

# 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](http://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.