

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!](#)