



AGENDA: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DATE: Thursday, September 21, 2023,
at 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Imperial County BOS Chamber
940 W. Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

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

Treasurer Yxstian Gutierrez
Riverside County District 5
4080 Lemon Street
Conference Room C
Riverside, CA 92502

Director V. Manuel Perez
Riverside County District 4 Office
78015 Main Street, Suite 205
La Quinta, CA 92253

*The meeting can be viewed live at 10:00 a.m. on September 21. Please see the meeting login information at SaltonSea.com/meetings, or access www.zoom.us, click “Join Meeting,” and enter **Webinar ID 862 8322 9333, 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: saltonsea.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 acting 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, September 20, 2023, to be incorporated in the record.

Comments may be emailed to info@saltonsea.com (include in your subject line “Public Comment, 9/21/2023 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, September 20**, 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. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
 - 1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting July 20, 2023
 - 2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for July 31, 2023
 - 3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for 7/01/2023 – 07/31/2023 and preliminary 2022/2023 Fiscal Year Financial Report (Audit in process).
 - 4. Facsimile Signature for 3rd Party Electronic Payment Processing
- B. Presentation on Air Quality Monitoring and discussion regarding efforts to measure, mitigate and fund impacts from increased conservation.
- C. Water Resources Development Act 2024 / Army Corp Feasibility Study Update - Lisa Moore, Cultivating Conservation; Lowry Crook, Best, Best & Krieger
- D. Update and possible board action on Salton Sea Conservancy legislation (SB583 – Padilla) – Oracio Gonzalez, Ollin Strategies
- E. Update on Community Engagement, Outreach, and Education. – Staff
- F. Future Meetings Locations and Dates - Staff

V. 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 – Andrew Ahlberg, interim District Superintendent

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

VI. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority Board is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
Steve Robbins Administrative Building
75515 Hovley Lane, East
Palm Desert, Ca 92260
(760) 398-2651



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

July 20, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by Altrena Santillanes, President, at 10:04 a.m., July 20, 2023, at the County of Imperial Board of Supervisors Chamber, and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Secretary Dockstader

ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

Altrena Santillanes, President
Gina Dockstader, Secretary
Thomas Tortez, Director
Luis A. Plancarte, Director
V. Manuel Perez, Director
Ex-Officio Samantha Arthur

AGENCY

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Alex Cárdenas, Director
John Aguilar, Director

AGENCY

Imperial Irrigation District
Coachella Valley Water District

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice-President
Ryan E. Kelley, Director
Yxstian Gutierrez, Treasurer

AGENCY

Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial County
Riverside County

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM (in person)
Carlos Campos, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel (in person)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

On Site: Eric M. Reyes, Los Amigos de la Comunidad, Miguel Hernandez, CNRA and Miguel Hernandez, CNRA.

Via Zoom: Krystal Otworth, Drew Feldman, Victoria Llort, Tomas Oliva, William Patterson, Jaysel Mendoza, Jasmyn Phillips, Vickie Doyle, Christopher Green, Michael Cohen, Shana Rapoport, Jim Barrett, Tom Sephton, Stephanie Holstege , Cynthia Medina, Syrus Devers, and 7 others

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Eric Reyes, Los Amigos de la Comunidad, commented on CARB and AB 617.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Perez commented on environmental issues and advancing the effort around dust suppression and mitigation, including increased emphasis on air monitors around the Salton Sea. He highlighted work being done in collaboration with Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) (collectively, AMD), including pesticide regulations. Director Perez advised that he joined CARB Board recently and would like to see CARB and AMB get more involved in the Salton Sea. He asked Director O’Dowd to work with State Partners to schedule an update on these efforts, including a discussion on CARB and AMD at the next Board meeting in September. In that regard, Mr. O’Dowd indicated an intent to provide the board with an update on the Monitoring Implementation Plan at our next board meeting.

Mr. O’Dowd reminded the Board that the EIS comments are due on 8/15. Director Cardenas asked that the that the EIS comments are due August 15 be circulated among all board members for feedback.

Director Aguilar asked if there is an opportunity to comment after comments are submitted. Ms. Moore advised that this is simply setting the stage for 2026, and future opportunities to comment will be available.

III. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

No Presentations.

IV. ITEMS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve; Receive, and File

1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting June 22, 2023
2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for April 30, 2023
3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2022 – 05/31/2023

Motion made by Plancarte, second by Perez, the Board approved the Consent Calendar to be received and filed.

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: President Santillanes, Secretary Dockstader, Directors Plancarte, Aguilar, Cardenas and Perez

NOES: 0

ABSENT: , Directors Tortez, Kelley, Gutierrez and Estrada

ABSTAINED: 0

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

- B. Colorado River Commitments Agreement / SEIS / EIS – Discussion regarding assessment of impacts to the Salton Sea and region, and plan for mitigation.

Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation gave an update on the process of the SEIS. Director Perez shared that we (the Authority, its member agencies, and local stakeholders) should pride ourselves for working as one, and stressed the importance of putting a plan together that allows us to hold responsible parties accountable on the Colorado River issue, including timelines, goals and potential resources.

- C. SB 583 (Padilla) – Update on bill language and legislative process. Evaluate current bill position – “Oppose Unless Amended”.

Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies gave an update on the status of SB 583. Director Perez, Cardenas, Aguilar and Tortez commented. The board took a vote to Oppose unless Amended. President Santillanes asked who was taking the lead to set up the stakeholders meeting. Mr. Gonzalez last heard that it was going to be scheduled in August, and would follow up with the State to confirm.

Motion made by Tortez to Oppose unless Amended motion, second by Perez.

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: President Santillanes, Directors Plancarte, Tortez and Perez

NOES: Director Aguilar

ABSENT: Directors Estrada, Gutierrez and Kelley

ABSTAINED: Secretary Dockstader, Director Cardenas

MOTION PASSED: 4-0

- D. Projects Update - G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority
North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project

Current focus has been to secure drain water from Coachella Valley agriculture for use as a primary water supply. The Authority received a letter from several environmental groups expressing concerns to that approach and offered alternative suggestions.

The Authority will collaborate with the State partner to see how we can work together on this.

Desert Shores

The Authority met with Geologic and Imperial County last week at Desert Shores, they are a firm that is engaged with Imperial County. They need to do geotechnical work to complete their CEQA. Data from old CVWD wells are either not available or not useful, requiring a higher level of technical analysis for the project including drilling activity which will increase the project scope by several hundred thousand dollars. We are working with the Bureau now to secure authorization to initiate those tests and complete the CEQA, which will further inform the project cost. We expect to meet with BOR and County reps next month. The Authority is negotiating a contract with a project management firm for Design Build services which would move forward once the CEQA is completed.

E. Ratification of Board of Directors Committee Assignments

- **Executive: Chair – President Altrena Santillanes, Vice-President Castulo Estrada**
- **Finance: Chair – Treasurer Alex Cardenas, members Director Jeff Hewitt and Director Anthony Bianco.**
- **Personnel: Chair – Vice-President Altrena Santillanes, members Luis A. Plancarte and Director Cástulo Estrada.**
- **Projects Committee: Chair – Director Ryan Kelley, members Director Altrena Santillanes, Director Alex Cardenas, and Ex-Officio member CNRA Assistant Secretary Samantha Arthur**

Motion made by Plancarte and second by Perez, the Board approved the Consent Calendar to be received and filed.

Unanimously approved by the following vote:

AYES: President Santillanes, Secretary Dockstader, Directors Plancarte, Aguilar, Cardenas and Perez

NOES: 0

ABSENT: Treasurer Gutierrez and Director Kelley

ABSTAINED: 0

MOTION PASSED: 6-0

V. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation, gave her report at the start of the meeting discussing the SEIS/EIS. A written report was also provided.
2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Jeremy Brooks, Salton Sea Program Manager
No Report.

B. State

1. State Advocacy Report – Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies gave an update on the SB583. A written report was also provided.
2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency gave an update on the SSMP and Outreach efforts.
3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Andrew Ahlberg, Interim District Superintendent. No report

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee – Juan DeLara, SSAC gave an update from the Bombay Beach Community Center. Several local residents from Bombay Beach

VI. ADJOURNMENT

spoke as well.

- A. Executive Director’s Report and Comments: G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority gave an update on the Public Relations Officer position. This process started over a year ago and have interviewed half a dozen candidates and hope to have important news at our September meeting in that regard.

Board President Santillanes adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority board is scheduled to meet
on: Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.
Imperial County
Board of Supervisors Chamber
940 W. Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(442) 265-1020



Salton Sea Authority
Checking Account Activity
July 1, 2023 through July 31, 2023

Date	Number	Vendor Name	Description	Amount
07/11/2023	EFT	Pacific Western Bank	Visa billing cycle ended 06/23	(3,193.32)
07/14/2023	Deposit	County of Riverside	Member Contribution FY 23/24	200,000.00
07/31/2023	EFT	Allied Public Risk	Policy Renewal through 04/24	(11,331.00)
Beginning Cash Balance				\$ 95,002.94
Monthly Activity				185,475.68
Ending Cash Balance				\$ 280,478.62



Salton Sea Authority
Checking Account Activity
August 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023

Date	Number	Vendor Name	Description	Amount
08/01/2023	ACH	Bravata, Lisa	Mileage 07/20/23	(134.23)
08/01/2023	ACH	G. Patrick O'Dowd	Mileage 07/03/23-07/20/23	(208.29)
08/01/2023	ACH	Cultivating Conservation	Consulting Fees 06/23	(7,350.00)
08/01/2023	6581058	SystemGO IT LLC	SystemGo IT Website 07/23	(382.00)
08/01/2023	6581168	Best, Best & Krieger	Services Related to General Matters for Succession Planning 06/30	(3,265.10)
08/01/2023	6581168	Best, Best & Krieger	Services Related to Federal Funding 06/30	(1,141.20)
08/01/2023	6584730	Eide Bailly LLP	Accounting Services 06/23	(7,225.20)
08/01/2023	ACH	Ollin Strategies	Consulting Services 07/23	(7,000.00)
08/02/2023	EFT	Melio Bill Payer	Check processing fees 06/23	(4.50)
08/11/2023	EFT	Pacific Western Bank	Visa billing cycle ended 07/23	(927.92)
08/16/2023	Deposit	Department of Water Resources	Grant reimbursement for period ending 03/23	29,607.76
08/18/2023	Deposit	Melio Bill Payer	Refund for non-deliverable check	11,331.00
Beginning Cash Balance				\$ 280,478.62
Monthly Activity				13,300.32
Ending Cash Balance				\$ 293,778.94



Salton Sea Authority Budget to Actual General Fund (Unaudited)

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

	B	C	D	C / D	C - D
	July 2023	YTD FY 24	Budget FY 24	YTD Target 8%	\$ Variance
1 REVENUE					
2 Local Government / Member Assessments	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 800,000	50%	\$ (400,000)
3 Other Federal / State / Local Reimbursements	-	-	25,000	0%	(25,000)
4 Sponsorships	-	-	25,000	0%	(25,000)
5 Grant and Other Reimbursements to General Fund	-	-	194,400	0%	(194,400)
6 TOTAL REVENUE	400,000	400,000	1,044,400	38%	(644,400)
7 EXPENSES					
8 SSA Administration					
9 Salaries & Benefits					
10 Total Salaries	14,341	14,341	309,300	5%	(294,959)
11 Total Employee Benefits	7,532	7,532	171,600	4%	(164,068)
12 Total Salaries & Benefits	21,872	21,872	480,900	5%	(459,028)
13 Contract / Professional Services					
14 DC Advocates	7,350	7,350	94,200	8%	(86,850)
15 Sacramento Advocates	7,000	7,000	88,200	8%	(81,200)
16 Attorney Fees	1,277	1,277	54,000	2%	(52,724)
17 Audit & Accounting	2,494	2,494	76,200	3%	(73,706)
18 Total Contract / Professional Services	18,120	18,120	312,600	6%	(294,480)
19 Travel/Mileage	2,337	2,337	40,000	6%	(37,663)
20 Equipment / IT Maintenance	382	382	8,300	5%	(7,918)
21 Non-capitalized Office Equipment	-	-	8,000	0%	(8,000)
22 Insurance	944	944	11,600	8%	(10,656)
23 Office Expense/Operating Supplies	96	96	8,700	1%	(8,604)
24 Office Expense/Online Services	488	488	4,000	12%	(3,512)
25 Dues, Subscriptions	1,069	1,069	10,000	11%	(8,931)
26 Operating Expenses / County Charges	155	155	7,400	2%	(7,245)
27 Coachella Water District Board Room Usage Fees	-	-	2,400	0%	(2,400)
28 TOTAL EXPENSES	45,463	45,463	893,900	5%	(848,437)
29 NET INCOME / (LOSS)	\$ 354,537	\$ 354,537	\$ 150,500	236%	\$ 204,037

*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 July 31, 2023

1	ASSETS		
2	Checking/Savings	\$	286,686
3	Accounts Receivable		11,674
4	Prepaid Items		10,899
5	Grants Receivable		457,878
6	TOTAL ASSETS		<u>767,137</u>
7	LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		
8	LIABILITIES		
9	Accounts Payable		38,286
10	Credit Card Payable		945
11	Accrued Payroll		12,151
12	Due to Imperial County		271
13	Due to Riverside County		439,151
14	Accrued Vacation		51,800
15	TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>542,604</u>
16	FUND BALANCE		<u>224,534</u>
17	TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$	<u><u>767,137</u></u>

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Salton Sea Authority

Budget to Actual

General Fund (Unaudited) Preliminary

For the Period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

	A	B	C	D	C / D	C - D
	May 2023	June 2023	YTD FY 23	Budget FY 23	YTD Target 100%	\$ 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	-	N/A	686
5 Grants and Other Reimbursements to General Fund	-	53,403	89,022	110,000	81%	(20,978)
6 TOTAL REVENUE	-	53,403	900,068	1,160,000	78%	(259,932)
7 EXPENSES						
8 SSA Administration						
9 Salaries & Benefits						
10 Total Salaries	23,827	30,085	256,696	270,600	95%	(13,904)
11 Total Employee Benefits	12,330	(3,016)	126,080	135,300	93%	(9,220)
12 Total Salaries & Benefits	36,157	27,069	382,776	405,900	94%	(23,124)
13 Contract / Professional Services						
14 DC Advocates	7,350	7,350	89,957	88,200	102%	1,757
15 Sacramento Advocates	7,000	7,000	84,000	84,000	100%	-
16 Grant Administration	-	-	55,920	100,000	56%	(44,080)
17 Community Outreach Initiative	-	40,300	55,300	-	N/A	55,300
18 Attorney Fees	1,509	4,406	46,165	50,000	92%	(3,835)
19 Audit & Accounting	3,654	7,166	70,476	75,000	94%	(4,524)
20 Total Contract / Professional Services	19,513	66,222	401,818	397,200	101%	4,618
21 Equipment / IT Maintenance	382	382	7,868	8,700	90%	(833)
22 Insurance	-	2,833	10,830	10,500	103%	330
23 Office Expense/Operating Supplies	139	143	6,221	8,300	75%	(2,079)
24 Office Expense/Online Services	291	251	3,399	3,300	103%	99
25 Dues, Subscriptions	669	669	8,420	14,200	59%	(5,780)
26 Travel/Mileage	1,573	1,753	27,192	40,000	68%	(12,808)
27 Coachella Water District Board Room Usage Fees	-	1,500	2,700	-	N/A	2,700
28 County Charges	164	154	6,520	-	N/A	6,520
29 Interest Expense	-	910	910	-	N/A	910
30 TOTAL EXPENSES	58,888	101,885	858,654	888,100	97%	(29,446)
31 NET INCOME / (LOSS)	\$ (58,888)	\$ (48,482)	\$ 41,414	\$ 271,900	15%	\$ (230,486)

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Salton Sea Authority

Budget to Actual

DWR - Proposition 68 Grant (Unaudited) Preliminary

For the Period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

	A	B	C	D	C / D	C - D
	May 2023	June 2023	YTD FY 23	Budget FY 23	YTD Target 100%	\$ Variance
1 REVENUE						
2 State of California Grant (Prop 68)	\$ -	\$ 387,189	\$ 458,011	\$ 2,200,000	21%	\$ (1,741,989)
3 TOTAL REVENUE	-	387,189	458,011	2,200,000	21%	\$ (1,741,989)
4 EXPENSES						
5 Salton Sea Authority Salaries	-	2,436	25,138	110,000	23%	(84,862)
6 Riverside County Salaries	-	758	4,154	-	N/A	4,154
7 Contractors	-	383,644	427,507	2,090,000	20%	(1,662,493)
8 Audit & Accounting	-	350	1,211	-	N/A	1,211
9 TOTAL EXPENSES	-	387,189	458,011	2,200,000	21%	(1,741,989)
10 NET INCOME / (LOSS)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -

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Salton Sea Authority
Budget to Actual
BOR -DSR (Unaudited) Preliminary
 For the Period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

	A	B	C	D	C/D	C - D
	May 2023	June 2023	YTD FY 23	Budget FY 23	YTD Target 100%	\$ Variance
1 REVENUE						
2 Bureau of Reclamation Grant	\$ -	\$ 1,125	\$ 23,792	\$ -	N/A	\$ 23,792
3 TOTAL REVENUE	-	1,125	23,792	-	N/A	\$ 23,792
4 EXPENSES						
5 Salton Sea Authority Salaries	-	817	10,196	-	N/A	10,196
6 Contractors	-	308	10,919	-	N/A	10,919
7 Legal Expenses	-	-	2,677	-	N/A	2,677
8 TOTAL EXPENSES	-	1,125	23,792	-	N/A	23,792
9 NET INCOME / (LOSS)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -

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Salton Sea Authority
Balance Sheet
(Unaudited) Preliminary
As of June 30, 2023

1	ASSETS		
2	Checking/Savings	\$	125,586
3	Accounts Receivable		11,331
4	Prepaid Items		4,015
5	Grant Receivable		457,915
6	TOTAL ASSETS		598,847
7	LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		
8	LIABILITIES		
9	Accounts Payable		21,814
10	Credit Cards		1,277
11	Deferred Revenue		200,000
12	Accrued Payroll		14,500
13	Due to Imperial County		308
14	Due to Riverside County		439,151
15	Accrued Vacation		51,800
16	TOTAL LIABILITIES		728,850
17	FUND BALANCE		(130,003)
18	TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$	598,847

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Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/General Manager
Date: September 21, 2023

Re: Facsimile Signatures and 3rd Party Check Payment

On September 24, 2015, this board approved the attached "Procedures – Authorization for Use of Signature Stamp" to ensure appropriate controls are implemented and to improve operational efficiency of the Authority. Through our accounting firm, we recently implemented a third-party payment processing system that to the maximum extent possible sends out payments electronically to vendors and others. In the event insufficient information is available to effectuate an electronic transfer of funds, a physical check is sent by the payment processor to the payee. We recently learned that those checks are signed in facsimile by a representative payment processor and do not carry the actual or facsimile signatures of Authority representatives as contemplated by the existing policy.

It is important to note that all other procedures and controls remain in place when any payments are released, and in fact utilization of this vendor ensures a high level of technical competency in preparing and distributing payments as approved.

Staff is requesting that, so long as all other procedures and safeguards remain in place pursuant to the attached policy, that Authority staff is and will continue to be authorized to utilize a third-party payment vendor, including the distribution of physical checks with third party signers.

Salton Sea Authority
Procedures – Authorization for Use of Signature Stamp
Effective August 2015

***** UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AT 9/24/15 SSA BOARD MEETING*****

Salton Sea Authority (“SSA”) may hold facsimile signature stamps for all individuals authorized by the Board of Directors to sign checks. The signature stamp may be used as the second or “dry” signature on checks in the amount of \$20,000.00 or less. One “wet” (original) signature is required on all checks issued, and at least one of the signers on all checks must be a Director. The General Manager is designated as the primary signer on all checks. In the event the General Manager is unavailable to provide a “wet” signature, a substitute “wet” signer shall be designated from those authorized. Checks in excess of \$20,000.00 shall require two “wet” signatures.

Prior to placing the stamped signature on a check, permission must first be obtained from the person whose stamp is to be used on said check (the “Facsimile Signer” owner). Permission may be obtained in the following manner.

For Checks

1. Provide the Facsimile Signer with a copy of the Check Approval report, or other report currently in use for this purpose, which the General Manager/Executive Director has reviewed and initialed indicating amounts are approved for payment. The report should list all checks on which the stamp will be used. The report will list the check date, check amount, payee and a brief description of the check purpose.
2. The Facsimile Signer will review the report and indicate to SSA Staff approval for his/her signature stamp to be applied to the checks. The report may be provided to the Facsimile Signer either as a printed original or as an email attachment addressed to the email address issued to the Facsimile Signer by the agency represented for the purpose of conducting official business for that agency. Approval for reports provided in person shall be indicated by the Facsimile Signer signing and dating the original report. Requests provided via email shall be deemed approved when the Facsimile Signer will respond by reply email to the requestor using the same authorized agency email address that signature stamp use is approved or not approved.
3. The Facsimile Signer may request additional information from SSA staff regarding specific checks issued as he/she deems it necessary prior to issuing approval of use.

4. SSA Staff will retain paper copies of the approval email, signed report, or other document and will file them with the Check Approval report.

An individual's signature stamp will be disposed of when he/she is removed as an authorized signer on the Salton Sea Authority's accounts.

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director /GM
Date: September 21, 2023

Re: Monitoring and Mitigation programs

Since potential cuts on the Colorado River were first announced on June 14, 2022, the Salton Sea Authority has been actively pursuing an understanding of how such additional conservation measures might impact our communities. As the scope and timing of potential cuts become clearer and more imminent, it will be essential that the impacts from proposed actions to be taken are both well understood and responsibly mitigated. To that end, at the last meeting of the Authority, the role of the air resources boards was discussed in some detail, and inquiries were made as to how they work individually and collectively to monitor air quality in the region.

At a meeting of the Authority in September, 2021, [CNRA provided an overview](#) of efforts under way to develop a "Monitoring Implementation Plan" (MIP), a follow-up to the Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment (MAP) plan developed back in 2013. The MIP acknowledges that "[m]onitoring of the Salton Sea ecosystem is critical for informed decision-making and the success of mitigation and habitat restoration projects aimed at reducing the amount of exposed playa, suppressing dust emissions from exposed playa, and creating habitat for key wildlife species." And while it is not intended as a comprehensive plan for assessing changes occurring at the Sea (indeed a separate "Species Conservation Habitat Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan", published in 2015 exists for the SCH project), the [MIP, which was finalized in November, 2022](#) represents a foundational document which should be useful in both advising efforts to mitigate impacts from changes occurring at the Sea and informing the public of unmitigated risks.

Based on last month's Board discussion, staff reached out to CNRA and requested an update on the MIP implementation process, which contemplates that in its initial phase a "Salton Sea Science Program" would be funded and stood up to implement the MIP. We were advised by CNRA that such a request was untimely, and that they would better be in a position provide such presentation once the Annual report contemplated thereby is published, presumably after November. When asked about the status of the Science Program, we were advised that was not in the works, and that the plan would likely be implemented in a more diffuse manner. In addition, we were advised that six

(6) new positions were added to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff, and that that the bulk of that responsibility would be assumed by that group.

But because of the pressing need to ensure that risks associated with increased conservation are being properly assessed and responsibly mitigated, we felt a discussion today was critical. We understand that at Owens Lake, there exists 217 air quality monitoring stations situated throughout the basin, operated by Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (Great Basin). Each day at 7am, readings are taken from each of the 217 monitors and, as conditions warrant, notifications go out to the local community both through texts and automated phone calls advising of potential adverse health risks. In addition, as part of the management plan, satellite images are taken of the basin every 5 days. Under its agreement, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), who is responsible for implementing air quality measures at Owens Lake, is obligated to maintain 75% coverage of exposed playa at the Lake, using "best available control methods", or BACM. If the satellite imagery indicates that LADQP is out of compliance with that requirement, Great Basin can levy significant fines on LADWP for each day they fail to comply. Since work began at Owens Lake, LADWP has spent \$2.5 Billion Dollars mitigating PM10. For context, it is also important to note that LADWP's principal responsibility is mitigation, and any habitat benefit from their efforts at Owens Lake are largely incidental.

Against that backdrop and with that context, we understand that the air quality monitoring at and around the Salton Sea is being conducted by a variety of players using different equipment and methodologies, and to our knowledge with enforcement limited to the landowners. And although the [State Water Board ordered](#) that California Natural Resources Agency meet certain acreage mitigation and restoration requirements, given the likely significant increase in exposures due to enhanced conservation, it can be anticipated that unmitigated playa exposures will likely continue to escalate. We believe time is of the essence. So, to advance this discussion around air quality monitoring and mitigation, we have invited Comite Civico del Valle to present to the board an overview of their work in this area, how they got started, what the program currently encompasses, and what the vision for the program is for the future. Hopefully this presentation and discussion will lead to a more fulsome public conversation on how the community should reasonably expect to be informed and engaged when it comes to the existing risk and risks being created by the accelerating changes taken place at the Sea, as well as how those risks are being mitigated.

SALTON SEA MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Executive Summary

Monitoring of the Salton Sea ecosystem is critical for informed decision-making and the success of mitigation and habitat restoration projects aimed at reducing the amount of exposed playa, suppressing dust emissions from exposed playa, and creating habitat for key wildlife species. The *Salton Sea Monitoring Implementation Plan* (MIP) builds on the 2013 *Salton Sea Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Plan* (MAP) with the goals to (1) identify and prioritize monitoring activities that will measure current and future conditions within the Salton Sea ecosystem; (2) establish milestones against which data gathered during long-term monitoring can be compared; (3) establish methods for measuring and reporting these metrics; (4) identify and prioritize filling of existing data gaps; and (5) describe a framework to store, manage, and make monitoring data publicly available in a timely manner.

The MIP provides a framework for tracking the status and trends of the land, water, air, and biota of the Salton Sea, as well as local communities and their engagement with Salton Sea Management Program activities. Priority is given to information necessary to inform management needs. The landscape covered includes the Salton Sea's open water (pelagic) zone, nearshore zone, shoreline, playa, fringing wetlands and riparian corridors, halophytic scrub, created impoundments, and agricultural drains near the playa and shore. Key indicators include the extent of playa and vegetation, inflow and water levels of the Salton Sea and groundwater, water quality (salinity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, nutrients, and contaminants such as selenium), air quality (particulate matter, hydrogen sulfide), aquatic life (plankton, fish), birds (especially waterbirds and shorebirds), and special-status wildlife species such as desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*) and Yuma Ridgway's rail (*Rallus obsoletus yumanensis*).

The MIP is intended to support a collaborative monitoring enterprise among current and potential partners. Because the Salton Sea is a rapidly changing ecosystem, the MIP will be a living document to adapt flexibly to dynamic conditions and evolving management needs. Each year, an annual study plan will be developed that tiers off the MIP. The annual study plan will define the following year's monitoring activities, coordinate efforts among implementing partners, and refine sampling methods and/or locations as appropriate. Every five years, the MIP will be reviewed and updated, if needed.



MEMO

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O’Dowd
FROM: Lisa Moore
RE: **Federal Report**
DATE: September 19, 2023

Roughly every two years, Congress develops a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which provides authority for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects. Senator Padilla (D-Calif.) is a member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), the Senate body that drafts the WRDA legislation. This memo describes legislative measures developed with CNRA/DWR and the State’s federal legislative team to advance in this upcoming WRDA bill.

Background

In 2020, the Salton Sea Authority secured a provision in WRDA authorizing a new feasibility study to develop a Corps project to address long-range Salton Sea management. This supplemented existing Corps legislative direction/authority to do so from 2007 and 2016, and effectively mobilized Corps engagement as a funding partner at the Sea. This was one of only three new such authorizations secured that year. A feasibility study is required to unlock Corps funding for the Salton Sea at a 65% federal share. Subsequently, the Authority secured appropriations and internal agency resources necessary for the Corps to undertake the study.

The Authority then worked with CNRA/DWR to develop the required agreements to provide the Authority and CNRA/DWR would be joint local sponsors of the feasibility study, with the State providing the required cost share. At the outset, all parties recognized that to appropriately address the scale of the challenges at the Sea, the study would likely exceed the Corps internal policy that such studies be completed within 3 years for a total cost of \$3 million. As the Corps, Authority and CNRA/DWR have worked on the development of the feasibility study, the need to exceed \$3 million in costs to complete a properly scaled study has become clear. Discussions then ensued with the Corps concerning securing additional federal resources to do so.

In that connection, due to an administrative reading of existing legislative authorities, the Corps indicated that it may require legislative direction that it may supplement funding into the Salton Sea feasibility study. In addition, there are existing Corps policies that may limit the consideration of the benefits the study will confer on federal lands and to local air quality. As a result, we worked in coordination with CNRA/DWR to develop legislative language for WRDA to address these concerns.

Legislative Recommendations

Senators Padilla and Feinstein had internal submission deadlines for WRDA requests of September 15. We submitted this language after collaborating with CNRA/DWR and securing a letter of support from the Newsom Administration for it (attached). This is the very beginning of the legislative process. The language may be modified by the Senators or EPW Committee staff, may be drafted slightly differently by the Senate’s official drafting lawyers (Senate Legislative Counsel) or modified based on feedback from the Corps. Similar work will take place on the House side.

Legislative Text Request, Imperial Streams, Salton Sea, CA

- (1) Completion of Investigations – The Secretary is authorized to provide funds from current and future appropriations to advance investigations that previously received funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), provided that non-Federal interests have entered into binding agreements with the Secretary. Investigations receiving such additional authorized funds shall continue to be subject to existing terms and conditions from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58).
- (2) Imperial Streams Salton Sea, CA — In carrying out the Imperial Streams Salton Sea investigation, the Secretary shall consider the comprehensive benefits of alternative plans, including equal consideration of air quality and public health benefits and benefits of alternatives that would be constructed on federal lands or provide benefits to federal lands. Provided further, the Secretary and Chief of Engineers are authorized to recommend a project that includes construction on federal lands, or that provides and is justified by comprehensive benefits, including to air quality, public health and directly or indirectly on or to federal lands.

September 13, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Feinstein and Padilla:

California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) strongly support the request to clarify the Army Corps' authority to supplement funds for the Imperial Streams Salton Sea Feasibility Study, that the Army Corps should consider benefits of project alternatives that include work on the significant federal lands under the Sea, and that air quality benefits be included in formulating, screening, and recommending project alternatives. We respectfully request the inclusion of this clarifying language in the upcoming Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2024 legislation, which will be essential to California's Salton Sea work for years to come.

Advancing projects at the Salton Sea to improve air quality and provide critical environmental habitat for birds along the Pacific Flyway has been a key priority for Governor Newsom since the early days of this Administration. Declining flows into the Salton Sea have resulted in a shrinking, increasingly saline lake that exposes submerged lakebed and creates dust that is of concern to local communities. CNRA, DWR, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are focused on implementing the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP), which includes a 10-year plan that aims to improve conditions by constructing 30,000 acres of habitat and dust suppression projects around the Sea.

The federal feasibility study is essential to the long-term restoration of the Sea. The feasibility study will evaluate and recommend projects and actions from restoration concepts identified by the SSMP in the Long-Range Plan for the Salton Sea. In order for the feasibility study to be scoped adequately to analyze reasonable alternatives; to capture comprehensive benefits of alternatives on state, local and federal lands using rigorous modeling; and to conduct meaningful outreach to the area's sizable disadvantaged and tribal communities — the study's costs and timeline will need to extend beyond that contemplated by the general Army Corps' 3x3x3 rule for feasibility studies.

715 P Street, 20th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 <http://resources.ca.gov>

In addition, in formulating and justifying ecosystem restoration projects, the Army Corps has traditionally focused on a project's benefits to aquatic resources and habitat and has not weighed air quality or broader public health benefits in considering projects. The 2016 Imperial Streams Salton Sea feasibility study authorization and the 2014 Principles Requirements and Guidelines authorize consideration of public health benefits, which are a critical piece of any solution at the Salton Sea. The proposed language would clarify that the Army Corps should consider benefits of project alternatives, and can justify and recommend projects, that include work on the significant federal lands under the Sea. It would also clarify that the Army Corps should consider air quality and public health benefits in formulating, screening, and recommending project alternatives.

The Newsom Administration is committed to making progress toward our commitments to the Salton Sea and surrounding communities. We thank you for your ongoing leadership to support the health of California's critical ecosystems and for your partnership to secure federal investment in these and other critical projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wade Crowfoot". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Wade Crowfoot
California Natural Resources Secretary

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RYAN JACKSON, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
BETTINA POIRIER, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR
114th Congress
2nd Session

United States Senate COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Salton Sea and Tributaries, Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego Counties, California

RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Resolved by the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the United States Senate, The Secretary of the Army is hereby requested to review the reports of the Chief of Engineers contained in the preliminary examination report on flood control for all streams in San Diego and Imperial Counties, California, flowing into Salton Sea, dated July 15, 1943, and other pertinent reports to determine advisability of Federal participation in providing improvements for flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and other water and land related resources for Salton Sea and the vicinity including all tributaries with a view towards restoration and protection of the environment, and improvements to public health and safety for Salton Sea and Tributaries, Riverside, Imperial, and San Diego Counties, California.


Chairman
Ranking Minority Member

Adopted: 4/28/16



SB-583 Salton Sea Conservancy. (2023-2024)

As Amends the Law Today

SECTION 1. *Division 23.6 (commencing with Section 33810) is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:*

DIVISION 23.6. Salton Sea Conservancy

CHAPTER 1. General Provisions

33810. *This division shall be known, and may be cited, as the Salton Sea Conservancy Act.*

CHAPTER 2. Definitions

33811. *For purposes of this division, the following definitions apply:*

(a) *"Board" means the board of directors governing the Salton Sea Conservancy.*

(b) *"Conservancy" means the Salton Sea Conservancy established pursuant to Section 33812.*

(c) *"Final Imperial Streams Salton Sea and Tributaries Feasibility Study" means the study conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the State of California and the Salton Sea Authority together as joint local sponsors, pursuant to a Resolution of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, 114th Congress, 2nd Session (April 28, 2016).*

(d) *"Fund" means the Salton Sea Conservancy Fund established pursuant to Section 33825.*

(e) *"Local public agency" includes, but is not limited to, a city, county, city and county, district, association of governments, or joint powers authority.*

(f) *"Long-Range Plan" means the plan prepared by the Salton Sea Management Program to comply with State Water Resources Control Board Order (revised) WR 2017-01342002-0013. The plan must be consistent with the requirements of the order and the Salton Sea Restoration Act established pursuant to Chapter 13 (commencing with Section 2930) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code, including the objectives set forth in subdivision (c) of Section 2931 of the Fish and Game Code.*

(g) *"Nonprofit organization" means a private, nonprofit organization that qualifies for tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the Internal Revenue Code.*

(h) *"Quantification Settlement Agreement" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 1 of Chapter 617 of the Statutes of 2002.*

(i) *"Region" or "Salton Sea region" means the geographic boundaries of the Salton Sea ecosystem, as described in subdivision (d) of Section 2931 of the Fish and Game Code.*

(j) *"Salton Sea Authority" has the same meaning as subdivision (d) of Section 2941 of the Fish and Game Code.*

(k) *"Salton Sea Management Program" means the Natural Resources Agency, the Department of Water Resources, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife working under the direction of the Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy to carry out the terms of State Water Resources Control Board Order WR 2017-0134.*

(l) *"Salton Sea Management Program Phase I: 10-Year Plan" means the plan for action over the 10-year period from 2018 to 2028. The plan's goal is to improve conditions around the Salton Sea by constructing projects that create habitat and reduce dust from exposed lakebed on 30,000 acres.*

(m) "Tribe" means any federally recognized Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized Native American tribe.

CHAPTER 3. Salton Sea Conservancy

33812. (a) The Salton Sea Conservancy is hereby created as a state agency within the Natural Resources Agency for all of the following purposes:

(1) To oversee the operation, maintenance, and management of projects that are planned and built under the authority of the Salton Sea Management Program to fulfill the state's obligations as detailed in State Water Resources Control Board Order WR 2017-0134.

(2) To acquire, hold, and manage land or property rights within the Salton Sea region after restoration projects are built.

(3) To provide increased opportunities for equitable outdoor recreation.

(4) To undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

(5) To assist the regional economy through the operation of the conservancy's program.

(6) To support efforts that advance both environmental preservation and the economic well-being of Salton Sea region residents in a complementary manner.

(7) To support efforts that advance climate resiliency and equity.

(8) To create a public forum for discussing ongoing land management and other relevant issues within the Salton Sea region.

(b) The conservancy's jurisdiction is limited to the Salton Sea region.

33813. The conservancy shall carry out programs, projects, and activities to further the conservancy's purposes specified in Section 33812. This may include any one, any combination, or all 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 that enhance beneficial uses, promote public health and recreational uses, and improve the operational efficiency of the completed projects.

(d) Identifying and working to resolve any barriers or impediments to progress, including capacity or organizational deficiencies.

CHAPTER 4. Governing Board

33814. (a) By January 1, 2026, the conservancy shall be governed by a board of directors.

(1) The board shall consist of 15 voting members appointed as follows:

(A) Two public members appointed by the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate, who are not elected officials and who reside within the conservancy's territory.

(B) One public member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly, who is not an elected official and who resides within the conservancy's territory.

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

(D) One member who is appointed by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and a resident of that county, or their designee.

(E) One member who is appointed by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors and is a resident of that county, or their designee.

(F) One member who is appointed by the Coachella Valley Water District and resides within the district's boundaries, or their designee.

(G) One member who is appointed by the Imperial Irrigation District and resides within the district's boundaries, or their designee.

(H) One member who is appointed by the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, or their designee.

(I) One representative of a nongovernmental organization focused on environmental justice work in the region appointed by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.

(J) One representative of a nongovernmental organization focused on fish and wildlife habitat work in the region appointed by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.

(K) The Director of Finance, or the director's designee.

(L) The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, or the secretary's designee.

(M) The Director of Fish and Wildlife, or the director's designee.

(N) The Director of Water Resources, or the director's designee.

(2) The board shall also consist of six ex officio nonvoting members designated as follows:

(A) The Secretary for Environmental Protection, or the secretary's designee.

(B) The Chairperson of the State Water Resources Control Board, or the chairperson's designee.

(C) One representative of the United States Bureau of Land Management, designated by the United States Secretary of the Interior.

(D) One representative of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, designated by the United States Secretary of the Interior.

(E) One representative of the federal Bureau of Reclamation, designated by the United States Secretary of the Interior.

(F) One representative of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, designated by the United States Department of Defense.

(b) The local agencies specified in subparagraphs (D) to (G), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) shall ensure that one of the appointed members of those agencies is the president of the Salton Sea Authority, so that the president of the Salton Sea Authority is always represented on the board.

(c) The public members appointed by the Governor, the Senate Committee on Rules, and the Speaker of the Assembly, and the representatives of nongovernmental organizations appointed by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, shall each serve a four-year term.

(d) The locally appointed members specified in subparagraphs (D) to (G), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing board of supervisors or water or irrigation district.

(e) The tribal representative shall serve at the pleasure of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.

33815. *The Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency shall serve as the chairperson of the board and the president of the Salton Sea Authority shall serve as the vice chairperson of the board.*

33816. *A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of the conservancy. The board shall not transact the business of the conservancy if a quorum is not present at the time a vote is taken. A decision of the board requires an affirmative vote of five of the voting membership, and the vote is binding with respect to all matters acted on by the conservancy.*

33817. *The board shall adopt rules and procedures for the conduct of business by the conservancy.*

33818. *The board may establish advisory boards or committees, hold community meetings, and engage in public outreach.*

33819. *The board shall maintain a headquarters office within the Salton Sea region. The conservancy may rent or own real and personal property and equipment pursuant to applicable statutes and regulations.*

33820. *(a) The board shall determine the qualifications of, and shall appoint, an executive officer of the conservancy, who shall be exempt from civil service. The board shall employ other staff as necessary to execute*

the powers and functions provided for in this division.

(b) Within two years of hiring an executive officer, the board shall prepare and adopt a strategic plan to achieve the goals of the conservancy, consistent with Sections 33812 and 33813. The strategic plan shall describe its interaction with local, regional, state, and federal agencies and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. The strategic plan shall establish priorities and criteria for ongoing and long-term operations, maintenance, and management of projects that are planned and built under the authority of the Salton Sea Management Program to fulfill the state's obligations as detailed in State Water Resources Control Board Order WR 2017-0134 based upon an assessment of project requirements, institutional capabilities, and funding needs throughout the Salton Sea region. The strategic plan shall be consistent with the Salton Sea Management Plan, the Long-Range Plan, and the final Imperial Streams Salton Sea and Tributaries Feasibility Study, and shall outline a plan that avoids any duplication of roles between the conservancy, the Salton Sea Management Program, and the Salton Sea Authority.

33821. The board may enter into contracts with private entities and public agencies to procure consulting and other services necessary to achieve the purposes of this division.

33822. The conservancy's expenses for support and administration may be paid from the conservancy's operating budget and any other funding sources available to the conservancy.

33823. The board shall conduct business in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code).

33824. The board shall hold its regular meetings within the Salton Sea region.

CHAPTER 5. Powers, Duties, and Limitations

33825. The Salton Sea Conservancy Fund is hereby created in the State Treasury. Moneys in the fund, including authorized proceeds from the sale of bonds and allocations from the Salton Sea Lithium Fund pursuant to Section 2951 of the Fish and Game Code, shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, only for the purposes of this division.

33826. The conservancy may engage in partnerships with nonprofit organizations, local public agencies, including the Salton Sea Authority, and landowners.

33827. In implementing this division, the conservancy shall cooperate and consult with the city or county in which a grant is proposed to be expended or an interest in real property is proposed to be acquired, and shall, as necessary or appropriate, coordinate its efforts with the Salton Sea Authority, and with other state agencies, in cooperation with the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency.

33828. (a) The conservancy may require a grantee to enter into an agreement with the conservancy on terms and conditions specified by the conservancy.

(b) The conservancy may require a cost-share or local funding requirement for a grant. The conservancy may make that cost-share or local funding requirement contingent upon the total amount of funding available, the fiscal resources of the applicant, or the urgency of the project. The conservancy may waive cost-share requirements.

(c) The conservancy may fund or award grants for plans and feasibility studies consistent with its plans.

(d) The conservancy may seek repayment or reimbursement of funds granted on terms and conditions it deems appropriate. The proceeds of repayment shall be deposited in the fund.

(e) The conservancy may require any funds that exceed the costs of eligible or approved projects or of acquisition to be returned to the conservancy, to be available for expenditure when appropriated by the Legislature.

(f) The conservancy may award grant funds to state agencies, local public agencies, tribes, and nonprofit organizations to further the purposes of this division.

33829. (a) The conservancy may provide grants and loans to state agencies, local public agencies, tribes, and nonprofit organizations to further the purposes of this division.

(b) An entity applying for a grant from the conservancy to acquire an interest in real property shall specify all of the following in the grant application:

(1) The intended use of the property.

(2) The manner in which the land will be managed.

(3) How the cost of ongoing operations, maintenance, and management will be provided, including an analysis of the maintaining entity's financial capacity to support those ongoing costs.

33830. *The conservancy may sue and be sued.*

33831. *The conservancy may acquire from willing sellers or transferors interests in real property and improve, lease, or transfer interests in real property, in order to carry out the purposes of this division.*

33832. *The conservancy may enter into an agreement with a public agency, nonprofit organization, or private entity for the construction, management, or maintenance of facilities authorized by the conservancy.*

33833. *The conservancy shall not exercise the power of eminent domain.*

33834. *(a) The conservancy may pursue and accept funds from various sources, including, but not limited to, federal, state, and local funds or grants, gifts, donations, bequests, devises, subventions, grants, rents, royalties, or other assistance and funds from public and private sources.*

(b) The conservancy may accept fees levied by others.

(c) The conservancy may create and manage endowments.

(d) All funds received by the conservancy shall be deposited in the fund for expenditure for the purposes of this division.

33835. *Notwithstanding Section 10231.5 of the Government Code, on or before January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the conservancy shall prepare and submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature, pursuant to Section 9795 of the Government Code, on its implementation of Sections 33812 and 33813, including, but not limited to, all of the following:*

(a) A schedule of projects undertaken by the conservancy and a schedule of grants and loans made by the conservancy.

(b) A schedule of grants awarded to the conservancy and the disposition of the funds granted.

(c) The disposition of the funds appropriated to the conservancy in the fiscal year preceding the year in which the report is made.

(d) A detailed workplan for the upcoming year that identifies projects for delivery, objectives, major tasks, and expected completion dates.

(e) An identification of additional funding, legislation, or other resources required that would more effectively enable the conservancy or local governments to carry out the purposes of this division.

33836. *(a) The conservancy may expend funds and award grants and loans to develop projects and programs that are designed to further the purposes of this division.*

(b) The conservancy may provide and make available technical information, expertise, and other nonfinancial assistance to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and tribal organizations, to support program and project development and implementation.

33837. *Nothing in this chapter shall limit or alter either of the following:*

(a) The state's obligations to the Salton Sea as identified in any state plan or contractual commitment related to the management of the Salton Sea, including the Salton Sea Management Plan, the Long-Range Plan, the Quantification Settlement Agreement, and all related agreements and laws, or an applicable State Water Resources Control Board order, including Orders WRO 2002-0013 and WR 2017-0134 and orders issued on or after January 1, 2023.

(b) The state's required consultation and coordination of restoration projects with the Salton Sea Authority pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 2940) of Chapter 13 of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code.

SEC. 2. *If the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.*

January 2024

January 2024							February 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	1	2	3
14	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29		
	29	30	31										

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 31	Jan 1, 24	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Imperial County BOS Chamber)	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3

February 2024

February 2024							March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3						1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Coachella Valley Water District)	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2

March 2024

March 2024							April 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
31													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 25	26	27	28	29	Mar 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Imperial County BOS)	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6

April 2024

April 2024							May 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	1	2	3	4
14	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Coachella Valley Water District)	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4

May 2024

May 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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12	13	14	8	9	10	11
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June 2024						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	15
23	24	25	26	27	28	22
30						29

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Imperial County BOS Chamber)	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1

June 2024

June 2024							July 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1		1	2	3	4	5	6
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
30													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 26	27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Coachella Valley)	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	Jul 1	2	3	4	5	6

July 2024

July 2024							August 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	1	2	3
14	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 30	Jul 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Imperial County BOS Chamber)	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2	3

August 2024

August 2024							September 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
							29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 28	29	30	31	Aug 1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Coachella Valley Water District)	16	17
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September 2024

September 2024						
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October 2024						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Imperial County BOS Chamber)	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4	5

October 2024

October 2024							November 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Coachella Valley Water District)	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2

November 2024

November 2024							December 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Imperial County BOS Chamber)	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024

December 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 10:00am Proposed Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting (Coachella Valley Water District)	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Jan 1, 25	2	3	4



TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
FROM: Oracio Gonzalez, Ollin Strategies
DATE: September 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 September 14, 2023, the State legislature adjourned for the remainder of the year. Prior to adjourning, the Assembly and Senate committees on Appropriations moved to "hold" the two climate bonds moving through the legislature, AB 1567 by Assemblymember Garcia and SB 867 by Senator Allen. In holding the measures, which effectively kills them for the year, the committees' noted that this action was taken "without prejudice," meaning the hold would not carry over into the next year. The decision to hold the bonds was driven by a desire to limit the number of bonds going on the March ballot, which was already slated to have the Governor's \$4.6 billion behavior health services bond.

While it is expected that both climate bond proposals will be reintroduced when the legislature reconvenes in January 2024, it is unclear if the bonds will put before voters in November 2024 or a later election.

As noted in a previous report, as part of the state budget enacted in June, the legislature reduced the magnitude of Salton Sea restoration funds that the Governor proposed to "shift" to a general obligation bond from \$169 million to \$119 million. Specifically, the legislature voted to restore \$50 million of the \$80 million the Governor had proposed to invest in the Salton Sea as part of his January 2023 budget proposal. The final budget adopted and signed by the Governor did, however, continue its "shift" of \$89 million in Salton Sea restoration dollars enacted as part of 2022 state budget, for total "shift" of \$119 million.

It is anticipated that both Assemblymember Garcia and Senator Allen will, at a minimum, move to reintroduce their bonds with amounts mirroring those included in the final version of their respective bond proposals. For reference, below are the amounts each proposal included for the Salton Sea.

- AB 1567 (Garcia), would have placed a \$15.9 billion general bond before voters on March 5, 2024. Of this amount, \$400 million is proposed for the Salton Sea, consisting

of \$119 million in “shifted” funds and \$281 million in new dollars for Salton Sea restoration. Of these funds, the bond would set aside \$30 million for the Salton Sea Authority. Separately, 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 on March 5, 2024. As proposed, the measure included \$100 million for Salton Sea restoration activities.

Legislative

On September 11, 2023, Senator Padilla announced that he would be holding SB 583, his legislation creating a Salton Sea Conservancy, on the floor of the Senate as a two-year bill given ongoing negotiations with the Governor. Prior to this announcement, the Assembly Appropriations moved to amend the measure with language that changed the conservancy’s scope in two key areas. First, the committee stripped the conservancy of its power to implement projects under the Salton Sea Management Plan. Instead, the conservancy would now be limited to taking ownership of projects after they are completed by the state pursuant to the Salton Sea Management Plan. The language, in italics, is included below for reference.

33812.

(a) The Salton Sea Conservancy is hereby created as a state agency within the Natural Resources Agency for all of the following purposes:

“(1) To oversee the operation, maintenance, and management of projects that are planned and built under the authority of the Salton Sea Management Program to fulfill the state’s obligations as detailed in State Water Resources Control Board Order WR 2017-0134.

(2) To acquire, hold, and manage land or property rights within the Salton Sea region after restoration projects are built.”

This language reflects the amendment requested by the Authority in its June 11, 2023 letter to the Senator noting: “we respectfully request that you further refine the conservancy’s scope to the operation and maintenance of projects completed under the SSMP, the Long-Range Plan and the ongoing Imperial Streams Salton Sea and Tributaries Feasibility Study the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting in partnership with the State and the Authority.”

With the Conservancy now limited to management of projects after they are completed pursuant to the Salton Sea Management Plan, the Authority’s role under AB 71 and the requirement that the state coordinate and consult with the Authority on implementation of mitigation projects, should come back into force.

In addition to the language restricting the conservancy to management of mitigation projects after they are completed, additional language was added that enables the conservancy to engage

in several activities that may lead to duplication of activities the Authority is currently pursuing. Specifically, the conservancy is authorized to:

- “(3) To provide increased opportunities for equitable outdoor recreation.*
- (4) To undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.*
- (5) To assist the regional economy through the operation of the conservancy’s program.*
- (6) To support efforts that advance both environmental preservation and the economic well-being of Salton Sea region residents in a complementary manner.*
- (7) To support efforts that advance climate resiliency and equity.*
- (8) To create a public forum for discussing ongoing land management and other relevant issues within the Salton Sea region.”*

Several of these activities, for example supporting the economic well-being of the Salton Sea region or serving as a public forum for Salton Sea issues, are presently being undertaken by the Authority. That said, language was left in another part of the bill that may restrict those instances where duplication may take place. For example, under 33820(b), the conservancy is required to develop a strategic plan that will govern how it operates including avoiding “any duplication of roles between the conservancy, the Salton Sea Management Program, and the Salton Sea Authority.”

The final amendments to the conservancy measure included expanding the board to 15 voting members, with the transfer of the Director of Fish and Wildlife and the Director of the Water Resources from ex officio members to voting members. The Secretary of CalEPA was added as an ex officio member.

In terms of timing, the bill only has one more vote, the State Senate, before it clears the legislature and is sent to the Governor, and that can happen as early as January 2024. Based on what we have gathered, the Governor’s main objection to the measure was that he wanted to see a funding mechanism identified. With the climate bonds having been placed on hold for the year, the conservancy lacked a clear funding mechanism as it no longer had access to the \$15 million set aside in Mr. Garcia’s bond proposal. As noted, both bond proposals are expected to move forward next year and, assuming the funds for the conservancy are maintained, that should address the Governor’s main concern.

September 15, 2023

Michael Cohen
Senior Associate
Pacific Institute

Frank Ruiz
Salton Sea Program Manager
Audubon California

Mariela Loera
ECV Regional Policy Manager
Leadership Counsel for Justice and
Accountability

Dr. Ryan Sinclair
Associate Professor of Environmental
Microbiology
Loma Linda University School of Public Health

Aydee Palomino
Environmental Justice Project Manager
Alianza Coachella Valley

Erin Woolley
Senior Policy Strategist
Sierra Club California

via email

RE: North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project water supply & impacts

Dear Mr. Cohen, Ms. Loera, Ms. Palomino, Mr. Ruiz, Dr. Sinclair and Ms. Woolley:

On behalf of the California Natural Resources Agency and the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP), the County of Riverside (County), and the Salton Sea Authority (SSA), we thank you for your letter. We hear your concerns regarding the challenges related to securing water supply for the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project (NLPDP), potential challenges associated with the use of drain water for the project, and the opportunities for recreational access. We hope that this letter will provide assurance that we have explored all water supply options for the project, will diligently review potential impacts related to the use of drain water and are working on incorporating associated recreational features to increase project benefits.

Water Supply

Identifying and securing water supply for the project has been a foundational task since the onset of project planning. We evaluated surface water, groundwater, drain water, Salton Sea water, and a combination of water supply options as is reflected in the attached Water Supply Assessment Matrix. Surface water via the Coachella Canal was initially the preferred water supply option for the project. Unfortunately, after consultation with the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) regarding water rights, water supply options that utilize Colorado River water or contractually non-Colorado River water via transfer or exchange agreements were deemed ineligible for this project. Also, as part of our conversations with CVWD, groundwater from the Indio groundwater subbasin was also deemed an insufficient source of water because it is a highly managed groundwater basin that is subject to the state's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) as a medium priority basin and is regulated by CVWD's Coachella Valley Groundwater Management Plan. After the completion of the Water Supply Assessment Matrix evaluation, an updated preferred water supply option was selected for further evaluation and that was a blend of groundwater from the adjacent Orocopia Valley and/or Chocolate Valley groundwater basins with drain water. Two technical memorandums, one on groundwater and another on drain water, were prepared to evaluate these water supply options. These reports are also attached. The groundwater technical memorandum found insufficient groundwater data is available for

the Orocopia Valley and Chocolate Valley basins and based on information from another region in the state with similar hydrological conditions, the water supply is not adequate for this project. With further evaluation and testing, groundwater could be available as a supplemental source of water. The drain water technical report analyzed flow data from tile drains east of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. This report found that there is enough drain water for the NLPDP. This report also includes an evaluation of three proposed pipeline alignments to capture and convey drain water to the project. However, more information is needed to determine water quality and impacts to downstream emergent wetland habitat. The drain water technical memorandum is currently in the process of being updated to address these considerations.

Water Quality

The SSMP is coordinating with CVWD on water quality monitoring and sampling. This information will be shared with the Salton Sea Authority and the County of Riverside to inform the development of the NLPDP and the recreational potential on the lake. Until that information is gathered and analyzed, the recreational opportunities within and on the lake are unknown.

Evaluation of Environmental Impact

Dudek, a consultant to the County, is in the process of updating the technical memorandum on drain water to include an assessment of water supply needs for the emergent wetland habitat. After this assessment is prepared, it will be reviewed by the SSMP. This information will inform planning for drain water collection; including identifying an alignment that prevents or reduces impacts to emergent wetland habitat as well as an evaluation of the number of drains and the percentage of flow needed and available for diversion. Environmental surveys and assessments will also occur. These include bird and fish surveys, wetland delineations, cultural and archeological surveys, and other federal, state, and local compliance requirements. Collectively, these efforts will assist the SSMP, SSA and the County to identify avoidance areas and mitigation requirements.

Recreational Access

The County agrees with your assessment of being more consistent with the outreach and collaborating with the local communities to inform the design and development of this project. The team has held two community outreach meetings and is currently planning its third.

Thank you for your support of the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project. We appreciate your offer to support this project as it advances through the planning process and into project implementation. We look forward to collaborating with all of you.

Sincerely,

Samantha Arthur
Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy
California Natural Resources Agency

G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director / General Manager
Salton Sea Authority

Juan Perez
Chief Operating Officer
County of Riverside