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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