



AGENDA: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DATE: Thursday, April 28, 2022
10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Coachella Valley Water District Board Room
Steve Robbins Administration Building
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 398-2651

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, to reduce the potential risk of COVID spread to our local communities, this meeting will be conducted both in person at the aforementioned location and via Zoom webinar.

The meeting can be viewed live at 10:00 a.m. April 28. Please see the meeting login information at SaltonSea.com/meetings, or access www.zoom.us, click “Join Meeting,” and enter Webinar ID 815 8338 6950 and Passcode 737343.

Those attending in person will be required to maintain appropriate social distancing: wear a facemask and maintain a six-foot distance between yourself and other individuals.

I. CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

A copy of the agenda and supplemental materials will be available for viewing or download at: saltonsea.com/meetings

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This Public Comments time is reserved for comments on any agenda item that is not included under “Action Items” and for comments on matters not already 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**. California law prohibits members of the Board from taking action on matters not on the agenda.*

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

*Public comment may be delivered **verbally** during the meeting.*

*Via Zoom: use Zoom’s “raised hand” feature, or by phone press *9 to be acknowledged.*

When you speak, state your name for the record prior to providing your comments. Please address the board as a whole, through the Chairman.

*You may also **email your comments in advance to info@saltonsea.com** (include in your subject line “Public Comment, 4/28/22 SSA board meeting.”) Hand-delivered comments should be placed in an envelope addressed to “Board Secretary, Salton Sea Authority,” delivered to 82995 Highway 111, Suite 200, Indio, California, and left with the attending security officer **by noon Wednesday 4/27/22 at the latest.***

*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). 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 April 27**, 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. AB 361 Remote Meeting Authorization for April 28, 2022
2. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting March 24, 2022
3. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Special Board Meeting/Site Visit March 11, 2022
4. Warrant Register Ratification for March 2022
5. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2021 – 2/28/2022
6. Authority Letter of Support Regarding Imperial County’s Lithium Valley Investment Plan (“LVIP”)

V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- #### **A. Presentation of research findings of community experiences with the Salton Sea.** Student-led presentation based on research conducted by students led by and with input from Michael Salvador, PhD, and Michael Karp, PhD, Cal State San Bernardino, Palm Desert Campus.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- #### **A. Budget Review: Proposed 2022-2023 Budget - Discussion. Staff recommendation:** Direct members to seek approvals from respective agencies for final Authority approval in May.
- #### **B. For discussion and possible action: Letter of Intent re: Provision of Non-Tributary Waters to Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Salton Sea Authority through a Public-Private Partnership. Staff recommendation: Authorize signing of letter of intent or other direction of the board.**

VII. REPORTS (updated)

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation
2. US Bureau of Reclamation – no report

B. State

1. State Advocacy Report – Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies
2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency
3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Steve Quartieri, District Superintendent, California State Parks

C. Local

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

D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments

1. G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority board meeting will be held:

Thursday, May 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Location TBD

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.

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Date: April 28, 2022
Re: AB 361 Remote Meeting Authorization for April 28, 2022
CM No. IV.A.1 - 4-28-2022

GENERAL:

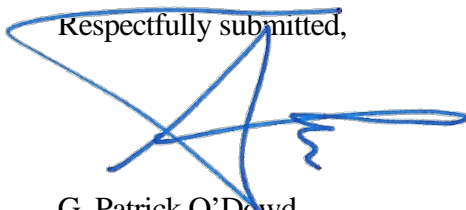
AB 361 (Government Code Section 54953(e)) provides that a local agency may employ remote teleconferencing upon a monthly finding by the governing board that certain circumstances exist, among those that there is a Governor-declared emergency and state or local officials are recommending social distancing. Both of those circumstances currently exist.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board authorize this meeting to be held remotely via Zoom webinar by adopting the following finding:

The Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority hereby finds that the State of California continues in a Governor-declared state of emergency to combat the Covid epidemic and state and local health officials are recommending social distancing, and consequently the Authority Board and its other Brown-Act bodies will continue to employ remote teleconferencing under Government Code Section 54953(e).

Respectfully submitted,



G. Patrick O’Dowd
Executive Director/GM



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 24, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by V. Manuel Perez, President, at 10:17 a.m., Thursday, March 24, 2022, in person and via Zoom Webinar (delayed by technical difficulties).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

AGENCY

V. Manuel Perez, President

Riverside County

Jeff Hewitt, Director

Riverside County

Luis A. Plancarte, Vice-President

Imperial County

Ryan E. Kelley, Director

Imperial County

Cástulo R. Estrada, Director*

Coachella Valley Water District

Anthony Bianco, Treasurer

Coachella Valley Water District

Thomas Tortez, Director

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Altrena Santillanes, Secretary

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Alex Cárdenas, Director

Imperial Irrigation District

Jim Hanks, Director

Imperial Irrigation District

** Director Estrada joined the meeting about 10:27.*

DIRECTORS ABSENT

AGENCY

Arturo Delgado, Ex-Officio Member

California Natural Resources Agency

In keeping with the Salton Sea Authority Bylaws, there being at least three of the five member agencies represented, and a single director carrying the vote of both directors when the second director of the same agency is absent, a quorum was declared, and the meeting proceeded.

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Robert Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel
Carlos Campos, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

There were 28 members of the public present via Zoom and 13 participants in addition to the board members.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Written comments (none)

Verbal comments:

- Mr. Kerry Morrison, Director of Ecomedia Compass, invited the board members and public to their annual Earth Day event to be held at Desert Shores Saturday, April 23.
- Mr. Tom Sephton, President of Ecomedia Compass, and a member of the Desert Shores Channel Restoration Oversight Committee, thanked the Authority’s representatives for coming out to Desert Shores to see the project location and to meet some of the residents.
- Mr. Art Gertz asked when the residents of West Shores, who have walked the shorelines in the area for decades, might expect that pedestrian-only traffic would be allowed to carefully walk the shores again.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Director Cardenas expressed appreciation for the public bringing concerns to the Authority regarding matters such as surveillance and pedestrian traffic in sensitive areas.

** Director Estrada joined the meeting at 10:27 during board member comments*

- Director Hanks expressed his concern about the situation on the Colorado River with both Lake Mead and Lake Powell and its likely impact on the Salton Sea.
- Director Estrada concurred and suggested that the board consider what the consequences to the Sea might be and how they might be able to address that if there’s any opportunity to do so – through legislation or other means.
- Chairman Perez commented on recent meetings: March 11 Salton Sea Authority at Desert Shores, the March 15 round table with CNRA Secretary Wade Crowfoot, and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians government-to-government round table with CNRA Secretary Wade Crowfoot.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File

1. AB 361 Remote Meeting Authorization for March 24, 2022
2. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting February 24, 2022
3. Warrant Register Ratification for February 2022
4. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2021 – 1/31/2022

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

Public comment was invited prior to the vote. No comment received.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Perez, Hewitt, Plancarte, Santillanes, Torte, Estrada*, Cardenas, and Hanks*

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Kelley and Bianco* at the time of this vote*

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. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

A. Salton Sea Summit

Dr. Kurt Schwabe, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Professor of Environmental Economics and Policy, School of Public Policy, gave a preview of the upcoming Salton Sea Summit, to be held April 5-7 at UCR Palm Desert Campus.

B. Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians – Report on projects and activities

Otoniel “Tony” Quiroz, Natural Resources Manager, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians shared the wide scope of projects at the tribe.

Discussion followed in which Director Kelley and President Perez expressed interest in the Tribe inviting the agencies to see the projects in person to learn: perhaps a field trip or summit or round table to allow thoughtful discussion. President Perez suggested that Mr. Quiroz coordinate this with the Salton Sea Authority’s Executive Director Patrick O’Dowd.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Salton Sea Air Quality Monitoring, Regulation, Enforcement, and Funding – Discussion and Direction to Staff – G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director

President Perez opened discussion regarding coordination of efforts on air quality monitoring and keeping the public informed. He invited South Coast Air Quality

Management District members Victor Yip, Kathryn Higgins, and Jason Low to participate in the discussion.

An extensive discussion followed about air pollution control monitoring and enforcement in the Salton Sea region, and staff received direction.

Mr. Yip shared that if one wants to file a complaint regarding dust from the Salton Sea, call: 1-800-CUT-SMOG (1-800-288-7664) and they will dispatch an inspector to investigate.

VII. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities

Ms. Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation's written report was posted on the website, from which was shared "There is a Federal Cohesive Funding Plan moving forward and they expect a letter shortly to that effect."

2. US Bureau of Reclamation (none)

B. State

1. State Advocacy Report

Mr. Oracio Gonzalez, Principal at Ollin Strategies, submitted a written report and shared his optimism of Salton Sea funding being included in the budget to be passed by the governor in June

2. State of California

Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency, on behalf of the Salton Sea Management Program, reported on the Long-Range Planning Committee March 2, and gave a preview of upcoming events.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area (SSSRA)

Steve Quartieri, District Superintendent, California State Parks, shared that SSSRA's campgrounds were fully occupied President's Day weekend, their continuing work with KDI, and Astronomy Club activities.

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC)

Mr. Juan de Lara, SSAC Board Member shared that the Salton Sea Action Committee will be a sponsor of the Salton Sea Summit and they are working on a virtual tour.

D. Executive Director's Report and Comments

1. Mr. G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority, encouraged the board to read his report in preparation for the budget process which will begin next month.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The chairman revisited a prior inquiry whether the April board meeting should be rescheduled due to a conflict for several of the board members. A quorum of the board would be available on April 28. There being no objection, the next meeting date was changed to April 28.

Chairman Perez adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority board meeting will be held:

Thursday, April 28, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Location:

Coachella Valley Water District Board Room
Steve Robbins Administration Building
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260

(subject to change based on public health directives then in effect)

Participation will also be available via Zoom



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 11, 2022

This site visit meeting was for informational purposes only:

No action was taken nor official business conducted.

1:30 p.m. SITE VISIT at Desert Shores Channel Restoration Project Site

Members of the Desert Shores community, members of the board and staff of Salton Sea Authority met at the end of Capri Road in Thermal, California, to see the proposed project site and the condition of the area.

2:15 p.m. PUBLIC MEETING at Veterans of Foreign Wars to discuss Desert Shores Channel Restoration Project

This special meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by V. Manuel Perez, President, at 2:17 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2022, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, West Shores Post 3251.

The board members introduced themselves, then each person in the room introduced himself/herself.

Discussion started with the board members and continued with members of the public

Director Kelley commented that neither the North Lake, filling the finger lakes, nor importing water are in conflict with the Imperial County-Riverside County MOU supporting the perimeter lake.

Ron Spears asked, and Director Kelley answered, about the status of hydrology and permitting.

Art Gertz expressed the need for an affordable water source and his concerns about the inflationary impact of timeline on funds.

Possible water sources were discussed.

Kerry Morrison reported on aspects he was involved in, invited all to the Saturday, April 23 Earth Day event.

3:07 p.m. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Other items, both inside and outside the Authority’s jurisdiction were commented on and/or discussed. (Lithium prospects, keep it local, benefit the community)

3:40 p.m. ADJOURNMENT

President Perez adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

4:30 p.m. SALTON CITY SITE VISIT at Vista Del Mar Clubhouse

Authority Executive Director O’Dowd went to the clubhouse to meet any others that would want to visit the site. No one else attended.

For the record:

Directors Present in Person

V. Manuel Perez, President
Anthony Bianco, Treasurer
Ryan E. Kelley, Director
Luis A. Plancarte, Vice-President

Agency

Riverside County
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial County
Imperial County

Directors Absent

Thomas Torte, Director
Cástulo R. Estrada, Director
Alex Cárdenas, Director
Jeff Hewitt, Director
Jim Hanks, Director
Altrena Santillanes, Secretary
Arturo Delgado, Ex-Officio Member

Agency

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

Salton Sea Authority Staff Present

G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Johnathan McDannell, Grants Manager
Linda Thill, Board Secretary

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority board meeting will be held:

Thursday, March 24, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Location:

County of Imperial Board of Supervisor Chambers
County Administration Center
940 West Main Street, Suite 211
El Centro, CA 92243

(subject to change based on public health directives then in effect)

Participation will also be available via Zoom

Checking Account Activity

March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022



Warrant Date	Warrant Number	Vendor Name	Amount
Beginning Cash \$			145,369.66
03/11/2022	EFT	Pacific Western Payment	(2,240.39)
03/16/2022	EFT	Pitney Bowes	(67.46)
03/21/2022	1306	Best, Best & Krieger	(1,962.70)
03/21/2022	1307	Cultivating Conservation	(7,000.00)
03/21/2022	1308	Eide Bailly LLP	(2,144.75)
03/21/2022	1309	O'Dowd, G.Patrick	(591.47)
03/21/2022	1310	OfficeTeam	(5,283.04)
03/21/2022	1311	Ollin Strategies	(5,000.00)
03/21/2022	1312	SystemGo IT LLC	(666.50)
03/23/2022	EFT	Verizon Wireless	(102.48)
03/23/2022	EFT	Visa Credit Card Payment	(210.00)
03/29/2022	Deposit	DWR - Prop 68	237,064.07

Net Activity	211,795.28
Ending Cash \$	357,164.94



Salton Sea Authority

Profit & Loss Budget to Actual

(Unaudited)

Year to Date through February 28, 2022

	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	10,250	-	10,250	50,000	21%	(39,750)
5 Other Grants	-	-	-	80,000	0%	(80,000)
6 State of California Grants (Prop 68)	-	265,083	265,083	250,000	106%	15,083
7 Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	25	-	25	1,000	2%	(975)
8 TOTAL INCOME	\$ 620,275	\$ 265,083	\$ 885,358	\$ 1,141,000	78%	\$ (255,642)
9 EXPENSE						
10 SSA Administration						
11 Salaries & Benefits						
12 Total Salaries	136,578	21,247	157,825	371,800	42%	(213,975)
13 Total Employee Benefits	84,067	-	84,067	166,200	51%	(82,133)
14 Total Salaries & Benefits	220,645	21,247	241,892	538,000	45%	(296,108)
15 Contract Service / Professional						
16 DC Advocates	56,000	-	56,000	84,000	67%	(28,000)
17 Sacramento Advocate	40,000	-	40,000	60,000	67%	(20,000)
18 Grant Administration	55,580	-	55,580	100,000	56%	(44,420)
19 Contract Attorney	8,467	9,445	17,912	75,000	24%	(57,088)
20 Audit & Accounting	34,867	1,799	36,666	75,000	49%	(38,334)
21 Contract Service / Professional	194,914	11,244	206,157	394,000	52%	(187,843)
22 Equipment Maintenance	5,528	-	5,528	12,000	46%	(6,472)
23 Capital Equipment	-	-	-	2,400	0%	(2,400)
24 Insurance	6,787	-	6,787	9,300	73%	(2,513)
25 Office Expense/Operating Supplies	5,276	-	5,276	6,000	88%	(724)
26 Office Expense/Online Services	2,046	-	2,046	3,000	68%	(954)
27 Dues, Subscriptions	11,901	-	11,901	10,000	119%	1,901
28 Public Relations	2,801	-	2,801	36,000	8%	(33,200)
29 Travel/Mileage	13,647	-	13,647	48,000	28%	(34,353)
30 Technical Support - Consultant	-	-	-	24,000	0%	(24,000)
31 Utilities	-	-	-	3,000	0%	(3,000)
32 Total SSA Administration	463,544	32,491	496,035	1,085,700	46%	(589,665)
33 Grant Expenses						
34 Riverside County Salaries	-	4,398	4,398	-	0%	4,398
35 Contractors	-	228,195	228,195	-	0%	228,195
36 Total Grant Expenses	-	232,593	232,593	-	0%	232,593
37 TOTAL EXPENSE	463,544	265,083	728,628	1,085,700	67%	(357,072)
38 NET INCOME	\$ 156,731	\$ -	\$ 156,731	\$ 55,300		\$ 101,431

*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 February 28, 2022

	General Fund	Fish Clean Up	DWR - Prop 68 Grant	TOTAL
1 ASSETS				
2 Checking/Savings	61,975	20,991	-	82,966
3 Other Current Assets				
4 Due from Grant Funds	33,648	-	-	33,648
5 Prepaid Items	9,148	-	-	9,148
6 Grant Receivable	-	-	266,241	266,241
7 Total Other Current Assets	42,796	-	266,241	309,036
8 TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 104,770	\$ 20,991	\$ 266,241	\$ 392,002
9 LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE				
Liabilities				
10 Credit Cards				
11 Credit Card Payable (Pac West)	2,397	-	-	2,397
12 Credit Card Payable (Visa)	210	-	-	210
13 Total Credit Cards	2,607	-	-	2,607
14 Other Current Liabilities				
15 Accrued Expenditures	9,145	-	-	9,145
16 Due to Other Funds	-	-	33,648	33,648
17 Due to Riverside County	-	-	232,593	232,593
18 Accrued Vacation	21,610	-	-	21,610
19 Total Other Current Liabilities	30,755	-	266,241	296,996
20 Total Liabilities	33,362	-	266,241	299,602
21 Fund Balance	71,409	20,991	-	92,400
22 TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$ 104,770	\$ 20,991	266,241	\$ 392,002

*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: April 28, 2022
Re: **Support for Imperial County’s Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan**
CM No. Item #IV.A.6 – April 28, 2022

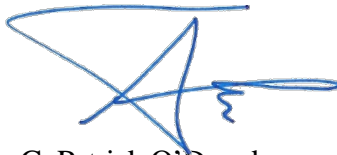
GENERAL:

At last month’s meeting of the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors, a presentation was made by representatives from Imperial County of their “Imperial County Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan”, which was favorably received by the board and the public. Imperial County has requested that the Salton Sea Authority provide a letter of support for their efforts in this regard.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the signing of a letter of support in the form presented hereafter in draft.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Patrick O’Dowd
Executive Director/GM



April 28, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Ben Hueso
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7340
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8120
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Imperial County's Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Salton Sea Authority, I am writing to share with you our support of Imperial County's Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan.

Imperial County includes several disadvantaged communities and is one of the poorest counties in the state. We believe this proposal, among other efforts, enables an efficient, secure and fair development of an industry that has the potential to propel and improve the economic and environmental future of Imperial County residents for generations to come.

In order to ensure we create the environment necessary to realize the great potential for the County, California, and the nation, we need to be both thoughtful and aggressive in our development of this opportunity. That is why the Imperial County Board of Supervisors has adopted the Lithium Valley Economic Opportunity Investment Plan. This plan articulates the local, statewide, and national benefits of this endeavor. It also prescribes the specific activities we believe are necessary for the County, the State, and the Federal governments to undertake to best capitalize on those benefits.

Given the critical nature of this endeavor, we strongly urge you to do everything you can to help Imperial County make this plan a reality. We greatly appreciate your time and attention. If you have any questions please contact G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director, at (760) 863-2695.

Sincerely,

V. Manuel Perez
President

Luis A. Plancarte
Vice President

Memorandum

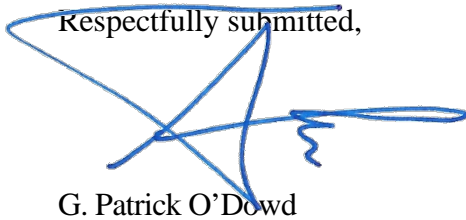
To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Date: April 28, 2022
Re: **Presentation of research findings of community experiences with the Salton Sea. Student-led presentation based on research conducted by students led by and with input from Michael Salvador, PhD, and Michael Karp, PhD, Cal State San Bernardino, Palm Desert Campus**
CM No. Item #V. A. – April 28, 2022

GENERAL:

Students at the Palm Desert Campus of California State University, San Bernardino have been conducting interviews with local residents to gather qualitative data about community members' experiences of the Salton Sea. This preliminary research seeks to identify common themes from different stakeholders to help gain an understanding of the varied relationships and cultural perspectives that community members have with the Salton Sea.

Presenters include Johnny Arredondo, Alexis Haas, and Dolores Vega. Johnny Arredondo and Alexis Haas are majoring in Communication Studies. Both will begin their senior year in the fall. Dolores Vega will graduate with her BA in Psychology this spring, and has been accepted to the Masters in Social Work program at UC Berkeley, which she will begin this fall.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/GM

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Date: April 28, 2022
Re: Preliminary review of FY 2022/2023 Budget for Salton Sea Authority
CM No. Item #VI. A. – April 28, 2022

GENERAL:

Forwarded herewith is a proposed operating budget for the Salton Sea Authority for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. This budget is based principally on historical costs from 2021-2022 actuals and informed by prior years, with a few modifications, including:

- Local Government / Member Assessments – member assessments have not been increased since 2012, with one adjustment made in 2020/2021 fiscal year, reducing assessments by 10%, which was refunded last year. As a result of inflation, COVID, and other impacts to cash flow, current assessments do not support a fully functioning organization. For the past three years the Authority has been operating at an unsustainable deficit, driven in large part by prior commitments made which have taken some time to unwind. The budget as presented increases member assessments to \$200,000 per year per paying member. This results in an adjusted annualized increase to the membership of just under 3% per year since the last increase, and consistent with adjustments for inflation over that same time period.

Of note, per Authority policy, Tribal dues are considered voluntary. As a result, this budget reflects zero contribution from the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians tribe. We have requested that the tribe indicate to the Authority their anticipated contribution for the coming fiscal year, which if provided will be included in the final budget to be considered by the board in May.


- State Grants Funding – this principally reflects anticipated work on the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project but will also likely include small fundings for the Desert Shores project and other work anticipated to materialize during the budget year.
- Travel increase reflects increases as we transition past the COVID pandemic.

This budget has been reviewed by the Finance and Executive Committees and is being forwarded for your consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the release of this preliminary budget to member agencies to secure approvals of Member Assessments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Patrick O'Dowd', written over a horizontal line.

G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/GM

Salton Sea Authority
Proposed Budget
FY 2022-23

	A	B	C	D	E
	FY 21/22 Adopted Budget	FY 21/22 Current YTD	FY 21/22 Projected YTD	FY 22/23 Proposed Budget General Fund	FY 22/23 Proposed Budget Prop. 68
1 REVENUE					
2 Local Government/Member Assessments	\$ 610,000	\$ 610,000	\$ 610,000	\$ 800,000	\$ -
3 Tribal Contribution*	-	-	-	-	-
4 Other Federal/State/Local Reimbursements	-	-	-	250,000	-
4 Ex Officio State Dues	150,000	-	-	-	-
6 Sponsorships	50,000	10,300	10,300	-	-
7 State Grant, Reimbursement to General Fund	80,000	-	-	110,000	-
8 State Grants (Prop 68) Funding	250,000	265,100	265,100	-	2,200,000
9 Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	1,000	-	-	-	-
10 TOTAL REVENUE	1,141,000	885,400	885,400	1,160,000	2,200,000
11 EXPENSES					
12 SSA ADMINISTRATION					
13 Salaries and Benefits					
14 Total Salaries	371,800	157,800	246,000	246,000	-
15 Salaries Adjustment	-	-	-	24,600	-
16 Total Employee Benefits	166,200	84,200	128,900	135,300	-
17 Total Salaries and Benefits	538,000	242,000	374,900	405,900	-
18 Contract Services / Professional Fees					
19 DC Advocates	84,000	56,000	84,000	88,200	-
20 Sacramento Advocate	60,000	40,000	60,000	84,000	-
21 Grant Administration	100,000	60,900	91,400	100,000	-
22 Attorney - General	75,000	19,900	38,200	50,000	-
23 Audit & Accounting	75,000	38,800	66,700	75,000	-
24 Total Contract Services / Professional Fees	394,000	215,600	340,300	397,200	-
25 Equipment Maintenance	12,000	6,200	8,300	8,700	-
26 Office Equipment <\$5,000	2,400	-	-	-	-
27 Insurance	9,300	6,800	10,200	10,500	-
28 Office Expense /Operating Supplies	6,000	5,300	7,900	8,300	-
29 Office Expense /Online Services	3,000	2,000	3,100	3,300	-
30 Dues & Subscriptions	10,000	11,900	18,300	14,200	-
31 Public Relations	36,000	2,800	2,800	-	-
32 Travel /Mileage	48,000	14,200	20,500	40,000	-
33 Utilities	3,000	-	-	-	-
34 Project Technical Support	24,000	-	-	-	-
35 TOTAL SSA ADMINISTRATION	1,085,700	506,800	786,300	888,100	-
36 GRANT EXPENSES					
37 Riverside County Salaries	-	4,400	4,400	-	-
38 Grants Expenses - Contractors	-	228,200	228,200	-	2,090,000
39 Grant Expenses - to General Fund	-	32,500	32,500	-	110,000
40 TOTAL GRANT EXPENSES	-	265,100	265,100	-	2,200,000
41 TOTAL EXPENSES	1,085,700	771,900	1,051,400	888,100	2,200,000
42 NET INCOME / (LOSS)	\$ 55,300	\$ 113,500	\$ (166,000)	\$ 271,900	\$ -
43 PROJECTED BEGINNING CASH - 7/1/22				\$ (142,600)	
44 PROJECTED ENDING CASH - 6/30/23				\$ 129,300	

*Tribal contribution is voluntary

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Date: April 28, 2022
Re: **LETTER OF INTENT RE: PROVISION OF NON-TRIBUTARY COLORADO RIVER WATER TO TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS AND THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY THROUGH A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**
CM No. Item VI. B. – April 28, 2022

GENERAL:

Cadiz, Inc. and its subsidiary, Fenner Mutual Water Company, has offered to provide the Salton Sea Authority 3,500 acre feet of water annually. The water is being provided to the Authority for its beneficial use as we may determine at our discretion, including project or other purposes. This water will be made available at no cost to the Authority at a point of delivery as described in the Letter of Intent (LOI). The Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians will also receive 1,500-acre feet water annually under similar terms as outlined in the LOI.

This agreement is predicated upon the following conditions being met:

1. Compliance with all applicable state and federal laws, including but not limited to the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Protection Act;
2. The delivery of non-tributary water into the Colorado River Aqueduct by way of a 43-mile proposed pipeline; and
3. The delivery of water from Cadiz for beneficial use in California via the 220-mile Northern Pipeline.

As mentioned, this water will be available for use as directed by this board, including transitional uses for project purposes or otherwise, and may be “turned back” if not used and marketed for other potential users, the net proceeds of which (as defined in the agreement) will directly benefit the Authority.

RECOMMENDATION:

Because of the significant benefits that the Authority and Salton Sea would receive should the project be successful in meeting its rigorous conditions precedent, staff recommends that the Board of Directors authorize the Executive Director to sign this letter of intent.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Patrick O’Dowd
Executive Director/GM

**LETTER OF INTENT RE PROVISION OF NON-TRIBUTARY COLORADO RIVER
WATER TO TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS AND THE
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY THROUGH A PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP**

This *Letter of Intent* (LOI) is entered into as of the ____ day of April, 2022, as a public private partnership, by and among Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians (“**Torres Martinez**”) a federally recognized Tribe of Cahuilla Indians, **Cadiz, Inc.** a public company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Fenner Valley Mutual Water Company (collectively “**Cadiz**”), a California Mutual Water Company, the Salton Sea Authority, a joint powers authority (“**Authority**”), and the Coachella Valley Water District (“**CVWD**”) a County Water District (each a “**Party**” and together the “**Parties**”), with reference to the following facts and intentions:

Whereas, the **Torres Martinez** Reservation is comprised of 24,000 acres, approximately 12,000 of which are below the Salton Sea. **Torres Martinez** has identified a need for up to 1,500 acre-feet per year (“**AFY**”) of supplemental water to satisfy existing health and sanitation needs on its aboriginal homeland, including but not limited to suppression of fugitive dust and water quality impairment of local groundwater wells, used for domestic use;

Whereas, **Torres Martinez** desires a physical interconnection with the **CVWD** so as to receive the delivery of water in sufficient quality and quantity as required to satisfy its beneficial use requirements at its current place of need;

Whereas, the Authority is leading the restoration of the Salton Sea located in Riverside and Imperial County of California, and the **Authority** desires to acquire new high-quality water from sources of supply non-tributary to the Colorado River (“non-tributary”) in support of its objective of attaining a sustainable Salton Sea;

Whereas, **Cadiz** holds certain water, water rights and storage rights in trust for the benefit of its shareholders, including the right to extract up to 2.5 million acre-feet of groundwater and to apply it for beneficial use on 35,000 acres of land in eastern Mojave Desert and generally within Southern California under a public private partnership with the Santa Margarita Water District (“**SMWD**”) and in accordance with terms and conditions established by San Bernardino County (“**County**”) and desires to make non-tributary supplemental water available to **CVWD** without cost at specified points of delivery as may be agreed for the benefit of **Torres Martinez** and the **Authority**.

Whereas, a Final Environmental Impact Report (“**FEIR**”) for a water conservation project (“**Cadiz Water Project**”) was certified, and pursuant to authorizations issued by the **County** when fully implemented, it will provide a firm water supply of 50,000 acre-feet (AF) annually for a period of fifty (50) years, and up to 1M AF of storage, using a proposed 43-mile pipeline to be constructed to convey water supply into the Colorado River Aqueduct (“**CRA**”) and an existing 220-Mile Pipeline that runs northwesterly from **Cadiz** and crosses the Los Angeles Aqueduct and State Water Project (“**SWP**”) facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual terms, conditions, covenants and agreements set forth herein, the Parties do hereby agree to pursue a public private partnership as follows:

Section 1. Purpose and Intent.

The purpose and intent of this **LOI** is for **Cadiz** to irrevocably dedicate its interest in 5,000 AFY of groundwater that may be appropriated by the **Cadiz Water Project** pursuant to the terms and conditions previously established by the **County**, for beneficial use by **Torres Martinez** and the **Authority** at no cost.

Section 2. Provision of Supplemental Water.

Cadiz will irrevocably dedicate up to 1,500 AFY to **Torres Martinez** and up to 3,500 AFY of supplemental water to the **Authority** for beneficial use as may be determined in their individual discretion. **Cadiz** may meet up to 500 AFY of this obligation by installing alternative reasonable and feasible technology that causes water quality standards at **Torres Martinez** groundwater wells to meet all California Drinking Water Standards for domestic use. The entirety of these actions in support of the dedication will be at the sole cost and expense of **Cadiz** and at no cost to **Torres Martinez** and the **Authority**.

Cadiz's dedication will be deemed complete each year when, in its discretion, it makes supplemental water available to **CVWD** for conveyance at one of two designated points of delivery: (i) the **CRA** or (ii) the **SWP** south of the San Francisco/San Joaquin Bay Delta. The quality of the supplemental water will be consistent with the receiving waters at the point of delivery and otherwise as specified by **CVWD** and further subject to **CVWD's** terms and conditions on acceptance. Neither **Torres Martinez** nor the **Authority** will incur any cost from **Cadiz'** making supplemental water to them at the designated points of delivery.

This **LOI** shall not be construed to require **CVWD** to assume responsibility for the exchange of non-tributary supplemental water for beneficial uses within **CVWD**, including **Torres Martinez** and the **Authority** or to receive the dedicated supplemental water in a manner that will result in harm to **CVWD**.

In addition to the supplemental water dedicated to **Torres-Martinez** and the **Authority** described herein, within one year, **Cadiz** will establish a program to make available additional supplemental water for disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities in California. **Cadiz** will exercise good faith in exploring additional opportunities whereby this supplemental non-tributary groundwater appropriated by the **Cadiz Water Project** may be provided for the direct benefit of disadvantaged communities in the Coachella Valley, via exchange for Colorado River water, to retail public water suppliers with the consent of **CVWD**. Supplemental water delivered for the express benefit of disadvantaged communities will be provided by **Cadiz** at price no greater than the actual cost incurred by **Cadiz**. "Actual cost" means, the full cost of extracting and transporting the water to the agreed point of delivery.

Section 3. Main Extension

Cadiz will provide or arrange up to \$5M in funding to assist the extension of **CVWD** conveyance facilities to the place of use at the location designated by **Torres Martinez** consistent with **CVWD** design, planning engineering requirements. This funding also may be used by **Torres Martinez** or its designee in connection with any matching grant and State and Federal infrastructure program.

Section 4. Turn-Back

Torres Martinez and the **Authority**, may, in their discretion, from year to year determine that based upon the prevailing facts and circumstances, that they would seek to make a portion of the dedicated supplemental water available for alternative beneficial uses (“**Turn-Back**”). **Torres Martinez** and the **Authority**, may provide reasonable notice to **Cadiz** and tender the unused quantity of **Turn-Back** for offering to third parties up to 1,500 and 3,500 AFY respectively. Upon receipt of the notice, **Cadiz** will exercise good faith and best efforts to offer and market the **Turn-Back** to third parties. The proceeds of any transaction for **Turn-Back** will be net of incremental costs incurred by **Cadiz** in completing the transaction, plus 10% and (i) for **Torres Martinez** the annual operations and maintenance costs of groundwater well-head treatment, if any; and (ii) for the **Authority**, actual costs incurred as defined in Section 2 above.

Section 5. Conditions Precedent

The **Parties** obligations are subject to negotiating and entering into mutually acceptable agreements with the appropriate parties. In addition, other than as set forth in Section 6 below, the obligations set forth herein are subject to the following express conditions precedent: (i) compliance with all state and federal applicable laws, including but not limited to the California Environmental Quality Act, the National Environmental Policy Act; (ii) the delivery of non-tributary water into CRA via the 43-Mile proposed pipeline; and (iii) the delivery of water from **Cadiz** for beneficial use in California via the 220-Mile Northern Pipeline.

Section 6. Good Faith

The **Parties** will exercise good faith to fulfill the purpose and intent of this **LOI** and public private partnership through each of the identified actions. Specifically, they will coordinate their efforts to comply with all applicable law and to implement the **LOI** to deliver water to **Torres Martinez** and the **Authority**. Moreover, in furtherance of the anticipated collaboration, within 60 days from the date of execution, **Cadiz** will cause an investigation and analysis of the **Torres Martinez** groundwater wells and make a recommendation as to whether a reasonably, feasible treatment option is available and if so, make a good faith proposal on an implementation strategy. If agreed by **Torres Martinez**, **Cadiz** will implement the groundwater treatment strategy.

Section 7. Counterpart Signatures

This **LOI** may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original agreement and all of which shall constitute one and the same agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have set forth their signatures as of the date and at the place first written above.

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Cadiz, Inc.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Salton Sea Authority

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Coachella Valley Water District

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
FROM: Oracio Gonzalez, Ollin Strategies
DATE: April 2022
SUBJECT: California State Advocacy

This memorandum provides a summary of state fiscal and legislative developments related to the Authority's state advocacy.

State Legislative Developments

Over the last few weeks, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia has advanced several bills from policy committee to the Appropriations Committee. These bills include:

AB 2851, establishing the Lithium Valley Office of Development. The office will, in consultation with relevant state agencies, coordinate initiatives related to funding, economic development, construction, manufacturing, technical development, and reclamation of lithium in the Salton Sea Geothermal Resource Area.

AB 2887, expanding the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA) within the Office of the State Treasurer from \$100 million to \$300 million annually to support lithium extraction and economic development in the Lithium Valley. CAEATFA provides sales and use tax exclusions for projects that promote California-based manufacturing, California-based jobs, advanced manufacturing, reduction of greenhouse gases, or reduction in air and water pollution or energy

AB 2903, establishing the Equitable Access Program within the California Workforce Development Board to create a framework for apprenticeship programs using the high road construction career model for employment within the Lithium Valley. The high road model generally advances strategies that simultaneously addresses income inequality, economic competitiveness, and climate change through regional skills strategies.

Mr. Garcia's AB 2887, which makes \$100 million available to address water quality issues arising from rivers flowing into the United States from Mexico, including \$50 million for the New River Improvement Project, is expected to be advanced to the Appropriations committee this week.

State Fiscal Developments

The Governor is expected to release his updated state budget, the May Revise, on May 10, 2022. In January 2022, the Governor proposed an investment of \$100 million for the Salton Sea to fund "local assistance, state operations, or capital outlay." The funding is included in AB 1624, the 2022-2023 State Budget Act.

This investment is considered part of the "base" budget, and as a result will bypass hearings before the Assembly or the Senate Budget Sub Committees on resources. Absent the Governor

adjusting the funding amount as part of his updated state budget proposal, the funding will be included in the final budget that is sent to the Governor by the constitutional deadline of June 15, 2022.

Note, if approved by the legislature, there would be a remaining balance from the Governor's \$220 million commitment to the Salton Sea of \$80 million.

Date: April 22, 2022
To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting
From: Steve Quartieri, District Superintendent
RE: Salton Sea State Recreation Report

Good morning, thank you for the opportunity to update the Board on SSSRA's operations.

- The park continues to focus on our baseline visitor serving operations. Operations will continue as described through Memorial Day Weekend.
 - Day Use Areas – Open
 - Campgrounds – Open (including HQ, New Camp, Mecca Beach, Corvina Beach, and Salt Creek)
 - Visitor Center – Open Wednesday – Sunday

- Attendance continues to be strong at SSSRA.
 - In March 2022
 - Total visitation was up over prior year by approximately 400 visitors for the two-months combined (Mar 2022: 5,035).
 - This increase in visitation was seen in both Day Use and Camping
 - Our March 2022 Day Use was 3,553.
 - And Camping was 1,488

- Thank you for the opportunity to share our reports with the Board, and we look forward to an exciting spring season at SSSRA.