefit of the health and well-being of both countries." Minute Order No. 264, ¶ 4. Though the IBWC has made some effort to address these problems, Mexicali's Sewage Infrastructure remains grossly inadequate, and bypasses of raw sewage into the New River are a common occurrence.

Raw sewage coming across the border from Mexicali contains numerous harmful pathogens including Salmonella, E. coli, Streptococcus, and Hepatitis. These toxic bypasses also harm the environment, particularly with respect to the water quality of the New River and the Salton Sea. Along with the Salton Sea Authority, Imperial County and many other local, State, and federal agencies are investing major resources to establish a healthier, more prosperous future for the Salton Sea. Continued bypasses of raw sewage into the New River hinder such restoration efforts.

As the international agency with jurisdiction over this matter, we urge you to take immediate action to address the New River border sanitation problem through the issuance of another Minute Order or project in the United States that will ensure the health, safety and welfare of the residents and visitors of the Imperial Valley.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this pressing matter. The Salton Sea Authority looks forward to working with you towards a swift and equitable resolution.

Sincerely,

Thomas Tortez, Jr.  
President

cc: Imperial County

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 29, 2019

The Honorable Jayne Harkins  
Commissioner  
International Boundary and Water Commission  
4171 North Mesa Street  
El Paso, TX 79902

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004

The Honorable R. D. James  
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Kevin K. McAleenan  
Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner Harkins, Administrator Wheeler, Assistant Secretary James,  
Secretary Pompeo, and Commissioner McAleenan,

We are writing to request that your respective departments work together to provide rapid assistance and mitigate the serious environmental and public health concerns resulting from the ongoing pollution crisis along the US-Mexico border. Over the past couple of months, the region has experienced several cross-boundary flows, totaling millions of gallons of treated and untreated wastewater flowing into the United States and affecting our constituents.



The rupture of the Colector Poniente sewage collector in Tijuana, Mexico is an immediate example of the kinds of pollution issues that communities along the California-Mexico border face every day. On December 10th, 2018, a ruptured collector pipe in southeast Tijuana began discharging an estimated six to seven million gallons of raw sewage per day into the Tijuana River. As a result of the sewage spill, communities along the river and downstream in places like Imperial Beach, California risk dangerous exposure to a variety of bacteria present in raw sewage. This can include E.coli and salmonella, as well as parasites and viruses that can lead to respiratory infections or meningitis, among other dangerous health conditions.<sup>1</sup> The area continues to face risks from exposure to raw sewage like that released by the Colector Poinente even though months have passed, resulting in almost 30 days of Imperial Beach closures already this year.<sup>2</sup>

Last December's spill provides a timely reminder of the ways in which communities in Southern California and Northern Mexico are impacted by transboundary pollution. However, it is only one recent example of the dire environmental conditions vulnerable populations along the border experience. Further east along the border, the sewage, harmful chemicals, and heavy metals present in the New River can cause rashes and stomach illnesses for individuals who directly contact its waters.<sup>3</sup> Air pollution resulting from agricultural burns, diesel fumes, a shrinking Salton Sea<sup>4</sup> and other sources<sup>5</sup> emanates throughout the Imperial Valley and contributes to high rates of asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease, and stroke.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, transboundary pollution poses health and safety risks to dedicated U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents who operate in the area to help keep all Americans safe. These agents must work in areas that their own reporting concludes has a consistently strong presence of E. coli, enterococcus, and other organisms typically found in untreated sewage.<sup>7</sup>

These alarming conditions exist even as the U.S. government has collaborated on promising programs like the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Grant program, administered through the EPA. This program has helped to improve the quality of surface and groundwater along the border through investments in wastewater collection and treatment services, but its scope and funding levels cannot alone address all aspects of the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/environment/sd-me-mexico-sewage-tijuana-river-20181212-story.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://fox5sandiego.com/2019/03/07/imperial-beach-holds-meeting-on-border-sewage-spills/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.desertsun.com/in-depth/news/environment/border-pollution/poisoned-cities/2018/12/05/toxic-new-river-long-neglect-mexico-border-calexico-mexicali/1381599002/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/pages/interactives/salton-sea/toxic-dust-and-asthma-plague-salton-sea-communities/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/supported/translational/community/imperial/index.cfm>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.desertsun.com/in-depth/news/environment/border-pollution/poisoned-cities/2018/12/05/air-pollution-taking-deadly-toll-u-s-mexico-border/1381585002/>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2019-](https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2019-Feb/TJ%20Sampling%20Analysis%206%20Month%20Effort%20Draft.pdf)

[Feb/TJ%20Sampling%20Analysis%206%20Month%20Effort%20Draft.pdf](https://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/assets/documents/2019-Feb/TJ%20Sampling%20Analysis%206%20Month%20Effort%20Draft.pdf)



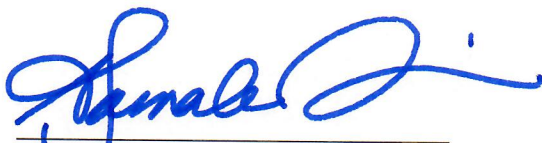
problem. Reports of air quality monitors not being maintained<sup>8</sup> and repairs to critical infrastructure being mismanaged<sup>9</sup> stymie real progress towards remediating environmental conditions in vulnerable communities along the border. The results can be deadly, particularly to those who most need protection from environmental stresses, especially children and the elderly.<sup>10</sup>

It is critical that your agencies work together to develop a comprehensive plan to address the ongoing pollution issues along the border in Southern California. We urge you to improve monitoring of air and water quality in southern San Diego and Imperial counties, aggressively mitigate impacts of air and water pollution, and encourage activities that cut down on sources of pollution. In the meantime, we ask your agencies to provide answers to the following questions:

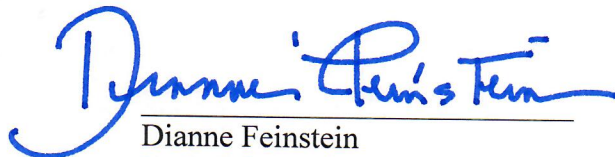
1. What is the current status of repairs to the Colector Poniente? What have your agencies done to protect against subsequent future accidents?
2. What actions are currently underway to mitigate impacts of transboundary pollution issues facing vulnerable populations along the border?
3. How many transboundary flows have occurred in 2019? What are the dates and causes of these flows?
4. What specific guidance is being provided to maintain the safety of CBP agents who are exposed to high levels of pollutants along the border?
5. What are the primary challenges your departments face to resolving this longstanding environmental and public health crisis?
6. How are your agencies working together on these critical issues?

We look forward to your quick response to our questions above. Thank you for your attention to this serious and challenging public and environmental health issue.

Sincerely,



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senator

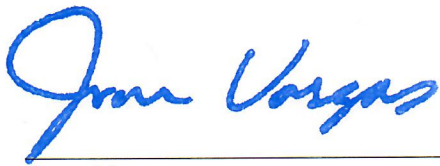


Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.desertsun.com/in-depth/news/environment/border-pollution/poisoned-cities/2018/12/05/air-pollution-taking-deadly-toll-u-s-mexico-border/1381585002/>

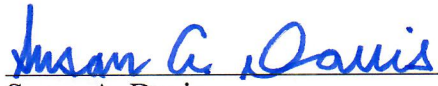
<sup>9</sup> <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/border-baja-california/sd-me-border-sewage-20170310-story.html>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/cehtp\\_border\\_report\\_final\\_aug2015.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/cehtp_border_report_final_aug2015.pdf)



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Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



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Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



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Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

# Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Rosentrater, General Manager  
**Date:** June 27, 2019  
**Re:** Review Salton Sea Authority Draft Budget FY 2019-20  
**CM No.** V.A – 06/27/19

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## **BACKGROUND:**

The Salton Sea Authority is wrapping up a year during which finances have been managed in a stable and fully accountable manner. The Authority is heading into what is anticipated to be an extremely busy year and presents a draft budget for FY 2019-2020 that supports aggressive funding procurement and coordination.

Staff has prepared a budget that reflects appropriate priorities aligned with the following significant accomplishments by the SSA in the past year to achieve the SSA board's vision for a healthier and more prosperous Salton Sea:

- 1) Unification of all local governmental entities – both counties, both major water agencies, every city council in both Imperial County and Coachella Valley, plus all tribal nations – this unprecedented coalition supports a single, multi-purpose plan for the Sea: A Perimeter Lake providing a stable shoreline covering dusty playa, restoring riparian habitat and enhancing economic recovery through renewable energy and recreation.
- 2) Unification of SSA agencies and stakeholders in support of federal policy re-alignment of USDA programs to allow application in Salton Sea on a watershed-wide basis. Sen Feinstein led these amendments in Farm Bill, signed into law by the President in December 2018. These game-changing advancements in federal policy were coordinated in parallel with successful appropriations in the Farm Bill to allow maximum leverage of non-federal (state and local) funding.
- 3) Successful insertion of \$200 Million for Salton Sea projects in state bond Prop 68. This is the most \$\$ ever secured for the Sea from the state. Coupled with prior year high mark of \$80.5 Million in Prop 1, this represents \$280 of the \$400 M estimated need to build next ten years of state projects. Leveraging state and federal funding as outlined above will launch a revitalization of the Sea that will foster feasibility of local funding strategies like EIFD.

- 4) Authorization of Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District in Riverside County and exploration of this strategy in Imperial County provides a foundation for Salton Sea restoration of deep-water habitat and recreational uses along with enhanced renewable energy development. Plans and projects that integrate these benefits in the design can create more robust onshore revenue streams available for a local/state/federal financing strategy that restores a healthier and more prosperous Salton Sea.

In support of the ongoing success in developing these outcomes, the draft FY 2019-20 budget was presented in April for review and discussion at the SSA *ad hoc* Financial Committee meeting. It was noted that member agency contributions remain constant at \$150,000 each for Imperial and Riverside Counties, IID and CVWD, and \$10,000 for the Torres Martinez.

The SSA anticipates receiving grant funding in the coming fiscal year from new grants applied to at federal and nonprofit sources but not yet finalized. The draft proposed budget for FY 2019-20 remains conservative in strictly counting only those grant sources known to be committed.

Careful stewardship of funds budgeted in the current year has resulted in a carryover of \$385,000 to the proposed FY 2019-2020 budget. The SSA *ad hoc* Financial Committee recommended staff should budget some of this funding toward preparations of robust activity, with the expectation that these activities will be reimbursable under Proposition 68 (with up to \$20 Million in funds designated to SSMP projects under oversight by the Salton Sea Authority).

The proposed budget for General Office Staff compensation (Executive Director, Board Secretary and Administrative Assistant) will remain essentially status quo from prior year. A contract grant writer has been hired through a temp agency, and contract positions for grant administration, project management, environmental compliance, communication and state advocacy are budgeted but not filled, pending execution of project contracts with the state and other granting entities. The FY 2019-20 budget reflects this contingency.

The proposed budget for Professional Services in FY 2019-2020 will increase in the area of Project Management in coordination with grant procurement support. The addition of new grant funding is expected to include project management budget in the grants that will offset directly associated staff costs in these areas as workload continues to ramp up. The budget reflects an anticipated decrease in other Professional Services spending such as Legal Counsel and Finance/CPA.

The proposed budget for other categories of Administrative costs (including Insurance, Office Expenses, Online Services, Dues & Subscriptions, Communications, Travel/Mileage and Utilities) remain consistent with the prior year budget. The FY 2019-20 budget proposes increases to Postage & Mail and Printing Services in anticipation of increased activity in these categories. Grants & Advocacy has also been increased in coordination with grant procurement support.

A proposed budget item of \$5,000 for WRI will resume SSA's support of the CSU archives project which provides a home for and increases access to the plethora of Salton Sea documents

from all sources, as well as the new GIS mapping overlay which facilitates map requirements for Salton Sea management planning and other purposes.

The proposed budget calls for a careful drawdown of Contingency Reserve which starts the FY 2019-20 with a \$385,000 carryover from prior year. SSA *ad hoc* Financial Committee directed staff to budget for substantial ramp-up of services required to effectively administer state and federal grant funds flowing through the SSA to accomplish SSMP projects at the Salton Sea.

Even after addressing these needs, the projected ending cash balance for FY 2019-2020 is expected to be \$311,800, which will be on reserve for any contingent expenses. This contingency is consistent with SSA board direction to provide for prudent reserve.

The overall budget reflects SSA staff's anticipation of increased projects and activity stemming from the management planning now in progress. New projects are expected to include recovery of project management costs.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Salton Sea Authority *ad hoc* Financial Committee has reviewed and approved the draft budget for FY 2019-20. Staff recommends adopting the proposed budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater  
GM / Executive Director



**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY**  
**PROPOSED FY 19/20 BUDGET**  
*May 23, 2019 - DRAFT*

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	FY 18/19 Projections	FY 18/19 Total Budget	FY 19/20 Gen. Fund Budget	FY 19/20 Grant Fund Budget	FY 19/20 Total Budget	Gen. Fund Budget Variance (\$)	Gen. Fund Budget Variance (%)
<b>1 INCOME</b>							
2 Local Gov/Member Assessments	\$ 610,000	\$ 610,000	\$ 610,000	\$ -	\$ 610,000	\$ -	0%
3 Grant Funding	-	-	-	425,000	425,000	-	0%
4 State of California Grants	-	115,900	115,900	-	115,900	-	0%
5 Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	1,500	1,500	1,500	-	1,500	-	0%
6 Miscellaneous Revenue	7,600	-	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	0%
<b>7 TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>619,100</b>	<b>727,400</b>	<b>728,400</b>	<b>425,000</b>	<b>1,153,400</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>8 EXPENSE</b>							
9 Salaries							
10 Salaries - GM/Executive Director	125,000	125,000	125,000	-	125,000	-	0%
11 Executive Director Support	46,100	74,000	-	-	-	(74,000)	-100%
12 Grant Support	-	-	45,000	-	45,000	45,000	0%
13 Admin. Support A	47,300	47,290	48,700	-	48,700	1,410	3%
14 Admin. Support B	37,400	37,110	38,200	-	38,200	1,090	3%
<b>15 Total Salaries</b>	<b>255,800</b>	<b>283,400</b>	<b>256,900</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>256,900</b>	<b>(26,500)</b>	<b>-9%</b>
16 Employee Benefits							
17 EE Benefits - GM/Executive Director	36,400	36,400	37,500	-	37,500	1,100	3%
18 Total EE Benefits - SSA	68,100	71,800	78,300	-	78,300	6,500	9%
<b>19 Total Employee Benefits</b>	<b>104,500</b>	<b>108,200</b>	<b>115,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>115,800</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>7%</b>
20 Contract Services / Professional							
21 Finance / CPA	100,000	100,000	80,000	-	80,000	(20,000)	-20%
22 Attorney - General	49,100	95,900	80,000	-	80,000	(15,900)	-17%
23 Audit	11,700	11,700	11,700	-	11,700	-	0%
<b>24 Total Contract Services / Professional</b>	<b>160,800</b>	<b>207,600</b>	<b>171,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>171,700</b>	<b>(35,900)</b>	<b>-17%</b>
25 Equipment Maintenance	8,700	11,000	11,000	-	11,000	-	0%
26 Capital Equipment <\$5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	5,000	-	0%
27 Insurance	8,300	8,300	8,300	-	8,300	-	0%
28 Office Exp./Operating Supplies	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	5,000	-	0%
29 Office Exp./Online Services	1,400	1,400	1,400	-	1,400	-	0%
30 Postage & Mail	1,000	1,000	2,000	-	2,000	1,000	100%
31 Printing Services	4,000	4,000	8,000	-	8,000	4,000	100%
32 Dues & Subscriptions	13,000	13,000	13,000	-	13,000	-	0%
33 Communications	5,500	5,500	5,500	-	5,500	-	0%
34 Travel/Mileage	90,000	90,000	90,000	-	90,000	-	0%
35 Utilities	-	3,000	3,000	-	3,000	-	0%
36 Contract Services / WRI & Archive Mgmt.	-	5,000	5,000	-	5,000	-	0%
37 Grants & Advocacy	25,000	25,000	100,000	-	100,000	75,000	300%
<b>38 TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>688,000</b>	<b>776,400</b>	<b>801,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>801,600</b>	<b>25,200</b>	<b>3%</b>
40 Wetlands Grant Administrative Expenses	1,600	-	-	-	-	-	0%
41 Grant Funded Projects							
42 Project Management	50,000	50,000	-	100,000	100,000	(50,000)	-100%
43 Technical Support - Engineering	-	10,000	-	60,000	60,000	(10,000)	-100%
44 Technical Support - Environmental	-	-	-	60,000	60,000	-	0%
45 Technical Support - Fiscal	-	-	-	60,000	60,000	-	0%
46 Communications & Outreach	-	-	-	60,000	60,000	-	0%
47 Technical Support - General	-	45,000	-	45,000	45,000	(45,000)	-100%
48 Technical Support - Consultant	40,000	40,000	-	40,000	40,000	(40,000)	-100%
<b>49 Total Grant Funded Projects</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>145,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>425,000</b>	<b>425,000</b>	<b>(145,000)</b>	
<b>50 NET ADDITION (USE) OF RESERVES</b>	<b>\$ (160,500)</b>	<b>\$ (194,000)</b>	<b>\$ (73,200)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (73,200)</b>	<b>\$ 120,800</b>	

	90 days
Projected Beginning Cash 7/1/19	\$ 385,000
Use of Reserves for FY 19/20 Budget	\$ (73,200)
<b>Projected Ending Cash 6/30/19</b>	<b>\$ 311,800</b>
90 Days Operating Reserve Target	\$ 198,000
<b>(Under)/Over Reserves</b>	<b>\$ 113,800</b>

# Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Robert Hargreaves, General Counsel  
**Date:** June 27, 2019  
**Re:** Election of Salton Sea Authority Officers (effective July 1, 2019)  
**CM No.** V.B – 06-27-2019

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The following guidelines are provided from the Salton Sea Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Bylaws (December 2016 update):

- 3.1 Officers: The officers of the Authority shall consist of the President, Vice-President Secretary, and Treasurer, each of whom shall be selected from the voting members of the Board of Directors
- 3.2 Term of Office: The term for all officers shall be one (1) year.
- 3.3 Election of Officers: The Authority shall elect, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, its officers at its last meeting of the fiscal year, and at such other times as there may be a vacancy in any office.
- 3.4 Rotation of Officers: It shall be a policy of the Board to encourage rotation of the offices among the Board members.
- 8.1 The fiscal year of the Authority shall be from July 1 to June 30, following.

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Currently-seated officers are:

	<u>Current:</u>	<u>Agency:</u>	<u>Assumed Office:</u>
President	Thomas Torte, Jr.	Torres Martinez	June 28, 2018
Vice President	Cástulo R. Estrada	CVWD	June 28, 2018
Treasurer	Luis A. Plancarte *	Imperial County	January 24, 2019
Secretary	Alex Cardenas **	IID	January 24, 2019

Dear Salton Sea Authority Director,

This worksheet is provided for your use in preparing for the reorganization of officers:

<u>Office:</u>	<u>Current:</u>	<u>Agency:</u>	<u>Assumed Office:</u>	<u>Nominee:</u>
President	Thomas Torte, Jr.	Torres Martinez	June 28, 2018	_____
Vice President	Cástulo R. Estrada	CVWD	June 28, 2018	_____
Treasurer	Luis A. Plancarte *	Imperial County	January 24, 2019	_____
Secretary	Alex Cardenas **	IID	January 24, 2019	_____

\* Director Plancarte finished Director Ortega's term as Treasurer

\*\* Director Cardenas finished Director Renison's term as Secretary

**Selection Pool:**

Thomas Torte, President	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla
Altrena Santillanes, Director	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla
Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice President	Coachella Valley Water District
G. Patrick O'Dowd, Director	Coachella Valley Water District
Luis A. Plancarte, Treasurer **	Imperial County
Ryan E. Kelley, Director	Imperial County
Alex Cardenas, Secretary *	Imperial Irrigation District
James C. Hanks, Director	Imperial Irrigation District
V. Manuel Perez, Director	Riverside County
Jeff Hewitt, Director	Riverside County

**By-laws policy:**

- Rotation of Officers: It shall be a policy of the Board to encourage rotation of the offices among the Board members.

**Traditional practice:**

- Office of President alternates between North and South representation annually
- Each director moves up one step, President steps down
- At least one signatory for SSA checks and bank transactions is typically located in the Coachella Valley to facilitate the conduction of routine business.



# Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director  
**Date:** June 27, 2019  
**Re:** SSA Resolutions Updating Signatories on SSA Bank Accounts  
**CM No.** V.C – 06-27-2019

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## **BACKGROUND:**

At the June 27, 2019 Salton Sea Authority (SSA) Board meeting, new officers are being elected to the Board, which necessitates a change in signatories on the SSA bank accounts.

The banks require a copy of a resolution from the Board to authorize the new signatories on Salton Sea Authority's accounts and to remove all prior signatories.

SSA's bylaws state that the Treasurer shall be the depository of funds. Traditionally, the President, Vice-President, and GM/Executive Director have additionally been designated as signatories to ensure availability of two signatories, as required, at any given time.

The attached proposed resolutions include the President \_\_\_\_\_, the Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_, the Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_, and GM/Executive Director Phil Rosentrater as signatories, and the removal of any others who might remain in the bank's records. *(Names to be written in on the resolutions, as these positions will have been filled at this same SSA Board meeting.)*

Attached please find proposed Salton Sea Authority Resolutions number 19-07, 19-08, and 19-09 (one for each bank) entitled, "Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority Designating Officials Authorized to Sign Warrants and Checks, Transfer Funds, and Access Safe Deposit Box," for your consideration, which update the signatories to show the new President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the GM/Executive Director as signatories.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board approve SSA Resolutions No. 19-07, 19-08, and 19-09 entitled, "Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority Designating Officials Authorized to Sign Warrants and Checks, Transfer Funds, and Access Safe Deposit Box."

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater  
GM/Executive Director



**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY  
RESOLUTION NO. 19-07**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY DESIGNATING OFFICIALS  
AUTHORIZED TO SIGN WARRANTS AND CHECKS,  
TRANSFER FUNDS, AND ACCESS SAFE DEPOSIT BOX**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority (Authority), assembled in regular meeting this 27th day of June 2019, that Rabobank is instructed to honor Authority warrants or checks written on accounts in the name of the Salton Sea Authority executed by any two of the following designated officials:

\_\_\_\_\_, President; \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President;  
\_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer; and Phil Rosentrater, General Manager/Executive  
Director; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Rabobank is instructed to honor any transfer of funds by means of written instructions by order of any two designated officials:

\_\_\_\_\_, President; \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President;  
\_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer; and Phil Rosentrater, General Manager/Executive  
Director; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all warrants and checks, and instructions to transfer funds will require at least one original signature of those persons herein defined; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the second signature for warrants and checks, and instructions to transfer funds may be an original signature or a facsimile signature (stamp); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Rabobank is instructed to honor access to safe deposit box(es) executed by any two of the following designated officials:

\_\_\_\_\_, President; \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President;  
\_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer; and Phil Rosentrater, General Manager/Executive  
Director; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that prior authorizations to sign warrants and checks, transfer funds and access safe deposit box(es) are hereby rescinded; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Secretary is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this resolution to Rabobank.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, President  
Salton Sea Authority

STATE OF CALIFORNIA     )  
  ) ss.  
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY    )

I, Linda Seroy, Board Secretary/Administrative Assistant of the Salton Sea Authority, a Joint Powers Agency of the State of California, do hereby attest that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 19-07 adopted by the Board of Directors of said Salton Sea Authority at a regular meeting thereof duly held and convened on the 27th day of June 2019, at which meeting a quorum of said Board was present and acting throughout.

Dated this 27th day of June 2019.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Seroy  
Board Secretary/Administrative Assistant  
Salton Sea Authority



**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY  
RESOLUTION NO. 19-08**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY DESIGNATING OFFICIALS  
AUTHORIZED TO SIGN WARRANTS AND CHECKS,  
TRANSFER FUNDS, AND ACCESS SAFE DEPOSIT BOX**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority (Authority), assembled in regular meeting this 27th day of June 2019, that Pacific Western Bank is instructed to honor Authority warrants or checks written on accounts in the name of the Salton Sea Authority executed by any two of the following designated officials:

\_\_\_\_\_, President; \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President;  
\_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer; and Phil Rosentrater, General Manager/Executive  
Director; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Pacific Western Bank is instructed to honor any transfer of funds by means of written instructions by order of any two designated officials:

\_\_\_\_\_, President; \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President;  
\_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer; and Phil Rosentrater, General Manager/Executive  
Director; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all warrants and checks, and instructions to transfer funds will require at least one original signature of those persons herein defined; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the second signature for warrants and checks, and instructions to transfer funds may be an original signature or a facsimile signature (stamp); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Pacific Western Bank is instructed to honor access to safe deposit box(es) executed by any two of the following designated officials:

\_\_\_\_\_, President; \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President;  
\_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer; and Phil Rosentrater, General Manager/Executive  
Director; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that prior authorizations to sign warrants and checks, transfer funds and access safe deposit box(es) are hereby rescinded; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Secretary is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this resolution to Pacific Western Bank.





**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY  
RESOLUTION NO. 19-09**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY DESIGNATING OFFICIALS  
AUTHORIZED TO SIGN WARRANTS AND CHECKS,  
TRANSFER FUNDS, AND ACCESS SAFE DEPOSIT BOX**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority (Authority), assembled in regular meeting this 27th day of June 2019, that Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) is instructed to honor Authority warrants or checks written on accounts in the name of the Salton Sea Authority executed by any two of the following designated officials:

\_\_\_\_\_, President; \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President;  
\_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer; and Phil Rosentrater, General Manager/Executive  
Director; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that LAIF is instructed to honor any transfer of funds by means of written instructions by order of any two designated officials:

\_\_\_\_\_, President; \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President;  
\_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer; and Phil Rosentrater, General Manager/Executive  
Director; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all warrants and checks, and instructions to transfer funds will require at least one original signature of those persons herein defined; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the second signature for warrants and checks, and instructions to transfer funds may be an original signature or a facsimile signature (stamp); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that LAIF is instructed to honor access to safe deposit box(es) executed by any two of the following designated officials:

\_\_\_\_\_, President; \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President;  
\_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer; and Phil Rosentrater, General Manager/Executive  
Director; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that prior authorizations to sign warrants and checks, transfer funds and access safe deposit box(es) are hereby rescinded; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Secretary is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this resolution to LAIF.

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[illegible]

I, Linda Seroy, Board Secretary/Administrative Assistant of the Salton Sea Authority, a Joint Powers Agency of the State of California, do hereby attest that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 19-09 adopted by the Board of Directors of said Salton Sea Authority at a regular meeting thereof duly held and convened on the 27th day of June 2019, at which meeting a quorum of said Board was present and acting throughout.

Dated this 27th day of June 2019.

Linda Seroy  
Board Secretary/Administrative Assistant  
Salton Sea Authority

# Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director  
**Date:** June 27, 2019  
**Re:** Consider Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees  
**CM No.** V.D – 06-27-2019

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**Salton Sea Authority Ad Hoc Committees**  
Assignments Effective: **July 1, 2019**

The SSA JPA states: “The Commission or the Chairman may establish such committees as from time to time are deemed necessary as good for the Authority.”

- ❖ **Executive:** **Chair – President \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_**
  - Review policies and procedure as requested by staff.
  - Review legislative proposals (Federal/State platforms).
  - Review new programs and projects initiated by staff.
  - Confer with General Manager regarding general activities of the Authority, as required.
- ❖ **Finance:** **Chair – Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_, members Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_, and Director \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - Review the budget (proposed and current mid-year and yearly)
  - Periodic review of bank statements, accounts payable and receivable, etc., and insurance and contractual commitments.
  - Review procedures and practices of accounting.
  - Review of audits and reports.
- ❖ **Personnel:** **Chair – Secretary \_\_\_\_\_, members President \_\_\_\_\_, and Director \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - Review updated employee manual and procedures.
  - Review employee labor compliance and contractual commitments
  - Review and suggest alternative solutions to personnel issues – as requested by Board and General Manager.
  - Review job descriptions, employee needs, and compensation with General Manager
- ❖ **Projects Committee:** **Chair - President \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-Chair – Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_, members Director \_\_\_\_\_, and Director \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - Review current projects including their status, pending contracts or identified issues of concern.
  - Coordinate interagency cooperative planning to assure project outcomes are beneficial to all concerned
  - As requested or appropriate, attend outside meetings.
  - Review and advise staff of member agencies of the impacts Authority projects may have in relation to member agencies’ programs and operations.



# Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director  
**Date:** June 27, 2019  
**Re:** Consider Appointment of *ad hoc* Selection Committee to expedite proposal review and selection of final candidate for state advocacy services  
**CM No.** V.E – 06-27-2019

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## **GENERAL:**

The SSA Board at its May meeting directed the General Manager to pursue professional advocacy support in Sacramento for the primary purpose of expediting release of \$20 M in Prop 68 funds to the SSA for SSMP projects, as provided in the voter-approved Prop 68 bond.

The GM duly consulted with legal counsel and the Executive Committee of the SSA Board to develop an appropriate job announcement and procedure for selection within the time constraints before the June 27 SSA board meeting. The Scope of Work is simple and straightforward, as recommended by the SSA board, and the term is limited to the time remaining in legislative session prior to Governor's last day to veto (Oct 13). The timeline is compressed, but still fits within acceptable state and SSA parameters for notification, response, review and selection.

SSA staff expedited circulation of the request for proposal through the SSA member agencies as well as posting to numerous professional services websites frequented by lobbying firms in Sacramento. Interested firms were to send their qualifications, experience and proposal with budget in electronic format to the SSA Board Secretary no later than Friday, June 21, 2019. The SSA Board Executive Committee further directed the GM to review the responses and provide recommendations to a Selection Committee to be established by the SSA board at its June 27 meeting. This Selection Committee will select a finalist with intent for GM to execute contract no later than July 12, 2019.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board appoint an *ad hoc* Selection Committee comprised of the Executive Committee and one other member of the SSA board, for the purpose of reviewing staff recommendation and selecting final candidate for state advocacy services to be contracted by the SSA.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater  
GM/Executive Director

❖ **ad hoc Selection Committee:** Chair – \_\_\_\_\_, members  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- Review responses to the RFP for SSA State Advocacy: Prop 68 \$20M.
- Select finalist with intent for GM to execute contract no later than July 12, 2019 for term ending prior to Governor's last day to veto (October 13).

# **Salton Sea Authority**

## ***General Manager/Executive Director Progress Report to the Board of Directors***

**June 27, 2019**

### **PURPOSE:**

- 1) Provide Salton Sea Authority (SSA) Board of Directors with an executive summary of progress toward essential objectives; and**
- 2) Provide accountability and perspective for staff performance.**

### **MISSION-CRITICAL OBJECTIVES FOR SSA (NEXT 6 MONTHS TO 1 YEAR):**

**Time is extremely short, funding limited, and staff focus is finite. While the SSA GM/Executive Director is committed to seizing every opportunity, and maximizing Return on Investment (ROI) on every dollar and all time invested, we recognize we cannot do everything in this complex assignment. Accordingly, the following top priority imperatives must be accomplished within this fiscal year:**

- ASSERT LOCAL LEADERSHIP: MAINTAIN LOCAL PRIORITIES IN PARTNERSHIP**
- INTEGRITY/PERFORMANCE: DEVELOP & DELIVER PROJECTS ON TIME, UNDER BUDGET**
- SECURE SIGNIFICANT FUNDING TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN/AROUND THE SEA**
- LAUNCH SELF-HELP REVENUE STRATEGIES: Develop projects and partnerships (local/state/federal & public/private) that will generate new investments/revenues Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (IFD/EIFD)**

### **LEADERSHIP**

#### **Administration**

The Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and staff continue to build administrative capacity to assert a leadership role overseeing a minimum of \$20 million in state funds (directly designated to SSA in Prop 68) for implementation of SSMP projects.

At the direction of the SSA Board, SSA management has taken steps to enhance state advocacy focused on securing additional funding for projects under purview of the SSA. The SSA Board will consider recommendations for firms responding to an RFP for service on a short term contract through the end of the legislative calendar.

In recognition of the approvals of major new federal funding opportunities (particularly the 2018 Farm Bill) that may be aligned with significant state funding dedicated to accomplishing SSMP projects, SSA management has also expanded capacity through a temp agency for grant and project delivery in partnership with member agencies, as well as state and federal entities.

SSA staff, working cooperatively with member agencies to provide outreach support to other local agencies and entities, has successfully secured broad support for the joint agency MOU calling for cooperative planning to develop a Perimeter Lake at Salton Sea. Every Salton Sea Authority member agency, along with every city in both Imperial and Coachella Valleys plus tribal councils have adopted a support position toward the inclusion of the Perimeter Lake in the state Salton Sea Management Plan (SSMP). In turn, the state of California now recognizes the Perimeter Lake as a positive inclusion in the SSMP, while also noting that additional funding will be needed to achieve full buildout of the SSMP.

Internal support for project management in conjunction with partner agencies is underway in anticipation of additional workload related to bond funds and other grant sources that can drive projects at the Sea.

Meanwhile, the Salton Sea Authority continues to work with stakeholders and staff from partner agencies and counterparts at state and federal levels to ensure technical coordination is happening as the SSMP plans take shape. In addition, SSA is coordinating interagency meetings for staff at local, state, and federal levels to ensure a unified local voice is maintained in efficient and effective advocacy for funding as well as project implementation.

## **DEVELOP REALISTIC REVITALIZATION STRATEGY**

### **Salton Sea Management Plan (SSMP) / 10-Year Plan / Stipulated Order**

Consistent with state law (AB 71), SSA is pursuing cooperation and consultation with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), to implement a revitalization plan for the Salton Sea as defined in the 10-Year Plan for the SSMP.

The State is concentrating effort is being its efforts to launch the most shovel-ready project in the state inventory for SSMP: Species Conservation Habitat (SCH), a 3770-acre wetlands project located at the New River.

The CNRA is recruiting staff to accelerate implementation of the SSMP 10-Year Plan. SSA Directors have requested state consideration for more staff to be recruited and placed in the Coachella and Imperial Valley areas to enhance efficiency and coordination.

SSA staff continues to meet with numerous community organizations and stakeholder groups to provide updates consistent with SSA board policy. As a result, unprecedented levels of consensus have developed on the shared conceptual project of the Perimeter Lake. County member agencies of SSA are continuing to support the joint county coordinated development of EIFD that can reinforce and accelerate public-private partnership investment at the Sea, leveraging the public infrastructure investments anticipated with the SSMP. The SSA and all of its member

agencies, as well as cities and tribes across the Salton basin, have also adopted Resolutions of Support for this collaborative approach.

The feasibility of an EIFD for Imperial County was introduced by Kosmont Consultants (working under contract with the Southern California Association of Governments) on behalf of Imperial County at a conference in April 2019 sponsored by the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation.

The EIFD rules call for investment in a specific defined infrastructure that establishes a clear nexus of benefit to the community or district that funds the infrastructure. The infrastructure associated with the Perimeter Lake, to be built in a manner that complements the state priorities and investment in SSMP, is identified as the primary project to be supported by local agencies and tribes throughout the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. This is entirely consistent with the letter and spirit of state law as expressed in AB 71 (Perez) and it is internally consistent with the SSMP 10-Year Plan which includes the SCH on New River and North Lake on Whitewater as the first and second major projects that can anchor a series of additional projects establishing a stable shoreline yielding a healthier and more prosperous Salton Sea in the long term.

These SSMP 10-Year Plan first-phase projects have been proposed by the state with the expectation that they can be constructed quickly, delivering multiple benefits of air quality improvement through playa coverage, and habitat restoration, while also enhancing economic development potential that builds long-term financial sustainability into the projects across the watershed.

SSMP inclusion of the stable shoreline anticipated in a Perimeter Lake represents a significant step toward establishing viable EIFD's in the respective county jurisdictions. Properly configured, the state funding deployed in Sea projects designed to create a stable shoreline would enhance economic benefits on shore – thus stimulating an otherwise nonexistent revenue stream that can be harnessed locally in partnership with the state and federal governments to address shared concerns at the Sea.

At the federal level, SSA and its member agencies are beginning to see signs of progress in seeking federal agency investments commensurate with property ownership and public trust and tribal trust responsibilities at the Sea.

SSA is committed to do its utmost to facilitate local, state and federal success in performance of the Stipulate Order SSMP 10-Year Plan as the first steps prerequisite to maintaining water security in California, in the southwestern US, and in Mexico.

## PERFORMANCE

### *Making good on grants for projects at the Sea*

#### **North Shore Yacht Club Harbor Rehabilitation: Research Vessel Access for mandated activity**

Harbors that once provided access to the Sea are now unable to continue that function due to lowered Sea elevations and silt drift that has blocked ingress/egress from the harbors.

In response to reports to the SSA Board by university research teams as well as federal agency reports that access points are compromised for research vessels required to fulfill state and federally mandated research on Salton Sea environmental conditions Sea, SSA staff has facilitated interagency cooperation to re-establish access via the North Shore Yacht Club.

In follow-up discussions with these parties, SSA staff identified a highly desirable option at the marina located at North Shore Yacht Club. The North Shore Yacht Club offers optimal access and a combination of amenities for this purpose found nowhere else around the Sea: safe and swift public access via state highway; an attractive, historically significant landmark facility offering clean restrooms, running water, air-conditioned meeting areas and ample parking. . In addition to the existing launch ramp and marina with a short fetch to the open Sea, the yacht club grounds feature an architectural attraction with picnic areas offering unparalleled views of the vast Salton Sea

With the assistance of the Salton Sea Authority, federal, state and local agencies have identified specific investments in maintenance and rehabilitation of infrastructure at the North Shore Yacht Club and marina facility that will restore critical access to the sea for these mandated environmental activities.

Staff from US Bureau of Reclamation are working with SSA and the Project Management Office at the Economic Development Agency of Riverside County (property owner) to further develop the cost and feasibility of dredging a channel at that location in order to meet the critical need for federal and state research vessels that are mandated to sample, monitor and report environmental conditions in the water and wildlife at the Sea.

While the Yacht Club functions as an active community center today, launch ramp access is compromised from accumulation of mud and silt blocking the ramp and marina area. The first phase of the proposed North Shore Yacht Club rehabilitation project will consist of cleaning debris from the ramp and clearing silt from the marina channel leading to the Salton Sea.

The North Shore Yacht Club is just two blocks from Highway 111, south of the community of Mecca in the former bustling recreational area of North Shore. This project will contribute to a restoration of mandated environmental functions of state and federal agencies while also

encouraging a general revitalization of the sea and land area around the North Shore Yacht Club owned by Riverside County.

The immediate goal of the project is to restore accessible boat launching to the Salton Sea for public agencies that must work on the sea. There is potential, with other added investments, to improve public access to the Sea for local communities and tourists who wish to experience the Salton Sea by either boat or safe, accessible picnic viewing areas on public land and facilities located at the historic North Shore Yacht Club.

### **DWR-Funded Grant -- Torres Martinez Wetlands Project (Phase 2)**

Progress to move forward on implementing the Phase 2 proposal for expansion of the TM Wetlands is pending installation of a seepage barrier requested by the TM project managers for both Phase 1 (retrofit) and Phase 2.

Staff discussion between state, SSA and Torrez Martinez partners remains focused upon resolution of operational delay in the completed Phase 1 project due to seepage concerns by tribal staff. Tribal project operators have noted that a viable seepage barrier can pay for itself over time by reducing operational costs for electricity (to run pumps) while also reducing maintenance costs by inhibiting growth of invasive plants and trees in the ponds.

SSA has identified additional grant resources to secure the seepage barrier which would otherwise exceed the scope and budget of the original Phase 2 proposal to the state. The seepage barrier, while costly up front, should reduce potential pumping burden required to offset seepage and evaporation losses.

Meanwhile, with the exception of the additional seepage barrier installation, the project at Phase 1 level has been found to be fully functional as designed and built.

As more projects and funding come online at the Salton Sea, this model for funding contracts for the SSA to implement final design and construction serves as an example of effective structure for implementing future projects at the Sea.

## **FUNDING**

### **State:**

- The SSA has requested guidance from CNRA regarding the process for defining projects eligible for state funding (\$20 Million) designated to the SSA for direct oversight role in implementing SSMP projects, as well as the potential \$10 million additional for treatment wetlands at the New River.

## **Federal:**

- In response to SSA Board direction to staff to raise the profile of Salton Sea issues in the context of federal roles, responsibilities and partnership opportunities, the SSA is working with its federal consultant to confirm commitments for additional hearings in Washington, DC, possibly in the Fall of 2019.
- Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) – In accord with SSA board direction, the SSA has requested ACOE cooperation in expediting permit processing for the larger series of SSMP projects based upon the existing federal permits approved as part of the state’s SCH project (the first major project moving ahead in the SSMP 10-Year Plan list). In addition, SSA is pursuing placement and funding for the ACOE Work Plan for upcoming budgets, and eventual access to WRDA authorization (\$30 million). The SSA is working with the TM Tribe in support of the Tribal Partnership Program that may provide Army Corps engagement in projects in the Salton Sea watershed on Torres Martinez tribal lands.
- US Department of Agriculture – Through the unified efforts among the SSA, its partner agencies and key stakeholders, existing programs in USDA have been successfully aligned to allow the federal government to work in partnership with tribes, irrigation districts and the state to deploy and expand federal match funds in projects at the Salton Sea that would help the agricultural community weather Sea changes in a manner that protects the environment. This enormous progress was achieved in part because every SSA Director along with leaders from stakeholder groups and the CNRA signed a series of joint letters to help reinforce successful passage of the Farm Bill last year. Now that funding has been secured, SSA and partner agencies are focused upon development and promotion of projects in the SSMP that will meet the eligibility requirements for this funding.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – WIFIA provides a federal loan and guarantee program that aims to accelerate investment in the nation’s water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects, including many county water infrastructure projects. Prospective borrowers seeking WIFIA credit assistance must submit a letter of interest (LOI) to EPA to initiate the process. Discussions are on-going among potential local partners in EIFD strategies for application in subsequent rounds of WIFIA.❏



## **SELF HELP STRATEGIES**

### **IFD/EIFD**

The SSA Board approved a resolution to recognize this historic level of local unity on the Perimeter Lake concept at the May 2019 board of directors meeting. The Perimeter Lake concept – which includes SCH and North Lake projects as the first and second steps (respectively) toward a series of additional projects providing the benefits of a stable shoreline – is universally supported by local governments around the Salton Sea. Both counties, all SSA member agencies, all cities in both Imperial and Coachella Valleys plus all major Tribal nations have approved letters or resolutions of support for the Perimeter Lake. As noted, the CNRA has officially included Perimeter Lake concepts of the SCH and North Lake in the SSMP 10-Year Plan. This unified action provides a major boost toward establishing viable EIFD's around the Salton Sea.

A Perimeter Lake designed to create a stable shoreline would deliver the essential state mitigations for environmental protection and habitat while enhancing economic development that can provide a more financially sustainable Sea in the future. Over time, EIFD's are expected to harness local revenues that would otherwise dissipate to the general fund of each county. A Salton Sea EIFD would instead direct a portion of these improved revenues to productive projects at the Salton Sea in potential partnership with private sector, as well as state and federal governments.

Riverside County and Imperial County are both moving ahead with strategies to generate local capital through EIFD scenarios that may jump-start infrastructure investments consistent with the SSMP. The counties, who are member agencies of the SSA, recognize the value of coordinating projects within the shared watershed that may be funded in part with locally leveraged finances.

Riverside County Board of Supervisors established an EIFD boundary to fund projects in October 2018. The District is a Riverside County portion surrounding a northern section of a Perimeter Lake extending into Imperial County. Riverside County Supervisors also appointed a finance board to oversee the funding. Approval by property owners within the EIFD is still required to fully activate the EIFD.

Imperial County has commissioned a feasibility analysis with the SoCal Association of Governments. This preliminary report was unveiled for public review at a workshop held prior to the SSA Board meeting in April, in conjunction with the Energy Summit sponsored by the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation.

SSA initiated preliminary action on IFD strategies by completing its contract – on time, and under budget – with the state Natural Resources Agency (as a result of AB 71) to identify potential revenue generated by improved property values and economic activity around the Sea due to

stable shoreline allowing recreation and renewable energy development. This data has been shared with the two counties as partner agencies of the SSA in order to expedite progress within their respective taxing jurisdictions.

The IFD concept in the SSA Financial Feasibility Action Plan assumes the primary benefits to the property values would be derived from infrastructure built in the sea that would create a stable shoreline with water distribution for dust control and deep-water habitat in addition to restored recreational value for marina communities and renewable energy development. A subsequent report by Tourism Economics, based on far more conservative assumptions, still supports the findings that significant revenues may be generated from a project that creates deep water habitat on the north end of the Sea.

The report assumes the in-sea infrastructure would: 1) protect existing and future communities from an emissive lakebed exposed by a shrinking sea and an otherwise receding shoreline; and 2) provide a shoreline with aquatic recreation on a scale that would draw tourists, recreationists, and additional residential or commercial investment that could meet a growing demand for services and amenities related to a recreational lake. A follow-up analysis by SCAG on renewable energy opportunities and land value improvement is anticipated in Imperial County.

The SSA will continue to cooperate and consult with county officials for the purpose of outlining a coordinated strategy and timeline for next steps that can accelerate local priorities in a manner consistent with state obligations and resources under the SSMP.