

# Desert Shores Channels Restoration Project

Community Planning Session  
March 19, 2024



# MEETING RULES

1. Treat all meeting participants with the same respect you would want from them.
2. Be patient when listening to others speak and do not interrupt them.
3. Stay open to new ways of doing things and listen for the future to emerge.
4. It's OK to disagree, respectfully and openly, without being disagreeable.
5. Respect the groups' time and keep comments brief and to the point.

# AGENDA

1. Gafcon Introduction
2. Purpose of the Community Planning
3. Current Project Description
4. Community Discussion
  - Discussion Topics
  - Breakout Group Session
  - Open Forum
  - Prioritization of Results
  - Wrap Up
5. Next Planning Sessions

# 1 Gafcon Introduction





We deliver complex projects that power vibrant communities.



# GAFCON'S TASKS

## Desert Shores Channels Restoration Project (The Project)

- Perform Project Assessment
- Conduct Community Planning Meetings
- Develop a Project Charter and Scope
- Create a Project Schedule
- Estimate a Project Budget
- Identify Risks and Recommended Responses
- Completion Date: May 24, 2024

# 2 Purpose of the Community Planning



# PURPOSE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING MEETINGS

A collaborative planning process that harnesses the talents and energies of all interested parties to create and support a master plan that represents transformative and sustainable community change.

This includes:

- Discussion about challenges and solutions
- Intense period of a creative thinking over a short period of time to move a project forward
- A process provide a feasible plan, and help create a project that can be completed and sustained over the long term



# Community Planning Process

**Vision & Input**  
Prioritize issues,  
develop recommendations  
for a substantiable project

**Refine Plans**  
Outline strengths, challenges,  
recommendations, and actions

**Preparation of  
Final Document**



March 19<sup>th</sup>

April 2<sup>nd</sup>

End of April

**Preferred  
Plans**

**Plan  
Development**

# 3 Current Project Description



# DESERT SHORES CHANNELS

2002



2014



2018



2023



*Historical Photos from Google Earth*

## SOME PROJECT GOALS INCLUDE:

- Place a berm at the mouth of the Desert Shores' channels
- Pump groundwater to refill and sustain the channels
- Work toward higher quality channels water source for wildlife habitat and recreation
- Create and maintain a high-quality habitat for birds, fish, and people

*\*As identified by the EcoMedia Compass, a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing environmental awareness and solutions to the Salton Sea*

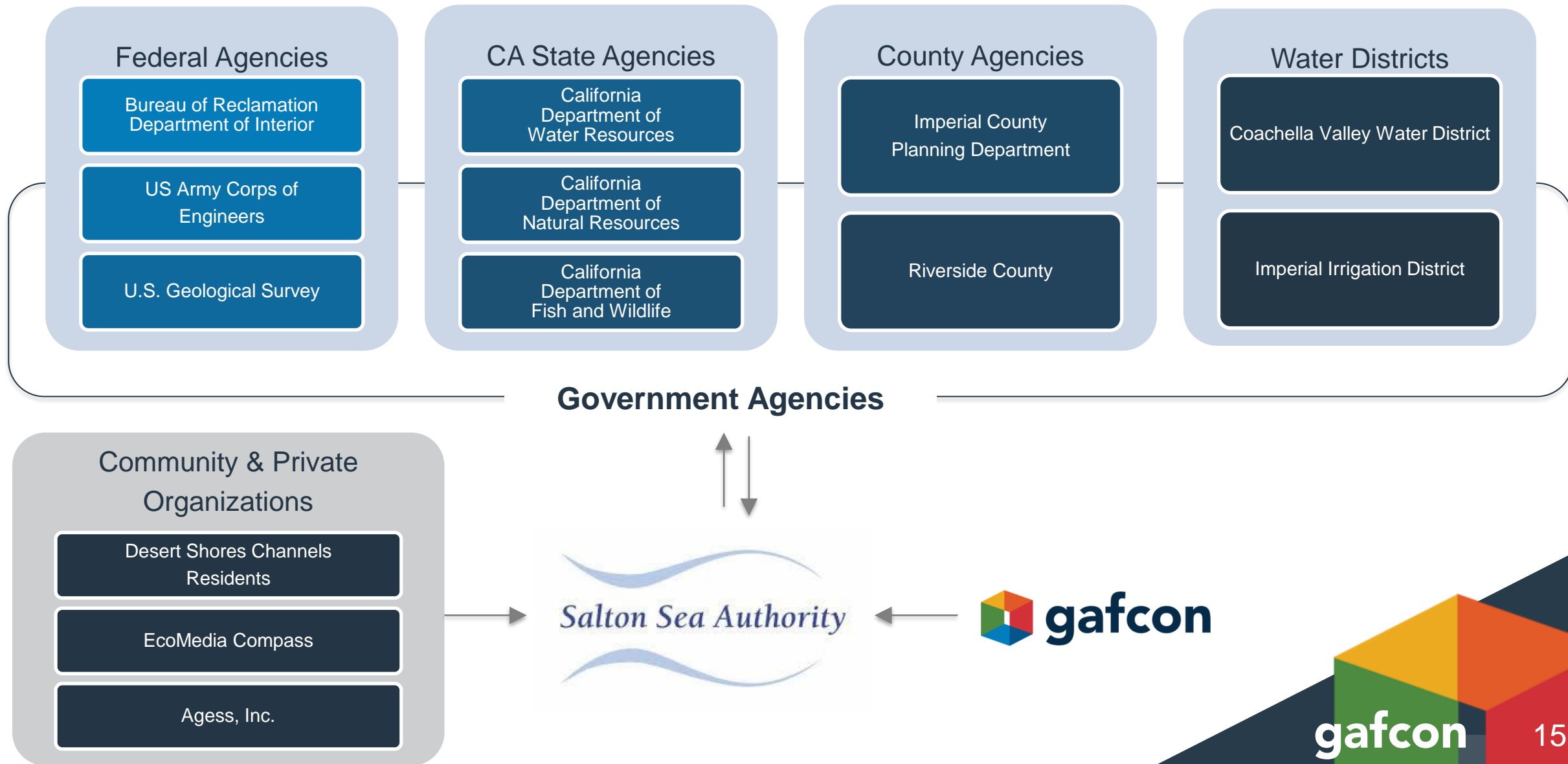
## **ADDITIONAL PROJECT GOALS MAY INCLUDE:**

- Sustained, thriving, native trees and vegetation
- Maintaining safe access to the Salton Sea for small boats and beach-goers
- Building amenities for shade and view enjoyment
- Plan for a Salton Sea Restoration Center (if funding is available)
- A separate work plan to implement the 2024 Salton Sea Management Program & Community Needs Study

## **GAFCON HAS IDENTIFIED TWO OTHER PROJECT GOALS:**

- To ensure that the intent of the Project program is properly budgeted to allow the stakeholders to make informed decisions related to the design and amenities
- To ensure that the Project meets its agreed-upon goals and is substantiable in perpetuity from a cost, operation and maintenance standpoint

# STAKEHOLDERS



# 4 Community Discussion





# DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Discussion topics are related to:
  - Design
  - Long term sustainability
- Breakout groups will discuss the topic questions, ideas and solutions
- Open forum will discuss the results from the breakout groups
- Prioritization of results
- Conclusion and wrap up

# DISCUSSION GROUP QUESTIONS

## Design

1. Should the public have the access to the channels? If so, what is the preferred access?
2. How important is landscaping, trees and fauna to the Project?
3. Would you prioritize trails and seating areas and other community/public amenities?
4. Should docks be permitted on the channels?
5. Will non-motorized watercrafts (kayaks, rowboats, etc.) be allowed within the channels?
6. How would you prioritize amenities such as walking trails, ramadas, fire pits, kids play area, etc.?

## Long Term Sustainability

1. Do you anticipate that the Project will be maintained with the same water level in perpetuity?
2. Who should be responsible for managing the annual maintenance and operations costs of the Project?
3. Are you willing to pay additional assessment for the maintenance and operations of the Project?
4. If there aren't enough funds to replenish, maintain and sustain the Project, what alternatives would you consider? For example, a reduced or alternative water area, enhanced landscape areas, other ideas?

# SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION GROUP RESULTS

- Prioritization
  - Design Elements
  - Long-Term Sustainability
- Next Steps

# 5 Next Planning Sessions

- Location:  
**VFW Post 3251**
- Address:  
**50 Desert Shores Drive, Thermal, CA 92274**
- Dates:  
**Session 2: Tuesday, April 2, 2024**  
**Session 3: End of April (TBD)**
- Time:  
**6-9 pm**



A scenic landscape featuring a wide river in the foreground, a small village with colorful buildings in the middle ground, and a range of rugged mountains in the background. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text is overlaid in white on a semi-transparent dark blue background.

**Thank you  
for your participation!**  
**YOUR VOICE MATTERS.**