



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](mailto: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](mailto:Eduardo.Garcia@asm.ca.gov)  
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