

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