



AGENDA: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DATE: Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: County of Imperial
 Board of Supervisors Chamber
 County Administration Center
 940 West Main Street, Suite 211
 El Centro, CA 92243

The Following Salton Sea Authority Directors will be attending via video/teleconference from:

Director Gina Dockstader
 Maui Kaanapali Villas
 45 Kai Ala Drive
 Lahaina, HI 96761
 760-623-2611

Director Yxstian Gutierrez
 Riverside County District 5
 4080 Lemon Street, 5th floor
 Riverside, CA 92502
 951-955-9500

The meeting can be viewed live at 10:00 a.m. on May 25. Please see the meeting login information at SaltonSea.com/meetings, or access www.zoom.us, click “Join Meeting,” and enter Webinar ID 878 4892 2864 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: saltonseas.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.

Members 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 non-action 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 providing your comments. 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.*

Written comments must be received by noon Wednesday, May 24, 2023, to be incorporated in the record.

Comments may be emailed to info@saltonsea.com (include in your subject line “Public Comment, 5/24/2023 SSA board meeting”) or delivered by hand or mailed to 82995 Highway 111, Suite 200, Indio, California, “Attn: Clerk of the Board, Salton Sea Authority”.

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, May 24**, will be acknowledged during public comments. Written comments will be included in the public record but not be read aloud.

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 a future agenda.

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 to engage in public discourse.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Eastern Coachella Valley Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District – Scott Bruckner, Principal Management Analyst, Riverside County

V. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
 - 1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting April 27, 2023
 - 2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for April 2023
 - 3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2022 – 03/31/2023
 - 4. Reclassification/Elimination of Fish Clean-up Fund to General Fund
- B. Desert Shores “Restoring Habitat and Improving Air and Water Quality at the Salton Sea” – USBR Grant and Project update.
- C. SB583 (Padilla) – Governance Structure, Operations & Maintenance.
- D. Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Comment Letter – Lisa Moore, Cultivating Conservation.
- E. Future Dates and Locations for Salton Sea Authority Board of Director meetings.

VI. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation
2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Jeremy Brooks, Salton Sea Program Manager

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 – Alan Pace, SSAC 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, June 22, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

TBD –30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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.



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 27, 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 10:00 a.m., April 27, 2023, at Coachella Valley Water District, and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Vice-President Santillanes

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

AGENCY

Luis A. Plancarte, President
Altrena Santillanes, Vice President
Cástulo R. Estrada, Secretary
John Aguilar, Director
Gina N. Dockstader, Director

Imperial County
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Coachella Valley Water District
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

AGENCY

Thomas Torte, Director
Yxstian Gutierrez, Director
Ryan Kelley, Director
Alex Cárdenas, Treasurer

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT

AGENCY

V. Manuel Perez, Director

County of Riverside

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM (in person)
Bob Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel (In Person)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

On Site: Greg Wilkinson, Frank Ruiz, Audubon, Chuck Tobin, SSAC, Pat Cooper, Riverside Deputy Chief of Staff for Supervisor Perez, Alex Schriener, Jr. Earth Systems Pacific, Douglas Naimic, Cindy Byerrum, Eide Bailly.

Via Zoom: Samantha Arthur, CNRA Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy, Miguel Hernandez, CNRA, Lisa Moore, Cultivating Conservation, Oracio Gonzalez, Ollin Strategies, Jasmyn Phillips, Nathan White, Tom Sephton, William Patterson, CVWD and 23 others.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments made in person by: Pat Cooper, Riverside Deputy Chief of Staff, for Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, Greg Wilkinson, Frank Ruiz, Audubon, Chuck Tobin, SSAC.

Via Zoom: Jasmyn Phillips, Nathan White, Tom Sephton, Michael Cohen.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Treasurer Cardenas, Directors Aguilar, Estrada, Dockstader shared their comments.

IV. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting March 23, 2023
 2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for 3/1/2023 – 3/31/2023
 3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for: 7/1/2022 – 2/28/2023
 4. ACWA Region 9 Chair Nomination – G. Patrick O’Dowd

Motion made by Cardenas, 2nd by Dockstader, The Board approved the Consent Calendar to be received and filed. Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: 7

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: Director’s Kelley, Tortez and Perez

ABSTAINED: NONE

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

B. Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Near-term Colorado River Operations.

G. Patrick O’Dowd introduced this item.

Lisa Moore, Greg Wilkinson, Tom Sephton, Nathen White, Director Aguilar, Treasurer Cardenas shared their comments.

Board directed staff to prepare written comments on SEIS.

C. State Legislative Bill Packet Review

Oracio Gonzalez/Ollin Strategies presented the following bills to the Board for consideration and direction:

1. Allen

i. [SB867](#) – Resources and Resiliency General Obligation Bond

Executive Director/GM G. Patrick O’Dowd introduced this item and asked Oracio from Ollin Strategies to present both SB867 and AB1567 concurrently to the Board for discussion and consideration. Due to the lack of funding for the Salton Sea, Staff recommended an Oppose unless Amend position, to conform this Bill with the request in AB1567.

Secretary Estrada and Treasurer Cardenas shared their comments.

2. Garcia

i. [AB1567](#) - Resources and Resiliency General Obligation Bond

On AB1567 Staff recommended that the Authority Support and Amended. Motion in favor of these Staff recommendations made by Treasurer Cardenas, 2nd by Vice-President Santillanes

Motion Passed

Without objection, Executive Director O’Dowd recommended that the following four bills (AB827, AB1593, AB1569, and AB1562) be considered and voted on collectively:

ii. [AB827](#) – Salton Sea Community Health Study

iii. [AB1593](#) – California Workforce Development Board:
Salton Sea Geothermal Resources Area: Equitable Access Program

iv. [AB1569](#) – Salton Sea Geothermal Resource Area: Lithium Valley Office of Development

v. [AB1562](#) – Southeastern California Desert Economic Zone

Staff recommended a Support position for AB827, AB1593, AB1569 and AB1562.

Chuck Tobin commented on AB827

Motion made by Treasurer Cardenas and 2nd by Vice-President Santillanes to approve all for Staff recommendations as presented.

AYES: 7

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: Director's Tortez, Perez and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: NONE

MOTION PASSED: 7-0

Director Ryan Kelley shared comments and his full support of the action taken and also expressed support for Palo Verde Valley's inclusion in this legislation.

3. Padilla

i. [SB583](#) – Salton Sea Conservancy

Executive Director G. Patrick O'Dowd introduced this item.

Secretary Estrada, Vice-President Santillanes, Treasurer Cardenas and Director Aguilar shared their comments.

Nathen White, Frank Ruiz and Pat Cooper, Riverside Deputy Chief of Staff shared their comments.

Secretary Estrada made a motion to oppose unless it is amended, with the specific request being the bill be made a two-year bill. This was 2nd by Vice-President Santillanes.

AYES: 4

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: Director's Kelley, Tortez, Perez and Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: 2 (Cardenas, Dockstader)

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

- D. Proposed 2023-2024 Budget - Discussion. Staff recommendation: Approve Budget as presented subject to each member finalizing ministerial, operational, or other actions or approvals.

Director Dockstader commented.

Director Aguilar made a motion, 2nd by Vice-President Santillanes.

AYES: 4

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: Director's Kelley, Tortez, Estrada, Cardenas, Gueterrez and Perez

ABSTAINED: NONE

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

- E. Schedule of Future Board Meetings – Discuss and potentially take action to change dates and times to address various conflicts.

Executive Director G. Patrick O'Dowd introduced this item, noting the upcoming 30th anniversary of the Salton Sea Authority, and Staff's intention to have this meeting held at an alternate location due to CWWD's Palm Desert Board Room not being available in June. Other possible date changes will be discussed at our next board meeting.

V. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities

Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation 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 a written report.

2. State of California

Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency provided an update.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities

Steve Quartieri, District Superintendent, California State Parks. No Report.

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) Alan Pace, SSAC President – No Report

D. Executive Director's Report and Comments.

E. Executive Director G. Patrick O'Dowd provided an update.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Plancarte adjourned the meeting at 12:48p.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

The Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting will be held:
Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
Imperial County BOS Chamber
940 W Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
442-265-1020

DRAFT



Salton Sea Authority
Checking Account Activity
 April 1, 2023 through April 30, 2023

Date	Number	Vendor Name	Description	Amount
04/14/2023	EFT	Pacific Western Bank	Credit card charges	(4,085.20)
04/15/2023	EFT	Pacific Western Bank	Positive pay fees	(71.00)
04/25/2023	EFT	QuickBooks	Check processing fees	(9.00)
04/22/2023	1335	Verizon Wireless	Monthly phone charges	(143.75)
04/25/2023	6070919	SystemGo IT LLC	Monthly computer support	(580.00)
04/28/2023	6076494	Ollin Strategies	Monthly contract charges	(7,000.00)
04/25/2023	6070484	Thill, Linda	Mileage 1/26/2023	(127.99)
04/25/2023	6070799	Bravata, Lisa	Mileage 03/23 - 3/27323	(238.42)
04/25/2023	6075714	G. Patrick O'Dowd	Mileage/Travel Expenses - 08/22 thru 9/16/22	(1,643.19)
			Mileage/Travel Expenses - 09/17 thru 12/16/22	
			Mileage/Travel Expenses - 03/20 thru 04/24/23	
04/25/2023	6076228	Cultivating Conservation	Monthly contract charges	(7,400.00)
04/25/2023	6076221	Eide Bailly	February and March accounting services	(9,686.15)
04/28/2023	6076668	Best, Best & Krieger	Services related to COI Code March 31, 2023	(5,103.60)
			Services related to General Matters - March 31, 2023	
			Services related to Federal Funding - March 31, 2023	
04/14/2023	Deposit	Bureau of Reclamation	Grant reimbursement for period ending 12/31/2022	3,234.17
04/20/2023	Deposit	Pacific Western Bank	Miscellaneous revenue	25.00

Beginning Cash Balance	\$ 118,266.78
Monthly Activity	(32,829.13)
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 85,437.65



Salton Sea Authority Budget to Actual General Fund (Unaudited)

For the Period July 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

	A	B	C	D	C / D	C - D
	February 2023	March 2023	YTD FY 23	Budget FY 23	YTD Target 75%	\$ Variance
1 REVENUE						
2 Local Government / Member Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 810,000	\$ 800,000	101%	\$ 10,000
3 Other Federal / State / Local Reimbursements	-	-	360	250,000	0%	(249,640)
4 Sponsorships	-	686	686	-	N/A	686
5 Grant Reimbursements to General Fund	-	8,329	35,619	110,000	32%	(74,381)
6 TOTAL REVENUE	-	9,014	846,665	1,160,000	73%	(313,335)
7 EXPENSES						
8 SSA Administration						
9 Salaries & Benefits						
10 Total Salaries	22,364	21,792	179,104	270,600	66%	(91,496)
11 Total Employee Benefits	13,485	9,395	102,873	135,300	76%	(32,427)
12 Total Salaries & Benefits	35,849	31,187	281,977	405,900	69%	(123,923)
13 Contract / Professional Services						
14 DC Advocates	7,300	7,400	67,907	88,200	77%	(20,293)
15 Sacramento Advocates	7,000	7,000	63,000	84,000	75%	(21,000)
16 Grant Administration	1,195	-	55,920	100,000	56%	(44,080)
17 Community Outreach Initiative	11,667	-	55,500	-	N/A	55,500
18 Attorney Fees	1,458	5,104	37,841	50,000	76%	(12,160)
19 Audit & Accounting	3,283	6,404	52,775	75,000	70%	(22,225)
20 Total Contract / Professional Services	31,903	25,907	332,942	397,200	84%	(64,258)
21 Equipment / IT Maintenance	679	679	6,524	8,700	75%	(2,177)
22 Coachella Water District Board Room Usage Fee	-	-	1,200	-	N/A	1,200
23 Insurance	977	877	7,997	10,500	76%	(2,503)
24 Office Expense/Operating Supplies	(3,816)	588	5,825	8,300	70%	(2,475)
25 Office Expense/Online Services	436	292	2,667	3,300	81%	(633)
26 Dues, Subscriptions	453	669	6,413	14,200	45%	(7,787)
27 Travel/Mileage	353	4,357	23,583	40,000	59%	(16,417)
28 County Charges	4,492	168	4,660	-	N/A	4,660
29 TOTAL EXPENSES	71,327	64,726	673,787	888,100	76%	(214,313)
30 NET INCOME / (LOSS)	\$ (71,327)	\$ (55,712)	\$ 172,878	\$ 271,900	64%	\$ (99,022)

*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
Budget to Actual
DWR - Proposition 68 Grant (Unaudited)
 For the Period July 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

	A	B	C	D	C / D	C - D
	February 2023	March 2023	YTD FY 23	Budget FY 23	YTD Target 75%	\$ Variance
1 REVENUE						
2 State of California Grant (Prop 68)	\$ -	\$ 32,896	\$ 70,822	\$ 2,200,000	3%	\$ (2,129,178)
3 TOTAL REVENUE	-	32,896	70,822	2,200,000	3%	\$ (2,129,178)
4 EXPENSES						
5 Salton Sea Authority Salaries	-	5,691	22,702	110,000	21%	(87,298)
6 Riverside County Salaries	-	592	3,395	-	N/A	3,395
7 Contractors	-	26,295	43,863	2,090,000	2%	(2,046,137)
8 Audit & Accounting	-	318	861	-	N/A	861
9 TOTAL EXPENSES	-	32,896	70,822	2,200,000	3%	(2,129,178)
10 NET INCOME / (LOSS)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -

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Salton Sea Authority Budget to Actual BOR -DSR (Unaudited)

For the Period July 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

	A	B	C	D	C / D	C - D
	February 2023	March 2023	YTD FY 23	Budget FY 23	YTD Target 75%	\$ Variance
1 REVENUE						
2 Bureau of Reclamation Grant	\$ -	\$ 4,393	\$ 22,705	\$ -	N/A	\$ 22,705
3 TOTAL REVENUE	-	4,393	22,705	-	N/A	\$ 22,705
4 EXPENSES						
5 Salton Sea Authority Salaries	-	2,320	9,378	-	N/A	9,378
6 Contractors	-	2,073	10,650	-	N/A	10,650
7 Legal Expenses	-	-	2,677	-	N/A	2,677
8 TOTAL EXPENSES	-	4,393	22,705	-	N/A	22,705
9 NET INCOME / (LOSS)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -

*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 Sheet

(Unaudited)
As of March 31, 2023

	TOTAL
1 ASSETS	
2 Checking/Savings	\$ 34,715
3 Other Current Assets	
4 Prepaid Items	6,022
5 Grant Receivable	89,853
6 Total Other Current Assets	<u>95,874</u>
7 TOTAL ASSETS	<u>130,589</u>
8 LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	
9 Liabilities	
10 Accounts Payable	23,479
11 Credit Cards	4,129
12 Other Current Liabilities	
13 Due to Imperial County	2,266
14 Due to Riverside County	59,939
15 Accrued Vacation	39,316
16 Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>101,520</u>
17 Total Liabilities	<u>129,128</u>
18 Fund Balance	1,461
19 TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	<u>\$ 130,589</u>

*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: May 25, 2023
Re: **Elimination of Fish Clean-up Fund**

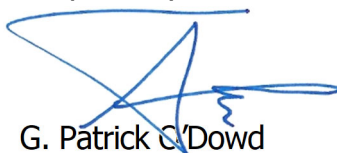
GENERAL:

Based on our records, in approximately 2006 a fund was established to implement clean-up efforts in response to fish kills that at the time were occurring with some regularity. The funding appears to have come from various sources, and it is also clear that considerable Authority resources were used in coordinating and implementing the clean-up effort. There has not been a major event of this type at the Sea in over a decade, and we do not anticipate the need for these funds for their initially intended purpose. The current balance in the Fish Clean-up account is \$20,991.43.

RECOMMENDATION:

Because this effort is substantially complete, the uncompensated time and effort the Authority exerted in pursuit of this effort, and the likelihood that these funds will no longer be required for the initially intended purpose, Staff recommends that these funds be transferred to the General Fund. This is a non-cash transaction as the funds will simply be transferred from one internal account to another.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/GM



Eastern Coachella Valley Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District

Distrito de Financiación de Infraestructura Mejorada del Este del Valle de Coachella

**Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting
May 25, 2023**

Today's Presentation



1. **What is ECV Prospera?**
2. **What is an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD)?**
 - Background/Structure
 - Eligible Projects
 - Property Tax 101 and EIFD Funding
3. **Benefits of an EIFD**
4. **Eastern Coachella Valley EIFD Details**
5. **Eastern Coachella Valley EIFD Infrastructure Financing Plan (IFP)**
6. **Public Participation**

1. **¿Que es ECV Prospera?**
2. **¿Ques es un Distrito de Financiamiento de Infraestructura Mejorada (EIFD)?**
 - Estructura
 - Proyectos Elegibles
 - Lo esencial de el impuesto a la propiedad y la financiación de EIFD
3. **Beneficios del EIFD**
4. **Detalles de Este del Valle de Coachella EIFD**
5. **Este del Valle de Coachella EIFD Plan de Financiamiento de Infraestructura (IFP)**
6. **Participación Pública**

What is ECV Prospera? *¿Qué es ECV Prospera?*



- **ECV Prospera** is the County's initiative to improve infrastructure and enhance the quality of life in Eastern Coachella Valley
 - The Proposed EIFD is a component of ECV Prospera, and a tool for bringing needed categories of infrastructure:
 - **Water/Wastewater Infrastructure**
 - **Utilities & Telecommunication**
 - **Transportation Infrastructure**
 - **Salton Sea Improvements**
 - **Housing**
 - **Community Facilities**
 - **ECV Prospera** es la iniciativa del condado para mejorar la infraestructura y mejorar la calidad de vida en el este del Valle de Coachella
 - El EIFD propuesto es un componente de ECV Prospera y una herramienta para traer las categorías de infraestructura necesarias:
 - **Agua/Aguas Residuales**
 - **Servicios públicos y telecomunicaciones**
 - **Transporte**
 - **Salton Sea**
 - **Viviendas**
 - **Instalaciones Comunitarias**
-

What is ECV Prospera? **¿Qué es ECV Prospera?**

Recent Examples ECV Prospera Projects Include:
Ejemplos Recientes de proyectos ECV Prospera Incluyen :

Ion Exchange Water Treatment Plant No. 7991 (IXTP 7991) - \$7.7 million
Planta de tratamiento de agua de intercambio iónico- \$7.7 millón

Mecca Lift Station 55-11 Capacity Upgrade - \$7.2 million
Mejora de la capacidad de la estación de Mecca - \$7.2 millón

North Shore Fire Station – \$11 million
Estacion de bomberos de North Shore - \$11 millón

Mecca Library Renovation Project - \$1.3 million
Proyecto de renovación de la biblioteca de Mecca - \$1.3 millón

Oasis Mobile Home Park Housing Opportunities Grant Program - \$15 million
Parque de casas móviles Oasis - \$15 millón



3

What is an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD)?

2014 – State of CA Passes/Signs EIFD Law (SB 628)

Goal: Create vehicle for development to occur, through public infrastructure, where it might not have otherwise

EIFD Law – Government Code Secs. 53398.50 – 53398.88

¿Qué es un EIFD?

2014 – Estado de CA aprueba/firma la ley EIFD (SB 628)

Meta: Crear una manera para que ocurra el desarrollo, a través de la infraestructura pública, donde de otro modo no hubiera sido posible

Ley de EIFD – Secciones del código de gobierno. 53398.50 – 53398.88



4

Background/Structure of an EIFD (Estructura del EIFD)

EIFD Term: 45 years from Date of Establishment

Governance: A Public Finance Authority (PFA) oversees all EIFD financing and activities. The PFA develops & implements an Infrastructure Finance Plan (IFP), which is the investment plan of the EIFD

Public Review/Input Opportunities:

- Webpage, Mailings to Area Property Owners
- Informational Meetings
- 3 Noticed Public Hearings Held by the PFA
- Continued Meetings of the PFA throughout the term of the EIFD

Duración del EIFD: 45 años a partir de la fecha de establecimiento

Gobernación: Se forma una Autoridad de Finanzas Públicas (PFA) para supervisar todas las actividades y el financiamiento de EIFD. La PFA desarrolla e implementa un Plan de Financiamiento de Infraestructura (IFP, que es el plan de inversiones del EIFD

Revisión Pública:

- Página Web, Envío de correo a propietarios en la Zona
- Reunión informativa pública
- 3 Audiencias Notificadas por la PFA
- Las Reuniones Continuarán Durante la Vigencia Del EIFD



Eligible Projects/Infrastructure (Proyectos/Infraestructura Elegibles)

Any Public Improvements with a Useful Life of 15+ Years that Provide Community Benefit and/or Lead to Growth, Including but not Limited to:

Cualquier mejoramiento publico que dure +15 años que brinde beneficios a la comunidad:



Water/Wastewater Infrastructure

Infraestructura de Agua



Roads, Bridges

Carreteras y Puentes



Park, Trails, Open Space

Parques y caminos



Civic Infrastructure

Infraestructura Cívica



Affordable Housing/Mixed Use

Vivienda Asequible



Property Tax 101 – the Basics **(Lo Esencial De El Impuesto a La Propiedad)**

How Your Property Tax is Calculated:

1. Every Year, the County’s Assessor-Clerk-Recorder Assess the Value of Your Property;
2. Total Property Tax Rate Cannot Exceed 1% of Your Property’s Assessed Value (*CA Constitution Article XIII A, Section 1(a)*);
3. As Your Property’s Assessed Value Increases, Your Property Taxes Cannot be Increased by More than 2% Annually for the Duration of Ownership (*CA Constitution Article XIII A, Section 2(b)*);
4. Additional Property Related Fees or Charges Cannot be Levied Without 2/3 Voter Approval (*CA Constitution Article XIII C and XIII D*)

Cómo se calculan actualmente sus ingresos por impuestos a la propiedad:

1. Cada año, el condado evalúa el valor de su propiedad
2. Su tasa total de impuestos a la propiedad no puede exceder el 1% del valor catastral de su propiedad
3. A medida que aumenta el valor de su propiedad, sus impuestos sobre la propiedad no pueden aumentar en más del 2% anual durante la duración de la propiedad
4. No se pueden cobrar tarifas o cargos adicionales relacionados con la propiedad sin la aprobación de 2/3 de los votantes



Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District Funding **(Financiación del Distrito de Financiamiento de Infraestructura Mejorada)**

Revenue Generation Utilizing Tax Increment Financing:

- Can only use participating agency's portion of increment from ad valorem property tax -- may not use property tax increment from education;
- Tax Increment revenues are the same ad valorem property taxes already being paid by property owners = **No Additional Property Taxes Paid by Property Owners**

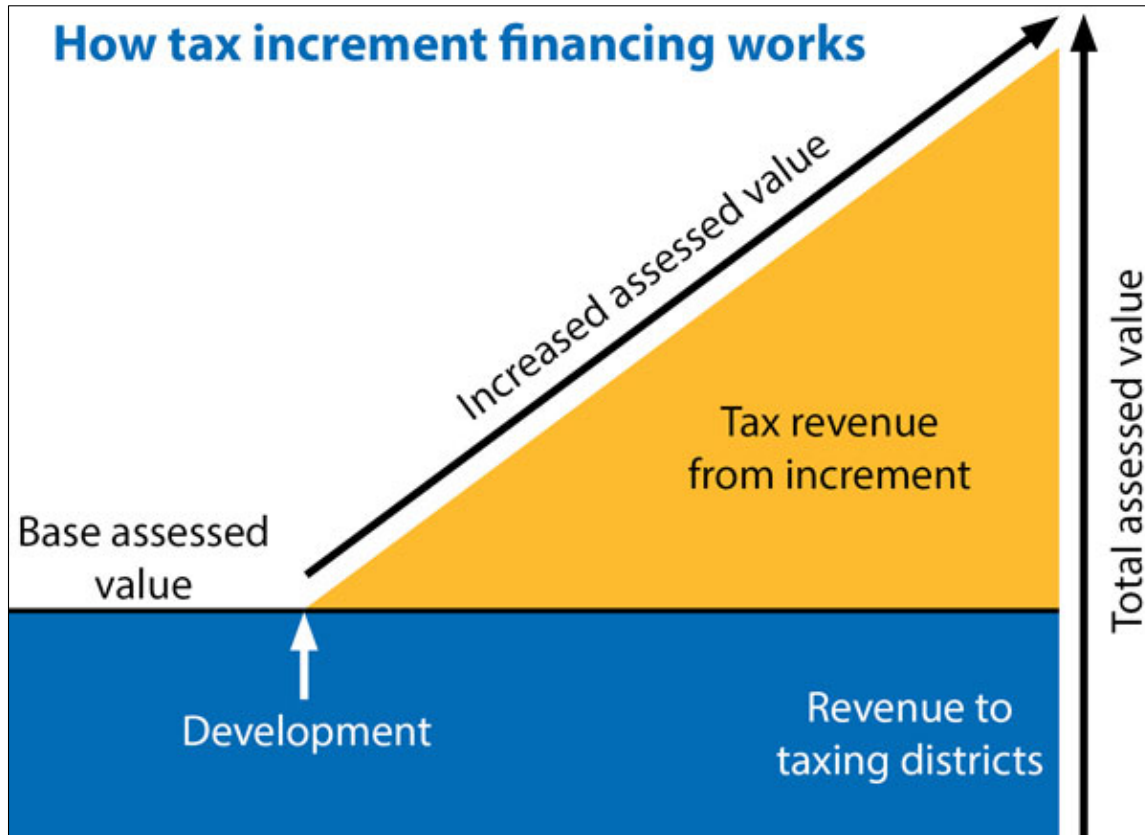
Generación de Ingresos Utilizando Financiamiento de Incremento de Impuestos:

- Utiliza solo la parte del incremento de impuestos de la propiedades gravables ubicadas dentro del EIFD no puede usar el incremento del impuesto a la propiedad de las escuelas. **No resultara en un aumento en los impuestos a la propiedad**



EIFDs Utilize Tax Increment Financing

(Los EIFD Utilizan Financiamiento de Incremento de Impuestos)



No New Taxes or Fees,
No Increases in Local
Property Taxes

No Nuevos Impuestos o
Tarifas

No aumentos en los
impuestos locales sobre la
propiedad



9

Benefits of an EIFD **(Beneficios de un EIFD)**

Dedicated Funding Source to Reinvest in the Community: Provide for property tax revenues collected in the area to be dedicated to improvements within that same area

Attract & Bundle Additional Funds: Other government revenues, such as federal and state grants, can be combined to produce maximum effect

Return on Investment: Private sector investment can be induced by EIFD and essential infrastructure improvements

Fuente de Financiación Dedicada: Una manera para que los ingresos del impuesto a la propiedad recaudados en el área se dediquen a mejoras en esa misma área

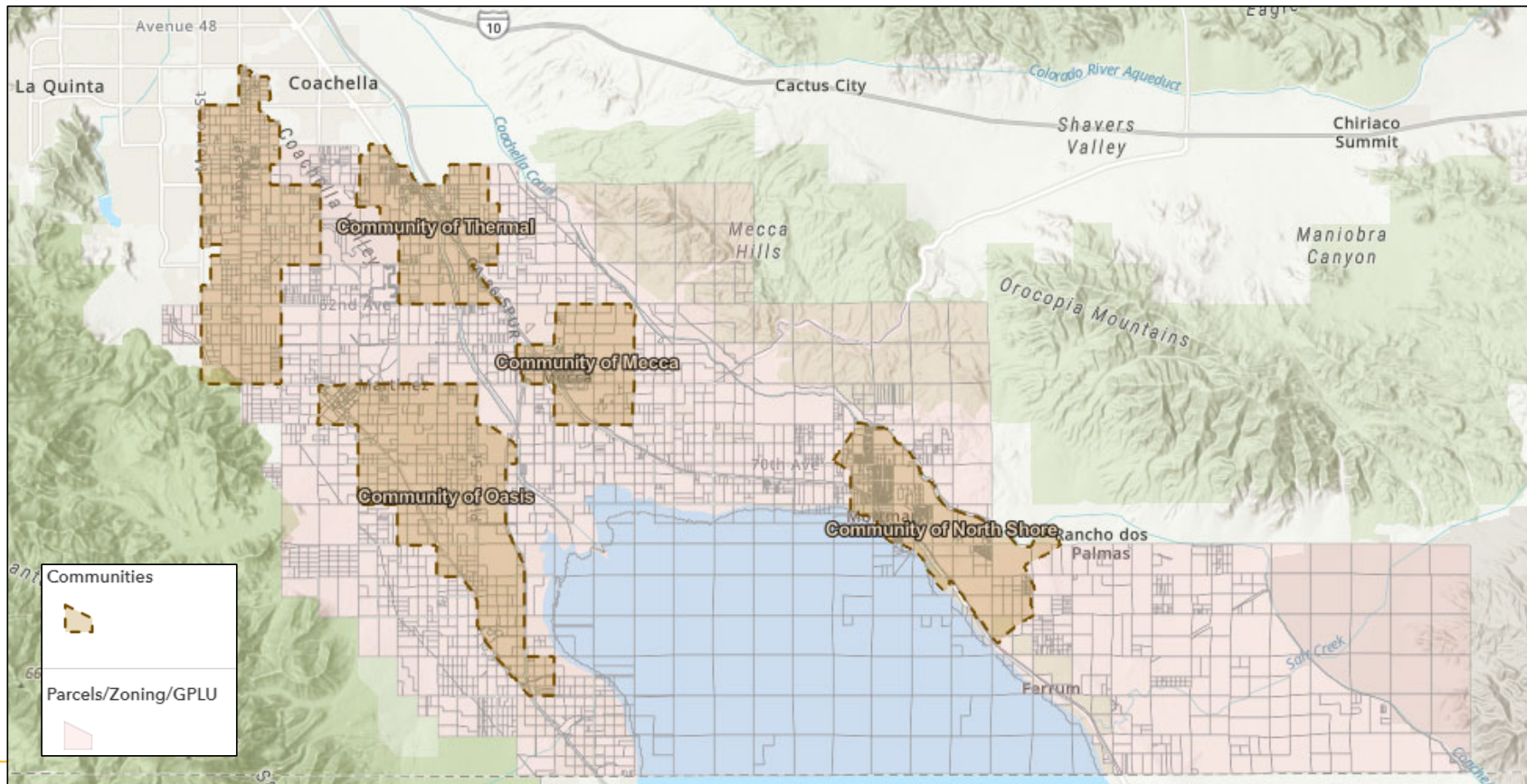
Atraer y Agrupar Fondos Adicionales : Otros ingresos del gobierno, como subvenciones federales y estatales, se pueden combinar para producir el máximo efecto

Retorno de La Inversión : La inversión del sector privado puede ser inducida por EIFD y mejoras de infraestructura esenciales



Eastern Coachella Valley EIFD Details (Detalles del EIFD del Este del Valle de Coachella)

Proposed Boundary: Approx. 8,964 Parcels
(Límites Propuestos : Aprox. 8,964 Propiedades)



ERA

Eastern Coachella Valley EIFD Details

(Detalles del EIFD del Este del Valle de Coachella)

Proposed Eastern Coachella Valley EIFD Formation Process & Timeline

(Proceso de formación y Línea De Tiempo propuestas para el EIFD)

Begin	Complete	Action
January 24, 2023 (24 de Enero de 2023)		County Board of Supervisors Adopts Resolutions of Intent (La Junta de Supervisores del Condado Adopta las Resoluciones de intención)
January 2023 (Enero 2023)	October 2023 (Octubre 2023)	Conduct Extensive Area Outreach (Conducir un alcance extensivo)
April 27, 2023 (27 de Abril 2023)		Mail Draft Infrastructure Financing Plan (IFP) to Area Property Owners (and post on website) (Envíe por correo el Plan de Financiamiento de Infraestructura (IFP) a los propietarios del área (y publíquelo en el sitio web))
May 8, 2023 (8 de Mayo 2023)	July 18, 2023 (18 de Julio 2023)	Gather Public Input on the IFP: Informational Meetings, and First Two Public Hearings of the Finance Authority (Recibir opiniones públicas sobre el IFP)
September 12, 2023 (Septiembre 2023)		If less than 25% of Combined Landowners and Residents at least 18 years old do not File a Protest, the Finance Authority may Adopt the IFP at their 3 rd Public Hearing Si menos del 25% de los propietarios y residentes combinados de al menos 18 años no presentan una protesta, la autoridad financiera puede adoptar el IFP en su tercera audiencia pública
November 30, 2023 (30 de Noviembre 2023)		File Information with State to Formally Establish EIFD (Presentar información con el estado para establecer formalmente EIFD)

Eastern Coachella Valley EIFD Infrastructure Financing Plan (IFP) (Plan de Financiamiento de Infraestructura del EIFD del Este del Valle de Coachella)

Proposed Infrastructure Facility Types and Estimated Funding (Propuesta de los tipos de instalaciones de infraestructura y financiación estimada)

Table 2: EIFD Infrastructure Costs ¹

Item	EIFD-Funded Improvements	Priority Program Project Percentages ²	Cost Estimate (2022)	Proposed Timing
1	Water/Wastewater	25%	\$57,008,888	TBD
2	Transportation	20%	\$45,607,110	TBD
3	Utilities and Telecommunication	20%	\$45,607,110	TBD
4	Salton Sea	15%	\$34,205,333	TBD
5	Housing	15%	\$34,205,333	TBD
6	Community Facilities	5%	\$11,401,778	TBD
Total Cost			\$228,035,552	N/A

Notes:

1. EIFD funding is not anticipated to cover the full costs of all of the identified facilities. (See Table 5 for projected financing capacity.)
2. Increments received will be allocated based upon the percentages allocated according to the Priority Program Project Percentages above.



Public Participation (Participación Pública)

- Draft IFP Summary Mailed to Area Property Owners, and Posted on Eastern Coachella Valley EIFD Webpage:

<https://rivcoed.org/eastern-coachella-valley>

- Public Finance Authority Meetings (Meeting Information Posted in Advance on ECV EIFD Webpage; Notices Mailed in Advance to Property Owners and Published in Local Paper):

- **June 15**
- **July 18**
- **September 12**

- El IFP se enviará por correo a los dueños de propiedades del área y se publicará en la página web del EIFD del este del Valle de Coachella:

<https://rivcoed.org/eastern-coachella-valley>

- Reuniones de la Autoridad de Finanzas Públicas (las reuniones son publicadas por adelantado en la página web de ECV EIFD, los avisos para las reuniones se enviarán por correo con anticipación a los propietarios y se publicarán en el periódico local):

- **15 de Junio**
- **18 de Julio**
- **12 de Septiembre**



Questions?

For Further Inquiries

Please Contact:

Scott Bruckner – Riverside County

Executive Office

sbruckner@rivco.org

¿Preguntas?

Por favor contactar

Scott Bruckner – Oficina Ejecutiva del

Condado de Riverside

sbruckner@rivco.org



Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Date: May 25, 2023
Re: **Desert Shores Update**

Salton Sea Authority has been working with Imperial County in its effort to finalize CEQA on the proposed project in order to facilitate the issuance of a design/build request for proposals (RFP) for the project. Key tasks being pursued at this time include:

Hydrology:

We were unsuccessful in securing well logs from Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) that would have provided a better understanding of the subsurface hydrology that might serve as a source of supply for this project. CVWD was consulted and informed Authority staff that in spite of their best efforts, the well data sought, which would be some 60 years old now, can not be located. As a result, Imperial County is moving forward to hire a contractor to drill test wells to develop the necessary technical information to answer this critical question. Imperial County expects to have 2-3 proposals for this testing service within the next two weeks. Once the source of funding is identified this effort will proceed.

Site Control:

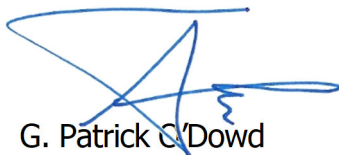
There are two critical areas where site control is a factor: Well Sites and Berm. Two well sites are required to complete the project. One parcel owned by the Salton Community Services District was identified which could potentially serve as a well site. We have also identified several residential lots in the subdivision owned by Imperial Irrigation District which may be suitable for this purpose. Imperial County Department of Public Works is developing a land ownership map which we expect by the end of next week that will assist in finalize the parcel selection based on ownership, size, and location. Securing these parcels for testing and wellsite development is critical to the hydrologic testing work. It will also be critical to secure the two parcels at the historic outlet to the greater Salton Sea, one of which is owned by a staunch project advocate. The second parcel is owned by a private individual who in the past has given tacet consent for this project, but we have had some difficulty in contacting of late to secure the necessary easements for testing, design, and construction. Securing these two parcels is critical to the success of this project.

Request for Proposals:

Once the CEQA analysis is completed and a preliminary cost estimate is prepared, the County will be able to issue a request for proposal. It is anticipated that all conditions precedent to this milestone will have been satisfied by the fourth quarter of this year. Imperial County has been working with the Salton Community Services District and local contractors to gather as much preliminary information regarding the site and project as possible to ensure that when a proposal is sought much of the risk associated with the uncertainties about the site, including access and hydrology will be answer.

Authority staff, in coordination with Imperial County and community stakeholders have been diligently pursuing the start of this long-delayed process. Special thanks to the many community members who have assisted us in this effort, including Mr. Ron Spears who has offered his time and institutional knowledge to the process and has been a driving force in ensuring that the County and Authority continue to stay on task while engaging with the community stakeholders to keep them abreast.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/GM



May 19, 2023

The Honorable Stephen Padilla
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6640
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 583 (Padilla) Salton Sea Conservancy/ OPPOSE.

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the Salton Sea Authority, we write in opposition to SB 583, your legislation to create a Salton Sea Conservancy. It was our hope that you would agree to delay further consideration of this measure until next year ("two-year bill") to create the space for the thoughtful and transparent consideration this proposal deserves, but that request was rejected as "premature." Therefore, and considering the denial of our original earlier request that you delay consideration of the measure, we are now regretfully in full opposition.

The Salton Sea Authority ("Authority") was formed in 1993 as a joint powers authority and consists of the Coachella Valley Water District, the Imperial Irrigation District, the County of Riverside, the County of Imperial and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. The Authority was created out of a "need for a local agency to work with the state of California, the federal government, and the Republic of Mexico in the development of programs to ensure the continued beneficial uses of the Salton Sea," including enhancing the "recreational and economic development potential of the Salton Sea."¹ The Authority was intentionally created as a "public agency separate and apart from any Party" to coordinate and harmonize Salton Sea activities across the member agencies "relating to improvement of water quality and stabilization of water elevation and to enhance recreational and economic potential of the Salton Sea and other beneficial uses."²

As outlined in Article II ("Powers of the Authority") of the "Joint Powers Agreement Creating the Salton Sea Authority" (a copy of which can be found online at <http://saltonsea.com/jpa>), the Authority was empowered, on behalf of its member agencies, to enter legally binding contracts, leases and other agreements with both private and government entities. In addition, the Authority was authorized to raise revenue, incur debt, and undertake project development related to fish and wildlife, salinity, protection, and enhancement of water quality, the "reduction or elimination of

¹ Salton Sea Joint Powers Agreement, Pg 4.

² Ibid Pg 6.

threats to public health, safety and welfare” or the establishment of on-going maintenance and operations programs.³

In reviewing your legislation, we cannot help but notice the extensive redundancy and duplication of the roles you envision for the Conservancy. Like the Authority, the Conservancy can act to enhance fish and wildlife, protect and improve public health, enhance recreation etc. While the Conservancy will have the power to provide grants for acquisitions, easements, restoration, et cetera, the entities receiving those grants would still have to coordinate with our member agencies to obtain entitlements pertaining thereto.

After numerous starts and stops the State has undergone since codifying the Quantification Settlement Agreement in 2003, we are naturally concerned that this proposal is just the latest reorganization “solution” to the State’s historic inability to meet its legal obligations. The examples are numerous, from the \$8.9 billion plan recommended by the Natural Resources Agency to restore the Sea in 2008, a financially unfeasible proposal that required a \$2 million Salton Sea Funding and Feasibility Study conducted by the Authority a decade ago to help rectify, to the various appointed Salton Sea task forces that have come and gone without producing any measurable benefit. Ultimately, because of action taken by an Authority member agency, in 2017 the State Water Board Water issued Order 2017-0134 (Water Order) establishing annual acreage completion requirements of both habitat and dust-suppression projects on 29,800 acres of exposed play, now being actively monitored by the State Water Board.

The Authority is certainly not opposed to having robust and transparent conversations with stakeholders on how a Conservancy could help the state succeed where its other efforts have failed, but that engagement cannot be siloed. One-off conversations with individual stakeholders is not helpful, and does nothing to build the public trust that this undertaking requires. Just as important, these conversations cannot be rushed. Ultimately, the communities around the Salton Sea, which already suffer from lack of economic opportunity and the highest rates of particulate pollution in the state, do not deserve to be treated as subjects for experimentation.

For example, under your proposed legislation, the Conservancy would take over implementation of both the Salton Sea Management Plan (SSMP) and the Long-Range Plan. The SSMP is a monumental effort being led by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) in collaboration with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), charged with fulfilling the state’s obligations under the QSA. Further, the State is required to coordinate and consult with the Salton Sea Authority in its implementation of the SSMP.

We have serious questions and indeed grave concerns about shifting primary responsibility for this massive undertaking, the dozens of staff it employees, and the

hundreds of millions of dollars that the program has been entrusted, into a new to be created entity without the experience, expertise or capabilities these agencies bring to this effort. And while the Authority has led the charge in drawing broad public attention to the states many failings when it has missed its SSMP milestones, we strongly believe that shifting those responsibilities at this critical juncture would be both reckless and adversely consequential.

As we noted in our original letter requesting that you delay consideration of this bill until next year, the Salton Sea Authority, is the only public-facing body that regularly meets to discuss the Salton Sea, and the only consistent public forum available to the community. We renew our offer to routinely add a Conservancy discussion item to its agenda so that this concept can receive a full public vetting. Our meetings are streamed and recorded and would allow us to publicly investigate those areas where a Conservancy might help the state succeed where past efforts have failed.

The Authority welcomes the opportunity to discuss this with you further and would invite you join us at our upcoming Salton Sea Authority board meeting on May 25th. We reiterate our desire to have an open, transparent, and robust dialogue on every aspect of this proposal at a forum and frequency that ensures ease of access and maximum resident and other stakeholders participation.

Sincerely,



Luis A. Plancarte
Salton Sea Authority President
Supervisor, Imperial County



Altrena Santillanes
Salton Sea Authority Vice President
Tribal Secretary, Torrez Martinez
Desert Cahuilla Indians

cc: Assemblymember Edwardo Garcia
Secretary Wade Crowfoot, California Natural
Resources Agency
Hazel Miranda, Deputy Legislative Secretary,
Office of the Governor
Joe Stephenshaw, Director, Department of
Finance
Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

County of Riverside

RIVERSIDE OFFICE:
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92502-1647
(951) 955-1040
Fax (951) 955-2194



DISTRICT OFFICE/MAILING ADDRESS
73-710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 222
Palm Desert, CA 92260-2574
(760) 863-8211
Fax (760) 863-8905

SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ
FOURTH DISTRICT

April 27, 2023

The Honorable Steve Padilla
1021 O Street, Suite 6640
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Padilla:

I am writing to respectfully raise strong objection to SB 583, which proposes to alter the governance of the Salton Sea Management Program by shifting planning away from local entities that have the knowledge and expertise to restore the Salton Sea.

Strengthening cooperation and consultation between the state and the local governments at the Salton Sea has long been a priority of my efforts on behalf of our local communities. I am concerned that this bill would undermine the proven successful partnership between local entities and the state to deliver state-funded projects at the Sea, and potentially sidestep the local priorities of the Salton Sea Authority and the County of Riverside.

The County of Riverside has land use authority and residents that are directly impacted by the Salton Sea. Unfortunately, we were not aware of the intent to craft a new governance structure for the Salton Sea through this proposed legislation. With only weeks of legislative session remaining, I am concerned that we don't have sufficient time to vet this proposal with the public.

As a State Assemblymember, I was proud to author Assembly Bill 71 (2013-2014), which directed the California Natural Resources Agency to work "in cooperation and consultation with the Salton Sea Authority." That established a successful partnership between the state and the local entities, including Tribal governments, to advance work at the Salton Sea.

The Honorable Steve Padilla
April 27, 2023
Page 2

As the Fourth District County Supervisor, the County of Riverside and its partner agencies have other major concerns with SB 583:

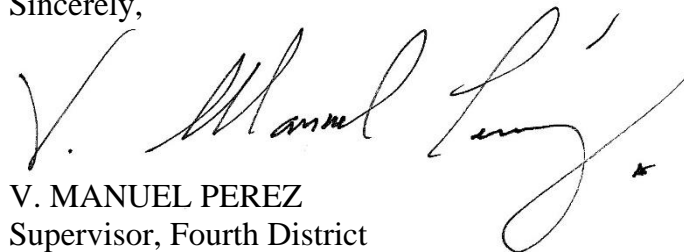
- Undefined definitions on who would be part of the “Salton Sea Conservancy Board”;
- Unclear how the new “Director” would work with the current California Natural Resources Agency Assistant Secretary on Salton Sea;
- A “Conservancy” empowered to run all the Salton Sea projects may conflict with Riverside and Imperial County Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts which would be financed with county resources requiring county oversight.

Our local governance and communities are dedicated to developing solutions for the Salton Sea that are created from thoughtful, inclusive, open, and transparent government.

As the Riverside County Fourth District Supervisor and a member of the Salton Sea Authority, I respectfully request that you work with the County of Riverside, the Salton Sea Authority, and our Tribal Nations to discuss the purpose of SB 583.

I appreciate the opportunity to strongly Oppose SB 583. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or Pat Cooper, Deputy Chief of Staff at PCooper@rivco.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Manuel Perez", with a small asterisk at the end of the signature.

V. MANUEL PEREZ
Supervisor, Fourth District

cc: The Honorable Eduardo Garcia



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2023

CONTACT:

Darin Schemmer, Office of Fourth District Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, (760) 863-8211

Supervisor Perez, Salton Sea Authority Raise Opposition to Bill that Could Threaten Progress on the Salton Sea

PALM DESERT – Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez and the Salton Sea Authority are concerned about a bill, Senate Bill 583, that could stall progress and projects for the Salton Sea.

Supervisor Perez has submitted a letter of opposition to SB 583, a bill in the state legislature proposed by State Senator Steve Padilla. Last week, the Salton Sea Authority voted to formally oppose the measure.

Supervisor Perez was a member of the State Assembly a decade ago when he established, through his legislation, AB 71, the existing successful partnership between the State of California and the Salton Sea Authority, which consists of local entities: Riverside County, Imperial County, the Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District and Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. This partnership has now led to the state's 10-year Salton Sea Management Program and active projects now happening at the Salton Sea.

more

SB 583 could undo years of progress to get local governments from Riverside County and Imperial County, water agencies and Tribal governments on the same page working together with the state. SB 583 proposes a “Salton Sea Conservancy,” a new governance structure, that could sidestep the local Salton Sea Authority and add an unnecessary planning layer that could delay the delivery of projects.

“It has taken years to get to where we are, where we have agreement between Imperial and Riverside counties and the local communities with the state on plans for the Salton Sea,” said Supervisor Perez. “As a result, we are now seeing projects moving forward and actually happening. This bill, SB 583, could upend the positive course that we are on for the Salton Sea and I am very concerned that the Senator has yet to reach out to local communities to discuss this bill.”

###

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez represents the Fourth Supervisorial District on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. The largest district in the county by geography, the 4th District covers eastern Riverside County, from Whitewater, stretching across the entire Coachella Valley south to the Salton Sea, up Highway 74 to Idyllwild and the mountain communities, and heading east of the Coachella Valley to Blythe and the Colorado River.

Supervisor Perez’s office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



TORRES MARTINEZ DESERT CAHUILLA INDIANS

**66725 Martinez Road
Thermal, CA 92274
760-397-0300**

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Steve Padilla
1021 O Street, Suite 6640
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 583 (Padilla) Salton Sea Conservancy/Request for Delay and Deliberative Engagement.

Dear Senator Padilla:

I am writing to respectfully raise strong objection to SB 583, which proposes to alter the governance of the Salton Sea Management Program by shifting planning away from local entities that have the knowledge and expertise to restore the Salton Sea. As the Chairman for the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla and a member of the Salton Sea Authority, I respectfully request that you work with the Tribal Nations and the Salton Sea Authority to discuss the purpose of SB 583.

Strengthening cooperation and consultation between the state and Tribal Governments at the Salton Sea has long been a priority of Governor Newsom and I am concerned that this bill would undermine the proven successful partnership between Tribal Governments and the state to deliver state-funded projects at the Sea, and potentially sidestep the local priorities of the Salton Sea Authority and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla.

The Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla, a federally recognized tribe, has land use authority and Tribal Member residents that are directly impacted by the Salton Sea. Unfortunately, we were not aware of the intent to craft a new governance structure for the Salton Sea through this proposed legislation. With only weeks of legislative

session remaining, I am concerned that we don't have sufficient time to vet this proposal with the public.

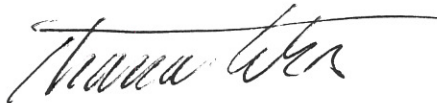
Major concerns with SB 583 include:

- Undefined definitions on who would be part of the “Salton Sea Conservancy Board”;
- Unclear how the new “Director” would work with the current California Natural Resources Agency Assistant Secretary on Salton Sea;
- A “Conservancy” empowered to run all the Salton Sea projects may conflict with Riverside and Imperial County Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts which would be financed with county resources requiring county oversight.

Our Tribal Governments and local communities are dedicated to developing solutions for the Salton Sea that are created from thoughtful, inclusive, open, and transparent government. I appreciate the opportunity to strongly Oppose SB 583. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Your prompt attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,



Thomas Torte, Jr.
Tribal Council Chairman
Thomas.tortez@torresmartinez-nsn.gov



The Honorable Stephen Padilla
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6640
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 12, 2023

RE: SB 583 (Padilla) Salton Sea Conservancy

Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians we are writing to respectfully raise strong objection to SB 583, which proposes to alter the governance of the Salton Sea Management Program by shifting planning away from local entities that have the knowledge and expertise to restore the Salton Sea.

Unfortunately, we were not aware of your intent to craft a new governance structure for the Salton Sea through this proposed legislation and are especially disappointed that there was no consideration or attempt made to discuss SB 583 with us or any of the local Tribes that have for years been faithful partners on the issue of saving the Salton Sea.

We supported the creation of the Salton Sea Authority which includes full voting power for the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and other locally elected entities. SB 583 appears to allow for political appointments for those who do not have a vested interest in the local community and potentially sidesteps the local priorities of the Salton Sea Authority and the surrounding communities.

While there are numerous items that we feel are not fully explained or defined in your proposed legislation we feel the ambiguous role of the local Tribes is one of the most glaring. With only weeks of legislative session remaining, we are concerned that there isn't sufficient time to have a full and transparent discussion of SB 583 and all its possible unintended consequences to the local entities, the general public and the local Tribes.

Therefore, we would request that you delay or consider making this a "two-year bill" to have the necessary time to answer all of these local questions and concerns. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Director of Tribal Affairs, Paul Slama at pslama@cabazonindians-nsn.gov. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Doug Welmas,
Tribal Chairman
Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians

Cc: The Honorable Eduardo Garcia Eduardo.Garcia@asm.ca.gov
Carlos Gonzalez Carlos.Gonzalez@asm.ca.gov

Dan Reeves Dan.reeves@sen.ca.gov
Alexis Castro Alexis.Castro@sen.ca.gov

Appropriation Committee Mark.McKenzie@sen.ca.gov
Ashley.Ames@sen.ca.gov

Honorable V. Manuel Perez PCooper@rivco.org

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Steve Padilla
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 6640
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 583 – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Padilla:

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) serves approximately 300,000 residents in its 1,000 square-miles of service area ranging from the San Geronio Pass to the Salton Sea, mostly within the Coachella Valley area of Riverside County, as well as areas within Imperial and San Diego counties.

CVWD has considered your bill, SB 583, which would create the Salton Sea Conservancy (Conservancy); however, we must respectfully oppose this bill. CVWD appreciates your interest in restoring and improving the Salton Sea but feels that more work needs to be done before considering legislation to create a new conservancy. CVWD's concerns, in brief, are as follows:

Impact to the work of the Salton Sea Authority. SB 583 assigns implementation of the Salton Sea Management Program Phase I: 10-Year Plan and the Long-Range Plan (SSMP) to the new Conservancy yet fails to recognize the SSMP was the work of the Salton Sea Authority, which has already begun implementing the SSMP thanks in part to a grant of \$30 million from Proposition 68.

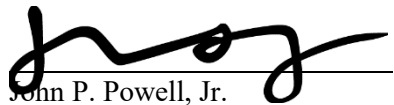
Confusion over the role of the Conservancy. SB 583 assigns roles to the new Conservancy that are already the mission of the Salton Sea Authority. To give just one example, SB 583 requires the new Conservancy to protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and assist the regional economy. This is nearly identical to the mission of the Salton Sea Authority to protect human health and revitalize the environment and economy of the Salton Sea.

Conflicting authority over water quality. Water rights in the Salton Sea region date back to well over 100 years and involve some of the most challenging issues concerning water in the entire state. To say water supply and conservation in this region are complex issues is an extreme understatement. SB 583 directs the new Conservancy to improve water quality in the Salton Sea, but there is no unappropriated water in the region of the Salton Sea, which means anything impacting water quality unavoidably impacts the difficult work of multiple public water agencies that are responsible for providing water for irrigation and municipal use.


Overlapping jurisdiction with multiple public agencies. The boundaries of the proposed Conservancy cover the entire hydrological region that contains the Salton Sea, which overlap the areas served not only by public water agencies, as stated above, but also other public agencies with responsibility for environmental restoration. The most obvious one being the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. This would inevitably lead to counterproductive competition for scarce bond and state funds.

Again, CVWD does appreciate your sincere desire to improve the environment and economy of the Salton Sea region but must respectfully oppose SB 583 per the issues outlined above.

Sincerely,




John P. Powell, Jr.
President, Division 3



John Aguilar
Board Member, Division 1



Peter G. Nelson
Board Member, Division 4



Cástulo R. Estrada
Vice President, Division 5



Anthony Bianco
Board Member, Division 2

cc: Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia

**SALTON SEA ACTION
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Board Member

Mike Sutton
Board Member

Vince Signorotti
Board Member

Chuck Tobin
Board Member

Andy Vossler
Board Member

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Steve Padilla
1021 O Street, Suite 6640
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 853

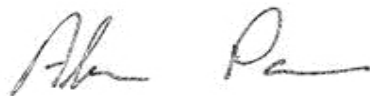
Dear Senator Padilla,

On behalf of the Salton Sea Action Committee, I am writing to respectfully raise a strong objection to SB 853 which proposes to change the governance of the Salton Sea Management Program by shifting planning away from local entities that have the knowledge and expertise to restore the Salton Sea.

The Salton Sea Action Committee was formed in 2011 to support the action of the Salton Sea Authority and has had a successful relationship ever since. Strengthening cooperation and consultation between the Federal, tribal, state and local governments, and stakeholders at the Salton Sea has been the priority of our efforts. We are concerned that this bill would undermine the proven successful partnership between local entities and the state to deliver state-funded projects at the Sea, and potentially sidestep the local priorities of the Salton Sea Authority and the County of Riverside.

The Counties of Riverside and Imperial and Indian Nations have land use authority and residents that are directly impacted by the Salton Sea and are best suited to direct projects.

Respectfully Submitted,



Alan Pace
President, Salton Sea Action Committee

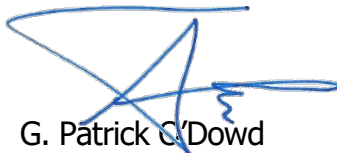
Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Date: May 25, 2023
Re: **Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)**

At the last meeting of the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors, Staff were directed to prepare a comment letter on the subject SEIS being developed for certain proposed actions on the Colorado River to address potential shortages. We learned on Monday of this week that the [Department of the Interior is temporarily withdrawing the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement](#) published last month so that it can fully analyze the effects of the proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act. As a result, the original May 30, 2023, deadline for the submission of comments on the draft SEIS is no longer in effect.

Staff determined that it would not be productive to review and distribute the comment letter prepared until it included all scenarios. Our diligence identified several concerns contained therein consistent with prior issues raised by this Board, including ensuring that the environmental impacts to the Sea and region were properly accounted for and responsibly mitigated as a part of any plan. We will continue to monitor the process, and when the new SEIS is resubmitted will update our current draft to reflect appropriate changes.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/GM

Biden-Harris Administration Announces Historic Consensus System Conservation Proposal to Protect the Colorado River Basin

Seven Basin states agree on analyzing consensus-based approach proposed by the Lower Basin

Funding from President Biden's Investing in America agenda combined with voluntary commitments will conserve 3-million-acre feet of water through 2026

5/22/2023

Date: Monday, May 22, 2023
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

WASHINGTON — The Department of the Interior today announced significant new developments in the Biden-Harris administration's efforts to protect the stability and sustainability of the Colorado River System now and into the future.

As part of the Department's continued efforts to address ongoing severe drought conditions and a changing climate in the Colorado River Basin, representatives from the seven Colorado River Basin states have agreed to the submission of a Lower Basin, consensus-based system conservation proposal. They are requesting the proposal be fully analyzed as an action alternative under the Bureau of Reclamation's draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), published last month.

The consensus-based proposal – agreed upon by the three Lower Basin states – commits to measures to conserve at least 3 million-acre-feet (maf) of system water through the end of 2026, when the current operating guidelines are set to expire. Of those system conservation savings, 2.3 maf will be compensated through funding from the historic Inflation Reduction Act, which is supporting efforts to increase near-term water conservation, build long term system efficiency, and prevent the Colorado River System's reservoirs from falling to critically low elevations that would threaten water deliveries and power production. Under this consensus proposal, the remaining system conservation needed for sustainable operation will be achieved through voluntary, uncompensated reductions by the Lower Basin states.

"There are 40 million people, seven states, and 30 Tribal Nations who rely on the Colorado River Basin for basic services such as drinking water and electricity. Today's announcement is a testament to the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to working with states, Tribes and communities throughout the West to find consensus solutions in the face of climate change and sustained drought," said **Secretary Deb Haaland**. "In particular I want to thank Deputy Secretary Tommy Beaudreau and Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton, who have led the discussions with Basin state commissioners, Tribes, irrigators, local communities, and valued stakeholders to reach this critical moment."

"I commend our partners in the seven Basin states who have demonstrated leadership and unity of purpose in developing this consensus-based approach to achieve the substantial water conservation necessary to sustain the Colorado River System through 2026," said **Deputy Secretary Tommy Beaudreau**. "Reclamation's SEIS process succeeded in facilitating this agreement, and we will carry forward the consensus proposal by analyzing it under the SEIS."

"For over a century, Reclamation has led with solutions grounded in partnership and collaboration. The agreement today continues in this tradition," said **Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton**. "I am proud of the Reclamation team's work and thank our partners across the basin and the Basin states

representatives for reaching this moment. This is an important step forward towards our shared goal of forging a sustainable path for the basin that millions of people call home.”

In light of the Lower Basin states’ conservation proposal, the Department today announced that it is temporarily withdrawing the [draft SEIS](#) published last month so that it can fully analyze the effects of the proposal under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Reclamation will then publish an updated draft SEIS for public comment with the consensus-based proposal as an action alternative. Accordingly, the original May 30, 2023, deadline for the submission of comments on the draft SEIS is no longer in effect. The Department plans to finalize the SEIS process later this year.

Early next month, the Department will formally advance the process for the development of new operating guidelines replacing the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead at the end of 2026. In the coming weeks, Reclamation will publish the Notice of Intent for the Environmental Impact Statement related to the post-2026 guidelines.

President Biden’s [Investing in America agenda](#) represents the largest investment in climate resilience in the nation’s history and is providing pivotal resources to enhance the resilience of the West to drought and climate change, including to protect the short- and long-term sustainability of the Colorado River System. Through the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#), Reclamation is investing \$8.3 billion over five years for water infrastructure projects, including water purification and reuse, water storage and conveyance, desalination and dam safety. The Inflation Reduction Act is investing an additional \$4.6 billion to address the historic drought.

To date, the Interior Department has announced the following investments for Colorado River Basin states, which will yield hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water savings each year once these projects are complete:

- \$281 million for [21 water recycling projects](#) that are expected to increase annual water capacity by 127,000 acre-feet annually
- Up to \$233 million in [water conservation funding](#) for the Gila River Indian Community, including \$83 million for a water pipeline project and an additional \$50 million from the Inflation Reduction Act through the [Lower Colorado River Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program](#), which will also provide similar investments in 2024 and 2025
- Over \$73 million for infrastructure repairs on water delivery systems, \$19.3 million in [fiscal year 2022](#) and another \$54 million [announced last month](#)
- \$71 million for [32 drought resiliency projects](#) to expand access to water through groundwater storage, rainwater harvesting, aquifer recharge and water treatment
- \$20 million in new [small surface and groundwater storage](#) investments

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May 22, 2023

Sent via Electronic Mail

Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton:

The Colorado River Basin States Representatives of Arizona, California, and Nevada (Lower Division States) have reached an agreement to conserve at least an additional 3 million acre-feet (MAF) of Colorado River Water in the Lower Basin by the end of calendar year 2026, with at least 1.5 MAF of that total being conserved by the end of calendar year 2024 (Lower Basin Plan). We request the Lower Basin Plan be fully analyzed as an action alternative in the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Near-Term Colorado River Operations Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS), published last month.

Throughout this process, and as affirmed at the time the Draft SEIS was announced last month, the Lower Division States Representatives remained committed to working together and with Reclamation to develop agreement(s) that meet the purpose and need of the Draft SEIS to "modify guidelines for operation of Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams to address historic drought, historically low reservoirs, and low-runoff conditions in the Basin" (Draft SEIS, Section 1.3). We believe this proposed action alternative both meets the purpose and need of the Draft SEIS and, when analyzed, will be shown to perform equally or better than the action alternatives originally proposed by Reclamation. The Lower Basin Plan does not require any unilateral exercise of federal authority to achieve these levels of conservation.

The terms of the Lower Basin Plan are as follows:

1. This Lower Basin Plan does not require the Secretary to unilaterally exercise her authorities to implement reductions and it does not contemplate any waiver of these authorities to protect the Colorado River system in the future if hydrological conditions require such action.

2. Tier-based reductions and contributions in the remaining interim period (2023 through 2026, inclusive) under this alternative shall be limited to the existing 2007 Interim Guidelines, the Lower Basin DCP, and Minute 323.
3. At minimum, System Conservation (in lieu of additional reductions) achieved in the remaining interim period (2023 through 2026, inclusive) shall be at least 3 million acre-feet (MAF) of which at minimum 1.5 MAF shall be physically conserved by the end of calendar year 2024.
4. In aggregate (understanding that each contract is different and will have user-level limitations), compensated System Conservation shall be mandatory, enforceable, measurable, verifiable, and non-retrievable.
5. System Conservation up to 2.3 MAF will be federally compensated under Pub. L. 117-169 Inflation Reduction Act Title V, Subtitle B, Part 3 “Drought Response and Preparedness” Section 50233 “Drought Mitigation in the Reclamation States” (IRA Funding).
6. The remaining required System Conservation may be in whole or in part compensated by state and/or local entities or be uncompensated. To the extent that System Conservation is federally funded with non-“Bucket 1” IRA Funding, such as under “Bucket 2” IRA Funding, or under Pub. L. 117-58 “The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” Title IX “Western Water Infrastructure”, that System Conservation may offset up to 0.2 MAF of the remaining required System Conservation.
7. All or a portion of the remaining required System Conservation may be offset with ICS created in 2023-2026 and for any such ICS the creator cannot order delivery of, transfer, or assign the ICS at any time before December 31, 2026. Because of the limitation on ICS storage space, some DCP ICS will become system water, which is an uncompensated addition of system water.
8. If the April 24-month Study “Minimum Probable” model in 2024, 2025, and 2026 indicates that the respective end of year elevation in Lake Mead will fall below 1,025 feet, the Lower Division States will have 45 calendar days from the publication of the respective 24-month Study to propose, after consultation with the Upper Basin States, an implementable plan to Reclamation to protect Lake Mead from reaching an elevation of 1,000 feet. If such an acceptable plan, as determined by Reclamation, is not developed, Reclamation may independently take action(s) to protect 1,000 feet.
9. Glen Canyon Dam operations in the remaining interim period (2023 through 2026, inclusive) under this alternative shall be consistent with the existing 2007 Interim Guidelines and the DCPs except as modified in this term 9.

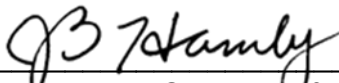
Subject to the Secretary's authorities described in term 1, Lake Powell releases will occur as specified under the 2007 Interim Guidelines except that when Lake Powell is in either the Middle Elevation Release Tier or Lower Elevation Balancing Tier, a mid-year adjustment can be made to reduce the release to an annual volume not less than 6.0 MAF if there is a possibility of the Minimum Probable scenario in any 24-month study of Lake Powell dropping below 3,500 feet in any of the upcoming 12 months that cannot be avoided by modifying monthly release volumes without changing the annual release volume.

This letter is being submitted concurrent with a letter from all Seven Basin States requesting a suspension of the current Draft SEIS comment period to fully analyze this proposed action alternative, the continuation of our productive relationships with Mexico, an expedient start to the development of the post-2026 operating guidelines, and a firm recognition that recent hydrology does not override the longer term challenges the basin is facing. The Lower Division States stand ready to support these efforts and look forward to our continued cooperation with Reclamation and the Upper Division States on these critical actions.

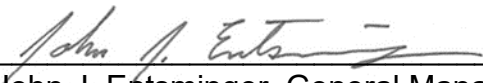
Respectfully,



Thomas Buschatzke, Director
Arizona Department of Water Resources



J.B. Hamby, Chairman & Commissioner
Colorado River Board of California



John J. Entsminger, General Manager
Southern Nevada Water Authority

May 22, 2023

Sent via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Commissioner Touton:

The seven Colorado River Basin States Representatives write to inform you that Arizona, California and Nevada (Lower Division States) have notified Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming (Upper Division States)(collectively the Seven States) that the Lower Division States have reached agreement on a plan to conserve at least an additional 3 million acre-feet (MAF) of Colorado River water in the Lower Basin by the end of calendar year 2026 with at least 1.5 MAF of that total being conserved by the end of calendar year 2024 (Lower Basin Plan).

The comment period for the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Near-Term Colorado River Operations Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS) expires soon, and all Seven States acknowledge that there is insufficient time before that expiration for the Upper Division States to thoroughly review the Lower Basin Plan. Accordingly, nothing in this letter should be construed as an Upper Basin endorsement of the Lower Basin Plan. However, building on the historical success of the Seven States working together to solve the challenges confronting the Colorado River, the Seven States support the submission by the Lower Division States of the Lower Basin Plan to Reclamation concurrent with the submission of this correspondence. Further, all Seven States request that Reclamation analyze the Lower Basin Plan as an action alternative under the Draft SEIS. Therefore, we request that Reclamation provide sufficient time to fully analyze the Lower Basin Plan, consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and applicable law, and to provide the public with the opportunity to comment on that analysis. We recommend a suspension of the current Draft SEIS comment period, which is scheduled to close on May 30, 2023, and that Reclamation recirculate the Draft SEIS with the Lower Basin Plan as an action alternative as soon as possible with the goal of reaching a Record of Decision by this fall.

Finally, the Seven States recognize that having one good winter does not solve the systemic challenges facing the Colorado River. We strongly encourage

Reclamation to advance the process for the development of new operating guidelines replacing the 2007 Colorado River Interim Guidelines for Lower Basin Shortages and the Coordinated Operations for Lake Powell and Lake Mead at the end of 2026. We request that Reclamation publish the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Environmental Impact Statement related to the post-2026 guidelines no later than June 30, 2023, so that all parties can focus their resources on the development of the post-2026 guidelines while Reclamation concurrently takes all necessary actions to complete the current Draft SEIS process provided for above.

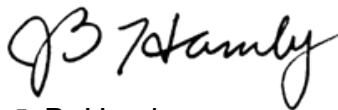
Respectfully,



Thomas Buschatzke
Governor's Representative
State of Arizona



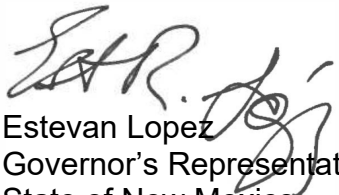
Rebecca Mitchell
Governor's Representative
State of Colorado



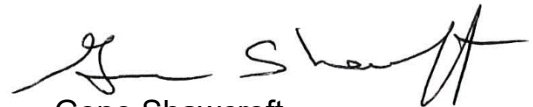
J. B. Hamby
Governor's Representative
State of California



John J. Entsminger
Governor's Representative
State of Nevada



Estevan Lopez
Governor's Representative
State of New Mexico



Gene Shawcroft
Governor's Representative
State of Utah



Brandon Gebhart
Governor's Representative
State of Wyoming

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Date: May 25, 2023
Re: **Future Meeting Dates**

It has come to our attention that since the original meeting schedule was approved by this Board several members have taken on additional public service commitments which are scheduled in conflict with the current meetings calendar. We have inquired and believe subject to your approval that it would be more accommodative to most Board members to change the following meeting dates:

<u>Current Meeting Date</u>	<u>Proposed New Meeting Date</u>
July 27	July 20
August 24	Cancelled
September 21	September 21 (no change)
October 26	October 19

In addition, due to construction activity at the Coachella Valley Water District's Palm Desert Campus, the boardroom will not be available on June 22nd. Staff is recommending that this meeting be held, possibly in conjunction with a commemoration of the Authority's 30th anniversary, at the North Shore Beach & Yacht Club. If the Board chooses, that space has already been reserved. (Reminder that at next month's Board meeting we will also be seating a new slate of officers.)

Respectfully submitted,



G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/GM



TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
FROM: Oracio Gonzalez, Ollin Strategies
DATE: May 2023
SUBJECT: California State Advocacy

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

Fiscal

On Friday, May 12, the Governor released his updated state budget proposal known as the May Revise. In response to the state's finances continuing to deteriorate, the Governor proposed "shifting" an additional \$3.3 billion (for a total of \$7.5 billion) in expenditures from the 2022-23 and 2023-24 fiscal years from the General Fund to other funds, including \$169 million of Salton Sea restoration funding. Specifically, the Governor's May Revise proposes to shift \$89 million in Salton Sea restoration funding included in last year's state budget, as well as the \$80 million he proposed in January 2023, to a general obligation bond.

At the moment, it is unclear what vehicle the Governor will use to effectuate these changes, be it one of the legislative bonds currently moving through the legislature, or his own bond proposal. As noted in a previous report, there are two primary bond vehicles moving through the legislature:

- AB 1567 (Garcia), a measure that would place a \$15.1 billion general bond before voters on March 5, 2024. The proposed bond would include \$240 million for Salton Sea restoration, with \$30 million set aside for the Salton Sea Authority. In addition, the bond would set aside \$15 million for a Salton Sea conservancy.
- SB 867(Allen), a measure that would place a \$15.5 billion general obligation bond before voters during a yet to be specified date. As proposed, the measure includes \$100 million for Salton Sea restoration activities.

Both measures were advanced to the floor of their respective house on Friday, May 19th, and are eligible for a vote as early as Thursday, May 25, 2023.

Conservancy

On Friday, May 19th, the Senate Appropriations committee voted to release **SB 583** from the committee's "suspense file" with amendments to:

- Limit the conservancy's territory to the Salton Sea ecosystem as defined in the Salton Sea Restoration Act to minimize overlap with the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy

- Limit the conservancy's scope from "implementing" the Salton Sea Management Program to "supporting" its implementation via awarding grants to do any, or a combination of, the following:

“(a) Expending funds and awarding grants and loans to develop and implement programs and projects that are designed to further the conservancy's purposes specified in Section 33812.

(b) Engaging community members and stakeholders through education, outreach, opportunities to provide input, and volunteering on programs and projects.

(c) Coordinating, collaborating, and partnering with federal, tribal, state, regional, and local jurisdictions and stakeholders to develop and implement programs and projects.”

- Establish the conservancy's governing board as consisting of eight voting members and five ex officio members. The voting members are defined as follows:

“1. A public member appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate, who is not an elected official and who resides within the conservancy's territory.

2. A public member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, who is not an elected official and who resides within the conservancy's territory.

3. A public member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, who is not an elected official and who resides within the conservancy's territory.

4. Five members appointed from local governments surrounding the Salton Sea, area tribes, local environmental justice organizations, and others.”

The five ex officio, nonvoting members will include:

1. The Director of Finance, or the director's designee.
2. The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, or the secretary's designee.
3. The Director of Fish and Wildlife, or the director's designee.
4. The Director of Water Resources, or the director's designee.
5. One representative of the United States Bureau of Land Management, designated by the United States Secretary of the Interior.

While limiting the conservancy's scope from implementing the SSMP to instead supporting its implementation is a good step, the amendments do nothing to address the duplication and redundancy of roles currently undertaken by the Salton Sea Authority. As amended, the Conservancy's scope is now limited to almost a mirror image of the roles the Authority currently serves, including coordinating with stakeholders and other Government entities and implementing SSMP projects. The Authority, for example, is currently implementing a major component of the SSMP, the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project, and is a joint local sponsor

of the U.S Army Corps Imperial Streams Salton Sea Feasibility Study, a joint effort with the U.S. Army Core, the California Natural Resources Agency and the Salton Sea Authority acting on behalf of its five member agencies.

In terms of the Conservancy’s governance, it is unclear who will appoint the five members from “local governments surrounding the Salton Sea, area tribes, local environmental justice organizations, and others.”

Other Legislation

In addition to SB 583, the Appropriations Committees of the Assembly and Senate voted to advance or kill several measures the Authority had been tracking, including:

AB 827 (Garcia): Public health: pulmonary health: Salton Sea region. –Failed passage
Would have require the State Department of Public Health to conduct a study of the pulmonary health of communities in the Salton Sea region. The bill made related findings and declarations. Measure was “held” in committee, effectively killing it.

AB 1562 (Garcia): Southeast California Desert Valleys Economic Zone – Failed passage.
This bill would have require GoBIZ, subject to available funding, to provide technical assistance to local and regional entities around the Salton Sea on on how to establish and maintain regional economic hubs through the designation of place-based economic development zones.

AB 1569: (Garcia): Salton Sea geothermal resource area: Lithium Valley Office of Development: Passed to Assembly floor with amendment to make the creation of the office contingent on an appropriation of the legislature.

AB 1593: (Garcia) California Workforce Development Board: Salton Sea geothermal resources area: Equitable Access Program. Passed to Assembly Floor.
This bill establishes the Equitable Access Program (EAP) administered by the California Workforce Development Board (CWDB) to prioritize employment opportunities in construction, manufacturing, technical, maintenance, operations, or reclamation activities for local residents of the Salton Sea geothermal resources area

The measure was passed unanimously by the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee. It is now before the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 471: (Padilla): Corporation Tax: hiring credit: lithium extraction: battery manufacturers.
Failed Passage

The Personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law allow various credits against the taxes imposed by those laws. This bill would allow a credit against those taxes to a qualified taxpayer for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2023, in an amount equal to the qualified wages paid to a qualified full-time employee, as defined, hired prior to January 1, 2028. The bill would define “qualified taxpayer” for this purpose to mean a person or entity located in the County of Imperial or in specified parts of the County of Riverside, and that is primarily engaged in the business of lithium extraction or electric battery manufacturing. The bill would

define “qualified wages” as those wages paid or incurred for work performed by a qualified full-time employee within the 36-month period beginning on the first day the employee commences employment with the qualified taxpayer. The bill would require that, if a credit is allowed to a qualified taxpayer, and the employment of the qualified employee is terminated within the first 36 months of employment, the tax imposed in the year of termination is increased by the amount of the credit received, except as provided. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws.

Measure will be heard May 3, 2023 before the Senate Government and Finance Committee.