



AGENDA: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DATE: Thursday, February 23, 2023
10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Coachella Valley Water District
 75515 Hovley Lane East
 Palm Desert, CA 92260
 760-398-2651

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, 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. February 23. Please see the meeting login information at SaltonSea.com/meetings, or access www.zoom.us, click "Join Meeting," and enter Webinar ID 870 0180 6703 and Passcode 446431.

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 non-action agenda item and for matters not on the agenda. California law prohibits members of the Board from taking action on matters not on the agenda.

*Any member of the public may address the Board regarding any matter within the Authority's jurisdiction and are invited to speak to any specific **action** item 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.

When you speak, state your name for the record prior to your comment. Please address your comments to the Chairman.

*If present in person, complete a "request to speak" form and give it to the board secretary. Via Zoom use Zoom's "raised hand" feature, or by phone press *9 to be acknowledged.*

You may email your comments to info@saltonsea.com (include in your subject line "Public Comment, 2/23/23 SSA board meeting") or mail comments to 82995 Highway 111, Suite 200, Indio, California, "Attn: Board Secretary, Salton Sea Authority" or deliver to the attending security officer at the front desk.

*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 (provide 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, February 22**, 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. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Introduction to Salinity Webinar, focused on gaining an understanding of the amount and chemistry and fate of the salts entering the Salton Sea - Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute. Webinar scheduled for Thursday, February 23 at 12pm.

V. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
 - 1. AB 361 Remote Meeting Authorization for February 23, 2023
 - 2. Minutes for Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting January 26, 2023
 - 3. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for January 2023
 - 4. Salton Sea Authority Financial Statement for December 2022

- B. Community Engagement and Outreach – Presentations by California Natural Resources Agency and Community Based Organizations. Discussion of best practices in reaching all stakeholders of the region in anticipation of future efforts, including the US Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study.

- C. Continued Discussion regarding Colorado River conservation measures and measuring impacts. – G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director

VI. REPORTS

- A. Federal
 - 1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation
- 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) – Alan Pace, President
- D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments
1. G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority

VII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority board meeting will be held:

Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Imperial County BOS Chamber
940 W. Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(442) 265-1020

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: February 23, 2023

Re: Introduction to Webinar regarding Salton Sea Water Quality

California's Salton Sea – the state's largest lake – contains more than 470 million metric tons of dissolved salts. It's more than twice as salty as the ocean and getting saltier. An unknown amount of additional salt – likely measuring in the hundreds of millions of tons – lies on the lake bottom and along the shore. Some three million tons of salts – enough to cover a square mile of land three feet deep – flow into the Sea every year.

Michael Cohen of the Pacific Institute is here today to introduce this important topic, and highlight briefly a webinar, scheduled for Thursday, February 23rd at noon PST, where a distinguished panel of experts for a robust 90-minute conversation about Salton Sea salinity. Mr. Cohen will moderate the conversation, joined by Ali Montazar of University of California Cooperative Extension, Chris Holdren, formerly with the Bureau of Reclamation, Elliot Jagniecki of the Utah Geological Survey, and Tom Sephton of EcoMedia Compass.

The objective of the webinar is to improve understanding of the amount and chemistry and fate of the salts entering the Salton Sea and provide an opportunity for discussion among agency staff, stakeholders, and the public generally.

Topics will include:

- Colorado River salts & leaching in Imperial Valley
- Amount and chemistry and fate of salts entering the Salton Sea
- Great Salt Lake salt chemistry & salinity gradients
- Salt chemistry at high concentrations & desalination

The webinar is free and open to the public. [Click here to register!](#)

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 26, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by Luis A. Plancarte, President, at 10:20 a.m., January 26, 2023, at the County of Imperial Board of Supervisors Chamber, and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Director Dockstader

ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

Luis A. Plancarte, President
Alex Cárdenas, Treasurer
Altrena Santillanes, Vice President
Ryan Kelley, Director
V. Manuel Perez, Director
Gina N. Dockstader, Director

AGENCY

Imperial County
Imperial Irrigation District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
County of Imperial
Riverside County
Imperial Irrigation District

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Cástulo R. Estrada, Secretary
Thomas Torte, Director

AGENCY

Coachella Valley Water District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

DIRECTORS ABSENT

John Aguilar, Director
Yxstian Gutierrez, Director

AGENCY

County of Riverside
County of Riverside

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM (in person)
Carlos Campos, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel (in person)
Bob Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel (via Zoom)

*(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.)*

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

On site: Mario Renteria, Senator Padillas office; Lisa Bravata, Linda Thill, and Johnathan McDannell of Salton Sea Authority.

Via Zoom: Lisa Moore of Cultivating Conservation; Oracio Gonzalez of Ollin Strategies; and 47 others.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments in person by Mario Renteria, and via Zoom the Office of State Senator Padilla, Nathan White and Tom Sephton.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

President Plancarte, Treasurer Cardenas, Directors, Perez and Tortez shared their comments.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

A. Recognition of Outgoing Salton Sea Authority Board Members and welcoming New Board Members Special recognition and expressions of gratitude were shared by board members and the public for outgoing Board members James Hanks from the Imperial Irrigation District, Anthony Bianco from Coachella Valley Water District, and Jeff Hewitt of Riverside County. ***On motion from Board Member Cardenas, Second by Board Member Perez, resolutions of recognition and appreciation for each departing board member were passed unanimously.***

V. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File

1. AB 361 Remote Meeting Authorization for January 26, 2023
2. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting January 26, 2023
3. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for November 2022
4. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2022 – 11/30/2022

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

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Plancarte, Cardenas, Santillanes, Dockstader, Tortez, Kelley and Perez.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Directors Estrada, Aguilar and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: None

MOTION PASSED: 9- 0

B. Discussion and Board Direction Regarding “Commitment to Support Salton Sea Management Related to Water Conservation in the Lower Colorado River Basin”:

Board received a presentation from Federal, State, and Local representatives on the Colorado River issues and possible steps to prevent them. Presenters included:

Bureau of Reclamation

- Jacklynn “Jaci” Gould, Lower Colorado Basin Regional Director
- Jeremy Brooks, Salton Sea Program Manager
- Alan Butler, Hydraulic Engineer

State of California Department of Natural Resources

- Mario Llanos, Deputy Assistant Secretary, SSMP
- Lisa Lien-Maher, Deputy Secretary for Communications

Colorado River Board of California

- Peter Nelson, Director, Coachella Valley Water District

Imperial Irrigation District

- Tina Shields, Water Department Manager

Board members were afforded an opportunity to ask questions of presenters.

C. An update on US Army Corps of Engineers Feasibility Study, Executed December 16, 2022 was provided by Executive Director G. Patrick O’Dowd.

D. Discuss Upcoming meetings and venues. CVWD board room unavailable for June and August Salton Sea Authority board meetings during remodel.

Executive Director G. Patrick O’Dowd mentioned that the Salton Sea Authority’s 30-year Anniversary falls on June 22 we will be planning a “special” meeting that day at a to be determined location, and the August meeting will likely be cancelled.

VI. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities

Lisa Moore Lehman provided a written report on Federal matters.

2. US Bureau of Reclamation – No Report

B. State

1. State Advocacy Report

Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies, provided an update on State issues.

2. State of California

Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency, provided an update on the SSMP and CNRA activities.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area (SSSRA) – No Report

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) – Juan DeLara provided an update.

D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments

1. Executive Director G. Patrick O’Dowd gave a brief update on the Desert Shores Project.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Plancarte adjourned the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The regularly-scheduled meeting will be held

Thursday, February 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Coachella Valley Water District
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 398-2651

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director /GM
Date: February 23, 2023

Re: Community Outreach and Engagement

The State has long been building experience and infrastructure in Community Engagement. Throughout the implementation of its 10-year plan and the soon to be completed long range plan, and working with the numerous participants of the Engagement Committee, the State has developed a wealth of experience and knowledge in this important area. Today Miguel Hernandez from the California Natural Resources Agency will provide the Board with a programmatic overview as to how the State approaches Community Outreach and Engagement.

Outreach and Engagement has also long been a priority of the Salton Sea Authority. Working with the State of California Department of Natural Resources, we recently entered into an agreement to increase that collaborative effort. Part of that work involved interacting with CNRA and Community Based Organizations to secure input into a Community Amenities effort being undertaken by Better World Group on behalf of the State. We have invited Christian Rodriguez from Kounkuey Design Initiative, Inc. (KDI), the prime contractor on this effort, to provide a brief overview of that work and a summary of their findings. A draft copy of their report is available at SaltonSea.com under today's agenda (or just click here), and comments and feedback are welcome.

Finally, we have invited Sylvia Paz of Alianza Coachella Valley to provide this Board with a brief summary of their work in this space, and share comments and guidance as to how we can all improve this effort moving forward.

The principal driver for the inclusion of this item on today's agenda is to frame our work on the recently signed US Army Corps feasibility study, which will have a robust public engagement component. We hope to take the lessons learned from the State and input from our local partners, and working together with DWR (as joint local sponsors of the feasibility study) develop a robust, intentional program for public outreach that will result in each stakeholder having the sense that they contributed in a meaningful way to the outcome of that effort.



salton sea amenities engagement

findings and summary report


kounkuey design initiative

with support from:
imperial valley equity & justice coalition

february 3, 2023



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01. executive summary

engaging the salton sea region

In late 2022 and early 2023, with funding from the Salton Sea Authority (SSA), Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) developed an engagement framework for the Better World Group (BWG) in order to inform their Community Amenities Strategy document. The purpose of this effort was to collect feedback on the Salton Sea region's needs and community members' desired amenities for the futures of the area. This engagement consisted of nine mobile data-collecting activities (mobile engagements), five community focus group workshops, and the distribution of a bilingual survey that was intended to be far reaching.

A priority was to be given to the Imperial County shoreline communities for this data collecting effort, so KDI partnered with Imperial Valley Equity and Justice Coalition (IVEJC) as the Imperial County community experts. IVEJC were brought on as consultants for strategy development and outreach and engagement support.

Through this effort both KDI and IVEJC teams surveyed 508 people, met with 55 focus group workshop participants and engaged approximately 225 individuals through the mobile "obelisk" engagements in Brawley, Calipatria, Westmorland, Salton City, El Centro, Calexico, and Thermal.

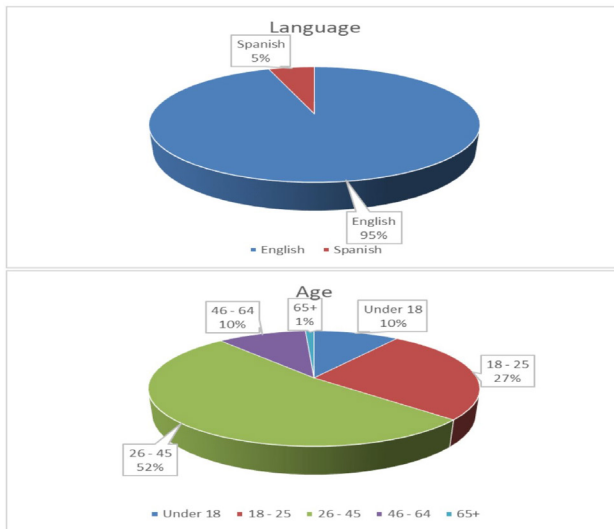
This report includes a summary of the survey results, the voting counts from the mobile engagements and content from memos prepared by the KDI community team for each of the focus group workshop.

The intention of this report is to capture all of the engagement outcomes in one document and to serve as a data reference point for use in the Community Amenities Strategy document.



02. survey results

Total number of respondents: 508

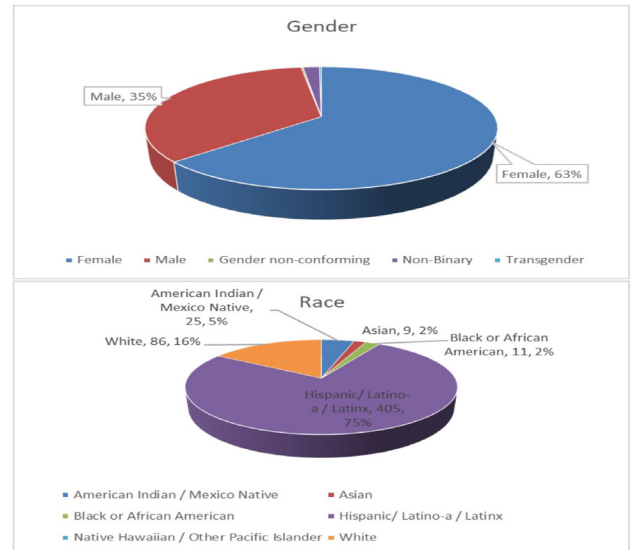


summary

The “Salton Sea Benefits Survey” went live on December 14th, 2022 and was closed on January 23rd, 2023. A total of 508 surveys were taken with 95% of them being completed in English (Spanish was also provided as an option). The age demographic most engaged were from ages 25 to 45 with 63% respondents identifying as female, and 75% identifying as Hispanic and/or Latino.

The survey was distributed through various social media platforms and online outlets, as well as through community contacts and the networks of BWG, the SSA, and the State of California’s Salton Sea committees.

Total number of respondents: 508



“[I want the Salton Sea to be] “a healthy place for the community, and a place that the residents can enjoy.”

-Maria Cervantes, Thermal

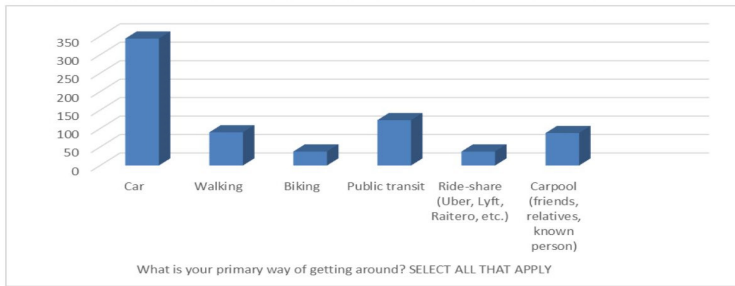


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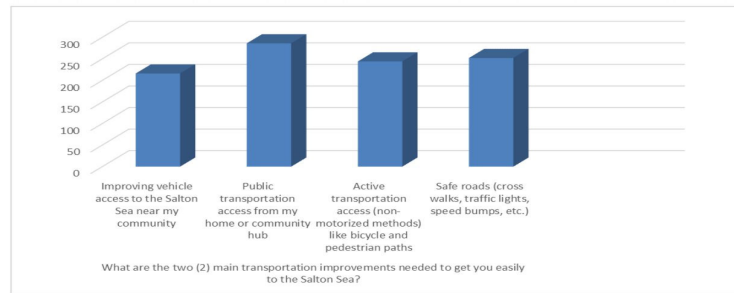


transportation

When asked about primary mode of transportation, over 300 people said they drove a car. Public transit followed as the second choice at a little over 100 responses. Over 250 survey takers said they would like to see improvement to public transportation access near their community as well as safety improvements on roads and vehicle access to the Salton Sea.

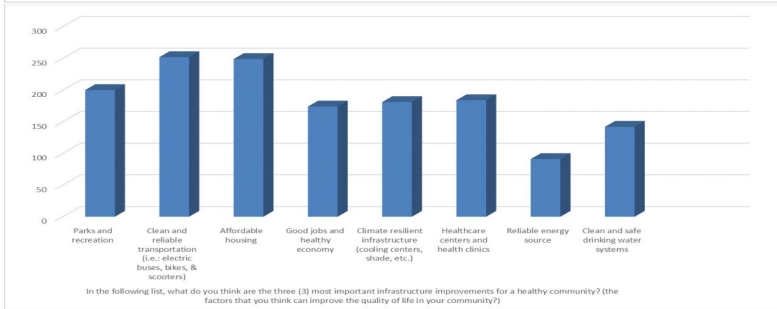
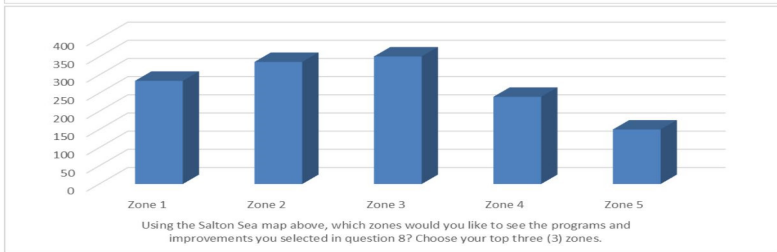
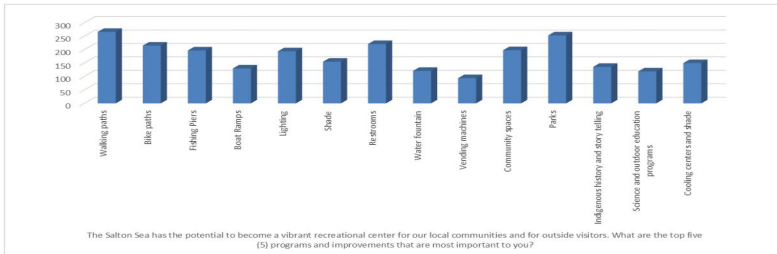


Total number of respondents: 508



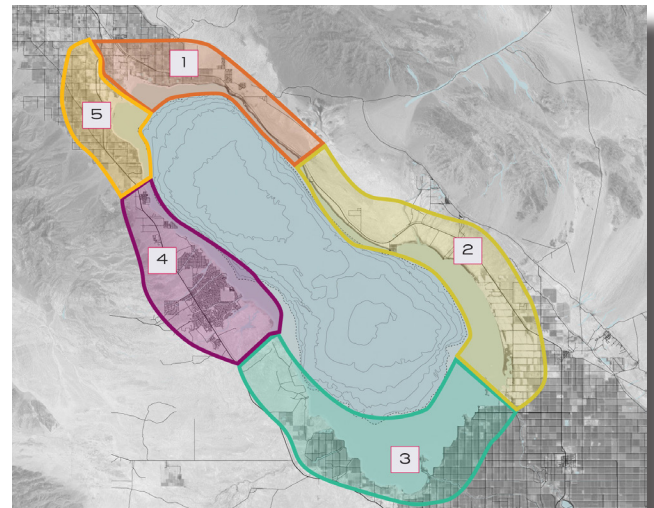
"[I want the Salton Sea to be] "a clean and ecologically sustainable space."

- Aranza Mascareno, Calexico



recreation and infrastructure

Parks and walking paths were the highest ranked amenities, and housing and clean and reliable transportation where the two top infrastructure needs. The geographical areas where most respondents would like to see these types of projects implmented are near Bombay Beach, the south shoreline of the Salton Sea, and North Shore (areas 2, 3, and 1 respectively on the map below).



“[Quiero que el Salton Sea sea] un lugar mas iluminado y seguro.”

-Maricela Arredondo, Salton Sea

03. mobile engagements



In order to quantify priorities for individual shoreline communities of the Salton Sea, the KDI team developed a prioritizing tool called the "Obelisk", made out a 5ft tall, 4 window pegboard display and metal hooks. The obelisk displayed images representing community needs, previously chosen by community members in 4 categories. The 4 categories are:

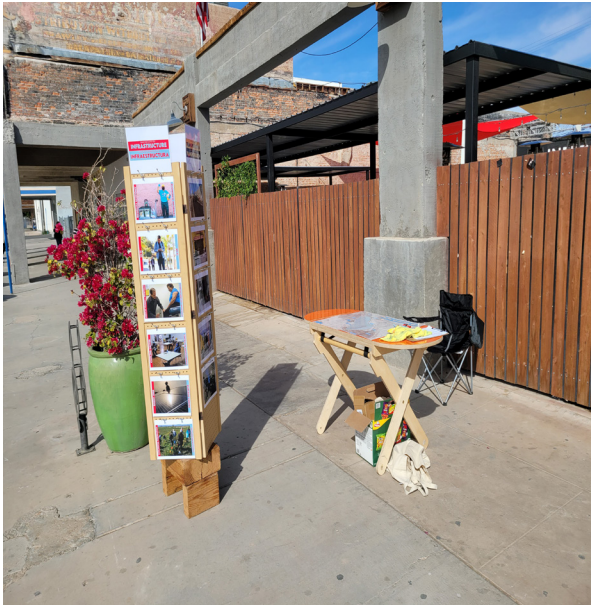
- Transportation
- Recreation
- Placemaking
- Infrastructure

For the priority activity participants were given 5 metal rings and were instructed to place the rings in the hooks representing the community benefit of their choice. With about 30 options available, participants had to think about their choices and prioritize what was most important to them. In addition to the obelisk, the KDI team also displayed a map of the Salton Sea region where participants were able to draw and/or write in more detail about community benefits and their desired location.



To ensure all shoreline communities of the Salton Sea were accounted for, the KDI team stationed the obelisk at 9 different popular locations in close proximity to the Salton Sea. Those locations were:

- Oasis: Oasis del Desierto Park
- North Shore: North Shore Community Park
- Brawley: Inferno Restaurant
- Calipatria: Market Square
- Westmorland: El Sol Market
- Thermal: Chapala Market
- Salton City: North Marina & Highway 86
- El Centro: El Centro Courthouse
- Calexico: Los Pinky's Hot Dog Stand



Approximately 225 participants were engaged in 9 mobile beacon deployments. The KDI team counted all collected votes and developed a chart for record keeping. Here are the quantifiable results for each of the available categories, organized by identified priority.

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| transportation | |
| street lighting | 70 votes |
| public transportation | 65 votes |
| bus shelters | 65 votes |
| paved roads | 55 votes |
| sidewalk | 28 votes |

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| infrastructure | |
| medical clinics | 76 votes |
| ecological restoration | 72 votes |
| wi-fi | 56 votes |
| cooling centers | 43 votes |
| green jobs | 37 votes |
| informal economy support | 37 votes |

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| recreation | |
| parks | 85 votes |
| trails/bike paths | 67 votes |
| shoreline access | 57 votes |
| bird watching | 42 votes |
| camping | 38 votes |
| kayaking/water access | 16 votes |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| place making | |
| shade trees | 68 votes |
| community gathering spaces | 67 votes |
| community art pieces | 48 votes |
| display community narrative/histories | 34 votes |



After voting on the obelisk, participants were asked to work on a map outlining the Salton Sea and shoreline communities. KDI facilitators provided participants with colored markers and asked them to draw or write specific locations within the map where participants would like to see community benefits. Participants were also encouraged to engage in detailed conversations with facilitators about the needs in the individual's community.



KDI facilitators developed a matrix to capture and categorize qualitative comments received during the conversations they had with participants. Based on this matrix, the KDI team sorted all comments into 3 levels of priority in order of importance and frequency. The 3 categories are: highest level of priority, high level of priority, and considerable level of priority.

highest level of priority

- shade (trees, structures)
- paved roads
- information about and more accessibility to programs, events, governance meetings, and resources offered (available times, language, cost, distance)
- parks and facilities maintenance
- street lighting
- faster response time from law enforcement and public safety departments
- availability of and accessibility to public transportation
- community gathering spaces (parks, community centers)



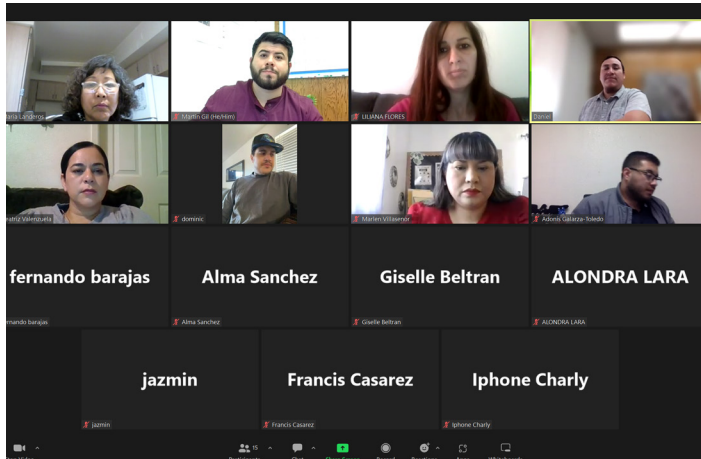
high level of priority

- medical clinics
- traffic control (speed bumps, stop signs, traffic lights, traffic control personnel during traffic hours)
- programs and activities for people of all ages
- assistance and resources for farm working individuals
- investment from governing agencies (jobs, housing, community aesthetic)
- support for local businesses (loans, resources, permit requirements, availability and access to agents)
- internet access

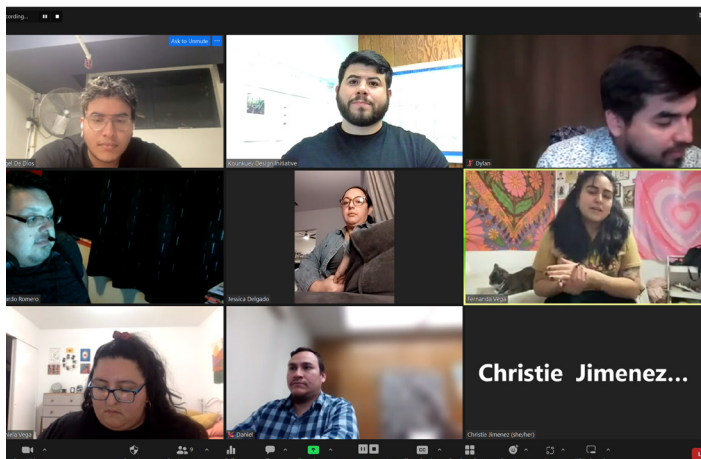
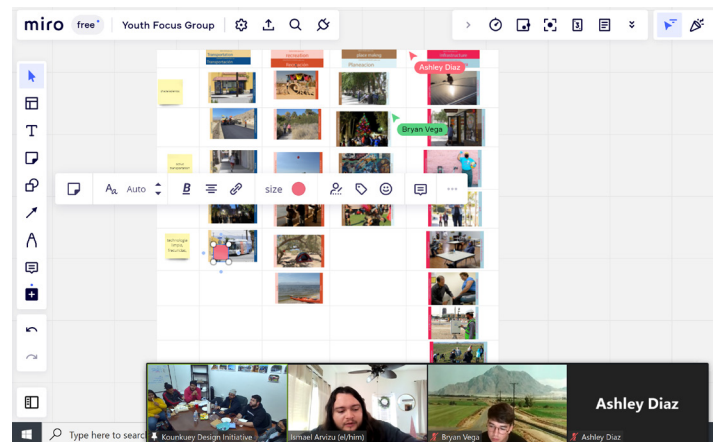
considerable level of priority

- shoreline access
- trainings for jobs that will become available
- markets, restaurants
- outdoor activities
- outdoor spaces for recreation

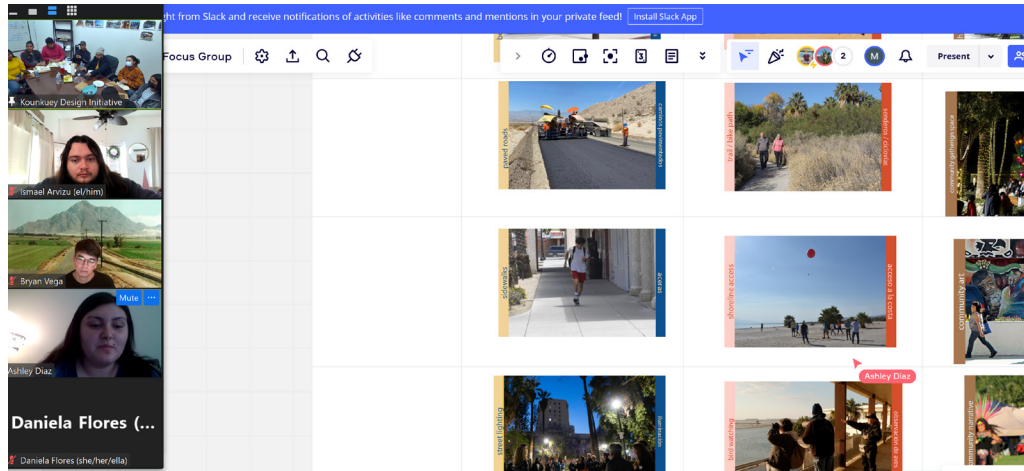
04. focus groups



The KDI team, with support from IVECJ and FIELD, conducted five focus group workshops. Each focus group met for 1 to 2 hours to discuss various topics based on the engagement framework developed for the survey. The focus groups were structured to facilitate in depth conversation around potential amenities and benefits as they pertained to their demographic. The focus groups targeted a work force development group, youth from both Riverside and Imperial county, a group of seniors who meet regularly at the Brawley Senior Center, and one focus group for community leaders in each of the two counties. In order to accommodate different needs, some workshops were done in person while others were done over Zoom using Miro boards as tools to facilitate interactive activities.



focus group: youth



Workshop Overview

On January 20th, 2023 the KDI team met with youth from Riverside and Imperial counties over zoom for a focus group discussion about the different needs that exist in communities around the Salton Sea. In order to keep the conversation focused, the KDI team limited the number of participants to 10 available spots. During this conversation, nine participants from communities including Thermal, Oasis, Mecca, Brawley, El Centro, Calexico, and Calipatria were part of the conversation. Facilitators from the KDI team started the meeting with some introductions and an overview of the Salton Sea Benefits Engagement process that had been going on for the past month.

Obelisk Activity

To start the conversation, the KDI team replicated the obelisk activity from the mobile engagements and made it compatible for viewers on line. The purpose of the activity was to have participants choose their top 5 benefits from the list of opinions available. After completing the activity, facilitators asked participants to provide their reasoning for making their choices. The top three benefits selected were public transportation, street lights, and sidewalks.

Here are comments from participants regarding these priorities:

- The bus route schedule needs to be more flexible. Instead of every hour, the buses should be stopping more frequently.
- Bus routes are inadequate and inaccessible.

- More lights are needed since workers are waiting in the streets early in the morning when it is still dark.
- Sidewalks would provide safety for families making their way to public areas.

The main portion of the workshop was discussing heat impacts and transportation needs as well as uses and finally a conversation around broadband. Here are comments from participants regarding each topic:

Regarding Heat:

- Medical centers should offer free showers for the unhoused and serve as community cooling centers.
- Community centers could serve as cooling centers and resource centers.

Regarding Transportation:

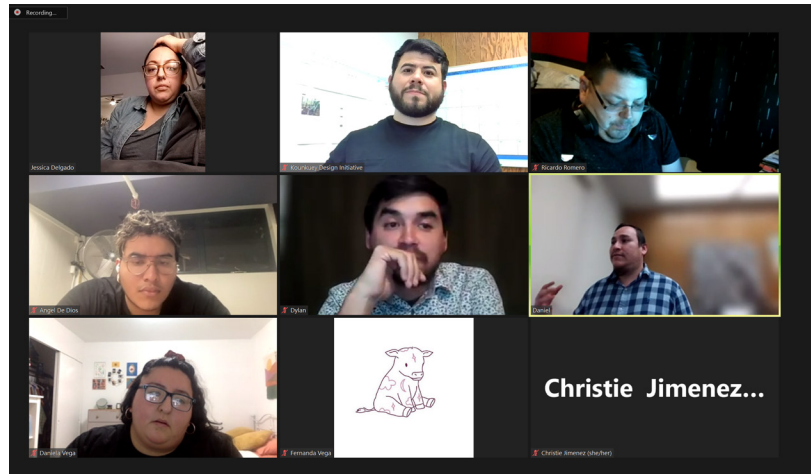
- There are too many bus stops with no bus shelters.
- We need buses that run on clean energy.
- SunBus has a ride-share function, but it needs to be more reliable. The location doesn't refresh and it is not accessible to people that live in remote areas.
- Improving access would fuel other amenities.

Regarding Broadband:

- Better internet access would help stimulate local businesses to grow.

Why does the Salton Sea matter to you?

- Not good for the environment
- We need to save it
- Fish had died, now it will be people



Workshop Overview

On January 24th, 2023 the KDI met with residents of Imperial County over Zoom for a focus group discussion about the different needs that exist in communities around the Salton Sea. During this conversation, 9 participants from communities including Bombay Beach, Calipatria, Calexico, El Centro, Westmorland, and Brawley were part of the conversation. Facilitators of the KDI team started the meeting with some introductions and overview of the Salton Sea Benefits Engagement process that had been going on for the past month.

Obelisk Activity

To start the conversation, the KDI team replicated the Obelisk activity from the mobile engagements and made it compatible for viewers on line. The purpose of the activity was to have participants choose their top 5 benefits from the list of opinions available. After completing the activity, facilitators asked participants to provide their reasoning for making their choices. The top three benefits selected were paved roads, public transportation, and ecological transportation.

Here are comments from participants regarding each of the top three priorities:

Paved Roads:

- We need better roads because people can get flat tires when trying to get to a place. This can be too costly for some people.
- How can we have access to the Salton Sea if there are no roads to get there.

Public Transportation:

- Not everyone has access to a vehicle so there needs to be more accessibility in transportation. More places to visit, more bus stops. It is also good to reduce environmental damage.
- We need more eco-friendly transportation. So improving public transportation will do just that.
- The idea of having a trolley system is good but it needs to be reliable.

Ecological Restoration:

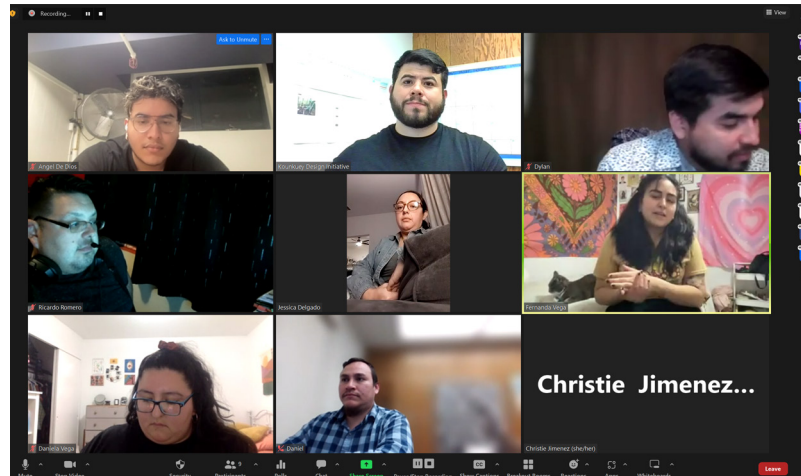
- We need to do something about it. We need to raise awareness for the salton sea. We need more programs and money to be invested here.

The main portion of the workshop was discussing heat impacts, transportation needs, and broadband. A question was posed for each topic. Below are some responses:

Regarding Heat:

- There are a lot of people in Calipatria and Bombay Beach that don't have an air conditioner.
- Cooling spaces often reject the unhoused, leaving them with no places to cool off.
- This is a life and death situation.
- Coming from a family of HVAC specialists I recall growing up and hearing some calls for help to my family. We had to go and help families in need that did not have air conditioners and were suffering through the summer heat.
- Some communities don't have water.
- We just don't go out.
- I recognize that I am privileged to have air condi-

focus group: imperial county (cont.)



tioning when a lot of families don't count on those measures to deal with the intense heat.

- Everyone already knows that they will have a high electricity bill during the summer.
- There is no infrastructure to combat the heat.
- No water in some areas.
- Heat makes you tired all the time.
- I recall those summer days where I would just feel drained all the time just for running errands, going in and out of this extreme heat.

Regarding Transportation:

- We need to have cars to move.
- It is essential to have a car to travel and go to your daily needs in the valley.
- Transit takes too long.
- The amount of time between stops is too much.
- Its unreliable.
- Sometimes you have to drive around the valley in the summer with your windows down to conserve gas.
- Even with all the talk about bringing these amenities I doesn't trust the system to do a good job.
- We need some way to track exactly where the public transit is to plan accordingly.
- Because of the unreliability of public transit we often miss our buses and would have to wait hours to catch the next bus.

Regarding Broadband:

- Better reception.
- We need more affordable access.
- Many services that are in the area are not good enough to keep up with the demand.



Workshop Overview

On January 24th, 2023 the KDI met with seniors at the Brawley senior center for a focus group discussion about the different needs that exist in communities around the Salton Sea. During this conversation 9 participants were part of the conversation.

Obelisk Activity

Facilitators of the KDI team started the meeting with some introductions and overview of the Salton Sea Benefits Engagement process that had been going on for the past month. To start the conversation the KDI team replicated the Obelisk activity. The purpose of the activity was to have participants choose their top five benefits from the list of opinions available.

After completing the activity, facilitators asked participants to provide their reasoning for making their choices. The group selected their top 5 benefits: camping, parks, bird watching, trails, and kayaking.

Comments we received from participants when providing reasoning for some of their choices:

Public transportation:

- We need more access to transportation for seniors .
- Seniors have to walk long distances to get to a bus stop.
- Sometimes I dont go out because I don't have a ride and I can't walk to a bus stop.

Camping:

- Would like to be able to spend more time outdoors.

- it would be good if we had classes and equipment to be able to camp.
- I would like to connect more with nature.

Parks:

- I would like more parks with games for children to play.
- There is no park close to where I live, so besides the senior center there is no other place I go.

Bird watching:

- I heard that there are really beautiful places for bird watching at the Salton Sea, but I have never been there so I don't know how to get there. Also there is no public transportation that can take me there.

Trails:

- I love to walk on trails. We need more trails around here.
- It is a good activity to stay healthy and connect with family members

Kayaking:

- People need activities to do outdoors and kayaking seems like a fun activity for folks to do

The main portion of the workshop was discussing heat impacts, transportation and broadband.

Response from participants:

Regarding Heat:

- There are not enough places for people to cool off.
- There is no way for me to go the beach and enjoy a day away from the heat.

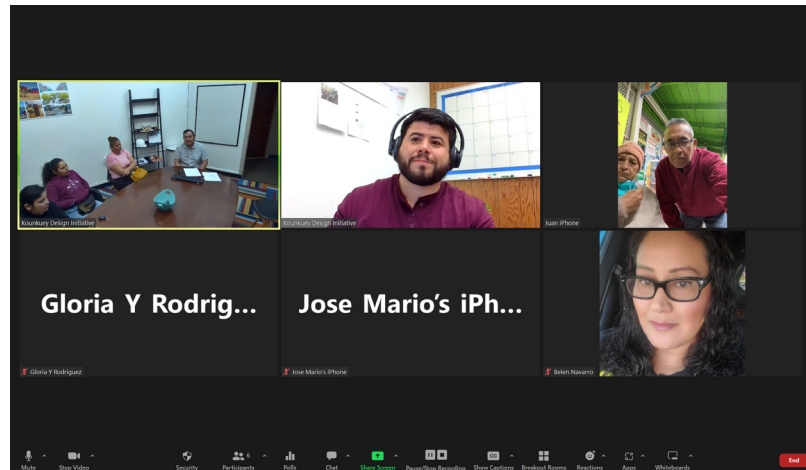
focus group: seniors (cont.)



- I don't have transportation to cooler places near by.
- We need some pools here in the community.

Regarding Transportation:

- I get around with IV Transit, or drive my car or bicycle.
- It is important to note that there are a lot of people who don't have access to cars and rely on public transportation. The amount of activities they could do is based on where the buses can take them.
- I can't walk too much so I only go out when I have a ride
- I would like to be able to go to San Diego to enjoy a fresh day at the beach.
- We need to have field trips that can take seniors from Brawley to San Diego.
- We need a ride share system that is affordable for people.



Workshop Overview

On January 25th, 2023 the KDI met with residents of Riverside county over zoom for a focus group discussion about the different needs that exist in communities around the Salton Sea. During this conversation, 9 participants from communities including Thermal, Oasis and North Shore were part of the conversation. Facilitators of the KDI team started the meeting with some introductions and overview of the Salton Sea Benefits Engagement process that had been going on for the past month.

Obelisk Activity

The KDI team replicated the Obelisk activity and made it compatible for viewers on line. The purpose of the activity was to have participants choose their top benefits from the list of opinions available. After completing the activity, facilitators asked participants to provide their reasoning for making their choices. The top three benefits selected were parks, street lights, and shade.

Comments from participants regarding each of the top three benefits.

Parks:

- We need to finish part 2 of the Oasis park. We have been waiting for too long.
- There is a need for more parks in the area of Oasis and Thermal.
- We need a park with pool for kids to play in the summer.

Street lights:

- Streets are so dark and it is dangerous to come out at night.
- We need more safety measures.
- Don't feel good about letting my kids go outside and play because it is dangerous.

Shade:

- We need a lot more shade to protect from the sun.
- There needs to be more shade for farmworkers.
- When I work in the fields it's too hot, but there are no places for me to get shade.

The main portion of the workshop was discussing heat impacts, transportation and broadband.

Participant responses:

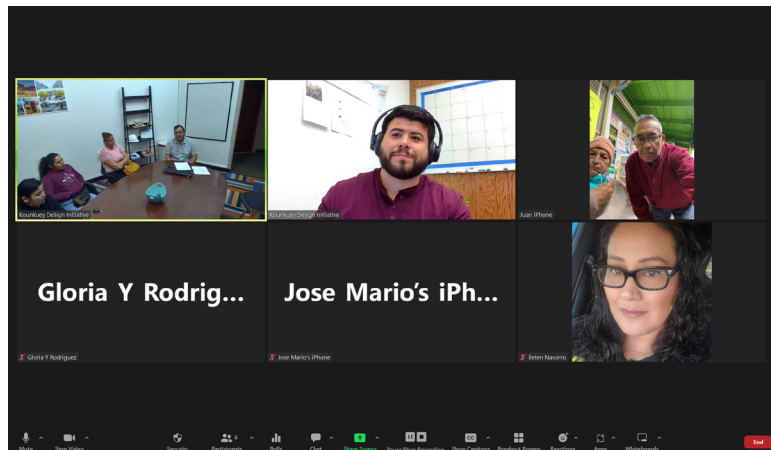
Regarding Heat:

- We need more parks with pools
- We need more markets to sell ice
- More ice machines
- We need bus shelters to have shade
- Water fountains

Regarding Transportation:

- Bus stops end on Ave 70, but there are people passing that street that still need to use transportation. They have to rely on other people to move around.
- We need affordable transportation options, such as ride share.
- Students can't get to school if they missed the bus.
- More bike racks on buses and bike racks in schools, so that students can take the bus and ride their bike

focus groups riverside county (cont.)



home.

Regarding Broadband:

- We should have free wi-fi at stores and markets
- Free wi-fi at parks
- There is no signal at parks. So I don't feel safe because I cant use my phone.
- Phone signal is not good at trailer parks.
- There are a lot of dead zones in Oasis trailer parks.
- We should have access to better internet companies.
- More towers from providers.



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SENIOR PUBLIC INFORMATION SPECIALIST - CE

Class Code:
74459

Bargaining Unit: Management Resolution -
Unrepresented Confidential

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
Established Date: Jan 7, 2020
Revision Date: Jan 7, 2020

SALARY RANGE

\$35.93 - \$49.28 Hourly
\$6,228.09 - \$8,542.32 Monthly
\$74,737.10 - \$102,507.81 Annually

CLASS CONCEPT:

Under direction, to plan, prepare and implement the public information program of a County agency or large County department; to inform the public of activities and services of the assigned agency or department; to develop, prepare, and implement specialized and comprehensive public information and education programs mandated by the government or emanating from the organization's goals; and to do other work as required.

Positions in this class are identified as the advanced journey level and are characterized by performing the more complex public information functions, such as spokesperson for the agency/department. The incumbent will typically report to senior management and is responsible for project planning, coordination, and implementation. Certain positions in this class may work more closely with multiple county agencies/departments and outside agencies, and may also augment ongoing public information activities.

The Senior Public Information Specialist - CE class is distinguished from the Public Information Officer by the latter's overall responsibility for the development and implementation of Riverside County's Public Information Program and for advising, planning, and directing programs for the Board of Supervisors, County officials, and department heads.

REPRESENTATION UNIT:

Management Resolution - Unrepresented Confidential

EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

(Depending on the area of assignment, duties may include, but are not limited to, the following)

- Establishes and maintains regular contacts with the media, community groups, and government/private representatives to meet the organization's public information, awareness, and education needs.
- Develops and determines effectiveness of distribution and outreach media plan; makes recommendations for modifications as required.

- Writes feature articles and media releases on organization's activities, services, programs, and functions; prepares pamphlets and brochures.
- Coordinates release distribution to the media; organizes and arranges public information campaigns and press conferences.
- Plans, coordinates, and implements specialized public information and education programs pursuant to informing the public of the organization programs and services.
- Locates and utilizes existing resources available for special public information programs; writes Requests for Proposals to secure funding for specialized public information and education programs.
- Assists in preparing the program's budget; monitors program expenditures; initiates and answers correspondence related to public inquiries and citizens' problems and complaints.
- Performs public speaking activities; writes scripts and uses various forms of presentations; coordinates activities with audio visual specialists, graphic artists, or other related staff.
- Provides writing support to the organization; coordinates and edits the organization's newsletter; may monitor the work of consultants; supervises volunteer staff.

RECRUITING GUIDELINES:

Education: Graduation from an accredited college with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism, Communications, English, Public Relations, Public/Business Administration, or a closely related field. (Additional qualifying experience may be substituted for the education on the basis of one year of full-time experience equaling 30 semester or 45 quarter units of education.)

Experience: Three years of full-time experience in developing and writing printed materials and/or media releases for use in print and electronic media; or in public or community relations which included the dissemination of information to internal and/or external audiences through various communications media.

Knowledge of: Methods of planning, coordinating, and implementing an effective public information program; methods and techniques used in planning press conferences; techniques in developing and producing audio-visual presentations; styles and techniques in speech writing.

Ability to: Complete assignments within strict time constraints; evaluate and apply government regulations to program planning; maintain confidentiality of sensitive information; establish and maintain effective working relations with staff, public, and representatives from outside agencies; coordinate public information and education programs with other jurisdictions; coordinate the activities of audio-visual specialists, graphic artists, or other specialists in preparing public information medium; recognize problems and develop effective solutions; act independently in converting complex technical information into a meaningful and applicable format for the targeted audience.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

License Required: Possession of a valid California class "C" driver's license may be required for field travel.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT:

All employment offers are contingent upon successful completion of both a pre-employment physical exam, including a drug/alcohol test, and a criminal background investigation, which involves fingerprinting. (A felony or misdemeanor conviction may disqualify the applicant from County employment.)

PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

As an Approved Local Merit System, all County of Riverside employees, except those serving "At Will," are subject to the probationary period provisions as specified in the applicable Memorandum of Understanding, County Resolution, or Salary Ordinance. Temporary and Per Diem employees serve at the pleasure of the agency/department head.

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director /GM
Date: February 23, 2023

Re: Commitments Agreement follow up

Last month this Board and the community was afforded an extensive presentation and discussion regarding the "Commitments Agreement" and an assessment of its potential effects on the Salton Sea and Region ([viewable at SaltonSea.com](http://viewable.at.SaltonSea.com)). I applaud this Board for the attention it gave to this important issue, and the important questions which were raised with the presenters – some of which were answered, others remain open. In particular, impacts from conservation measures and how those impacts would be mitigated were the two areas of most significant concern as expressed by this Board and the public. Staff has evaluated and continues to evaluate these concerns, and will make recommendations to this Board for action as appropriate. Below are key issues raised which we believe are as yet unresolved.

Impact Assessment:

Ms. Gould (USBR) pointed out that the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) being developed on the Colorado River does not include any adjacent impacts to the Sea or the affected communities. Offsetting this in part, Ms. Shields (IID) shared an analysis prepared by the State that between 5,800 and 8,200 acres of additional playa will be exposed by 2027. The model also assumed that following would end in 2028, and that the "additional" exposed acreage would decline over time in the future, to the point where by 2047 the difference with and without the transfer will be negligible. Finally, Ms. Shields provided two footnotes to the presentation: (1) While IID assisted in developing the data set, the analysis of impacts was solely the representation of the State of California. IID makes no representation as to the accuracy of the analysis. And (2), the conditions that will exist post-2028 will depend on the outcome of the 2026 renegotiation of the 2007 guidelines, and could result in curtailing, reducing, maintaining, or increasing the conservation measures in Imperial County, with any impacts associated therewith not reflected in the current analysis.

The question still remains however: What if this analysis is wrong? We know that based on the [State Water Board Order](#), roughly 30,000 acres were required to be mitigated in the first 10 years of the management plan, contemplating there would be

additional mitigation required in the future. This exposure was the result of just over 200,000 acres of out of basin transfers. It is reasonable to ask how could such a discrepancy occur, where 25% increase in conserved water produces 1/5th the impact of that being mitigated as part of the earlier transfer? Ms. Gould stated that an SEIS performed under conventional circumstances this undertaking would be years in the making, but that the Colorado River SEIS is moving at "Rocket Speed". If the Colorado River impacts merit such an analysis, why wouldn't the impacts to the Sea and region be given to the same level of care and concern?

One other impact that was touched on briefly was the change in water quality resulting from the increased conservation measures. It is expected that water quality will be affected, but no discussion was provided as to how that change in water quality will affect the implementation of restoration projects or its effects on the ecosystem or human health and safety, left otherwise unmitigated.

Economic impacts and other impacts to the community were not addressed in either the Commitments Agreement or the SEIS.

Mitigation:

As an extension of its role and responsibility under the QSA and pursuant to the Water Board Order, the State of California has taken a leading role in mitigating impacts from additional conservation measures. However, based on the [SSMP 2021 Annual Report](#), the State is lagging in its obligation to mitigate playa as required by the Order alone. In fact, of the 7,000 acres required to be mitigated by FYE21, only 2,255 acres were accounted for. And even based on the State's own projections for FYE22, having completed an additional 3,500 acres in a single year, it still leaves an estimated shortfall of 2,995 acres. And the State's mitigation obligations grow much steeper from there. In fact, if you add the most conservative estimate of additional impacts to the remaining workload, the State will have to fund and mitigate a total of 29,816 acres between now and 2028, or roughly 4,970 acres of mitigation and/or restoration each year for the next six years to meet both its obligation under the QSA and the additional burden inherited by this action. One would reasonably question whether this is practically achievable, and if not, what are the consequences and costs to the community and the environment?

Funding:

Under the Commitments Agreement, the Federal government is providing the State \$20 million to accelerate work on the 10-year plan. But as was pointed out, impacts from these measures will be additive to the QSA impacts. In its own analysis, the Bureau has acknowledged an existing liability of over \$300 million to mitigate existing impacts on Federal lands at and around the Sea, yet the Agreement provides monies only to mitigate the impacts resulting from future conservation measures taken, without specifically setting funds aside to address legacy federal exposures at the Sea.

Monitoring and Public Awareness:

There have long been reports of adverse impacts from the changing Sea, from bloody noses to increased childhood asthma rates, along with dramatic and noticeable changes to the environment and its resident species. But little information is available in the public square that would help inform an ordinary citizen of what the real risk to them is from the changes taking place at the Sea. Monitoring is divided amongst a number of local, regional, and other agencies, each with discreet responsibility. It is likely unknown (or at least little publicized) as to whether the full spectrum of potentially harmful elements is being monitored, measured, or mitigated. It is essential that this effort be consolidated – if only for analysis and reporting purposes – so that the people who live and visit the region can know with reasonable certainty that doing so does not put them at any level of risk which would be elevated above any other desert environment. On the other hand, if such risk does exist, the community should be so informed, as well as advised as to what steps are being taken to mitigate the risk, and what steps they must take themselves to protect themselves from such risk.

Staff Recommendation:

Obviously, these are challenging times, and the importance of this effort to stabilize the Colorado River cannot be overstated. However, it is also well established that agricultural conservation of water in the Salton Basin will result in less flows to the Sea, increased playa exposure, and elevated risk to human health and safety. State and federal partners must take care that any measures taken to protect the Colorado River do not negatively impact the Imperial and Coachella Valleys, that plans should be developed *in advance* for the most serious possible outcome, that funding should be specifically set aside, and that actions should be taken *in advance* of such measures to ensure that if the programs developed prove inadequate, corrective measures can swiftly be implemented before harm is done to the people of the region.

Staff has for some time been in discussions with a global engineering firm with expertise in evaluating environmental impacts at this scale, and are working to develop a scope of services that would allow for a third party review of the State's analysis and through the Salton Sea Authority provide independent guidance to the people of the region that the plans being developed and implemented are carefully considered and properly executed. With your direction, we plan to continue to advance these conversations with our state and federal partners to identify the necessary resources to complete this work.