

July 13, 2020

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Subject: **“Public Comment, 7/15/20, Strategic Planning Session” – SSA’s Board Meeting - via Zoom Webinar**

Greetings, distinguish SSA’s Board Members:

1. I am thankful for the opportunity to submit the following comment that will demonstrate a need for you to **STOP promoting** and **supporting** the “Current Course of Action” – the **“Perimeter Lake”** and related projects - because the “Current Course of Action policy” **was/is** based on a **“FALSE” assumption** that importing seawater is **not a feasible** solution. Also, it **was/is** based on gaining some land on the southern part of the Lake for the **IID** to be used for geothermal and agricultural benefits.
2. I watched the last meeting via Zoom Webinar on June 25, 2020, and I was pleased to see Dr. Brownlie, Chief Engineer at Tetra-Tech, responding to the question of Director Patrick O’Dowd and Chairman Estrada about quality of water (paraphrasing) “Can you summarize for us - what to expect at the end of the project? - Mr. Brownlie answered: **“Boating, Fishing, NO Swimming”**. That short answer **explains everything**.
 3. **“NO Swimming”** means the Lake will be **polluted**. Everyone with common sense knows that.
 4. **That is the opposite of what I am proposing.**
 5. Mr. Brownlie also reinstated that the Lake will be supplied with runoff water from nearby farmland.
 6. **In my proposal, North and South Lakes are supplied with water from the canal and my calculations are in harmony with the QSA. Central Lake will be clean seawater.**

I noticed that some of you try to **infuse** the concept of **North Lake** as part of the concept of the **Perimeter Lake** from 2003. The illustrations of the presentation of Mr. Brownlie are very **clear** – showing accepted (current) version of Perimeter Lake in 2016, - as was the testimony of Mr. Brian Nastande, Deputy Executive Officer, Riverside County (in the previous Webinar) - that the discussion about North Lake started in **2018** relevant to **Prop 68**. We all know that – it was in the press and TV - it was not too long ago. Those who try to change it now, for whatever reasoning they have, participate in **illegal conduct**.

7. Also, I noticed that some of you **want to play** an **Architect**. That is **nice**, but I would suggest to you - to go first to school for 5-6 years. Some talent is **necessary** too.

8. Also, as you know, there is a difference between a **Civil Engineer** and an **Architect**, as there is between a **Dentist** and **Podiatrist**, as there is between a **Surgeon** and a **Butcher**, although they all might be good people and the “experts” in their fields.

9. I want to **reinstate** that since 2013, there is a **FEASIBLE** plan (my design) for **saving** and **restoring** the Salton Sea - **despite** the statement of Director Patrick O’Dowd that my plan is **not** feasible. I wonder how he and a few others come to such evaluation by reading only the “cover page” or not reading it at all. I never receive a single question from any of you in 7-years. That is an **arrogant** and **unprofessional** evaluation.

10. I want to remind you **again** that when you start using **common sense** – and when your **objective** becomes “**saving**” and “**restoring**” the Salton Sea - **instead** of “**destroying**” it - please let me know – I am willing to **help**.

11. **In the meantime** - please - **do not** “**butcher**” my well-documented design.

12. It is **imperative** that the Salton Sea be **saved**, and **restored**, for our and the **future** generations.

Sincerely,

Nikola Lakic,
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