

Michael Cohen
Tue 6/23/2020 3:44 PM
To: Salton Sea Authority

To the Salton Sea Authority,

I have the following comment on
VI. ACTION ITEMS
B. Consideration of approval of FY 2020-21 budget

"Members of the Board of Directors, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

The proposed FY20/21 budget, on p. 24 of the agenda packet pdf, includes a \$95,800 *increase* to the Authority's operating reserve, exceeding the year-end operating reserve target by more than \$300,000.

Given repeated state delays, your interest in demonstrating leadership, and the urgent need to build projects at the Salton Sea, I strongly encourage you to dedicate this extra \$300,000 to work needed to start the North Lake Pilot Project.

This work includes hiring or contracting a project outreach coordinator, to meet with community members and other stakeholders to develop a clear set of goals and objectives. The new coordinator should also compile and post relevant information on the Authority website.

Using these existing funds, the Authority can get a head start on the project, rather than waiting for months for the state to complete its agreement and disburse the funds. Time has run out for the Salton Sea. I urge you to use your existing surplus funds, engage the community, work with stakeholders, and get started on a real North Lake plan."

Thank you,
Michael Cohen
Senior Associate
Pacific Institute