



Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom Webinar



DRAFT AGENDA: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DATE: Thursday, January 28, 2021
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 a.m. January 28. Please see the meeting login information at <https://saltonsea.com/events/ssa-board-of-directors-meeting-2021-1/>.

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

A copy of the complete agenda packet is available for viewing or download at: <https://saltonsea.com/events/ssa-board-of-directors-meeting-2021-1/>

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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.

Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Board relating to any matter within the Authority's jurisdiction.

Remarks shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.

Please email your public comment c/o SSA's Board Secretary at info@saltonsea.com (subject line "Public Comment, 1/28/21 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, January 27. 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.)

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Welcome new SSA Director Anthony Bianco - Division 2, Coachella Valley Water District, appointed in the place of G. Patrick O'Dowd, Director, CVWD Division

This is a time set aside for members of the Board to share their thoughts and concerns regarding general Authority matters not on the agenda, ask questions of staff, and request that items be added to an agenda at a later date.

The Brown Act expressly prohibits lengthy Board Member discussion of matters not on the agenda. The Board may at its discretion (by 4/5 vote) add items deemed to be an emergency to the agenda in order to engage in public discourse.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR – Receive, Approve, and File

- A. Minutes of SSA Board Meeting December 17, 2020
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for December 2020
- C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2020 – 11/30/2020

V. REPORTS

A. Federal

- 1. Federal Activities – (Lisa Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation; Lowry Crook, Best Best & Krieger)
- 2. US Bureau of Reclamation – (Genevieve Johnson, Program Manager for the Salton Sea)

B. State

- 1. State Advocacy Report – (Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies)
- 2. State of California – (Gail Sevrens, Salton Sea Program Manager, California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife)
- 3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – (Steve Quartieri, District Superintendent, California State Parks)

C. Local

- 1. North Lake Demonstration Project overview: Overview of County recommended plan, project budget, timing, other issues – (Riverside County/Webb Engineering)
- 2. Desert Shores: Overview of possible project concepts and timing – (Katie Burnworth, APC Special Projects Coordinator, ICAPCD)
- 3. Salton Sea Action Committee – (Juan DeLara, President)

- D. General Manager’s Report and Comments – (G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

SSA board meetings will be held via Zoom until further notice.

Thursday, February 25, 2021 - 10:00 a.m. via 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.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

There were 36 members of the public present via Zoom.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Nikola Lakic, Geothermal Worldwide, Inc., submitted a letter to persuade the SSA Board to stop promoting and supporting the State's Perimeter Lake and related projects and to embrace his proposal.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- A. Vice-President Perez commented regarding the importance of Salton Sea Authority engaging with the community and collaborating with other partners such as the air quality management district in SSA's mitigation efforts at the Salton Sea, and acknowledged Mr. Lakic's comment letter.
- B. President Cardenas expressed his desire to take a regional (rather than north-south) approach to environmental justice and social justice engagement – to look at them from a regional standpoint and provide engagement opportunities for all stakeholders along the Salton Sea.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Receive, Approve, and File

- 1. Minutes of SSA Board Meeting October 29, 2020
- 2. Minutes of SSA Special Board Meeting November 12, 2020
- 3. Warrant Register Ratification for October 2020
- 4. Warrant Register Ratification for November 2020
- 5. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2020 – 10/31/2020

Director Estrada moved that the Consent Calendar items be approved. Seconded by Secretary Plancarte. Unanimously carried via roll call vote*:

Yea: Cárdenas, Perez, Santillanes, Plancarte, Hanks, Kelley, Tortez, Estrada*, Hewitt

Nay: (none)

****In keeping with the Salton Sea Authority Bylaws, a single Director carries the vote of both Directors when the second Director of the same agency is absent; therefore, Director Estrada carries the vote for the CVWD vacancy in addition to his own vote.***

B. DISCUSSION ITEM

- 1. Presentation of SSA Annual Audit Findings. Recommendation: Receive and File
Shannon Ayala, Partner, Davis Farr, Certified Public Accountants, gave an overview of the audit performed for Salton Sea Authority. They gave the Salton

Sea Authority an unmodified opinion dated November 25, 2020 – the highest opinion possible that can be received on the financial statements – comparable to the prior year’s report. There were no journal entries, material weaknesses, or issues of noncompliance detected. Grant revenues and expenses were included in their audit.

Vice President Perez made a motion to receive and file the audit report. Seconded by Director Tortez. Motion unanimously carried via roll call vote*:

Yea: Cárdenas, Perez, Plancarte, Hanks, Kelley, Tortez*, Estrada*, Hewitt.
(Director Santillanes was not present for this vote.)

Nay: (none)

In keeping with the Salton Sea Authority Bylaws, a single Director carries the vote of both Directors when the second Director of the same agency is absent; therefore, Director Tortez carries the vote for Director Santillanes for this item in addition to his own vote, and Director Estrada carries the vote for the CVWD vacancy in addition to his own vote.

V. REPORTS

A. FEDERAL

1. Federal Activities

Lisa Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation, and Lowry Crook, of Best Best & Krieger, gave updates on Salton Sea related matters in Washington DC, including the requested WRDA (Water Resources Development Act) provision to authorize engagement of the ACOE (Army Corps of Engineers) in projects at the Salton Sea and Biden appointees that should be of benefit to the Salton Sea matters.

B. STATE

1. Salton Sea Management Program

Gail Sevrens, Salton Sea Program Manager, California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, described, and gave a detailed update on the progress of, the Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) project. Construction is scheduled to begin in January.

President Cardenas initiated discussion regarding coordination of a press release regarding the start of construction on this project.

2. State Advocacy Report

Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies, shared the focus of his work on behalf of the SSA in the coming year, status of three existing bonds that have been side-lined due to limiting bills to those that focus on the pandemic, and new legislative proposals and potential bond this year. He is working to make sure that whatever is passed out to the governor and put before the public really reflects the needs of the Salton Sea and the will of the Authority.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities

Steve Quartieri, Superintendent of the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, California State Parks, reported that, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the SSSRA is open for day use operation, but have closed their campgrounds to overnight accommodations. They have also closed their visitors' center and are not currently scheduling any interpretive programs or outreach events at this time. Despite the challenges, November's visitations were 31% over the prior year. They are working on improving access to the Salt Creek area.

C. LOCAL

1. Salton Sea Action Committee

Juan DeLara, President, was not able to be present to give his report.

D. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT AND COMMENTS

G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority referred the directors to the General Manager's report in the board meeting packet, and gave a brief update on North Lake progress (four alternatives are being considered)

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Board President Cardenas adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The regularly-scheduled meeting will be held

Thursday, January 28, 2021

10:00 a.m. Via Zoom webinar

or at

Coachella Valley Water District

Steve Robbins Administration Building

75515 Hovley Lane East

Palm Desert, CA 92260

(760) 398-2651



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

Year to Date through November 30, 2020

	General Fund	NSBYC Grant	TOTAL
1 INCOME			
2 Local Government/Member Assessments	\$ 549,000	\$ -	\$ 549,000
3 Grant Funding	-	47,050	47,050
4 Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	5	-	5
5 Miscellaneous Revenue	77	-	77
6 TOTAL INCOME	549,082	47,050	596,133
7 EXPENSE			
8 SSA Administration			
9 Salaries			
10 Salaries - GM / Executive Director	58,554	-	58,554
11 Grant Support	37,558	907	38,464
12 Executive Director Support	15,299	-	15,299
13 Admin Support A	20,803	-	20,803
14 Admin Support B	16,662	38	16,700
15 Total Salaries	148,876	944	149,820
16 Employee Benefits			
17 Employee Benefits - GM / Exec. Dir.	25,340	-	25,340
18 Employee Benefits - Other SSA Staff	23,804	25	23,829
19 Total Employee Benefits	49,144	25	49,169
20 Audit/Accounting	22,080	1,208	23,287
21 Contract Attorney	50,779	-	50,779
22 Equipment Maintenance	3,343	-	3,343
23 Insurance	5,186	-	5,186
24 Office Expense/Operating Supplies	979	-	979
25 Office Expense/Online Services	1,633	-	1,633
26 Postage, Mail	992	-	992
27 Dues, Subscriptions	5,546	-	5,546
28 Communications	1,591	-	1,591
29 Travel/Mileage	6,058	-	6,058
30 Communications & Outreach	10,625	-	10,625
31 Grants & Advocacy	78,406	-	78,406
32 Total SSA Administration	385,238	2,177	387,415
33 North Shore Grant			
34 EDA Salaries	-	15,043	15,043
35 Grant Expenses - Contractors	-	29,834	29,834
36 Total North Shore Grant	-	44,877	44,877
37 TOTAL EXPENSE	385,238	47,054	432,292
38 NET INCOME	\$ 163,844	\$ (3)	\$ 163,841

*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 November 30, 2020

	General Fund	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	NSBYC Grant	TOTAL
1 ASSETS				
2 Checking/Savings				
3 Cash - PW Checking	\$ 387,459	\$ 20,991	\$ 3,386	\$ 411,837
4 Cash - RivCo Fund	28,511	-	(4,830)	23,681
5 RivCo investment fund	5,060	-	-	5,060
6 Cash - Petty Cash	153	-	-	153
7 Total Checking/Savings	421,183	20,991	(1,444)	440,730
8 Other Current Assets				
9 Due from Grant Funds	646	-	-	646
10 Prepaid Items	9,063	-	-	9,063
11 Grant Receivable	-	-	27,487	27,487
12 Total Other Current Assets	9,710	-	27,487	37,196
13 TOTAL ASSETS	430,893	20,991	26,042	477,927
14 LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
15 Liabilities				
16 Current Liabilities				
17 Accounts Payable	1,710	-	126	1,836
18 Credit Cards				
19 Credit Card Payable (Visa)	814	-	-	814
20 Credit Card Payable (AE)	11,162	-	-	11,162
21 Total Credit Cards	11,976	-	-	11,976
22 Other Current Liabilities				
23 Due to Other Funds	-	-	646	646
24 Accrued Payroll	12,323	-	-	12,323
25 Due to EDA for NSBYC Grant	-	-	26,416	26,416
26 Accrued Vacation	15,725	-	-	15,725
27 Total Other Current Liabilities	28,049	-	27,062	55,111
28 Total Liabilities	41,734	-	27,188	68,923
29 Fund Balance	389,159	20,991	(1,146)	409,004
30 TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$ 430,893	\$ 20,991	\$ 26,042	\$ 477,927

*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.

Checking Account Activity

December 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020



Warrant Date	Warrant Number	Vendor Name	Amount
		Beginning Cash	\$ 411,836.60
12/09/2020	Deposit	CVMC Grant Receipt -September	2,824.25
12/14/2020	1175	ACWA	(5,110.00)
12/14/2020	1176	Best, Best & Krieger	(3,583.28)
12/14/2020	1177	County of Riverside Facilities Management	(2,308.50)
12/14/2020	1178	Cultivating Conservation	(7,000.00)
12/14/2020	1179	Davis Farr LLP	(3,000.00)
12/14/2020	1180	Eide Bailly LLP	(3,558.70)
12/14/2020	1181	OfficeTeam	(8,226.27)
12/14/2020	1182	Ollin Strategies	(5,000.00)
12/14/2020	1183	Printer Copier Guys	(239.32)
12/14/2020	1184	Riverside County	(75,000.00)
12/14/2020	1185	SystemGo IT LLC	(1,516.79)
12/14/2020	1186	V John White & Associates	(4,000.00)
12/17/2020	EFT	AMEX Payment	(11,154.96)
12/23/2020	EFT	VISA Payment	(1,040.29)
12/23/2020	EFT	Verizon Wireless	(1,115.73)
12/23/2020	EFT	Pitney Bowes	(10.00)
		Net Activity	(129,039.59)
		Ending Cash	\$ 282,797.01