



Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, September 23, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom Webinar



AGENDA:
DATE:
LOCATION:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, September 23, 2021
10:00 a.m.
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. September 23. Please see the meeting login information at <https://saltonsea.com/meetings/>.

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/meetings/>.

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.

Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any matter within the Authority's jurisdiction and are invited to speak to any specific action item listed in the agenda at the time it is called; all other agenda items should be addressed during this general public comment period.

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

*Public comment may be delivered verbally (use "raised hand" feature in Zoom or press *9 by phone to be acknowledged), **via email to info@saltonsea.com** (include in your subject line "Public Comment, 9/23/21 SSA board meeting"), or hand-delivered to 82995 Highway 111, Suite 200, Indio, California. Please place hand delivered comments in an envelope addressed to "Board Secretary, Salton Sea Authority" and leave with the attending security officer.*

*All written comments should include your name, address (addresses will be redacted), and whether it is for general public comment or a specific agenda item (number and topic). Anonymous comments will not be read. Comments received in writing, either by email or written, will be distributed to the Board, posted on the Salton Sea Authority website for public review, and if received **before noon on Wednesday September 22**, receipt will be acknowledged during public comments. Written comments will not be read aloud into the public record.*

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

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. ACTION ITEMS

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
 - 1. Minutes of SSA Board Meeting June 24, 2021
 - 2. Warrant Register Ratifications for June 2021
 - 3. Warrant Register Ratifications for July 2021
 - 4. Warrant Register Ratifications for August 2021
 - 5. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2020 – 6/30/2021
 - 6. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2021 – 7/31/2021
- B. Update Facsimile Signature Policy
- C. Consideration of Ad Hoc Committee Appointments for FY 2021-2022

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Salton Sea Authority Policy Regarding Resolutions and Letters of Support
- B. Board Meeting Dates, Times, and Locations in Consideration of COVID-19 Protocols

VI. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Mitigation Implementation Plan (MIP) – Dr. Ramona Swenson (Environmental Science Associates)

VII. REPORTS

- A. Federal
 - 1. Federal Activities – (Lisa Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation)
 - 2. US Bureau of Reclamation – (none)
- B. State
 - 1. State Advocacy Report – (Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies)
 - 2. State of California – (Evon Willhoff, Program Manager 1, Salton Sea Program, Department of Water Resources)
 - 3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – (Steve Quartieri, District Superintendent, California State Parks)
- C. Local
 - 1. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) – (Juan M. DeLara, SSAC President)
- D. General Manager’s Report and Comments
 - 1. GM Report – (G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

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

Thursday, October 28, 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



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

June 24, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by Alex Cardenas, President, at 10:03 a.m., Thursday, June 24, 2021, via Zoom webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Director G. Patrick O’Dowd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Alex Cárdenas, President
V. Manuel Perez, Vice-President
Altrena Santillanes, Treasurer*
Luis A. Plancarte, Secretary
Ryan E. Kelley, Director
Cástulo R. Estrada, Director*
Anthony Bianco, Director
Arturo Delgado, Ex-Officio Member*

AGENCY

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

**Directors Estrada and Santillanes arrived 10:06/10:07, and Assistant Secretary Delgado arrived 10:18 – all during public comment.*

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Thomas Torte, Director
Jeff Hewitt, Director
Norma S. Galindo, Director

AGENCY

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Riverside County
Imperial Irrigation District

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

G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Bob Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

There were 40 members of the public present via Zoom and 28 participants.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No written comments were received.

Verbal comments:

- Mr. Ronald Spears, president of the Bahia Del Mar Property Owners' Association at Desert Shores, recommended Imperial County Supervisor Ryan Kelley for Salton Sea Authority president and gave examples of his many labors on behalf of the community.
- Mr. Chuck Parker, Salton Sea Coalition, reported that at the June 10 CVAG EE meeting member cities urged the Authority's Executive Director to recognize their support for ocean water importation to restore the whole Salton Sea.
- Ms. Feliz Nuñez, a retired registered nurse, commented on the severity of the drought and consequent impacts on the residents; she would like to see more emphasis on importation of water or on cleaning the polluted inflows of the New and Alamo rivers.
- Mr. Art Gertz expressed his hopes regarding the Desert Shores restoration project: that work be subject to a minimum-3-bids process and be done in coordination with knowing where to find a reliable source of affordable, healthy water to sustain/refill the keys.
- Mr. Luis Olmedo, Executive Director of Comité Cívico del Valle, recommended consideration of the environmental justice performance of the contractors, and equity in the consideration of input from and benefit to affluent and disadvantaged communities.

**Directors Estrada and Santillanes, and CNRA Assistant Secretary Delgado arrived during public comment.*

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- A. Director Perez thanked the public for calling in and sharing..
- B. Director Cardenas expressed his gratitude to the governing board and to the Authority staff and executive director for their support during his time as the Authority's president. He encouraged the public to monitor the executive director's executive summary to know where the Authority is going.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File

1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting May 27, 2021
2. Warrant Register Ratification for May 2021
3. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2020 – 4/30/2021
4. ACWA Region 9 Board Nomination

On motion by Plancarte and second by Perez, the Board approved the Consent Calendar to be approved, received, and filed.

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Cardenas*, Perez*, Santillanes*, Plancarte, Kelley, Estrada, Bianco

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Galindo*, Hewitt*, and Tortez*

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION PASSED: 10 - 0

**In keeping with the Salton Sea Authority bylaws, a single director carries the vote of both directors of the agency when the second director of the same agency is absent.*

B. Salton Sea Authority Board Consideration of Appointments for FY 2021-2022

Officers of the Salton Sea Authority Board (effective July 1, 2021)

- Election of President of Board

Director Kelley expressed appreciation for Mr. Spears' commendation but declined.

On motion by Cardenas and second by Estrada, the Board approved V. Manuel Perez to serve as president for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Cardenas*, Perez*, Santillanes*, Plancarte, Kelley, Estrada, Bianco

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Galindo*, Hewitt*, and Tortez*

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION PASSED: 10 - 0

- Election of Vice-President of Board

On motion by Perez and second by Cardenas, the Board approved Luis A Plancarte to serve as vice president for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Cardenas*, Perez*, Santillanes*, Plancarte, Kelley, Estrada, Bianco

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Galindo*, Hewitt*, and Tortez*

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION PASSED: 10 - 0

- Election of Secretary of Board

On motion by Perez and second by Plancarte, the Board approved Altrena Santillanes to serve as secretary for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Cardenas*, Perez*, Santillanes*, Plancarte, Kelley, Estrada, Bianco

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Galindo*, Hewitt*, and Tortez*

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION PASSED: 10 - 0

- Election of Treasurer of Board

On motion by Estrada and second by Perez, the Board approved Anthony Bianco to serve as treasurer for fiscal year 2021-2022.

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Cardenas*, Perez*, Santillanes*, Plancarte, Kelley, Estrada, Bianco

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Galindo*, Hewitt*, and Tortez*

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION PASSED: 10 – 0

**In keeping with the Salton Sea Authority bylaws, a single director carries the vote of both directors of the agency when the second director of the same agency is absent.*

C. Consider Approval of Resolutions Updating Signatories on Salton Sea Authority's Bank Accounts

1. Pacific Western Bank
2. Local Agency Investment Fund

On motion by Perez, second by Plancarte, the Board approved both of the resolutions to update signatories on the Authority's bank accounts.

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Cardenas*, Perez*, Santillanes*, Plancarte, Kelley, Estrada, Bianco

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Galindo*, Hewitt*, and Tortez*

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION PASSED: 10 – 0

** In keeping with the Salton Sea Authority bylaws, a single director carries the vote of both directors of the agency when the second director of the same agency is absent.*

- D. Consider Approval of a “Work Plan” outlining an Engineering Services Agreement between Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Engineers Without Borders.
Recommendation: Discussion, Authorization or Alternative Direction.

Executive Director G. Patrick O’Dowd recommended and requested that the board authorize staff to negotiate a work plan between Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Engineers without Borders and the Salton Sea Authority to provide engineering and other services to the Desert Shores project. Such services are to be provided at no cost or liability to the Authority. Any finalized agreement would be approved by the Authority president and legal counsel.

Supervisor Kelly made a motion to approve. Seconded by Perez.

Public comment: Tom Sephton, board president of Ecomedia Compass, gave background information on Engineers Without Borders and urged the Authority board to take advantage of this opportunity.

On motion by Kelley and second by Perez, the Board authorized the Executive Director to proceed to negotiate said work plan.

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Cardenas*, Perez*, Santillanes*, Plancarte, Kelley, Estrada, Bianco

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Galindo*, Hewitt*, and Tortez*

ABSTAINED: None.

MOTION PASSED: 10 – 0

** In keeping with the Salton Sea Authority bylaws, a single director carries the vote of both directors of the agency when the second director of the same agency is absent.*

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. University of California, Riverside (UCR)

Representatives of UCR’s Salton Sea Task Force gave a multi-disciplinary report on the multifaceted crisis at the Salton Sea.

- B. QSA JPA (Quantification Settlement Agreement Joint Powers Authority) Budget Update

Jeff Ferre, of Best Best & Krieger, introduced the Authority board members to the QSA JPA – how it came to be, what it is, and what it does and doesn’t do. The JPA was formed to set forth financial payment obligations. The QSA agreement (designating who needs to do what and who has the authority to do what) and SB 654 (which grants the authority to move forward) are the two building blocks of the QSA JPA. For others to join the QSA JPA, new legislation would be required.

The Executive Director relayed that the QSA JPA was asked to consider a two-step budgeting process that would allow for a more thoughtful public comment on their budget cycle.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. CNRA Salton Sea Management Plan (SSMP) Long Term Plan and Second 10-year Plan

Arturo Delgado, Assistant Secretary Salton Sea Policy, California Natural Resources Agency, reported that the state has begun preparations on the long-range planning process (a broad outline of which was presented in the 2021 report to the State Water Board earlier this year - available on the state's saltonsea.ca.gov website). Two new team members will be brought on board to do a feasibility analysis on water importation.

B. Organizational Matters

1. Meeting Schedule – Summer Break
2. Meeting Location(s)
3. Staffing Update

In the interest of time, this being a discussion item only, Executive Director O'Dowd offered to handle these matters administratively. There being no objections to this by the board, it was accepted by Chairman Cardenas.

VII. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities

Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation, reported on their efforts to bring major federal resources to the Salton Sea, for which a feasibility study by the Army Corps of Engineers would be required – which was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of December 2020.

2. US Bureau of Reclamation – No report

B. State

1. State Advocacy Report

Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies, reported on the status of the monies the governor committed to invest in the Salton Sea in his May revise and on changes in the CPUC's proposed procurement.

2. State of California

Evon Willhoff, Program Manager 1, Salton Sea Program, Department of Water Resources, reported on progress of Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) construction and the North Lake Demonstration Pilot Project.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area

Steve Quartieri, District Superintendent, California State Parks, reported that day use areas and campgrounds are open, visitation numbers are good, and told of upcoming events.

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) – No report

D. General Manager's Report and Comments

In the interest of time, Executive Director G. Patrick O'Dowd referred those present to his written report which was posted to the saltonsea.com website.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Board President Cardenas adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The regularly scheduled meeting will be held

Thursday, September 23, 2021

10:00 a.m. via Zoom

(location/venue to be determined)

Checking Account Activity

June 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021



Warrant Date	Warrant Number	Vendor Name	Amount
Beginning Cash			\$ 224,375.34
06/02/2021	Deposit	CVMC Grant Receipt - February	4,524.72
06/03/2021	EFT	Pitney Bowes	(10.00)
06/11/2021	EFT	Pacific Western Payment	(132.95)
06/16/2021	EFT	Pitney Bowes	(67.46)
06/21/2021	1224	ACWA	(2,000.00)
06/21/2021	1225	Best, Best & Krieger	(4,321.80)
06/21/2021	1226	County of Riverside Facilities Management	(29,347.95)
06/21/2021	1227	Cultivating Conservation	(7,000.00)
06/21/2021	1228	Eide Bailly LLP	(2,085.15)
06/21/2021	1229	O'Dowd, G.Patrick	(202.90)
06/21/2021	1230	OfficeTeam	(7,046.72)
06/21/2021	1231	Ollin Strategies	(5,000.00)
06/21/2021	1232	Riverside County Payroll Fund	(100,000.00)
06/21/2021	1233	SystemGo IT LLC	(691.00)
06/22/2021	Deposit	CVMC Grant Receipt - March	98.12
06/22/2021	Deposit	Deposit - Member Dues for FY 2022	10,000.00
06/22/2021	Deposit	Deposit - Member Dues for FY 2022	150,000.00
06/23/2021	EFT	Verizon Wireless	(160.56)
06/23/2021	EFT	VISA Payment	(270.96)
06/29/2021	Deposit	Deposit - Member Dues for FY 2022	150,000.00
Net Activity			156,285.39
Ending Cash			\$ 380,660.73

Checking Account Activity

July 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021



Warrant	Warrant	Vendor	
Date	Number	Name	Amount
Beginning Cash			\$ 380,660.73
07/06/2021	EFT	Pitney Bowes	(10.00)
07/12/2021	Deposit	DWR - Prop 68	7,618.74
07/21/2021	EFT	Pacific Western Payment	(938.68)
07/19/2021	1234	Best, Best & Krieger	(2,873.10)
07/19/2021	1235	Eide Bailly LLP	(1,527.10)
07/19/2021	1236	OfficeTeam	(7,046.72)
07/19/2021	1237	SystemGo IT LLC	(691.00)
07/19/2021	1238	Cultivating Conservation	(7,000.00)
07/19/2021	1239	O'Dowd, G.Patrick	(114.52)
07/19/2021	1240	Ollin Strategies	(5,000.00)
07/23/2021	EFT	Verizon Wireless	(160.50)
07/23/2021	EFT	VISA Payment	(270.96)
07/27/2021	Deposit	Deposit - Member Dues for FY 2022	150,000.00
Net Activity			131,986.16
Ending Cash			\$ 512,646.89

Checking Account Activity

August 1, 2021 through August 31, 2021



Warrant	Warrant	Vendor	
Date	Number	Name	Amount
Beginning Cash			\$ 512,646.89
08/03/2021	EFT	Pitney Bowes	(10.00)
08/13/2021	Deposit	USBR Grant Payment – 2nd quarter 2021	12,647.68
08/11/2021	EFT	Pacific Western Payment	(1,818.84)
08/23/2021	EFT	VISA Payment	(270.96)
08/23/2021	1242	Best, Best & Krieger	(1,290.00)
08/23/2021	1243	CalDesal	(5,000.00)
08/23/2021	1244	Cultivating Conservation	(7,000.00)
08/23/2021	1245	Eide Bailly LLP	(1,304.45)
08/23/2021	1246	OfficeTeam	(8,901.12)
08/23/2021	1247	Ollin Strategies	(5,000.00)
08/23/2021	1248	SystemGo IT LLC	(691.00)
08/24/2021	1249	County of Riverside Facilities Management	(12,358.24)
08/24/2021	1250	Riverside County	(100,000.00)
08/25/2021	1251	Allied	(9,265.00)
Net Activity			(140,261.93)
Ending Cash			\$ 372,384.96



Salton Sea Authority
Profit & Loss Budget to Actual
(Unaudited - Results Do Not Include All Year End Adjustments)
Year to Date through June 30, 2021

	General Fund	NSBYC Grant	DWR - Prop 68 Grant	TOTAL	FY 20-21 Budget	% of Budget	\$ Variance
1 INCOME							
2 Local Government/Member Assessments	\$ 549,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 549,000	\$ 549,000	100%	\$ -
3 Grant Funding	-	133,126	-	133,126	79,600	167%	53,526
4 State of California Grants (Prop 68)	-	-	18,327	18,327	750,000	2%	(731,673)
5 Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	72	-	-	72	1,500	5%	(1,428)
6 Miscellaneous Revenue	251	-	-	251	700	36%	(449)
7 TOTAL INCOME	549,324	133,126	18,327	700,776	1,380,800	51%	(680,024)
8 EXPENSE							
9 SSA Administration							
10 Salaries							
11 GM / Executive Director	167,227	-	6,417	173,645	156,100	111%	17,545
12 Grant Support	89,496	3,354	10,966	103,817	95,500	109%	8,317
13 Executive Director Support	23,616	-	-	23,616	27,300	87%	(3,684)
14 Admin Support A	50,123	-	609	50,731	48,700	104%	2,031
15 Admin Support B	43,317	38	335	43,690	39,100	112%	4,590
16 Total Salaries	373,779	3,392	18,327	395,499	366,700	108%	28,799
17 Employee Benefits							
18 Employee Benefits - GM / Exec. Dir.	63,068	-	-	63,068	62,000	102%	1,068
19 Employee Benefits - Other SSA Staf	56,908	25	-	56,933	51,200	111%	5,733
20 Total Employee Benefits	119,977	25	-	120,001	113,200	106%	6,801
21 Audit/Accounting	53,630	3,994	-	57,624	96,700	60%	(39,076)
22 Contract Attorney	88,945	-	-	88,945	75,000	119%	13,945
23 Equipment Maintenance	11,333	-	-	11,333	8,400	135%	2,933
24 Capital Equipment	557	-	-	557	2,500	22%	(1,943)
25 Insurance	11,419	-	-	11,419	8,900	128%	2,519
26 Office Expense/Operating Supplies	2,769	-	-	2,769	3,000	92%	(231)
27 Office Expense/Online Services	4,279	-	-	4,279	1,400	306%	2,879
28 Postage, Mail	1,966	-	-	1,966	1,800	109%	166
29 Printing Services	1,072	-	-	1,072	4,000	27%	(2,928)
30 Dues, Subscriptions	13,000	-	-	13,000	10,000	130%	3,000
31 Communications	4,970	-	-	4,970	5,000	99%	(30)
32 Travel/Mileage	10,671	-	-	10,671	56,000	19%	(45,329)
33 Technical Support - Consultant	-	-	-	-	40,000	0%	(40,000)
34 Technical Support - Engineering	-	-	-	-	60,000	0%	(60,000)
35 Technical Support - General	-	-	-	-	40,000	0%	(40,000)

*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
Profit & Loss Budget to Actual
(Unaudited - Results Do Not Include All Year End Adjustments)
Year to Date through June 30, 2021

		General Fund	NSBYC Grant	DWR - Prop 68 Grant	TOTAL	FY 20-21 Budget	% of Budget	\$ Variance
36	Contract Services / Website	-	-	-	-	5,000	0%	(5,000)
37	Technical Support - Enviromental	-	-	-	-	60,000	0%	(60,000)
38	Technical Support - Fiscal	-	-	-	-	50,000	0%	(50,000)
39	Communications & Outreach	4,625	-	-	4,625	40,000	12%	(35,375)
40	Utilities	-	-	-	-	3,000	0%	(3,000)
41	Grants & Advocacy	173,781	-	-	173,781	150,000	116%	23,781
42	Project Management	-	-	-	-	60,000	0%	(60,000)
43	Contingency	-	-	-	-	33,400	0%	(33,400)
45	Total SSA Administration	876,773	7,411	18,327	902,511	1,294,000	70%	(391,489)
46	North Shore Grant							
47	EDA Salaries	-	27,318	-	27,318	-	0%	27,318
48	Grant Expenses - Contractors	-	98,437	-	98,437	-	0%	98,437
49	Total North Shore Grant	-	125,755	-	125,755	-	0%	125,755
50	TOTAL EXPENSE	876,773	133,166	18,327	1,028,266	1,294,000	79%	(265,734)
51	NET INCOME	\$ (327,449)	\$ (40)	\$ (0)	\$ (327,490)	\$ 86,800		\$ (414,290)

*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 - Results Do Not Include All Year End Adjustments)
As of June 30, 2021

	General Fund	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	DWR - Prop 68 Grant	NSBYC Grant	TOTAL
1 ASSETS					
2 Checking/Savings					
3 Cash - PW Checking	\$ 356,058	\$ 20,991	\$ -	\$ 3,612	\$ 380,661
4 Cash - RivCo Fund	42,810	-	-	-	42,810
5 RivCo investment fund	5,120	-	-	-	5,120
6 Cash - Petty Cash	-	-	-	-	-
7 Total Checking/Savings	403,987	20,991	-	3,612	428,591
8 Accounts Receivable	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
9 Other Current Assets					
10 Due from Grant Funds	5,131	-	-	-	5,131
11 Prepaid Items	5,296	-	-	-	5,296
12 Grant Receivable	-	-	18,327	12,648	30,974
13 Total Other Current Assets	10,435	-	18,327	12,648	41,402
14 Total Current Assets	564,422	20,991	18,327	16,259	619,992
15 TOTAL ASSETS	564,422	20,991	18,327	16,259	619,992
16 LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
17 Liabilities					
18 Current Liabilities					
19 Accounts Payable	16,528	-	-	-	16,528
20 Credit Cards					
21 Credit Card Payable (Visa)	112	-	-	-	112
22 Credit Card Payable (Pac West)	1,289	-	-	-	1,289
23 Total Credit Cards	1,401	-	-	-	1,401
24 Other Current Liabilities					
25 Due to Other Funds	-	-	18,327	5,131	23,458
26 Accrued Expenditures	3,429	-	-	-	3,429
27 Deferred Revenue	610,000	-	-	-	610,000
28 Accrued Payroll	13,885	-	-	-	13,885
29 Due to BOR	-	-	-	-	-
30 Due to EDA for NSBYC Grant	-	-	-	12,311	12,311
31 Accrued Vacation	21,315	-	-	-	21,315
32 Total Other Current Liabilities	648,628	-	18,327	17,442	684,398
33 Total Liabilities	666,557	-	18,327	17,442	702,326
34 Fund Balance	(102,135)	20,991	-	(1,183)	(82,326)
35 TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$ 564,422	\$ 20,991	\$ 18,327	\$ 16,259	\$ 620,000

*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

Profit & Loss Budget to Actual

(Unaudited)

Year to Date through July 31, 2021

	General Fund	DWR - Prop 68 Grant	TOTAL	FY 21-22 Budget	% of Budget	\$ Variance
1 INCOME						
2 Local Government/Member Assessments	\$ 610,000	\$ -	\$ 610,000	\$ 610,000	100%	\$ -
3 Ex Officio State Dues	-	-	-	150,000	0%	(150,000)
4 Sponsorships	-	-	-	50,000	0%	(50,000)
5 Other Grants	-	-	-	80,000	0%	(80,000)
6 State of California Grants (Prop 68)	-	-	-	250,000	0%	(250,000)
7 Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	-	-	-	1,000	0%	(1,000)
8 Miscellaneous Revenue	-	-	-	-	0%	-
9 TOTAL INCOME	\$ 610,000	\$ -	\$ 610,000	\$ 1,141,000	53%	\$ (531,000)
10 EXPENSE						
11 SSA Administration						
12 Salaries & Benefits						
13 Total Salaries	\$ 20,707	\$ -	\$ 20,707	\$ 371,800	6%	\$ (351,093)
14 Total Employee Benefits	9,997	-	9,997	166,200	6%	(156,203)
15 Total Salaries & Benefits	30,703	-	30,703	538,000	6%	(507,297)
16 Contract Service / Professional						
17 DC Advocates	-	-	-	84,000	0%	(84,000)
18 Sacramento Advocate	5,000	-	5,000	60,000	8%	(55,000)
19 Grant Administration	-	-	-	100,000	0%	(100,000)
20 Contract Attorney	-	-	-	75,000	0%	(75,000)
21 Audit & Accounting	-	-	-	75,000	0%	(75,000)
22 Contract Service / Professional	5,000	-	5,000	394,000	1%	(389,000)
23 Equipment Maintenance	691	-	691	12,000	6%	(11,309)
24 Capital Equipment	-	-	-	2,400	0%	(2,400)
25 Insurance	-	-	-	9,300	0%	(9,300)
26 Office Expense/Operating Supplies	1,312	-	1,312	6,000	22%	(4,688)
27 Office Expense/Online Services	273	-	273	3,000	9%	(2,727)
28 Dues, Subscriptions	30	-	30	10,000	0%	(9,970)
29 Public Relations	-	-	-	36,000	0%	(36,000)
30 Travel/Mileage	460	-	460	48,000	1%	(47,540)
31 Technical Support - Consultant	-	-	-	24,000	0%	(24,000)
32 Utilities	-	-	-	3,000	0%	(3,000)
33 Total SSA Administration	38,469	-	38,469	1,085,700	4%	(1,047,231)
34 Grant Expenses						
35 EDA Salaries	-	-	-	-	0%	-
36 Contractors	-	-	-	-	0%	-
37 Total Grant Expenses	-	-	-	-	0%	-
38 TOTAL EXPENSE	38,469	-	38,469	1,085,700	4%	(1,047,231)
39 NET INCOME	\$ 571,531	\$ -	\$ 571,531	\$ 55,300		\$ 516,231

*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, 2021

	General Fund	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	DWR - Prop 68 Grant	NSBYC Grant	TOTAL
1 ASSETS					
2 Checking/Savings					
3 Cash - PW Checking	\$ 480,425	\$ 20,991	\$ 7,619	\$ 3,612	\$ 512,647
4 Cash - RivCo Fund	283	-	-	-	283
5 RivCo investment fund	5,120	-	-	-	5,120
6 Cash - Petty Cash	-	-	-	-	-
7 Total Checking/Savings	485,828	20,991	7,619	3,612	518,050
8 Other Current Assets					
9 Due from Grant Funds	5,131	-	-	-	5,131
10 Prepaid Items	5,296	-	-	-	5,296
11 Interest Receivable	7	-	-	-	7
12 Grant Receivable	10,435	-	10,708	-	21,143
13 Total Other Current Assets	10,435	-	10,708	12,648	33,790
14 TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 496,262	\$ 20,991	\$ 18,327	\$ 16,259	\$ 551,840
15 LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE					
Liabilities					
16 Accounts Payable	\$ 1,304	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,304
17 Credit Cards					
18 Credit Card Payable (Visa)	112	-	-	-	112
19 Credit Card Payable (Pac West)	1,819	-	-	-	1,819
20 Total Credit Cards	1,931	-	-	-	1,931
21 Other Current Liabilities					
22 Accrued Expenditures	2,316	-	-	-	2,316
23 Deferred Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
24 Accrued Payroll	-	-	-	-	-
25 Due to Other Funds	-	-	18,327	5,131	23,458
26 Due to EDA	-	-	-	12,311	12,311
26 Accrued Vacation	21,315	-	-	-	21,315
28 Total Other Current Liabilities	23,631	-	18,327	17,442	59,400
29 Total Liabilities	26,866	-	18,327	17,442	62,636
30 Fund Balance	469,396	20,991	-	(1,183)	489,204
31 TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$ 496,262	\$ 20,991	18,327	\$ 16,259	\$ 551,840

*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.

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director /GM
Date: September 23, 2021
Re: Update Facsimile Signature Policy
CM No. IV.B – 09-23-2021

BACKGROUND:

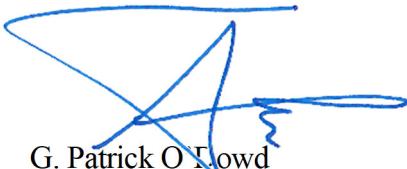
The use of facsimile signatures has become near commonplace in today's business environment. However, the risk associated with such widespread use is something that each organization must take into account in its risk management efforts.

The Salton Sea Authority Board in 2015 adopted a procedure for utilizing Director-approved signature stamp, but the use of electronic facsimile signatures remains unaddressed. This policy closes that gap.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board approve Salton Sea Authority Electronic Signature Use Policy as presented.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/GM

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE USE POLICY

I. PURPOSE.

The Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) seeks in this Electronic Signature Use Policy (“Policy”) to implement guidelines for the use and acceptance of electronic signatures used to conduct business in the Authority. This Policy allows the use of electronic signatures in lieu of manual signatures, when permitted by law, and establishes when an electronic signature may replace a manual signature. The Authority has a vital interest in reducing the waste of paper, increasing the efficient use of public resources, and ensuring the security and authenticity of Authority of electronic records, including electronic signatures. The use of electronic signature technology will allow the Authority to collect and preserve signatures on documents quickly, securely, and efficiently.

II. LEGAL BACKGROUND.

California has adopted statutes regulating the use of electronic signatures including California Civil Code section 1633.1 et seq., otherwise known as the “Uniform Electronic Transactions Act” (“UETA”) and California Government Code section 16.5. This Policy and the guidelines and procedures included hereunder are intended to comply entirely with all applicable laws and regulations including, without limitation, the aforementioned statutes. To the extent that any procedure, policy, or guideline contained herein conflicts with applicable law, Authority staff, officials, and agents and all other persons subject to this Policy are required and expected to comply with the requirements of the applicable law(s).

III. DEFINITIONS.

A. “Approved List of Certification Authorities” means the list of Certification Authorities approved by the California Secretary of State to issue certification for digital signature transactions involving public entities in California. The current Approved List of Certification Authorities can be found at the following address: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/regulations/current-regulations/technology/digital-signatures/approved-certification-authorities/>.

B. “Certification Authority” means a person or entity that issues certification for a digital signature transaction.

C. “Digital signature” means an electronic identifier, created by computer, intended by the party using it to have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature. A digital signature is a type of electronic signature.

D. “Electronic” shall mean relating to technology having electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical, electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

E. “Electronic record” shall mean a record, file, or document created, generated, sent, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means. An electronic record generally contains

information or a data file that was created and stored in digitized form through the use of computers, machines, and software applications.

F. “Electronic signature” shall mean an electronic sound, symbol, or process, attached to, or logically associated with, an electronic record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the electronic record.

G. “Electronically signed record” is a record, file, or document that has been signed by means of an electronic signature.

H. “External document” shall mean any document generated by or required to be signed by persons other than the Authority. Examples of external documents include contracts to which the Authority is a party that must be signed by a non-Authority party or applications completed by the members of the public and submitted to the Authority.

I. “Internal document” shall mean a form or document created by the Authority and for use exclusively by the Authority in which a signature is required or used.

J. “Manual signature” shall mean an original wet signature applied to a document.

K. “Transaction” shall mean an action or set of actions occurring between two or more persons relating to the conduct of business, commercial, or governmental affairs.

IV. GENERAL POLICY RULES.

The Authority encourages the use and acceptance of electronic signatures in internal and external documents when it is operationally feasible, where technology permits, and permitted by law.

A. Compliance with Law, Policy. To the extent permitted by law and this Policy, the Authority accepts electronic signatures as legally binding.

B. Use Optional. The use or acceptance of electronic signatures shall be at the option of the non-Authority signatories. Nothing in this policy shall require the Authority to use or permit the use of electronic signatures.

C. Consent. All parties that wish to use electronic signatures shall agree to follow this Policy, shall provide written or electronic consent as to the use of electronic signatures, and shall agree to indemnify the Authority against any liability associated with electronically transmitting an electronically signed record.

D. Internal Authority Business.

1. The Authority requires that various internal documents be approved by an employee, supervisor, department head, or other Authority staff and approvals for internal documents may be signified by an electronic signature as a replacement for a manual signature.

2. Internal documents that create or impose a legal or fiduciary duty may require a digital signature, as determined by the Authority General Manager, or designee.

3. The use by the Authority of electronic records, electronic signatures, and digital signatures for internal Authority business, including internal documents, shall be in accordance with administrative procedures as designated and amended from time to time by the Authority General Manager, or designee.

E. External Documents and Transactions.

1. The security requirements for electronic signatures range from simple to the more complex, depending upon the level of transaction. The following are the classes of documents permitted for electronic signature. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list, nor does it impose electronic signature as a requirement for any particular transaction. The Authority will only accept electronic signatures that comply with requirements of this Policy.

- a. Contracts and Amendments
- b. Grant Documents
- c. Applications
- d. Invoices
- e. Certificates and Permits, as allowed by law
- f. Correspondence

2. Design professionals, such as architects and engineers, who wish to use an electronic signature and whose manual signature is required for submittal of hard copy plans, will be required to obtain and use a digital signature key for electronically submitted plans.

3. If an electronic signature is used for an external document involving a transaction with the Authority which creates or imposes a legal duty, such as a contract or amendment, the Authority General Manager, or designee, may require a digital signature.

F. Documents for Which Electronic Signatures are Prohibited.

1. Civil Code section 1633.3 contains a list of transactions for which electronic signatures are not available.

2. Unless otherwise allowed documents that are recorded with the County of Riverside must contain a manual signature.

G. Valid Electronic Signatures.

1. When a manual signature is required, the parties may agree that an electronic signature satisfies that requirement if:

- a. The signature is in accordance with the requirements of the UETA;
- b. The signature is created using an electronic signature technology that has been approved by the Authority General Manager, or designee, in accordance with the provisions of this Policy; and
- c. The signature is in accordance with any and all other applicable laws and regulations.

H. Valid Digital Signatures.

1. Digital signatures used in compliance with this Policy shall have the same force and effect as the use of a manual signature provided that the digital signature has all of the following attributes:

- a. It is unique to the person using it;
- b. It is capable of verification;
- c. It is under the sole control of the person using it;
- d. It is linked to data in such a manner that if the data are changed, the digital signature is invalidated; and
- e. It conforms to the regulations adopted by the Secretary of State including, but not limited to, the acceptable technology requirements set forth under Title 2, Division 7, Chapter 10, Section 22003 of the California Code of Regulations.

2. The Certification Authority issuing the certification for the digital signature transaction must appear on the Approved List of Certification Authorities.

3. Prior to accepting a digital signature, Authority staff shall ensure that the level of security used to identify the signer of a document is sufficient for the transaction being conducted, that the level of security used to transmit the signature is sufficient for the transaction being conducted, and that the certificate format used by the signer is sufficient for the security and interoperability needs of the Authority.

I. Minimum Standards. These are minimum standards. Any transaction must be analyzed under the facts and circumstances existing at the time a transaction has been executed. Depending upon the circumstances, the Authority may require a higher level of signature verification (i.e., out-of-state signatory). Nothing in this Policy prohibits an Authority official or employee, with the consent from the Authority General Manager, from requiring a wet signature or higher form of secure electronic signature if he or she believes it is prudent or necessary.

J. Acceptable Electronic Signature Technologies. The Authority General Manager, or designee, shall identify the level of security procedures required for internal documents and external documents and also identify vendors and technology to execute those security procedures using industry best practices.

K. Notaries. This Policy shall comport with California Civil Code section 1633.11(a) which states, “If a law requires that a signature be notarized, the requirement is satisfied with respect to an electronic signature if an electronic record includes, in addition to the electronic signature to be notarized, the electronic signature of a notary public together with all other information required to be included in a notarization by other applicable law.”

L. Penalty of Perjury. This Policy shall comport with California Civil Code section 1633.11(b) which states, “In a transaction, if a law requires that a statement be signed under penalty of perjury, the requirement is satisfied with respect to an electronic signature, if an electronic record includes, in addition to the electronic signature, all of the information as to which the declaration pertains together with a declaration under penalty of perjury by the person who submits the electronic signature that the information is true and correct.”

M. Further Acts. Nothing in this Policy shall prevent the Authority General Manager, or designee, from adopting additional guidelines or taking further actions to implement this Policy or to add other permissible forms of electronic signatures to this Policy.

V. SANCTIONS.

A. Any person that makes inappropriate, illegal, or fraudulent use of electronic signatures, digital signatures, or electronic records in violation of this Policy or of any applicable law or regulation is subject to sanctions up to and including dismissal, suspension, and criminal prosecution as specified in published Authority policies or ordinances and State law, regardless of whether such sanctions are directly referenced in this Policy. All inappropriate, illegal, or fraudulent uses of any electronic means of transmission shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent permitted by law, including the recovery of attorneys’ fees and administrative costs.

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director /GM
Date: September 23, 2021
Re: Ad Hoc Committee Appointments for FY 2021-2022
CM No. IV.C – 09-23-2021

Salton Sea Authority Ad Hoc Committees FY2021-2022

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.



Cultivating Conservation

MEMO

TO: SSA Directors and General Manager G. Patrick O'Dowd
FROM: Lisa Moore
RE: **Federal Update**
DATE: September 23, 2021

Summary

This memo describes key progress we have made to advance federal funding opportunities during our summer meeting hiatus. In particular, it describes our success in securing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) earmarks in both the House and Senate FY22 Energy and Water Appropriations bills. This would enable the Corps to initiate a Salton Sea long-range feasibility planning process, which is the prerequisite to obtaining 65% federal design and construction assistance for a long-range Sea management effort. I have attached the materials the Authority submitted in support of our Congressional delegation's unified effort to secure these Corps earmarks.

It also describes our more recent success in securing the inclusion of the Salton Sea Projects Improvements Act (H.R. 3877) and the associated \$250,000 million in funds the bill authorizes for Reclamation projects, including those that could be undertaken jointly with CNRA and the Authority, in the House Budget Reconciliation legislation. The Senate is currently working on companion Reconciliation legislation. I have attached the Congressional and Authority letters in support of securing H.R. 3877 and the \$250,000 million in Reconciliation.

Discussion

I. Corps Feasibility Study Appropriations Earmark

As you will recall, last year the Authority worked with the delegation to secure the initial authorization of a Salton Sea Corps feasibility study in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in December 2020. Securing this authorization was a significant achievement, as Congress significantly limits new study authorizations of this kind. We conducted numerous briefings with CNRA concerning this effort throughout 2020, as did our congressional delegation.

Feasibility studies generally cost \$3 million and must be completed within 3 years. They are conducted by the Corps in partnership and cost shared 50/50 with a local sponsor/s. The study is comprised of the engineering and environmental reviews necessary to recommend a project for design and construction at a 65% federal contribution and 35% sponsor. The study will publicly scope alternatives to be considered, analyze those alternatives, and select a preferred alternative for long-range Salton Sea management ultimately eligible for 65% federal design/construction funding.

It is very important to note that initiating a Corps study does not predetermine a long-range Salton Sea plan. A Corps feasibility study is a publicly vetted vehicle to consider alternatives,

as required by federal environmental laws, and is functionally quite similar to the CNRA's current long-range planning process.

In order to actually initiate the study, the Corps needs federal funding. As you may recall, Congress has attempted to initiate such a Corps Sea feasibility study in 2007 and 2016, but failed to later provide federal funding appropriations to move the authorized study along. Securing appropriations quickly after securing the 2020 WRDA authorization is critical to success and a high Congressional and Authority priority. Accordingly, this summer, our Congressional delegation successfully advanced the required federal appropriations via earmarks in the House and Senate FY22 Energy and Water Appropriations legislation to enable the Corps to initiate the study.

When Congress restored earmarks (*i.e.*, congressionally directed spending) earlier this year, it required Members to show that such earmark requests have local support. Working with the delegation, the Authority provided this demonstration of support via support letters and other required materials. I have attached the materials we submitted to Senator Feinstein in support of this request. Similar materials were submitted by the Authority to Sen. Padilla and Reps. Ruiz and Vargas. Given that Congress has not allowed earmarking for ten years, competition for earmarks this year was fierce, given the years of pent up demand. Each Member of our delegation chose to prioritize securing Corps Salton Sea funding, a sign of the strong congressional engagement we have developed.

Notably, the Corps Los Angeles District administratively also strongly supports conducting this study, recommending it the Corps headquarters it as a high district priority. Authority federal consultant Lowry Crook, who formerly held senior position with the Corps, led the successful effort to help secure this key Corps support.

The required Corps funding appropriation has passed the House. Action on the Senate companion appropriation is likely in the fall with ultimate enactment possible by the end of the year.

II. Corps Local Sponsor Cost Share

Given that Corps funding to begin the study is in both the House and Senate FY22 Energy and Water Appropriations bills, it is highly likely that the Corps will have the needed funding to begin the study next year. In order to do so, a local sponsor must match that funding in the first year. Match needed will likely be \$200,000, which may be financial and/or combined with in kind services.

Throughout July and August, the Authority convened meetings with Assembly Member Garcia and CNRA Secretary Crowfoot and his staff to propose a joint Authority/CNRA local sponsorship of the Corps study. In particular, we have been working to ensure that this local sponsor cost share will be timely provided to initiate this study. That funding would need to be in hand by at the latest September 2022, but ideally would be provided well in advance of that time.

Secretary Crowfoot asked the Authority to work with Mr. Delgado to better understand how the Corps process aligns with the long-range plan the CNRA is obligated to deliver to the State Water Board in December 2022. On our last teleconference with Mr. Delgado and Assembly Member Garcia's staff, the Authority demonstrated that the Corps process aligns well with the CNRA long-range plan timeline and would not have the effect of prejudging the consideration of long-range plan alternatives. Rather, it would facilitate ensuring that whatever alternative emerges from this public process as the preferred course of action would be eligible for Corps 65% design and construction funding. We are in the process of setting up a follow up discussion on next steps with the Corps and CNRA.

III. Federal Budget Reconciliation and Reclamation Funding

Congress is currently formulating Budget Reconciliation legislation, dubbed the "Build Back Better" bill. Reconciliation has privileged status in the Senate and may move forward with a majority vote rather than the 60 vote threshold typically required in that body. It presents a rare opportunity to move both legislative authorizations and funding in one bill. Through this process, Congressional committees make legislative recommendations to the respective House and Senate Budget Committees which are then combined into a Budget Reconciliation bill that is moved through to enactment via this privileged legislative process.

The Authority has been working with our delegation to increase Reclamation's funding authority and appropriations through Reconciliation to undertake both short and long-term Salton Sea management projects. Reclamation has a very limited \$10 million authorization to undertake such work at the Sea. This funding has been appropriated by Congress at a very slow pace since 1992, but is now nearly exhausted. With input from the Authority, Congressman Ruiz recently introduced the Salton Sea Projects Improvements Act (H.R. 3877) to increase Reclamation's Salton Sea authorization to undertake projects with the Authority and CNRA by providing Reclamation \$250 million to do so. Since then we have supported the effort to include this legislation and funding in the Reconciliation bill.

On September 7, the House Natural Resource Committee included this legislation and funding in the Committee's recommendations for the House Reconciliation measure. The Senate Energy Committee is currently formulating their recommendations, and the delegation and Authority are seeking its inclusion on the Senate side.

March 30, 2021

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

I am writing to convey the strong support of the Salton Sea Authority (the Authority) for the attached FY2022 Energy and Water Appropriations request for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) funding to undertake the Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Study authorized by section 203(a) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020. The Authority has coordinated with the Corps Los Angeles District to formulate this appropriations request.

The Authority is a Joint Powers entity comprised of the Torres Martinez Tribe, Riverside and Imperial Counties, Imperial Irrigation District and Coachella Valley Water District.

The Salton Sea, California's largest lake, occupies approximately 370 square miles in Imperial and Riverside counties in southeastern California. It provides habitat for over 400 species of birds and is a critical stop on the Pacific Flyway. Since the early 2000s, inflows to the Salton Sea have been decreasing due to drought, agricultural water conservation measures to benefit regional water supply security, and other causes. Decreasing inflows to the sea have resulted in the exposure of emissive lakebed, diminishing habitat values and negatively impacting area air quality. The region is in severe non-attainment with federal air quality standards, and has the highest rate of childhood asthma and respiratory illness in California.

In 2007, the State of California finalized the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Preferred Alternative Report (Preferred Alternative) which identified the construction of a Perimeter Lake at the Salton Sea to facilitate the construction of habitat complexes at the sea's north and south ends as the preferred course of action. WRDA of 2007 authorized the Secretary to review California's Preferred Alternative to determine the feasibility of projects to be undertaken under the program, to cost share in the construction of projects under the program, and authorized \$30 million for such work. PL 110-114 § 2032. This authority was enhanced in the WIIN Act of 2016. PL 114-322 § 1181. Section 203(a) of WRDA 2020 clarified these earlier WRDA authorizations to provide for a Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Feasibility Study.

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
March 30, 2021
Page 2 of 2

Since these original studies and authorizations, much work has been undertaken to advance Salton Sea restoration at the state and local level, including significant planning efforts and the provision of nearly \$300 million in State of California Salton Sea funding.

I have attached an Authority resolution demonstrating support for the Salton Sea Perimeter Lake, which also notes non-governmental environmental organization support for this work. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Patrick O'Dowd', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/General Manager

County of Riverside

RIVERSIDE OFFICE:
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92502-1647
(951) 955-1040
Fax (951) 955-2194



DISTRICT OFFICE/MAILING ADDRESS
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 222
Palm Desert, CA 92260-2574
(760) 863-8211
Fax (760) 863-8905

SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ FOURTH DISTRICT

May 5, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Juan Vargas
U.S. House of Representatives
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, Representative Ruiz & Representative Vargas:

As supervisor for Riverside County's Fourth District, representing the eastern two-thirds of Riverside County, and also as the vice chair of the Salton Sea Authority, I am writing to convey my strong support for the Salton Sea Authority's FY2022 Energy and Water Appropriations request for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding to undertake the Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Study authorized by section 203(a) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020.

The Salton Sea occupies approximately 370 square miles in Imperial and Riverside counties in southeastern California. The federal government has significant interests at the Salton Sea, including as a major landowner, tribal trustee, and the operator of the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge. The Sea provides habitat for over 400 species of birds and is a critical stop on the Pacific Flyway.

Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, Representative Ruiz & Representative Vargas
May 5, 2021
Page 2

Since the early 2000s, however, inflows to the Salton Sea have been decreasing due to drought and voluntary water conservation measures that have greatly benefited the nation's water supply security, but which have created a significant public health and environmental crisis locally.

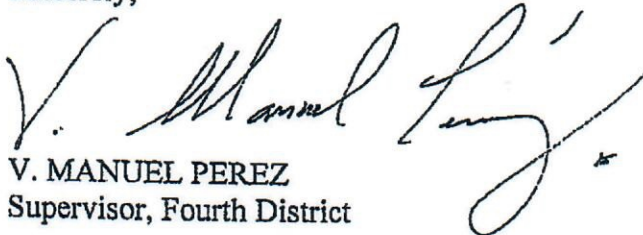
This is particularly the case for the disadvantaged communities surrounding the Salton Sea. These communities suffer from the highest rates of respiratory disease in all of California. Accordingly, the crisis facing the Salton Sea raises significant environmental justice concerns.

In 2007, California finalized the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Preferred Alternative Report which identified the construction of a Perimeter Lake at the Salton Sea as a preferred course of action to address these concerns. WRDA 2007 authorized a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers feasibility study of California's preferred alternative. This authority was enhanced in the WIIN Act of 2016. Section 203(a) of WRDA 2020 clarified these earlier WRDA authorizations to provide for the Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Feasibility Study.

Since these original studies and authorizations, much work has been done to advance Salton Sea restoration at the state and local level, including the provision of nearly \$300 million in state funding. The Salton Sea Authority's request to fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Feasibility Study will help to mobilize the federal investment in state and local revitalization efforts crucial to the communities surrounding the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea Authority's appropriations request would also advance the goal of President Biden's Executive Order 14008 that 40 percent of the benefits of federal investment flow to disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,


V. MANUEL PEREZ
Supervisor, Fourth District

VMP:das

March 9, 2021

COL. Julie A. Balten

Commander and District Engineer
Los Angeles District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
915 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 930
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Re: Letter of Intent to Serve as Local Sponsor for Salton Sea Feasibility Study

Dear Colonel Balten:

I am writing to convey the Salton Sea Authority's (Authority) intention to participate as the Sponsor for a Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Feasibility Study in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Section 203(a) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020 authorizes the Corps to undertake a feasibility study of a Salton Sea Perimeter Lake or subset thereof. It also directs the Corps to expedite the completion of this feasibility study.

The Salton Sea, California's largest lake, occupies approximately 370 square miles in Imperial and Riverside counties in southeastern California. The Sea is sustained primarily by agricultural drainage flows from roughly 600,000 acres of farmland. Since the early 2000s, inflows to the Salton Sea have been significantly diminished by drought and voluntary water conservation efforts that have greatly benefited the nation's water supply security, but which have created a significant public health and environmental crisis.

This is particularly the case for the predominantly low-income, Hispanic communities surrounding the Salton Sea. These communities suffer from the highest rates of respiratory disease in all of California. Accordingly, the crisis facing the Salton Sea raises significant environmental justice concerns – concerns that are a high priority for the Biden administration. An Army Corps solution to this problem would advance the goal of President Biden's Executive Order 14008 that forty percent of benefits of Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

Congress has directed federal agencies to advance Salton Sea restoration in the past. In 1992 and again in 1998, Congress directed the Department of the Interior to craft Sea management plans. These early plans considered versions of the Perimeter Lake concept now proposed for a Corps feasibility study. The 2007 WRDA authorized a Corps Salton Sea restoration study. Congress later updated that authorization in the 2016 WRDA.

COL. Julie A. Balten
Commander and District Engineer
Page 2
March 9, 2021

More recently, in July 2020, Congress convened a Salton Sea hearing, where State of California officials testified that the Salton Sea crisis cannot be addressed without robust federal investment. Finally, in December 2020, Congress enacted WRDA 2020, and directed the expedited completion of the Salton Sea Perimeter Lake feasibility study.

This consistent Congressional engagement reflects the need to protect federal interests in the Salton Sea. Interior owns roughly 40 percent of the Salton Sea, including the 35,000-acre Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge at the Sea's south end. Interior interests also include tribal trust responsibilities associated with the Torres Martinez Tribe, which occupies the Sea's north end. The Department of Defense manages the 357 square mile Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range located directly to the east of the Salton Sea, which is one of the most heavily used and important aerial gunnery ranges in the nation used by the Marines and Navy.

Further, the Salton Sea and surrounding region possesses an abundant supply of renewable energy and is a key national energy resource. The Bureau of Land Management's Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan estimates renewable energy generation potential at 10,000 megawatts in the Salton Sea region. The Salton Sea itself possesses more geothermal capacity than anywhere else in the nation. The Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) in and around the Salton Sea is estimated to contain up to 2,000 megawatts of untapped geothermal energy. The KGRA already produces 544 megawatts of geothermal, providing reliable, base load power from facilities at the Salton Sea to energy consumers. The Salton Sea geothermal resource is also now receiving substantial investment for the sustainable extraction of lithium from geothermal brine.

The Authority understands that a feasibility study for comprehensive restoration of the Salton Sea cannot be initiated unless it is selected as a new start study with associated allocation of Federal funds provided through the annual Congressional appropriations process. If selected, we intend to sign a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) to initiate the study with USACE.

It is our understanding the FCSA targets completion of the feasibility study within 3 years at a total cost of no more than \$3 million. After signing the FCSA, a Project Management Plan will be developed and agreed upon by the Authority and USACE. The study will be conducted and managed by USACE. The cost-sharing for the study is based on a 50% contribution by the Federal government, with the Authority's 50% contribution provided in cash, or by a portion or all of the contribution provided through in-kind non-monetary services. The Authority also understands that construction of an ecosystem restoration project recommended by the feasibility study requires a local sponsor to provide 35% of the cost of design and construction, including the provision of all lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations and disposal areas. If this amount is less than 35% of the implementation cost, a sponsor is required to provide an additional cash contribution to equal 35%.

COL. Julie A. Balten
Commander and District Engineer
Page 2
March 9, 2021

The Authority is aware that this letter constitutes an expression of intent to initiate a study partnership and is not a contractual obligation. It is understood that we or USACE may opt to discontinue the study at any time after the FSCA is signed but will commit to work together as partners from the scoping phase, and subsequent decision points throughout the feasibility study, on providing the necessary support to risk-informed decision making. If it is determined that additional time or funding is necessary to support decisions to be made in order to complete the study, the Authority will work with USACE to determine the appropriate course of action.

If you require additional information, please contact: G. Patrick O'Dowd at 760-238-7777 and/or gpodowd@saltonseas.com.

Sincerely,



G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/GM

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein;
Senator Alex Padilla;
Rep. Raul Ruiz;
Rep. Juan Vargas;
David Van Dorpe, Deputy Engineer, Los Angeles District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
Ed De Mesa, Chief, Plan Formulation Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
Cheree Peterson, Programs Director, SES, South Pacific Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 19-06**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
IN RECOGNITION OF LOCAL UNITY**

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea region is an irreplaceable environmental resource for California – providing vital habitat sustaining over 400 resident and migratory avian species, which is particularly important as California has lost over 90% of its other wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Authority is an organization established in 1993 for the purpose of developing local consensus for actions to revitalize the Salton Sea, with membership comprised of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Riverside and Imperial Counties, and Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians; and

WHEREAS, stakeholders including the State of California know that inaction at the Salton Sea poses an imminent threat to California's environment, human health, large-scale agricultural food supply, water security, renewable energy production and economic vitality;

WHEREAS, the natural resources surrounding the Imperial and Coachella Valleys, including the Salton Sea, provide unique wildlife and recreational resources and are tourism and economic drivers for all of Southern California; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural lands in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys play a pivotal role in our nation's food security; and

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea region offers vast and unique renewable energy resources, estimated to be capable of providing over 1,800 megawatts of continuously available geothermal energy plus other renewable generation opportunities to ensure California meets its clean energy goals; and

WHEREAS, the communities immediately surrounding the Salton Sea already suffer from some of the highest rates of air quality related illnesses in the nation; and

WHEREAS, tourism is the number one industry in the Coachella Valley with more than 15 million visitors each year supporting more than 46,000 (one in four) jobs and \$6.4 billion in total business sales; and generating \$952 million in tax revenues, including \$538 million in state and local revenues; and

WHEREAS, an impact study by Tourism Economics in 2015 on the potential impact of the Salton Sea reports that continued degradation could cost the Coachella Valley region alone between \$1.3 billion and \$6.5 billion in lost tourism spending over a five-year period; the resulting total economic loss would range from \$1.7 billion to \$8.6 billion and state and local taxes could experience up to a cumulative \$712 million loss; and

WHEREAS, the cost of doing nothing to improve the Salton Sea – estimated to exceed \$70 billion in a 30 years span – is by far the most costly, reckless and irresponsible of all responses to the challenges at the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), which authorized the nation's largest agricultural-to-urban water transfer, includes commitments by the State of California to ensure that the impacts of the water transfer will be mitigated and, as articulated in Section 2940 of the Fish and Game Code, the fish and wildlife resources at the Salton Sea will be protected in the long-term; and

WHEREAS, mitigation water under the QSA began terminating in December 2017, at which point the Sea began to dramatically recede, resulting in negative wildlife and air quality impacts that will severely worsen unless immediate and sustained action is taken; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, is required to work with local stakeholders as articulated in Fish and Game Code, Article 2 of Section 2940 wherein the Natural Resources Agency shall lead Salton Sea restoration efforts in consultation and coordination with the Salton Sea Authority, and;

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Authority has been directly involved in the development of plans that served as the foundation for Salton Sea planning efforts in accord with state law (AB 71 - M. Perez) directing the California Natural Resources Agency to “work in consultation and cooperation with the Salton Sea Authority” on matters pertaining to Salton Sea restoration; and

WHEREAS, in May 2015, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. created the Salton Sea Task Force and directed agencies to develop a comprehensive management plan for the Sea that will meet a short-term goal to construct 9,000 to 12,000 acres and a medium-term goal to construct 18,000 acres to 25,000 acres of habitat and dust suppression projects; and

WHEREAS, in March 2017, California’s Natural Resources Agency released a 10-Year Plan, which describes the first phase of the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP), detailing the number of acres of lakebed expected to face exposure each year from 2018 through 2028, the number of acres of playa to be covered, and habitat restored, through proposed construction efforts, and the projected annual costs of the effort; and

WHEREAS, a petition to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) filed by IID and Imperial County, requested greater demonstration of state commitment to fulfill its contractual and legal obligations contained in the QSA, most specifically the state’s immediate actions and commitments to accomplish the goals of the SSMP; and

WHEREAS, an ensuing productive negotiation between the state, IID, Imperial County, San Diego County Water Authority and other Salton Sea stakeholders resulted in a Draft Stipulated Order Revising WRO 2002-0013 that was subsequently adopted by the SWRCB to provide improved assurance and performance standards related to the state's commitment to fulfill the QSA through the SSMP; and

WHEREAS, the Stipulated Order provides that SWRCB assert guidance and authority over the implementation of the 10-Year Plan as a means to fulfill the state obligations under the QSA, and the Stipulated Order provides empirical milestones and timelines designed to incrementally address the critical environmental and public health issues integral to managing the Sea as it is reconfigured to account for water loss and rising salinity; and

WHEREAS, while the Stipulated Order is readily acknowledged by all parties to fall short of their ultimate expectation for the state's contribution to restoring the Salton Sea, the Stipulated Order is at long last a credible and accountable start for a long journey toward recovery; the Order marks a unique moment in the history of the Salton Sea by defining minimal state commitments to Salton Sea management under QSA; and

WHEREAS, the Boards of Supervisors of both Riverside and Imperial Counties have signed a MOU in support of cooperative land use planning necessary to achieve a Perimeter Lake project at the Salton Sea that will provide a significant vehicle to fulfill and sustain the objectives of the SSMP and the Stipulated Order; and

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Authority has adopted a position of support for this cooperative action supporting a Perimeter Lake, and has worked diligently with both Counties to ensure all other local governments, tribes and stakeholder groups understand and support this position; and

WHEREAS, every city council in the Imperial Valley has adopted a position of support for the Perimeter Lake, including the cities of Brawley, Calexico, Calipatria, El Centro, Imperial, and Westmoreland; and

WHEREAS, every city council in the Coachella Valley has adopted a position of support for the Perimeter Lake MOU, including the cities of Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage; and

WHEREAS, the state's largest Colorado River water importing agencies have adopted a position of support for the Perimeter Lake MOU, including the Coachella Valley Water District and the Imperial Irrigation District; and

WHEREAS, numerous sovereign tribal nations in the watershed have adopted a position of support for the Perimeter Lake MOU, including the Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, and Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians; and


WHEREAS, Coachella Valley Association of Governments, a joint powers authority comprised of all local governments in the Coachella Valley, has adopted a position of support for the Perimeter Lake MOU; and

WHEREAS, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) supporting deep water habitat elements of a North Lake, specifically supporting the early phase of this concept in the northern portion of the Perimeter Lake, including Alianza Coachella Valley, Audubon California, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Defense Fund, Kounkuey Design Initiative, Pacific Institute, and Sierra Club California; and

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Authority Board in accord with its Guiding Principles desires to provide leadership in maintaining consensus and building momentum to accomplish the Salton Sea Authority's objective of a Salton Sea that will be healthier for habitat and humans, and potentially more prosperous than the tragic situation that will occur if local, state, federal, and sovereign native tribes do not work cooperatively to honor statutory, contractual, legal and moral commitments and obligations at the Salton Sea.

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, including the Species Conservation Habitat and the North Lake, to include each and every local government and tribe located in the watershed of the Salton Sea; and further applauds the momentum created by this unity to integrate and without delay launch the Perimeter Lake as an integral component of the state SSMP capable of sustaining a healthier and more prosperous Salton Sea.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 23rd day of May 2019.




Thomas Torte, Jr.
President

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY)

I, Alex Cardenas, Secretary of the Board of 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. 19-06 adopted by the Board of Directors of said Salton Sea Authority at a regular meeting thereof duly held and convened on the 23rd day of May 2019, at which meeting a quorum of said Board was present and acting throughout.

Dated this 23rd day of May 2019.



Alex Cardenas
Secretary of the Board of
Salton Sea Authority



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Established in 1918 as a public agency

GENERAL MANAGER

Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Robert Cheng

CLERK OF THE BOARD

Sylvia Bermudez

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER

Dan Charlton

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
B03 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Juan Vargas
U.S. House of Representatives
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, Congressman Ruiz and Congressman Vargas:

I am writing to convey the strong support from Coachella Valley Water District for the Salton Sea Authority's (Authority) FY2022 Energy and Water Appropriations request for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) funding to undertake the Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Study authorized by section 203(a) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020.

The Salton Sea occupies approximately 370 square miles in Imperial and Riverside counties in southeastern California. The federal government has significant interests at the Salton Sea, including as a major landowner, tribal trustee, and the operator of the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge. The Sea provides habitat for over 400 species of birds and is a critical stop on the Pacific Flyway. Since the early 2000s, however, inflows to the Salton Sea have been decreasing due to drought and voluntary water conservation measures that have greatly benefitted the nation's water supply security, but which have created a significant public health and environmental crisis locally.

This is particularly the case for the disadvantaged communities surrounding the Salton Sea. These communities suffer from the highest rates of respiratory disease in all of California. Accordingly, the crisis facing the Salton Sea raises significant environmental justice concerns.

In 2007, California finalized the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Preferred Alternative Report which identified the construction of a Perimeter Lake at the Salton Sea as a preferred course of action to address these concerns. WRDA 2007 authorized a Corps' feasibility study of California's preferred alternative. This Corps' authority was enhanced in the WIIN Act of 2016. Section 203(a) of WRDA 2020 clarified these earlier WRDA authorizations to provide for the Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Feasibility Study.

Senators Feinstein
Senator Padilla
Congressman Ruiz
Congressman Vargas:
Page 2

Since these original studies and authorizations, much work has been done to advance Salton Sea restoration at the state and local level, including the provision of nearly \$300 million in state funding. The Authority's request to fund the Corps' Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Feasibility Study will help to mobilize the federal investment in state and local revitalization efforts crucial to the communities surrounding the Salton Sea. The Authority's appropriations request would also advance the goal of President Biden's Executive Order 14008 that forty percent of the benefits of Federal investment flow to disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. Barrett", with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. M. Barrett
General Manager



IID

A century of service.

www.iid.com

Since 1911

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
B03 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Juan Vargas
U.S. House of Representatives
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, Congressman Ruiz and Congressman Vargas:

The Imperial Irrigation District supports the Salton Sea Authority's FY2022 Energy and Water Appropriations request for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding to undertake the Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Study authorized by section 203(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020.

The Salton Sea occupies approximately 370 square miles in Imperial and Riverside counties in southeastern California. The federal government has significant interests at the Salton Sea, including as a major landowner, tribal trustee, and the operator of the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge. The Salton Sea provides habitat for over 400 species of birds and is a critical stop on the Pacific Flyway. Since the early 2000s, however, inflows to the Salton Sea have been decreasing due to drought and voluntary water conservation measures that have greatly benefitted the nation's water supply security, but which have created a significant public health and environmental crisis locally.

This is particularly the case for the disadvantaged communities surrounding the Salton Sea. These communities suffer from the highest rates of respiratory disease in all of California. Accordingly, the crisis facing the Salton Sea raises significant environmental justice concerns.

The 2007 WRDA authorized a Corps' feasibility study of California's preferred alternative that was later enhanced in the WIIN Act of 2016. Since these original studies and authorizations, much work has been done to advance Salton Sea restoration at the state and local level, including the provision of nearly \$300 million in state funding. As such, it is also critical that any Corp work effort take into consideration the many reports already drafted regarding the Salton Sea and ensure there is significant coordination with the California Natural Resources Agency as it develops its long-term Salton Sea Management Plan, along with other stakeholders.

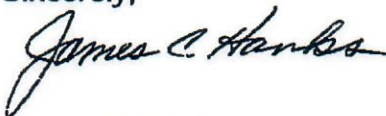
May 4, 2021
Page 2 of 2

The Authority's request to fund the Corps' Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Feasibility Study will help mobilize federal investments in state and local revitalization efforts crucial to the communities surrounding the Salton Sea. It also advances a goal of President Biden's administration, which is focused on increasing Federal investments to historically disadvantaged communities.

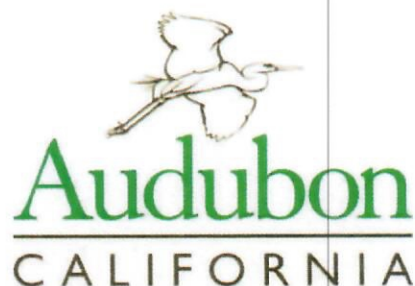
In closing, the Salton Sea is a top priority for the IID and the communities we serve. The request from the Authority aligns with our continued efforts to help ensure safe and healthy communities, habitats and environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James C. Hanks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent.

James C. Hanks
Board President



April 30, 2021

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
B03 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Juan Vargas
U.S. House of Representatives
2244 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, Congressman Ruiz and Congressman Vargas:

I am writing to convey the strong support of Alianza Coachella Valley, Audubon California, Environmental Defense Fund, Pacific Institute, and Sierra Club California for the Salton Sea Authority's (Authority) FY2022 Energy and Water Appropriations request for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) funding to undertake the Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Study authorized by section 203(a) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020.

The Salton Sea occupies approximately 325 square miles in Imperial and Riverside counties in southeastern California. The federal government has significant interests at the Salton Sea, including as a major landowner, tribal trustee, and the operator of the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge. The Salton Sea ecosystem provides habitat for over 400 species of birds and is a critical stop on the Pacific Flyway. Since the early 2000s, however, inflows to the Salton Sea have been decreasing due to voluntary water conservation measures that have greatly benefitted the West's water supply security, but which have created a significant public health and environmental crisis.

This is particularly the case for the disadvantaged communities surrounding the Salton Sea. These communities suffer from some of the highest rates of respiratory disease in all of California. Accordingly, the crisis facing the Salton Sea raises significant environmental justice concerns.

Much work has been done to advance Salton Sea revitalization at the state and local level in recent years, including the authorization of more than \$350 million in state funding and the start of the

\$206.5 million Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat project. Funding the Corps to conduct a feasibility study on the perimeter lake concept and others similar to it will improve understanding of the science and engineering supporting Salton Sea projects and will help to mobilize much-needed federal investment in state and local revitalization efforts crucial to the communities surrounding the Salton Sea. The feasibility study should identify ways in which the project will directly benefit the community. Transparency and community engagement throughout the planning and feasibility study processes will help ensure community support and improve project outcomes. The Authority's appropriations request would also advance the goal of President Biden's Executive Order 14008 that forty percent of the benefits of Federal investment flow to disadvantaged communities.

Thank you for considering this request.

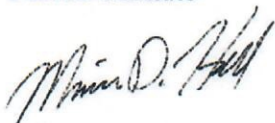
Sincerely,



Michael Cohen
Senior Associate
Pacific Institute



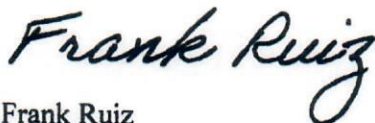
Brandon Dawson
Policy Advocate
Sierra Club California



Maurice Hall
Associate VP, Ecosystems – Water
Environmental Defense Fund



Silvia Paz
Executive Director
Alianza Coachella Valley



Frank Ruiz
Salton Sea Program Director
Audubon California



Ryan Sinclair PhD, MPH
School of Public Health
Loma Linda University

May 5, 2021

MEMBER AGENCIES

Carlsbad
Municipal Water District

City of Del Mar

City of Escondido

City of National City

City of Oceanside

City of Poway

City of San Diego

Fairbrook
Public Utility District

Helix Water District

Lakeside Water District

Olivenhain
Municipal Water District

Otay Water District

Padre Dam
Municipal Water District

Camp Pendleton
Marine Corps Base

Rainbow
Municipal Water District

Ramona
Municipal Water District

Rincon del Diablo
Municipal Water District

San Diego Water District

Santa Fe Irrigation District

South Bay Irrigation District

Vallecitos Water District

Valley Center
Municipal Water District

Vista Irrigation District

Yuima
Municipal Water District

**OTHER
REPRESENTATIVE**

County of San Diego

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
 U.S. Senate
 331 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
 U.S. House of Representatives
 2342 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Senator Alex Padilla
 U.S. Senate
 B03 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Juan Vargas
 U.S. House of Representatives
 2244 Rayburn House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Feinstein, Senator Padilla, Congressman Ruiz and Congressman Vargas:

The San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) supports the Salton Sea Authority's fiscal year 2022 Energy and Water Appropriations request for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) funding to undertake the Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Study authorized by section 203(a) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020.

The Salton Sea is a priority issue for SDCWA under the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). We have been a committed partner as part of the QSA Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to mitigate the distinct impacts of the QSA on the environment with most of the effort focusing on the Salton Sea. Additionally, we support the work of the State under its Salton Sea Management Program, and we support the efforts of the Salton Sea Authority to advocate on behalf of the sea.

The Salton Sea occupies approximately 370 square miles in Imperial and Riverside counties in southeastern California. The Federal government has significant interests at the Salton Sea, including as a major landowner, tribal trustee, and the operator of the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge. The sea provides habitat for over 400 species of birds and is a critical stop on the Pacific Flyway.

To date, the State's work is moving forward to advance the restoration of the sea. We believe that supporting the Salton Sea Authority's request to fund the Corps' Salton Sea Perimeter Lake Feasibility Study will help to mobilize the Federal investment in State and local revitalization efforts crucial to the communities surrounding the Salton Sea and compliment both the State's projects and QSA JPA's projects at the sea.

Again, SDCWA, as it has from the start of the QSA, remains committed to meeting its environmental mitigation obligations. We also are committed to making sure the work we do is collaborative with the efforts of the State and the Salton Sea Authority. If the Salton Sea Authority's funding request is approved and the feasibility study moves forward, we would look forward to seeing how a perimeter lake concept might serve the Salton Sea, and how we might continue to work together to align our efforts at the sea.

Sincerely,



Dan Denham
 Deputy General Manager
 San Diego County Water Authority

OPINION

EDITORIALS

The Salton Sea disaster ahead

California's largest lake is drying up, threatening an ecological and public health catastrophe.

California's largest internal body of water is steadily drying up, exposing a lake bed that threatens to trigger toxic dust storms and exacerbate already high levels of asthma and other respiratory diseases in Southern California. Yet there is something about the Salton Sea that leads many lawmakers to ignore the urgency and put off remediation programs. It's just so far south — off the mental map of officials who represent more densely populated urban areas to the north, like Los Angeles. It is a disaster in the making, yet it is an afterthought.

That attitude is understandably galling to residents of the adjacent Imperial Valley, who are (for now) the ones most affected by the increasing dust and who have witnessed firsthand the degrading ecological conditions. They have heard officials promise repeatedly to fix this catastrophe by creating wetlands that moisten the exposed bed and sustain an ecosystem that continues to support migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway. They have repeatedly seen those promises broken.

The dimensions of the failure were for many years merely theoretical, but they became real in the winter just past. As the rain and snow washed away drought and at least temporarily diminished environmental problems in the rest of the state, the contraction of the Salton Sea accelerated. Increasing salinity kept the lake from sustaining even the salt-hardy tilapia. The birds failed to appear.

Until recently, lake levels had been sustained by Colorado River water under a 2003 agreement between the Imperial Irrigation District and the San Diego County Water Authority. It was an innovative and responsible arrangement. San Diego would pay for projects (lining earthen canals, for example) to help the Imperial Valley use water more efficiently. The water no longer needed in the valley would be exported to San Diego for residential use. Without excess water flushing through valley farmland, however, the runoff that formerly fed the Salton Sea would taper off, so for 15 years the Imperial Irrigation District would use some of its river water to counter evaporation at the lake. That would buy enough time or the state to develop and fund plans for

the wetlands and other measures to keep the dust from blowing.

Or at least, that was the theory. The 15-year program of supplying "mitigation water" to the lake ended a little more than a year ago, but the state has so far failed to meet its benchmarks for developing wetlands.

This month, as the California Water Resources Board met at the Salton Sea lake-shore to discuss the remediation program's progress, members had to acknowledge that there hasn't been any. None of the promised projects have been completed. The Newsom administration has vowed a new focus on the Salton Sea, and there is reason for hope — but the lake is shrinking rapidly and action must now be accelerated to prevent a public health and environmental disaster.

Meanwhile, the Imperial Irrigation District tried but failed to leverage its massive Colorado River water rights into federal funding for Salton Sea projects.

A 19-year drought in the Colorado River Basin has been drying up lakes farther up-stream that are crucial to the Southern California water supply, including massive Lake Mead. To prevent the water there from dropping too low to operate Hoover Dam's hydroelectric generators, California and six other states entered into talks over a drought contingency agreement to cut back their use of river water. The Imperial Irrigation District is the largest holder of river water rights and held out in the hope of winning a \$200-million federal commitment for the Salton Sea.

But the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California wanted to move things along and covered Imperial's portion, so the drought agreement is proceeding without any funding for the Salton Sea. The Imperial Irrigation District asked members of Congress this week to not allow the drought contingency plan to move forward unless the district is included, and to ensure that federal funding legislation provides money for the Salton Sea, but the district has lost much of its leverage.

That leaves a shrinking lake, lots of broken promises and a looming disaster. Both California and the feds have to do

better than this — especially if they want to encourage agreements such as the one that makes Imperial Valley farmers more water-wise while keeping San Diego residents from deep rationing. The Salton Sea is not going away, even if it goes away. It can become a wetland and wildlife preserve, or it can become — if we let it — a health and ecological catastrophe.

ENVIRONMENT

Trump signs spending bill that could send millions of dollars to the Salton Sea

Mark Olalde Palm Springs Desert Sun

Published 12:48 p.m. PT Dec. 29, 2020

President Donald Trump on Sunday signed a roughly \$900 billion stimulus package meant to tackle both COVID-19 relief as well as federal spending. Tucked in the 5,593-page-long law, courtesy of Southern California Democrats, are provisions that hold the potential to unlock millions of dollars of new federal spending to address the Salton Sea.

The bill notably modifies the Water Resources Development Act by authorizing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite a study on the feasibility of constructing a perimeter lake around the Salton Sea. It's one of the large-scale plans floated to address the lake's woes, and this move could speed up the process.

The law also includes more than \$150 million for the Army Corps to carry out such studies on water issues at the Salton Sea and elsewhere.

"I am proud of the results delivered to my constituents," Rep. Raul Ruiz, D-Calif., said in a statement announcing Congress' passage of the appropriations bill. Alongside Rep. Juan Vargas, D-Calif., Ruiz and his office drafted the bill's Salton Sea language.

Trump sat on the bill for several days when he sided with Democrats in wanting to provide larger relief checks to Americans. Senate Republicans ultimately prevailed in blocking the move, and Trump signed the bill without getting more money out to taxpayers.

As the Salton Sea recedes, the region loses thousands of acres of vibrant migratory bird habitat and is left with a sandy mixture called "playa," which is laden with pesticides and other toxic runoff from agriculture in the Imperial and Coachella valleys. Once airborne, that dust can harm human health, but the state and federal governments have been slow to implement solutions.

According to the Pacific Institute, a think tank, the Salton Sea's level has dropped nearly 10 feet since a water transfer was signed in 2003, sending water away from nearby farm fields that drain into California's largest lake.

"The Salton Sea legislation and directives passed by Congress come at the end of a difficult year that brought much greater visibility to the challenges faced in the Salton Sea region, particularly public health challenges faced by disadvantaged communities," Altrena Santillanes, secretary of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians tribal council and a director on the Salton Sea Authority's board, said in a statement.

"We look forward to working with our Congressional delegation and the next administration to quickly mobilize federal action at the Salton Sea in the coming year," she added.

While the state has so far allocated roughly \$350 million to address the Salton Sea, spending about \$53 million of that, the federal government has spent only about \$20 million to date. The COVID-19 relief bill includes \$559 million "for water resource projects and direction to the Bureau of Reclamation to consider Salton Sea projects for funding," according to Ruiz's office.

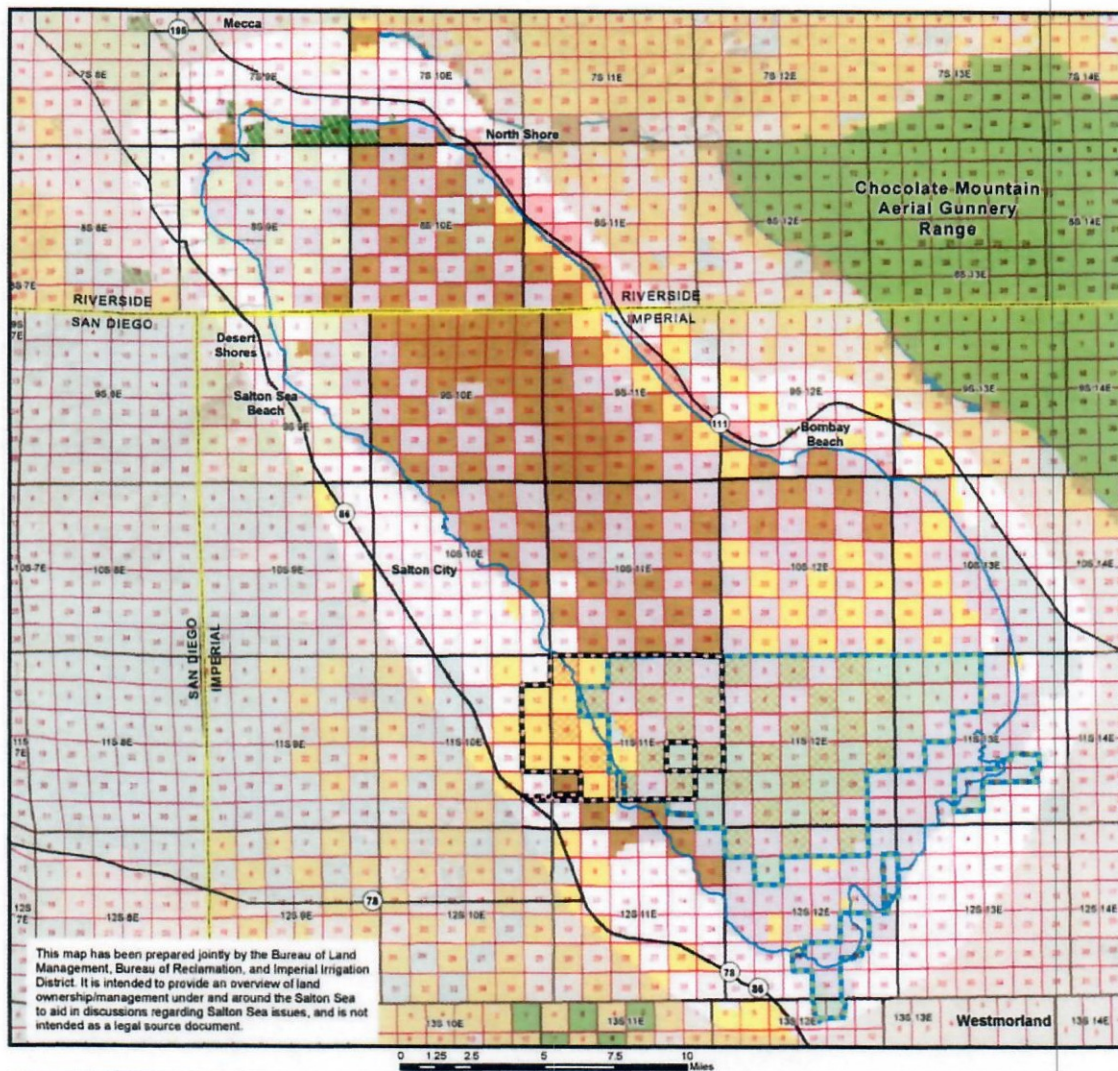
As G. Patrick O'Dowd, executive director of the Salton Sea Authority, sees it, there's still "work to do to get the appropriations." But, the big win for the lake comes in pushing the Army Corps to complete its perimeter lake analysis.

"If the Corps has an acceptable perimeter lake study, that puts them in a position to fund the full project," he said.

Mark Olalde covers the environment for The Desert Sun. Get in touch at molalde@gannett.com, and follow him on Twitter at @MarkOlalde.

General Salton Sea and Vicinity Land Ownership and Management Map

DRAFT Apr 16, 2015



Federal Land Status

Though not depicted, other agencies may have primary jurisdiction over lands displayed as Bureau of Land Management lands. Certain Federal lands may also be subject to specific limited land uses or restraints on uses reserved to one or more Federal agencies other than the agency holding primary jurisdictional responsibilities.

Agency land ownership west of California Hwy 86 and east of California Hwy 111 are approximate only.

Elevations converted to and are provided in NAVD 88 Vertical Datum

Land Status Source Documents

This map has been created using information from various sources, for the limited purposes and uses intended. Due to map scale and other limitations, some land ownership or jurisdiction details may not be shown. For definitive land status information, the user should consult the Bureau of Land Management Master Title Plats and Historical Indexes, relevant public land orders (PLOS), Executive Orders (EOs), Secretarial Orders (SOs), Bureau of Reclamation land records, Imperial Irrigation District records, County records, local land title company records, and other sources.

Map Scale Limitations

Due to map scale limitations, certain land interests held by the United States for specific purposes (for example, easements acquired or reserved on private land for Federal reclamation project irrigation systems) are not shown.

Legend

- U.S. Navy Salton Sea Test Base Boundary
- Shoreline (-231 ft mean sea level (msl) as of 3/18/2015)
- Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge Boundary
- County Boundary

Reclamation Lands

- Reclamation Fee Lands
- Reclamation Withdrawn, Not Reclamation Managed
- Reclamation Withdrawn, Reclamation Managed

- Bureau of Land Management
- Department of Defense
- Imperial Irrigation District

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge)
- State of California Lands
- Torres Martinez Tribe
- Coachella Valley Water District
- Salton Sea State Recreation Area
- Other Owners



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 3, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

We are writing to request that H.R. 3877, the Salton Sea Projects Improvements Act, be included and funded in any upcoming infrastructure legislation. This bill is necessary to allow the Bureau of Reclamation to fully engage in infrastructure projects with the State of California to mitigate the environmental and public health crisis as a result of the receding shoreline of the Salton Sea.

The Salton Sea Projects Improvements Act authorizes \$250 million for the Bureau of Reclamation to undertake projects to improve air quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality at the Salton Sea – projects that fit squarely within job creation and water management mission of the proposed infrastructure legislation. Not only will the inclusion of the Salton Sea Projects Improvements Act in an infrastructure bill lead to a positive public health outcome, but it will also create good paying jobs in Riverside and Imperial Counties for the construction of these projects.

The Salton Sea occupies 370 square miles in Imperial and Riverside Counties and is California's largest lake. The Sea provides habitat to over 400 species of birds, including state and federally listed endangered species. It is sustained largely by agricultural discharges from Imperial Irrigation District and Coachella Valley Water District. Inflows to the Sea have reduced significantly, which has caused serious negative environmental, agricultural, and economic impacts in the region.

At a time when the western United States is facing one of the most severe periods of drought and water insecurity in modern history, the Bureau of Reclamation needs to have the strongest tools available to manage water resources and address water-related infrastructure challenges. In addition to owning nearly half of the land base under the Salton Sea, the Department of Interior (through Reclamation) also manages the Colorado River, which is a primary source of inflows to the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea Projects Improvements Act would provide Reclamation with the tools and financial resources needed to fulfill their responsibilities to the Sea and the region.

The Salton Sea is one of the most pressing environmental and public health challenges that our constituents face, and the federal government has a duty to invest in water infrastructure projects

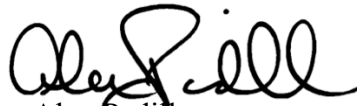
that will have immense benefits for our constituents. In fact, during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing last fall, Wade Crowfoot, the Secretary of California's Natural Resources Agency, stated unequivocally that California could not meet the necessary benchmarks to protect the public's health without a substantial federal commitment to the Salton Sea.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation and the funding that accompanies it for inclusion in upcoming infrastructure legislation, and we look forward to working together to provide for the infrastructure needs of our country and our constituents.

Sincerely,



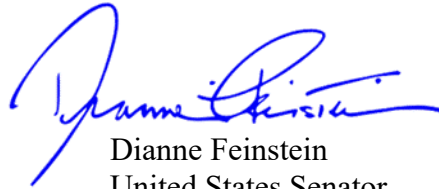
Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



September 7, 2021

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Barrasso
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Grijalva and Manchin and Ranking Members Westerman and Barrasso:

We are writing to urge you to include H.R. 3877, the Salton Sea Projects Improvements Act, and fund the \$250 million authorized by this bill, in the Build Back Better legislation your committees consider through the budget reconciliation process.

The Salton Sea Authority (Authority) is a Joint Powers Authority established to protect public health, the environment and economic vitality of the Salton Sea region in southeastern California. It is comprised of locally elected leaders representing Riverside and Imperial Counties, the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Tribe, Imperial Irrigation District and Coachella Valley Water District.

The Salton Sea, California's largest lake, occupies roughly 370 square miles and is sustained primarily by agricultural drainage flows from approximately 600,000 acres of prime farmland. The Sea provides habitat for over 400 species of birds, including threatened and endangered species. Since the early 2000s, inflows to the Sea have been significantly diminished by drought and voluntary water conservation agreements that have greatly benefitted the nation's water supply security, but which have created a significant public health and environmental crisis. This is particularly the case for the predominantly low-income, disadvantaged communities we represent. These communities suffer from the highest rates of respiratory disease in California due in part to dust emissions from the shrinking Salton Sea.

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior) owns roughly 40% of the Salton Sea and surrounding lands, and has recently estimated the cost of managing its own Salton Sea exposed lands at a conservative \$332 million with an annual operations and maintenance cost of \$4.5 million. Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has a very limited \$10 million authorization to undertake Salton Sea habitat and dust suppression projects, and this authorization

Chairmen Grijalva and Manchin
Ranking Members Westerman and Barrasso
September 7, 2021
Page 2 of 2

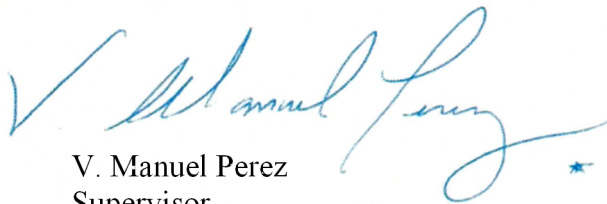
is now nearly exhausted. The Salton Sea Projects Improvements Act would increase Reclamation's Salton Sea authorization to \$250 million, an amount which would significantly help Interior meet its own estimated landownership mitigation obligations at the Sea.

We are aware that legislators may provide that the upcoming budget reconciliation infrastructure measure should only include legislation not already included within H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. It should be noted that H.R. 3684 does not include this new and critically needed Salton Sea authorization or funding, and therefore including our request in the new Build Back Better legislation to be advanced through reconciliation is not duplicative of H.R. 3684.

President Biden's Executive Order 14008 dictates that forty percent of the benefits of key Federal investments should flow to disadvantaged communities such as those we represent. We urge you to include the Salton Sea Projects Improvements Act (H.R. 3877) in the upcoming Build Back Better reconciliation package in order to address the federal responsibility to address the significant public health and environmental burdens facing our constituents.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



V. Manuel Perez
Supervisor
County of Riverside
President
Salton Sea Authority



Luis A. Plancarte
Supervisor
County of Imperial
Vice President
Salton Sea Authority

CC:

House Committee on the Budget
The Honorable John Yarmuth, Chairman
The Honorable Jason Smith, Ranking Member

Senate Committee on the Budget
The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chairman
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member

The Honorable Diane Feinstein
The Honorable Alex Padilla
The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D.
The Honorable Juan Vargas



Executive Director's Report To the Board of the Directors September 23, 2021

Executive Summary

We welcome our new Board leadership team! On July 1st we began a new board year, and with every changing year, new leadership takes the helm of the Authority Board. Staff looks forward to direction and collaboration from leadership and the full Board in the coming year. Working with our members individually and collectively, we also look forward to more fully leveraging both Board leadership in the community and elsewhere and working with our member agencies to achieve success on a wide range of Authority priorities.

Public / Private opportunities at the Sea

The Sea and region have long been an arena for visionaries. Many of the grand plans that have been advanced in the past have failed to gain traction and proper funding and have since come and gone. This season seems different. Several private stakeholders are entering or expanding in the region with substantial initial investments for new ventures, lending hope to even greater opportunities for the future. In the geothermal front, an active area at the Sea for decades, the effort to exploit the mineral content of the geothermal brine has taken on keen interest of late. The cost-effective pursuit to extract lithium and other rare earth minerals has been elevated due to government mandates for emission free vehicles and a limited global supply of the materials necessary to achieve that objective.

Working with the Imperial Irrigation District, the Authority has been in discussions with Controlled Thermal Resources to better understand their project, its impacts at the Sea, and the benefits it brings to the region. We believe that the work of the Authority dovetails well with the project proponent's efforts to secure the necessary authorizations to proceed with this important project.

We are also working with Burrtec, who is seeking to develop projects along the western shoreline to utilize green waste as mulch to help re-establish vegetation on the playa. We are discussing with CNRA and USBR the possibility of a pilot project which will inform the beneficial use of such materials on a broader scale to both help in the near term to control airborne particulates and to restore the native landscape.

As with any “Specific Project” (as outlined in the Authority’s Bylaws), to the extent the project requires dedicated resources beyond conceptual conversations and broad general assistance, we will work with the project proponents to secure the necessary resources to meet the project objectives without unduly burdening the Authority overall.

Project Snapshot

North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project

With funding secured from CNRA by way of a formalized agreement signed in late April, the Authority and Riverside County have been working to finalize an agreement that would recognize the County as the “Implementing Agency” for the project. A proposed final draft was provided to the Authority on September 21 with the expectation that the finalized agreement would be presented to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors for their final signoff at their Board meeting on September 28th. We are working to timely review that document and comment as appropriate.

The team (Riverside County and the Authority) is also working on the development and implementation of an outreach plan for the project. Once reviewed and approved by the State as required under the Grant Agreement, we will have a formal kickoff of the project within the local community. Arrangements are being made with Desert Mirage High School to host the event, and the community and local and state dignitaries will be invited to participate.

We are also working closely with various partners in finalizing a variety of project specific requirements including land ownership, source of supply for water, and environmental approvals. And while we are making great progress in these areas, as a “Demonstration Project” we are finding that every step forward provides another lesson learned. And while the delays associated with getting this project in the ground have indeed been frustrating, we are confident that those lessons learned will better inform future projects, improve the implementing efficiency and perhaps even save costs.

Desert Shores

Working with Imperial County, CNRA, and USBR, we are making progress towards finalizing a project description, identifying water source(s) of supply, and securing funding for the core project. The USBR has indicated an availability of approximately \$1 million in funds which have been specifically identified for the project, and we are working with the Bureau in providing the necessary funding documentation.

Feasibility Study Status Report

In my last report, I provided an extensive summary of the effort to secure funding through the 2020 WRDA legislation and the State's obligations to deliver a long-range plan to the Water Board by December of 2022. Several productive meetings have taken place between the Authority and CNRA since then, and we are in the process of arranging a meeting with the US Army Corps of Engineers, the party who would conduct the feasibility study. We continue to believe the work that the State is doing on the long-range plan can be substantially integrated into the Corps study, and at the end of the process a project can be identified for providing infrastructure to achieve a vital, livable, sustainable region.

Covid Update

Protecting the health of Authority staff and minimizing the spread of COVID-19 continues to be a top priority. Over the summer months, the Authority did have one member of our staff who tested positive. That individual quarantined at home as required by CDC and County guidelines and has since returned to work in good health. We continue to follow all County and State protocols including wearing masks and social distancing as appropriate.