



Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2020
10:00 a.m.

via Zoom Webinar



AGENDA: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DATE: Thursday, September 17, 2020
10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Via Zoom Webinar

In the interest of public health, and in cooperation with government COVID-19 meeting recommendations, this meeting will be conducted via Zoom Webinar. The public will be able to view the meeting live at 10:00 September 17. Please see the meeting login information at <http://saltonseaauthority.org/ssa-board-of-directors-meeting-16>.

I. CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

A copy of the complete agenda packet is available for viewing or download at: <http://saltonseaauthority.org/ssa-board-of-directors-meeting-16/>

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

To ensure that members of the public have an opportunity to be heard before the Salton Sea Authority Board pursuant to State Law, a Public Comment period is included at the beginning of every agenda. This Public Comments time is reserved for matters not already on the agenda. Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Board relating to any matter within the Authority’s jurisdiction.

Additionally, citizens are invited to comment on any item listed on the agenda, after the presentation of that item. Comments will be read at the presentation of that item.

Please email your public comment c/o SSA’s Board Secretary at info@ssajpa.org (subject line “Public Comment, 9/17/20 SSA board meeting”), or hand-deliver your comment, in an envelope addressed to “Board Secretary, Salton Sea Authority” to the security officer at the public defenders’ office at 82995 Highway 111, Suite 200, Indio, CA 92201 (downstairs, glass entry next to the statue of justice at the west end of the building) by Wednesday morning, September 16, to be read aloud during the board meeting. A mail slot is available at the above address for dropping off comments before or after office hours.

In your comment, please include your name and address (addresses will be redacted), and the agenda item number and topic to which your question or comment applies – or whether it is for this general public comment section. (Anonymous comments will not be read.)

The law prohibits members of the Board from taking action on matters not on the agenda.

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

III. 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.

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

- A. Minutes of June 25, 2020 SSA Board Meeting
- B. Minutes of July 15, 2020 SSA Strategic Planning Meeting
- C. Warrant Register Ratifications for June, July, and August 2020
- D. Internal Financial Report for 7/01/2019 – 6/30/2020
- E. Internal Financial Report for 07/01/2020-7/31/2020

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. CNRA update on the SSMP Dust Suppression Plan – Evon Willhoff and Jacob Kollen, CNRA
- B. Net-gain/Net-loss of Shoreline Habitats: observations of shoreline changes and bird species richness in the central and north sections of Salton Sea, 2014-2020 – Robert McKernan, Oasis Bird Observatory, San Bernardino County Museum
- C. New River Improvement Plan: Progress in CEQA Approvals – Miguel Figueroa, Calexico Assistant City Manager
- D. Presentation of leadership recognition plaque to Director Castulo Estrada (*see attached*)

VI. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Consider Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees (*see attached*)

VII. REPORTS

- A. General Manager’s Report on Activities – (Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority) (*see attached*)
- B. Standing Reports from Federal and State Partners
 - 1. STATE:
 - a. Salton Sea Management Program – Gail Sevens, Salton Sea Program Manager, California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
 - b. State Advocacy Report – (Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies)
 - 2. FEDERAL:
 - a. US Bureau of Reclamation – (Genevieve Johnson, Program Manager for the Salton Sea)
 - b. Federal Activities – (Lisa Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation)
- 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)

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Government Code Section 54957: Public Employment; Title General Manager

IX. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Thursday, October 22, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Zoom

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

June 25, 2020

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 Castulo Estrada, President, at 10:10 a.m., Thursday, June 25, 2020, via Zoom webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Estrada led the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Cástulo R. Estrada, President
Alex Cárdenas, Vice President
Luis A. Plancarte, Secretary
V. Manuel Perez, Treasurer
James C. Hanks, Director
Ryan E. Kelley, Director
Thomas Torte, Director
G. Patrick O’Dowd, Director
Altrena Santillanes, Director
Jeff Hewitt, Director
Arturo Delgado, Ex-Officio Member

AGENCY

Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Imperial County
Riverside County
Imperial Irrigation District
Imperial County
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Coachella Valley Water District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Riverside County
California Natural Resources Agency

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.

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Thirty-three members of the public attended via Zoom webinar.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

With the meeting being held remotely via Zoom in cooperation with government COVID-19 meeting recommendations, the public was invited, via pre-meeting email and via posting of the agenda publicly at the office and on the saltonseaauthority.org website, to comment via email or by dropping off their comments at the office.

Three comments were received by email – two for this section, one for item 6B (SSA Budget). SSA staff read the comments to the attendees:

- A. Nikola Lakic, Geothermal Worldwide, expressed his concerns over Salton Sea Authority's support of the Perimeter Lake concept and pointed to his proposal as the best solution.
- B. Rebecca Zaragoza, Leadership Counsel, submitted a comment from Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute, on behalf of a coalition of environmental justice and non-governmental organizations confirming their support of a North Lake concept and suggesting leadership and public engagement steps for the SSA to take.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- A. Chairman Estrada thanked Leadership Counsel and Mr. Cohen for the letter and for organizing the meeting a few weeks ago. SSA gave them an update. State legislators and Governor approved state bond funds and general funds for two projects around the Sea that the SSA is to develop in consultation with the CNRA. He is eager to for SSA to get started on implementing multiple benefit projects associated with deep water habitat, recreational opportunity and economic incentives all captured as part of a 156-acre project on the northern part of the Perimeter Lake. He also congratulated local Sahara Huazano on her appointment to the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board and looks forward to working with her.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR – Receive, Approve, and File

- A. Minutes of May 21, 2020
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for May 2020
- C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2019 – 4/30/2020
- D. Consider changing date of September 24 SSA board meeting due to ACWA conflict

There was some discussion about the change of meeting date. Dr. Hanks has a scheduling conflict for the new date.

Director Plancarte moved that the Consent Calendar be approved. Seconded by Director Cardenas. Carried via roll-call vote with yes votes by Directors Estrada, Tortez, Plancarte, Cardenas, Perez, O'Dowd, Santillanes, Kelley, and Hewitt, and one "no" vote by Director Hanks.

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Overview of Perimeter Lake Concept

Bill Brownlie, of Tetra Tech, gave an historical overview showing the evolution of the perimeter lake concept from 2001 to the present and reviewed irrigation for emissive areas, North Lake concept, proposed demonstration/pilot project, and advantages to Imperial County and Riverside County.

There was a great deal of discussion after the presentation.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Consider request for state EPA action on planning for New River

SSA staff drafted a letter for board consideration to elevate the New River issue to the attention of the California Secretary of Environment, asking the Secretary to provide the California-Mexico Border Relations Council (Council) with revised New River recommendations to include updated infrastructure and related elements that would provide for the full treatment of polluted New River waters.

Chairman Estrada invited a motion to approve. Director Perez so moved. Seconded by Director Cardenas. Unanimously carried via roll-call vote of those present. Director Hanks was not present at this time.

B. Consideration of approval of FY 2020-21 budget

At the May board meeting, the board had sent the budget back to the ad hoc finance committee for further consideration to bring back budget proposals that would reduce the budget and the member agency contributions. At the June meeting the committee presented revised budgets – one showing a 10% reduction and one showing a 25% reduction – with the committee's recommendation to approve the 10%-reduction budget.

There was much discussion.

Michael Cohen of Pacific Institute presented a public comment (read by SSA staff) recommending that the SSA dedicate its operating reserve to work needed to start the North Lake Pilot Project to get a head start on the project.

Director Estrada invited a motion to approve the budget reflecting a 10% reduction from last year's budget. Director Perez moved that the 10%-reduction budget be approved. Seconded by Director Hewitt.

Carried via roll-call vote:

Yes: Directors Estrada, Tortez, Perez, O’Dowd, Santillanes, Hewitt.

No: Directors Plancarte, Director Cardenas (for himself and for Director Hanks who was having technical difficulties), Director Kelley.

Director Perez appreciated the comments by the board members from the south – they were well taken, and efforts to see what additional cuts could be made should be considered. SSA GM/Executive Director Phil Rosentrater thanked the board of directors for their support.

C. SSA Board Consideration of Appointments for FY 2020-2021

The chairman opened the floor to the SSA GM/Executive Director who outlined the process to elect board members to fill officer positions effective July 1, 2020.

The officers can be elected individually or by slate. Director O’Dowd favored electing individually.

1. Officers of the SSA Board (effective July 1, 2020)

- Election of President of Board
 - Director O’Dowd nominated **Director Cardenas as president**. Seconded by Director Cardenas.
 - Director Kelley asked that they fill in the names for each position before taking the roll call vote.
- Election of Vice-President of Board
 - Director Estrada nominated **Director Perez as vice-president** to keep the north-south rotation between vice-president and president. Seconded by Director O’Dowd.
- Election of Secretary of Board
 - Director O’Dowd nominated **Director Plancarte** for his choice of secretary or treasurer. Director Plancarte accepted remaining in his current position as **secretary** to fix the north-south rotation for now.
- Election of Treasurer of Board
 - Director Plancarte nominated **Director Santillanes as treasurer** to keep the north-south cycle going. Seconded by Director O’Dowd.

*Director Kelley moved to accept the full slate. **Seconded** by Director O’Dowd. **Unanimously carried** via roll call vote (including Director Hanks who had returned to the meeting).*

2. Ad Hoc Committee Assignments

Director O’Dowd asked Counsel whether ad hoc committee assignments were at the pleasure of the chair or the approval of the board. Counsel responded that as he recalled, the chair makes the appointments subject to the approval of the board.

Chairman Estrada asked the GM to discuss ad hoc committee assignments with the new chair to bring back at the next meeting. Several board members voiced their approval of this suggestion.

- D. Consider approval of resolutions updating signatories on SSA's bank accounts
1. Res. No. 20-01 Pacific Western Bank
 2. Res. No. 20-02 Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)

Director O'Dowd moved that both resolutions updating both bank accounts be approved. Seconded by Director Cardenas. Unanimously carried via roll-call vote.

VII. REPORTS

A. General Manager's Report on Activities

SSA GM Phil Rosentrater's report is in the board packet. He invited questions by the board and commented on the progress over the years and the opportunities before SSA and thanked the board for their leadership and willingness to work in solidarity in partnership with the state and the federal government to get us where we are at this point.

B. Standing Reports from Federal and State Partners

1. STATE:

a. Salton Sea Management Program

Gail Sevrens, Salton Sea Program Manager, California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, working closely with the CNRA and the Department of Water Resources and CARB, gave an update on the three phases of the SSMP 10-Year Plan and on engagement and staffing.

b. State Advocacy Report

Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies, reported that the final agreement on the state budget was announced and that the \$28 million for the New River Improvement Project and the \$19 million for the northern phase of the perimeter lake remain intact in the budget. The governor will likely sign next Monday or Tuesday. It looks promising that SSA will receive the full investment.

There is also interest in moving forward with a recovery bond this year and there is strong interest in making sure that the Salton Sea is included in that bond.

State jobs program. Will want to make sure that the job potential of the south end of the Sea is included – particularly as it relates to lithium – is reflected in that concept.

Chairman Estrada thanked Mr. Gonzales for his work and effort on behalf of the SSA. A year ago, it was SSA's purpose to engage advocates to get the state to release the money. Congratulations to Mr. Gonzales and those in the meeting who all had a role in this success.

2. FEDERAL:

a. US Bureau of Reclamation

Genevieve Johnson, Program Manager for the Salton Sea, was present but had no report.

b. Federal Activities

Lisa Moore Lehman, of Cultivating Conservation, reported on next steps for the New River, including follow-up with EPA for updated wastewater treatment plan.

Congressman Ruiz has drafted an amendment that would include disadvantaged communities and communities suffering from significant public health impacts.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Estrada moved to adjourn. Director Plancarte requested (as requested by Mr. Juan DeLara) that the adjournment be in memory of Al Kalin, a long-term Salton Sea supporter, very involved in the community for many years. Chairman Estrada agreed and invited further comments. There being no further comments, Chairman Estrada invited a motion to adjourn.

So moved by Director Perez, seconded by Director Cardenas, and unanimously carried.
The meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 12:00-5:00 p.m.
Strategic Planning Session, Location TBD



Thursday, September 17, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
via Zoom



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
July 15, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting (Strategic Planning Session) of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority” or “SSA”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by Alex Cardenas, President, at 12:06 p.m., July 15, 2020, Via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Cardenas led the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Alex Cardenas, President***
V. Manuel Perez, Vice-Chair*
Altrena Santillanes, Treasurer
Luis Plancarte, Secretary
Thomas Tortez, Director
Cástulo Estrada, Director
G. Patrick O’Dowd, Director
Jeff Hewitt, Director**

AGENCY

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

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.

** V. Manuel Perez, Vice-Chair joined the meeting at 12:17 p.m.*

*** Jeff Hewitt, Director joined the meeting at 12:30 p.m.*

**** Alex Cardenas, President left at 1:50 p.m.*

DIRECTORS ABSENT

James C. Hanks, Director
Ryan E. Kelley, Director

AGENCY

Imperial Irrigation District
County of Imperial

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

AGENCY

Jessica Schroeder	CNRA
Steve Bigley	CVWD
Emmanuel Martinez	IID
Tony Quiroz	TM Tribe
Patricia Leal	Alianza-KDI
Alan Pace	Petra, Inc
Michael Cohen	Pacific Institute
Felicia Sirchia	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Jasmyn Phillips	EcoMedia Compass
Jim Barrett	CVWD
Fernanda Mercado	<u>Comité Cívico del Valle, Inc. (CCV)</u>
Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter	County of Imperial
Miguel Hernandez	CCV Health
Juan De Lara	SSMP
Kathy Eiler	UCR
Tom Levy	Interested Party
Kristen Johnson	CVWD
B. Daniels	CVWD
Eric Hanscom	ICIP Law
Frank Ruiz	Audubon
Vickie Doyle	IID
Robbie Cordes	
Marilyn Fogel	UCR
Rebecca Zaragoza	Leadership Counsel
Morgan Snyder	Walton Foundation
Adam Kurland	
Tom Sephton	Sephton Water Tech
Nicola Lakic	Geothermal Worldwide, Inc
Jonathan Nye	UCR
Kurt Schwabe	UCR
Pat Cooper	Deputy Chief of Staff, Supervisor Perez

II. DISCUSSION REGARDING STRATEGIC VISION

A. Introductions & Workshop Overview

1. Goals, Desired Outcomes and Ground Rules:

The Salton Sea Authority GM/Executive Director Phil Rosentrater opened the session by discussing areas of board consensus that have established progress toward financial strategies that integrate infrastructure investments at the Salton Sea with multiple benefits that promote a sustainable financial future building upon the first steps of the Perimeter Lake to include Species Conservation Habitat (SCH), North Lake, and the New River Improvement Project. He then introduced

facilitator Debra Williams, President of Higher Ground International management consulting firm. Ms. Williams provided an overview of the process to follow up on the SSA board strategic planning that was launched in November 2019, Debra's goal is to develop a 3-year plan from 2020-2023 so that she can assist the board in defining and prioritizing strategic direction for the Salton Sea Authority to create annual goals and objectives.

B. Review of SSA strategic vision and key consensus actions (SSA GM/Executive Director)

1. Perimeter Lake – Overview, current status, unified resolutions of support:

Mr. Rosentrater gave a quick refresher on the points of consensus. A few years ago, there were Salton Sea Authority member agencies that were separated from each other with inter-agency lawsuits that prevented the kinds of integrated planning and forward momentum that is necessary for something that is as complex as the Salton Sea. Authority members have realized shared success by leaving long standing disagreements outside the room and focusing on those issues that can, should, and must be resolved together. That approach has worked over and over again at the Salton Sea Authority, utilizing the Guiding Principles.

2. EIFD – Overview and updates

Mr. Rosentrater introduced Seth Merewitz, of Best, Best & Krieger. The concept of the Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District has been part of a financial strategic plan at SSA for a decade or more, starting with Senator David Kelley introducing it as special legislation specifically for the Salton Sea Authority. This tool is very similar to how a redevelopment agency operates. Riverside County has enormous expertise in this area, having financed and built libraries, parks, community centers, fire stations, hospitals. Almost anything that brings additional benefits to a community in the county over the past 15 years has been financed through this mechanism. It works.

Mr. Merewitz gave a presentation on the EIFD. Public Infrastructure Funding is designed for projects that have a useful life of 15 years or more, and has been used for transportation, transit, water reclamation, water treatment and management and economic development. It allows multiple funding sources, tax increment financing, loans, grants, bonds assessments and fees. The financing works with multiple public agencies such as cities and counties that have the ability to work with each other.

Vice Chair V. Manuel Perez asked if Mr. Merewitz could explain the P3 before the P4 concept. Mr. Merewitz explained the difference.

Chairman Cardenas, of IID, commented that the overall reason for having this presentation is for consideration and incorporation into SSA's Strategic Plan. He invited perspective from SSA's state and federal consultants along with the board and both Supervisors from Riverside and Imperial Counties. Chairman Cardenas observed that the SSA could champion this strategy as part of the agency strategic planning.

Vice Chair V. Manuel Perez specified that EIFD is a complex issue and system, with the tax increments and how it works. He said it is fairly new, even though the

state legislature passed it some time ago. Riverside passed a policy and ordinance to agree to support the concept of the EIFD within the county of Riverside for the purpose of the Salton Sea, specific to the Perimeter Lake and specific to the North Lake concept model or pilot projects moving forward. The first meeting at the North Shore Beach & Yacht Club where the concept was presented tried to educate the people on how the EIFD works as a financing tool. Now that the state has approved funding for the New River and the North Lake concept, SSA and the county EIFD partners can meaningfully engage with the public on their ideas.

Director Hewitt, County of Riverside, said if we can get the pilot project going like the state said they would do, we can sell it as a marketing tool. If they see dirt being moved with a small pilot project with recreational uses obviously it's going to sell.

Director Plancarte commented that EIFD is a tool he would love to incorporate into SSA's overall Strategic Plans.

Director Estrada had no comments.

Director Tortez confirmed his support.

State consultant to SSA, Oracio Gonzalez, observed that EIFD generates local revenue – an approach that helped SSA secure state bond funding for the Sea.

Federal consultant to SSA Lisa Moore-Lehman stated that EIFD is a very critical component with the Federal team, particularly the Northern Lake Project that will generate revenue streams on shore as a result of public infrastructure investments in the water parallel to the shore.

Chairman Cardenas specified there is a unanimous consensus and plenty of content to incorporate the concept into the SSA Strategic Plan.

3. WIFIA – Overview & updates

Phil Rosentrater opened by stating that this is a very encouraging discussion today. He introduced Lowry Crook, federal consultant with Best Best & Krieger, to provide an overview on the WIFIA program.

SSA federal consultant Lisa Moore-Lehman explained WIFIA is a low interest loan program, where one party would come forward with 51% non-federal match and the remaining 49% would be financed through EPA.

Lowry Crook stated that each year the EPA issues a 3-month Notice of Availability (NOA). If parties wish to complete the application, it requires a letter of intent. Currently EPA has budgeted \$6 billion in WIFIA loans which equals \$12 billion in projects.

Phil Rosentrater reminded the board that SSA is in partnership with the state. A letter of intent was submitted, the EPA staff reviewed and stated that, from the standpoints of mission critical and technical feasibility, the Salton Sea submittal was the best in the entire application process nationwide.

Arturo Delgado, CNRA, specified the State would support this proposal to supplement State funding.

III. NEXT STEPS

A. Board discussion: Aligning policy and resources to leverage beneficial outcomes

GM Rosentrater turned the discussion over to facilitator Debra Williams. She specified that this was a great discussion. Everything that has been done will help to define some goals related to financing.

B. Consideration of Strategic Plan Recommendations for Action

1. Federal Recommendations

GM Rosentrater introduced this item. The SSA board has adopted Federal and State legislative platforms with guidance from Lisa Moore and Lowry Crook;

Lisa Moore and Lowry Crook provided a recap of the November workshop on Federal responsibility to the Salton Sea. There has been a lot of progress since the November Strategic Annual meeting. Some of the key points were:

- Very strong Congressional support for a Federal Salton Sea role on par with the state role; A strong federal partnership with SSA and the state is critical to completing the 10-year SSMP plan and formulating a long-term plan.
- Congressman Ruiz has drafted legislation to provide for many of the mandatory obligations SSA outlined in November, which have been delayed by Covid shutdown.
- \$8 million in Federal USDA pilot project funding has been secured through competitive processes by Cultivating Conservation on behalf of the SSA and partners like the State of California.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has also taken the expedited SSMP review approach advocated by SSA.

Some of the SSA's Priorities for The New River, where there was key progress made in the state budget to fully fund \$28 million to the New River Improvement Project in Calexico, \$10 million of this state bond funding is provided through the Salton Sea Authority; Also, the North Lake and Perimeter Lake where there is key progress made in the state budget to fund a \$19.25 million North Lake Project. SSA worked to modify EPA's WIFIA to enhance Salton Sea's eligibility to participate in the program. Engagement with EPA and the need for an assured loan payback of the Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District (EIFD) will help facilitate federal funding engagement for a larger North Lake/Perimeter Lake Project.

2. State Recommendations - GM Rosentrater introduced Oracio Gonzalez of Ollin Strategies to discuss.

Mr. Gonzalez emphasized the productive SSA relationship with the state and how Secretary Crowfoot has really partnered with SSA. In January, Governor Newsom introduced a bond proposal to allocate \$220 million for the Salton Sea, but with the collapse of the economy he had to withdraw the proposal. Assembly member Garcia helped push this forward and, as currently drafted, his bond proposal raised the amount to be allocated to the Salton Sea from \$220 million to \$250 million.

3. Local Recommendation – Chairman Cardenas asked Mr. Rosentrater how he would like to handle this issue. GM Rosentrater said that the facilitator would be walking through a series of discussions on the fundamentals of the planning process. GM Rosentrater turned the facilitation of this discussion over to Debra.

Ms. Williams recommended everyone take a break and return at 2:00. Chairman Cardenas needed to leave, so asked Vice-Chairman Perez to take over for him.

Debra Williams discussed the mission statement components and the board made recommendations. Debra explained that even though we worked on this today, we still need to revisit and finalize it as a board. The board accepted the vision statement and amended the mission statement for clarity. Debra introduced various categories of further planning that will include goals and objectives with tasks and timelines. Succession planning for SSA was mentioned several times as a priority for the coming year, and the board agreed to focus on this special planning area in the year ahead.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS (if time permits)

With the meeting being held remotely via Zoom in cooperation with government COVID-19 meeting recommendations, the public was invited, via pre-meeting email and via posting of the agenda publicly at the office and on the saltonseaauthority.org website, to comment via email or by dropping off their comments at the office.

- A. Mr. Nikola Lakic submitted a public comment that was read by Lisa Bravata, SSA Administrative Assistant. He asked the board to promote his proposal in lieu of other plans and projects.
- B. Marilyn Fogel of UCR offered comment read by Lisa Bravata, SSA Administrative Assistant. The focus was UCR's EDGE Institute conducting a study of the outstanding research questions facing this critical region and how the Salton Sea's changing environment might impact people living in the Imperial and Coachella Valley communities. The study will provide recommendations to managers at state and federal natural resources agencies, who will be creating research agendas to complement the current management plan, and California legislators, who will be developing public policy. They are recommending earmarking 5% of mitigation and restoration funds for research to be carried out concurrently to ensure engineering solutions are accomplishing air, water, and ecosystem requirements. A report in draft form will be released in September 2020.

V. ADJOURNMENT

In the absence of the chairman, GM/Executive Director Rosentrater thanked all for their participation, invited additional comments. Director O'Dowd expressed his appreciation: good session, quality time. There being no further comments, the workshop was adjourned by general acclamation

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Thursday, September 17, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
via Zoom

Checking Account Activity

June 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020



Warrant Date	Warrant Number	Vendor Name	Amount
		Beginning Cash	\$ 319,954.98
06/01/2020	Deposit	CVMC Grant Receipt - February	3,900.17
06/16/2020	EFT	Pitney Bowes	(88.09)
06/22/2020	1110	NWRA	(525.00)
06/22/2020	1111	Best, Best & Krieger	(10,038.00)
06/22/2020	1112	CalDesal	(5,000.00)
06/22/2020	1113	County of Riverside Facilities Management	(5,177.65)
06/22/2020	1114	Cultivating Conservation	(7,000.00)
06/22/2020	1115	Eide Bailly LLP	(12,955.10)
06/22/2020	1116	OfficeTeam	(11,599.82)
06/22/2020	1117	VOID	-
06/22/2020	1118	Rosentrater, Phil	(101.50)
06/22/2020	1119	SystemGo IT LLC	(3,885.29)
06/22/2020	1120	V John White & Associates	(8,000.00)
06/23/2020	1121	VOID	-
06/23/2020	1122	Rosentrater, Phil	(455.00)
06/23/2020	EFT	Pitney Bowes	(100.00)
06/23/2020	EFT	Verizon Wireless	(267.71)
06/23/2020	EFT	Visa Payment	(324.21)
		Net Activity	(61,617.20)
		Ending Cash	\$ 258,337.78

Checking Account Activity

July 1, 2020 through July 31, 2020



Warrant	Warrant	Vendor	
Date	Number	Name	Amount
		Beginning Cash	\$ 258,337.78
07/20/2020	1123	Best, Best & Krieger	(7,106.20)
07/20/2020	1124	Bravata, Lisa	(56.84)
07/20/2020	1125	Eide Bailly LLP	(5,867.50)
07/20/2020	1126	OfficeTeam	(9,468.72)
07/20/2020	1127	Printer Copier Guys	(360.82)
07/20/2020	1128	SystemGo IT LLC	(1,145.33)
07/20/2020	1129	Cultivating Conservation	(14,000.00)
07/20/2020	1130	Ollin Strategies	(5,000.00)
07/22/2020	Deposit	ASAP Grant Payment	97,712.01
07/23/2020	EFT	Pitney Bowes	(100.00)
07/23/2020	EFT	Verizon Wireless	(269.21)
07/23/2020	EFT	Visa Payment	(373.27)
07/24/2020	1131	Ollin Strategies	(15,000.00)
07/24/2020	1132	Riverside County	(75,000.00)
07/24/2020	EFT	Pacific Western	(30.00)
		Net Activity	(36,065.88)
		Ending Cash	\$ 222,271.90

Checking Account Activity

August 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020



Warrant	Warrant	Vendor	
Date	Number	Name	Amount
		Beginning Cash	\$ 222,271.90
08/10/2020	Deposit	Deposit - Member Dues	9,000.00
08/10/2020	Deposit	Deposit - Member Dues	135,000.00
08/14/2020	Deposit	Deposit - Member Dues	270,000.00
08/17/2020	EFT	AMEX Payment	(2,092.23)
08/17/2020	EFT	VISA Payment	(589.11)
08/19/2020	Deposit	Deposit - Member Dues	135,000.00
08/24/2020	1133	Best, Best & Krieger	(16,632.40)
08/24/2020	1134	County of Riverside Facilities Management	(20,067.30)
08/24/2020	1135	Cultivating Conservation	(7,000.00)
08/24/2020	1136	Eide Bailly LLP	(1,685.00)
08/24/2020	1137	Higher Ground International	(2,625.00)
08/24/2020	1138	VOID	-
08/24/2020	1139	Ollin Strategies	(5,000.00)
08/24/2020	1140	VOID	-
08/24/2020	1141	SystemGo IT LLC	(264.55)
08/24/2020	1142	V John White & Associates	(8,000.00)
08/24/2020	EFT	Pitney Bowes	(100.00)
08/25/2020	EFT	Verizon Wireless	(269.10)
08/27/2020	1143	Bureau of Reclamation	(39,769.78)
08/27/2020	1144	OfficeTeam	(12,904.64)
08/27/2020	1145	RivCo HR	(416.00)
08/27/2020	1146	Bureau of Reclamation	(28,680.19)
		Net Activity	402,904.70
		Ending Cash	\$ 625,176.60

Salton Sea Authority
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance
(Unaudited)

Year to Date through June 30, 2020

	General Fund	NSBYC Grant	TOTAL
1 INCOME			
2 Local Government/Member Assessments	\$ 610,000	\$ -	\$ 610,000
3 Grant Funding	-	185,690	185,690
4 State of California Grants	-	-	-
5 Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	2,447	-	2,447
6 Miscellaneous Revenue	786	-	786
7 TOTAL INCOME	613,233	185,690	798,923
8 EXPENSE			
9 SSA Administration			
10 Salaries			
11 Salaries - GM / Executive Director	125,137	7,037	132,174
12 Grant Support	61,541	33,484	95,025
13 Admin Support A	47,884	188	48,071
14 Admin Support B	34,665	274	34,939
15 Total Salaries	269,227	40,982	310,209
16 Employee Benefits			
17 Employee Benefits - GM / Exec. Dir.	42,650	2,391	45,041
18 Employee Benefits - Other SSA Staff	51,160	269	51,429
19 Total Employee Benefits	93,810	2,660	96,470
20 Audit/Accounting	52,678	8,150	60,829
21 Contract Attorney	74,613	-	74,613
22 Equipment Maintenance	10,181	-	10,181
23 Capital Equipment	-	-	-
24 Equipment Lease	-	-	-
25 Insurance	13,325	-	13,325
26 Office Expenses/Operating Supplies	4,017	-	4,017
27 Office Expenses/Online Services	2,097	-	2,097
28 Postage, Mail	626	-	626
29 Printing Services	-	-	-
30 Dues, Subscriptions	12,042	-	12,042
31 Communications	4,438	-	4,438
32 Travel/Mileage	54,019	-	54,019
33 Technical Support - Consultant	-	-	-
34 Technical Support - Engineering	-	-	-
35 Technical Support - General	-	-	-
36 Contract Services / Website	-	-	-
37 Technical Support - Environmental	-	-	-
38 Technical Support - Fiscal	-	-	-

Salton Sea Authority
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance
(Unaudited)

Year to Date through June 30, 2020

	General Fund	NSBYC Grant	TOTAL
39 Communications & Outreach	1,500	-	1,500
40 Utilities	-	-	-
41 Grants & Advocacy	171,391	-	171,391
42 Project Manager	-	-	-
43 Total SSA Administration	763,965	51,793	815,757
44 Wetlands Grant Administration			
45 Contract Services/Attorney	-	-	-
47 Total Wetlands Grant Administration	-	-	-
48 Wetlands Grant Technical			
49 Contract Services/LCP	-	-	-
50 Contract Services/Construction	-	-	-
51 Transfer In/Out Grant Administration	6,644	-	6,644
52 Total Wetlands Grant Technical	6,644	-	6,644
53 North Shore Grant			
54 EDA Salaries	-	36,702	36,702
55 Grant Expenses - Contractors	-	98,338	98,338
56 Total North Shore Grant	-	135,040	135,040
57 TOTAL EXPENSE	770,609	186,833	957,442
58 NET INCOME	\$ (157,376)	\$ (1,143)	\$ (158,519)

**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.*

***FY19-20 results are preliminary and subject to change, year-end adjustments not included*

Salton Sea Authority
Balance Sheets
(Unaudited)

As of June 30, 2020

	General Fund	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	NSBYC Grant	TOTAL
1 ASSETS				
2 Checking/Savings				
3 Cash - PW Checking	\$ 244,999	\$ 20,991	\$ (7,653)	\$ 258,338
4 Cash - RivCo Fund	39,133	-	(4,768)	34,366
5 RivCo investment fund	4,983	-	-	4,983
6 Cash - Petty Cash	490	-	-	490
7 Total Checking/Savings	289,606	20,991	(12,421)	298,177
8 Other Current Assets				
9 Prepaid Items	13,609	-	-	13,609
10 Interest Receivable	71	-	-	71
11 Grant Receivable	-	-	66,584	66,584
12 Total Other Current Assets	18,487	-	66,584	85,071
13 TOTAL ASSETS	308,093	20,991	54,164	383,248
14 LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
15 Liabilities				
16 Current Liabilities				
17 Accounts Payable	31,811	-	1,487	33,298
18 Credit Cards				
19 Credit Card Payable (Visa)	318	-	-	318
20 Credit Card Payable (AE)	(747)	-	-	(747)
21 Total Credit Cards	(429)	-	-	(429)
22 Other Current Liabilities				
23 Accrued Expenditures	11,000	-	-	11,000
24 Accrued Payroll	26,532	-	-	26,532
25 Due to EDA for NSBYC Grant	-	-	49,013	49,013
26 Accrued Vacation	6,852	-	-	6,852
27 Total Other Current Liabilities	44,385	-	53,819	98,204
28 Total Current Liabilities	75,767	-	55,307	131,074
29 Total Liabilities	75,767	-	55,307	131,074
30 Equity				
31 Fund Balance	389,702	20,991	-	410,693
32 Net Income	(157,376)	-	(1,143)	(158,519)
33 Total Equity	232,326	20,991	(1,143)	252,174
34 TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 308,093	\$ 20,991	\$ 54,164	\$ 383,248

Salton Sea Authority
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance
(Unaudited)

Year to Date through July 31, 2020

	General Fund	NSBYC Grant	TOTAL
1 INCOME			
2 Local Government/Member Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3 Grant Funding	-	5,626	270,916
4 State of California Grants	-	-	-
5 Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	-	-	-
6 Miscellaneous Revenue	-	-	-
7 TOTAL INCOME	-	5,626	5,626
8 EXPENSE			
9 SSA Administration			
10 Salaries			
11 Salaries - GM / Executive Director	18,017	-	18,017
12 Grant Support	7,344	-	7,344
13 Admin Support A	5,673	-	5,673
14 Admin Support B	4,555	-	4,555
15 Total Salaries	36,415	-	36,415
16 Employee Benefits			
17 Employee Benefits - GM / Exec. Dir.	7,265	-	7,265
18 Employee Benefits - Other SSA Staff	4,916	-	4,916
19 Total Employee Benefits	12,181	-	12,181
20 Audit/Accounting	1,599	86	1,685
21 Contract Attorney	-	-	-
22 Equipment Maintenance	1,145	-	1,145
23 Capital Equipment	-	-	-
24 Equipment Lease	-	-	-
25 Insurance	537	-	537
26 Office Expense/Operating Supplies	426	-	426
27 Office Expense/Online Services	161	-	161
28 Postage, Mail	238	-	238
29 Printing Services	-	-	-
30 Dues, Subscriptions	1,003	-	1,003
31 Communications	269	-	269
32 Travel/Mileage	2,270	-	2,270
33 Technical Support - Consultant	-	-	-
34 Technical Support - Engineering	-	-	-
35 Technical Support - General	-	-	-
36 Contract Services / Website	-	-	-
37 Technical Support - Environmental	-	-	-
38 Technical Support - Fiscal	-	-	-

Salton Sea Authority
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance
(Unaudited)

Year to Date through July 31, 2020

	General Fund	NSBYC Grant	TOTAL
39 Communications & Outreach	-	-	-
40 Utilities	-	-	-
41 Grants & Advocacy	16,000	-	16,000
42 Project Manager	-	-	-
43 Total SSA Administration	72,244	86	72,330
44 Wetlands Grant Administration			
45 Contract Services/Attorney	-	-	-
47 Total Wetlands Grant Administration	-	-	-
48 Wetlands Grant Technical			
49 Contract Services/LCP	-	-	-
50 Contract Services/Construction	-	-	-
51 Transfer In/Out Grant Administration	-	-	-
52 Total Wetlands Grant Technical	-	-	-
53 North Shore Grant			
54 EDA Salaries	-	2,445	2,445
55 Grant Expenses - Contractors	-	3,095	3,095
56 Total North Shore Grant	-	5,540	5,540
57 TOTAL EXPENSE	72,244	5,626	77,870
58 NET INCOME	\$ (72,244)	\$ -	\$ (72,244)

**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
(Unaudited)

As of July 31, 2020

	General Fund	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	NSBYC Grant	TOTAL
1 ASSETS				
2 Checking/Savings				
3 Cash - PW Checking	\$ 112,709	\$ 20,991	\$ 88,572	\$ 222,272
4 Cash - RivCo Fund	73,707	-	(4,768)	68,940
5 RivCo investment fund	5,055	-	-	5,055
6 Cash - Petty Cash	490	-	-	490
7 Total Checking/Savings	191,960	20,991	83,804	296,756
8 Other Current Assets				
9 Prepaid Items	12,070	-	-	12,070
10 Grant Receivable	-	-	42,949	42,949
11 Total Other Current Assets	16,963	-	42,949	59,912
12 TOTAL ASSETS	757,923	20,991	126,753	905,667
13 LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
14 Liabilities				
15 Current Liabilities				
16 Accounts Payable	13,711	-	-	13,711
17 Credit Cards				
18 Credit Card Payable (Visa)	279	-	-	279
19 Credit Card Payable (AE)	3,680	-	-	3,680
20 Total Credit Cards	1,745	-	-	1,745
21 Other Current Liabilities				
22 Accrued Expenditures	-	-	-	-
23 Accrued Payroll	26,532	-	-	26,532
24 Due to BOR	-	-	68,450	68,450
25 Due to EDA for NSBYC Grant	-	-	54,553	54,553
26 Accrued Vacation	6,852	-	-	6,852
27 Total Other Current Liabilities	582,385	-	127,896	710,280
28 Total Current Liabilities	597,841	-	127,896	725,737
29 Total Liabilities	597,841	-	127,896	725,737
30 Equity				
31 Fund Balance	232,326	20,991	(1,143)	252,174
32 Net Income	(72,244)	-	-	(72,244)
33 Total Equity	160,082	20,991	(1,143)	179,931
34 TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 757,923	\$ 20,991	\$ 126,753	\$ 905,667

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director
Date: September 17, 2020
Re: **Presentation of Leadership Recognition Plaque to Director Cástulo Estrada**
CM No. V.D – 09-17-2020

GENERAL:

The Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors is pleased to present a Leadership Recognition plaque to Director Cástulo R. Estrada, in grateful recognition of his leadership as Chairman of the Board of Salton Sea Authority 2019-2020.

During the term of Director Estrada's leadership, the Salton Sea Authority the Salton Sea Authority secured broad, historic support among the SSA member agencies and partner organizations to achieve unprecedented coordination with the state of California Natural Resources Agency, as memorialized in a MOU between the CNRA and SSA, followed by successful negotiation to secure legislative support and Governor approval of SSA inclusion of \$30 Million in state Proposition 68 allocation to the SSA for oversight of SSMP projects to include the North Lake Pilot Demonstration project and the New River Improvement Project.

Concurrent with deeper state investment at the Sea, Chairman Estrada led a charge supported by all SSA member agencies to enlist state cooperation in completing a watershed plan as prerequisite to securing federal funding from the US Dept of Agriculture programs and that have a nexus of the Salton Sea and beneficial agricultural activity in the watershed. As the state continues to work with SSA to achieve this outcome, projects at the Salton Sea may qualify for federal program funding (more than \$5 Billion annually) that can be matched with state and other nonfederal funding to achieve progress at the sea benefiting all stakeholders – including the federal government that holds almost 40 percent of the land in and around the sea with public trust responsibilities.

The Salton Sea Authority Board also held its first Strategic Planning Workshops under Chairman Estrada's direction, reinforcing historic local unity for the Perimeter Lake, a project proposed to establish a stable shoreline around the rim of the Salton Sea that will deliver multiple benefits: dust control, habitat restoration, recreational opportunity and renewable energy development.

These key actions, among many others, have resulted in a unified local consensus at the Salton Sea Authority necessary to harness historic levels of new state and federal support and cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater
GM/Executive Director

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director
Date: September 17, 2020
Re: Consider Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees
CM No. VI.C – 09-17-2020

Salton Sea Authority Ad Hoc Committees
Assignments Effective: **September 2020**

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 Cardenas, Vice-President Perez**
 - 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 Santillanes; members Secretary Plancarte, O’Dowd.**
 - 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 Plancarte; members President Cardenas, Tortez, Estrada**
 - 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 Cardenas, Vice-Chair Perez; members Hanks, Estrada, Kelley**
 - 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.

Salton Sea Authority

General Manager/Executive Director Progress Report to the Board of Directors September 17, 2020

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 STATE/FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS;**
- **INTEGRITY/PERFORMANCE: DEVELOP & DELIVER PROJECTS ON TIME, UNDER BUDGET;**
- **SECURE SIGNIFICANT FUNDING TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN/AROUND THE SEA; and,**
- **LAUNCH SELF-HELP REVENUE STRATEGIES: Develop projects and partnerships (local/state/federal & public/private) that will generate new investments/revenues from Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) and Renewable Energy.**

LEADERSHIP

Administration

The SSA board meetings continue to be held remotely while SSA staff, consultants and member agency counterparts have continued to coordinate and consult either remotely or in adherence to social distancing regimen in order to reduce risk of exposure to COVID-19. The SSA team continues to accomplish essential work while continuing to build momentum in support of SSA objectives at the Sea despite the COVID-19 limitations resulting in staggered work schedules and adjustments to technical capabilities for SSA staff.

A revised draft FY 2020-21 budget was presented for review and discussion at the SSA Board meeting on June 25. The SSA Directors expressed concern over falling revenues internally within the member agencies due to COVID-19 impacts that are forcing difficult budget decisions. Directors also expressed support for budget priorities to accomplish robust coordination of SSMP projects and programs approved for state Prop 68 funding by the state legislature and Governor. SSA staff proposed a budget alternative that recognizes both priorities. The SSA board adopted a budget that reduces annual SSA member agency dues by 10 % while maintaining momentum on state initiatives through anticipated inflow of Prop 68 funding.

SSA and member agencies are working with consulting teams to develop Scope of Work and Budgets necessary for funding agreements that will allow SSA to facilitate SSMP projects in coordination with the CNRA at the southern and northern areas of the Sea. The approved state budget included nearly \$30 million to flow through SSA for implementation of SSMP projects. The budget, consistent with voter approvals in Proposition 68, designates nearly \$30 M from Prop 68 for SSA to implement SSMP projects in coordination with local, regional, state, and federal partners.

In further refinement of the strategic direction for the SSA, the Board of Directors convened via zoom for a follow-up Strategic Planning session that was initiated in November of 2019. Follow-up schedule was interrupted by COVID-19 restrictions that were finally resolved by calendaring a workshop in July.

The SSA Board made great headway in affirming consensus on SSA strategic fundamentals including Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles and Guiding Priorities. Staff and consultants are fleshing out the draft plan based on Board comments on goals and objectives, as well as critical path to establish multi-benefit projects such as Perimeter Lake. SSA Directors can expect the completed draft to return for consideration in October in expectation that the draft will meet SSMP 10Yr Plan objectives with the state as well as helping federal partners fulfill key objectives and responsibilities at the Sea.

Among other priorities emerging from the SSA Strategic Planning Workshop, SSA board expressed urgency to accelerate staff and contracting capacity in light of the pending release of state bond funding approved for SSA implementation of SSMP projects at New River and North Lake. Accordingly, SSA has identified additional temp agency support for contract administration and community engagement. Also accelerating is coordination with member agencies involved with development and management of specific SSMP projects.

SSA continues to coordinate interagency meetings – via conference call – 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) and the SSA MOU with CNRA, SSA is pursuing cooperation and consultation with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), to implement the SSMP Revitalization Plan for the Salton Sea as defined in the 10-Year Plan.

State efforts to launch Species Conservation Habitat (SCH), a 3,770-acre wetlands project located at the New River, have reached a key milestone with awarding of RFP bid for design-build contract to Kewitt Engineering. From a programmatic standpoint, it will also provide a framework for CEQA compliance that allows progress in planning similar projects that are aligned with SSMP 10 Year Plan around the Salton Sea. This project is the most nearly shovel-ready of all the projects identified in the state's priority list. As this Southern Perimeter Lake component approaches its RFP launch into design-build, the state is preparing to develop feasible designs for a Northern Perimeter Lake offering a recreational deep-water habitat lake in the northern portion of the Sea.

In response to anticipated federal stimulus opportunities, SSA is also coordinating discussions between consultants for SSA and CNRA to develop strategies for federal match for state funding. SSA is working with both state and federal staff and consultants to effectively position the Salton Sea for budget consideration in appropriate budgets for Army Corps, US Bureau of Reclamation, EPA, Dept. of Energy, Dept. of Defense, and USDA. Since stimulus funding will be targeted to projects that can generate economic recovery by creating new jobs and expanded revenue streams in local communities hardest hit by the economic downturn caused by COVID virus, the Salton Sea could be in a prime position to leverage federal funding for SSMP projects that are already in line for state funding through Prop 68 such as SCH, North Lake and New River.

SSA is committed to do its utmost to facilitate local, state and federal success in performance of the Stipulated Order, with the 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

New River Improvement Project

Flowing from Calexico into the US and eventually to the southern end of the Salton Sea, the New River is finally gaining serious attention and – with \$28 million recently approved in the state budget – funding that can begin to mitigate dangerous pollution in America's most polluted river.

SSA Board of Directors, in a letter approved in June, appealed to the Ca Secretary of Resources as well and Secretary for Cal EPA for commitment to assess the current and projected conditions of the riverway with the intent to develop long term strategies for a healthier ecosystem. State bond moneys from Prop 68 provide \$10 M to the SSA as a participant to help implement three key installations as part of the \$28 million state-funded first phase of the Improvement Plan.

Planning and permitting is already well underway. The New River Improvement Plan has cleared a significant hurdle in the environmental review process over the summer. The city of Calexico, where the first phase of the project is located, filed a notice of determination for CEQA compliance. There were no appeals, allowing the project to pursue its final round of regulatory compliance permitting through CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Army Corps of Engineers. This work is expected to take six to 12 months to complete. Assuming all goes well, the project may be eligible for construction which is estimated to be completed in 18 months from start.

In recognition of the success of stakeholder efforts to create actionable consensus on proposals for New River Improvement, SSA is supporting efforts by New River partner agencies and stakeholders to reconvene a technical working group for the New River for purposes of revising the plan to address future treatment strategies.

North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project

With \$19.25 Million in state funding approved for a North Lake Pilot Demonstration project on the northern portion of the Perimeter Lake at Salton Sea, SSA is coordinating with a working group of agencies to ensure this project provides a multitude of benefits from an investment in integrated planning for deep water recreational habitat: air quality mitigation, habitat restoration and aquatic recreation.

SSA staff are conferring with staff and consultants from CNRA, County of Riverside and CVWD to define the roles/responsibilities among the multi-agency project committee that will need to align with the emerging Scope of Work and Budget for the North Lake Pilot Demonstration project. Additional civil engineering support provided through RivCo TLMA is now in place to assist in developing project task/timelines and deliverables that will be included in the draft funding agreement for SSA and CNRA. In keeping with discussions among NGO stakeholders, a strong community engagement component is also under development as part of the draft budget and SOW.

Research Vessel Access to Sea for mandated activity: North Shore Harbor Rehabilitation

SSA's joint agency project to restore access to the Salton Sea via North Shore Yacht Club continues to coordinate next steps required to clean up the existing launch ramp and dredge the marina at the North Shore Yacht Club. Project specifications are nearly complete for release of an RFP in September.

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 from safe, accessible picnic viewing areas on public land and facilities

located at the historic North Shore Yacht Club. The restoration of access can also extend into additional phases of SSMP in North Lake.

While the major portion of this project is prepping for launch, significant preliminary work has been completed, including cleanup of the boat ramp and prep of environmental reports required for permits. As of this writing, the ramp is cleaned & grubbed, ready for the next phases of the project. State partner DWR has produced draft agreements for their portion of contribution to this interagency project. SSA staff are working to resolve O&M responsibilities for the project prior to SSA board consideration of approval of the DWR funding agreement.

The North Shore Yacht Club is a highly desirable option for restoration of Sea access. 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.

SSA, with property owner Riverside County, duly coordinated and consulted with state and federal agencies as well as a critical local partner - the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy - to develop budget and scope for the project to re-establish research vessel access needed for state and federal agencies to fulfill their mandated responsibilities. Staff from US Bureau of Reclamation, State Dept of Water Resources and Coachella Valley Mtns Conservancy are working diligently with SSA and Riverside County (property owner) to clean up and re-open the marina 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.

This project is an example of the progress that can be replicated at other points of access around the Sea. 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.

FUNDING

State:

- The final state budget approved by the legislature and the Governor provides significant new momentum for the SSA in terms of the Administration's commitment to the Salton Sea. The state budget proposes the following Salton Sea funding through Dept of Water Resources:
 - \$28 M for New River Improvement Plan – this retains the original apportionment from the Governor's January draft: \$18M from general fund and \$10M from Prop 68 to SSA.
 - \$19.25 M for North Lake development – Prop 68 funds would flow to SSA thru DWR's local assistance program

Also, the Governor's budget would fund an additional 10 FT state staff positions dedicated to the Salton Sea, with 8 of the 10 positions located in the local Salton Sea office. Two of the positions – an exec support position and legal counsel – will be located in Sacramento.

Federal:

- The SSA Board-approved federal legislative platform for 2020 calls for federal agency investments commensurate with its property ownership and public trust and tribal trust responsibilities at the Sea. In subsequent Board discussion at the Strategic Planning Workshop in July, Directors expressed further support for developing legislative mandates for federal actions that would include the following:
 - Federal Sea acreage management obligation;
 - Federal funding obligation, established mainly through a USDA Sea initiative targeting 2018 Farm Bill successes;
 - Federal obligation to abide by federal environmental laws including mitigation of federal environmental impacts to the Salton Sea
 - Expedited Corps permitting.

- US Department of Agriculture – SSA and its member agencies, working in concert with the CNRA, are focusing on the opportunity to secure additional funding (\$500 million annually) for USDA programs that could be matched with non-federal funding to accelerate the SSMP. SSA staff have conferred with CNRA counterparts to affirm SSA's intent to secure the maximum return on this opportunity, starting with the completion of a prerequisite Watershed Plan that is compatible with SSMP. SSA has already secured federal funding to complete this planning step and is coordinating further with CNRA to assure timely progress on this item for the benefit of all concerned. 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 in 2018.

- Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) – In accord with SSA board direction, the SSA and partner agencies are focused upon development and promotion of projects in the SSMP that will meet the eligibility requirements for ACOE funding. SSA staff and consultants are also working on proposals consistent with the SSA board-adopted legislative platform that will allow placement and funding for the ACOE Work Plan for upcoming budgets, and the eventual access to WRDA authorization (\$30 million). The SSA has historically supported the Torres Martinez Tribe application for the Tribal Partnership Program that may provide Army Corps engagement in projects in the Salton Sea watershed on Torres Martinez tribal lands.

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – SSA is supporting policies that empower local partner agencies to maximize state and federal investments at the Salton Sea in a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovative Act (WIFIA) strategy. 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

SSMP inclusion of the concept of stable shoreline anticipated in a Perimeter Lake concept represents a significant step toward establishing viable EIFD’s in the respective county jurisdictions. Properly configured and expeditiously timed in coordination with SSA and member agencies, the state funding deployed 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. This is a critical finding in published economic benefit analyses that has become critically important in the emerging federal and state stimulus discussion.

Riverside County Board of Supervisors authorized creation of an EIFD for the Salton Sea area in October 2018, and its newly appointed Finance Authority Board held a workshop at the North Shore Yacht Club (Oct 15, 2019). Riverside County remains committed to moving forward with the EIFD which will provide a powerful new financing strategy for economic recovery benefiting the Salton Sea, California and the federal government, provided public investments in infrastructure at the Sea are configured in a manner that integrates economic development (recreation, renewable energy) with projects delivering dust control and habitat restoration.

Imperial County has also engaged in preliminary exploration of this financing mechanism to enhance infrastructure onshore as a catalyst for economic development in tourism and enormous renewable energy opportunities.

The Perimeter Lake concept, promoted by the SSA and endorsed by all of the SSA member agencies plus tribal councils and city councils throughout both Imperial Valley and Coachella Valley, is the concept that most thoroughly embraces this multi-benefit strategy while accomplishing SSMP objectives for the state.

The SSA state legislative platform states:

“Coupled with the SSMP is a stipulated State Water Board Order between the state and the parties of the QSA establishing accountable performance to implement the SSMP. The SSA, along with every county, city, water agency and tribe in the Salton Basin, are united in supporting a Perimeter Lake strategy that will accomplish all of these State obligations in a manner that builds opportunity for economic development that can help establish a healthier, more prosperous Sea.”

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 major Tribal nations have approved letters or resolutions of support for the Perimeter Lake. As noted, the CNRA has 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.

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 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.

SSA member agencies have taken historic steps to support financial strategies that can generate new and sustainable local investment in infrastructure around the Sea that can accelerate and sustain progress in partnership with the state and federal governments. Specifically, the counties are moving forward with EIFD proposals that can reinforce and accelerate public-private

partnership investment at the Sea, leveraging the public infrastructure investments anticipated with the SSMP.

Initial observations find that unless COVID impacts on the regional economy become permanent, the pandemic does not appear to hinder the viability of this long-term financing tool. EIFD plans are designed to generate revenue over 40 years, long after an economic downturn has had opportunity to recover. Because revenue streams from EIFD are determined by the creation of improved property value from infrastructure investment, a lower base value of property can actually create a higher ultimate yield as property values improve as a result of EIFD investments from the public sector. Additionally, lower interest rates for bonds aligned with an EIFD may be secured.

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 the SSA, and all counties, cities and tribes throughout the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. This is fully consistent with the letter and spirit of state law as expressed in AB 71 (Perez). The Perimeter Lake is also internally consistent with the SSMP 10-Year Plan which includes the SCH on the New River and Northern Perimeter Lake on Whitewater, respectively as the first and second major projects that can anchor a series of additional SSMP projects. The objective is to establish a stable shoreline covering dusty playa and restoring aquatic habitat in a manner that enhances economic opportunity in recreation and renewable energy development - keys to yielding a healthier and more prosperous Salton Sea in the long term.

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.

