

Public Comment, 1/26/23 SSA board meeting

From: Michael Cohen

I'd like to submit the following public comment on Agenda Item V. B. at the 1/26/23 SSA Board meeting:

The IID Board's November 29th approval of the landmark agreement with the federal and state governments known as the "[Commitment to Support Salton Sea Management Related to Water Conservation in the Lower Colorado River Basin at the Salton Sea](#)" marks a real turning point for the Salton Sea. In addition to the significant federal investment in the shrinking lake, IID and – for the first time – the Coachella Valley Water District commit real water for future projects and commit to provide land access, which has been a huge obstacle for years. In return, California will give the districts much-needed legal protections for this land and the federal government will fund efforts to protect public and environmental health. Additionally, Interior commits \$2 million to the Torres Martinez tribe, to support SSMP project implementation.

The agreement satisfies and exceeds a federal funding condition IID's board set three years ago, allowing IID to move forward with discussions about the single largest contribution of water to help protect the rapidly declining storage in Lake Mead, but it does not commit IID to making additional contributions.

While this is only a first step and will not be sufficient on its own to protect the Salton Sea, this landmark agreement demonstrates much-needed federal commitment to the Salton Sea, supporting state-led projects with \$250 million, as well as scientific and technical support. Two of the Authority's member agencies endorsed this landmark agreement and a third member receives significant financial support from it. The agreement enables real progress at the Salton Sea and should enjoy the Authority's full support.

Thank you,

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Received by email 10:54 a.m., Tuesday, January 24, 2023