



AGENDA: **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
DATE: **Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.**
LOCATION: **Coachella Valley Water District**
Steve Robbins Admin Bldg.
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260

The following Salton Sea Authority Directors will be attending remotely via video/teleconference from the location(s) indicated:

Director Luis Plancarte
 Imperial County
 940 W Main Street, Suite 209
 El Centro, CA 92243

Remote viewing and participation for this meeting is accessible at:
<http://www.SaltonSea.com/meetings>

I. CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

A copy of the agenda and supplemental materials will be available for viewing or download from [SaltonSea.com/meetings](http://www.SaltonSea.com/meetings)

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This Public Comments time is reserved for commenting on any item not on the agenda. California law prohibits members of the Board from taking action on matters not on the agenda.

Members of the public may address the Board regarding any matter within the Authority’s jurisdiction but are asked to speak to any specific item on the agenda at the time it is called.

Speakers should state their name for the record and address all comments to the Chair, limiting remarks to three (3) minutes.

In person attendees should complete a “request to speak” form and provide it to the Clerk of the Board. Remote speakers must use Zoom’s “raised hand” feature (or if by phone, press *9) to be recognized.

Written comments may be emailed to **info@saltonsea.com**, or delivered by hand or mail to 82500 Highway 111, Suite 4, Indio, California, “Attn: Clerk of the Board, Salton Sea Authority”. Please include “Public Comment, 6/20/2024 Board meeting” in the subject

line, and also include your name and address (addresses will be redacted), referencing the specific agenda item if appropriate.

All written comments will be distributed to the Board, posted on **SaltonSea.com** for public viewing and, **if received before noon on Wednesday, June 19**, will be publicly acknowledged during the Board meeting. (Written comments will be included in the public record but not be read aloud.)

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

This time is set aside for members of the Board to share thoughts and concerns regarding general Authority matters not on the agenda, ask questions of staff, and request items to 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 allow for public discourse.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
 - 1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting May 16, 2024
 - 2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for May 31, 2024
 - 3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for April 30, 2024
 - 4. Brown Act Compliance –establishing a quorum
 - 5. Revised Board Meeting Schedule for Remainder of 2024

- B. State Legislative Update – Status of Climate Resiliency Bond

- C. USACE Feasibility Study Update

- D. Project Updates
 - a. North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project
 - b. Desert Shores
 - c. Bombay Beach

- E. Consideration of Appointments for FY 2024-2025 Officers for the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors (effective July 1, 2024)
 - a. Election of President of Board
 - b. Election of Vice-President of Board
 - c. Election of Secretary of Board
 - d. Election of Treasurer of Board

- F. Consider Approval of Resolution Updating Signatories on Authority’s bank account at Pacific Western Bank

V. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation
2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Jeremy Brooks

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 – Enrique Arroyo, District Superintendent, California State Parks

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee – Alan Pace, SSAC President

D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments - 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, July 18, 2024, at 10:00a.m.
Imperial County BOS Chamber
940 West Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
442-265-1020

Any public record, relating to an open session agenda item, that is distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting is available for public inspection in the lobby at the front desk of the County Law Building located at 82995 Highway 111, Indio, CA 92201.



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 16, 2024**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by Chair Santillanes, at 10:13 a.m., May 16, 2024, at Imperial County BOS Chamber and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Secretary Dockstader

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

Altrena Santillanes, President
Gina Dockstader, Secretary
Ryan E. Kelley, Director

AGENCY

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Imperial Irrigation District
Imperial County

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Ex-Officio Samantha Arthur

AGENCY

California Natural Resources Agency

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Thomas Tortez, Director
Yxstian Gutierrez, Treasurer
V. Manuel Perez, Director
Luis A. Plancarte, Director
Alex Cárdenas, Director
John Aguilar, Director
Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice-President

AGENCY

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Riverside County
Riverside County
Imperial County
Imperial Irrigation District
Coachella Valley Water District
Coachella Valley Water District

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: Jessica Humes, IID, Brian Schmid, Formation, Vickie Doyle, IID, Trina Hamby, EHD, Felipe Vega, EHD plus 22 others.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No Board Comments

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting April 18, 2024
 2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for April 30, 2024
 3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for March 31, 2024

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

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: President Santillanes, Secretary Dockstader and Director Kelley.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: Directors Tortez, Aguilar, Cardenas, Estrada, Plancarte, Perez, Gutierrez

ABSTAINED: 0

MOTION PASSED: 3-0

- B. USACE Feasibility Study – Update and Next Steps. Executive Director O’Dowd gave a brief update. The Corp published it’s 2024 workplan, which included an additional \$3.878MM. Lisa Moore of Cultivating Conservation went over the process it took to get to this point, noting that in the end we were the largest recipient of new money under the Corps workplan.
- C. State of California Budget Update. Oracio Gonzales of Ollin Strategies gave a brief update. May revise, rather dire. State is facing a \$27B dollar deficit, must be addressed in its entirety by June 15. Significant proposed cuts will reduce pressure on the general funds. With respect to the Salton Sea, the governor proposed that rather than have the \$65.8MM come out of General Fund, is being shifted to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds. This fund collects proceeds from the states Cap and Trade program. It would be very helpful to support and provide comments to make sure these dollars stay in the budget. Tom Sephton commented.
- D. Annual Emissions Estimate and Dust Control Plan presentation; Update on IID Projects – Jessica Humes, Environmental Project Manager, Sr., IID. Jessica Humes gave a presentation on the QSA agreement, Joint Powers Authority and the SSMP. Jessica introduced Brian Schmid of Formation Environmental. He has been working with IID since 2005, in 2015/16 is when they started developing the Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program. Brian gave a presentation on when and where dust suppressions occur, proactively detect,

locate, assess, and identify options to mitigate dust emissions from exposed Salton Sea Playa. At the end of the year, they publish an annual PN10 Emission Estimate, which they provided to the IID Board last month. Executive Director O'Dowd Secretary Dockstader commented.

E. UCR work on Health, Safety, and mitigation strategies; Preview upcoming Salton Sea Summit - Will Porter, UCR (invited). Will Porter gave update on the Salton Sea Summit being held, October 18-19 at UC Riverside/Palm Desert Campus. He also shared a presentation on PM categorizations used to inform health outcome analysis. Using hospital data, they used 5 zip codes within 5 kilometers of each station where they are being exposed, they also conducted a 1 year in-home testing with 15 participants/families. Secretary Dockstader commented.

F. Project Updates

1. North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project. Riverside County and the Authority are working through the recently developed Geotechnical analysis and a revised budget. Will be discussing with Secretary Crowfoot and the State to evaluate findings and moving project forward.
2. Desert Shores. Gafcon is working with Imperial County and the community. They are looking to finalize a revised estimate of the project and working with the Bureau of Reclamation for their consideration of additional funding.

3. Bombay Beach. No report.

V. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation gave her report during item IV.B.
2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Jeremy Brooks – No Report

B. State

1. State Advocacy Report – Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies gave his report during item IV.C.
2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency gave a brief update on community meetings to prep for the state workshop being held in Sacramento, and the SSAC Salton Sea bus tour.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Cassandra Van Dyne, State Park Interpreter, California State Parks gave a brief update. 774 vehicles came through the state park, 221 campers and 1,912 came to the visitor’s center. They have ongoing partnerships with Aspire-Imperial County Bombay Arts and Cultural Nature Club.

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee – Juan DeLara, SSAC gave a brief update on the SSAC Salton Sea bus tour. There may be another tour in June if weather permits.

- D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments - G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority commented on the SSAC Salton Sea Bus Tour, it took a lot of collaboration to put this together. He will be presenting at the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and will be on 2 committees, the local projects and the feasibility study. Samantha Arthur asked to confirm the Authority’s Summer schedule.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority board is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 10:00a.m.
Coachella Valley Water District
Steve Robbins Administration Bldg.
75515 Hovley Lane, East
Palm Desert, CA 92260

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Salton Sea Authority
Checking Account Activity
May 1, 2024 through May 31, 2024

Date	Number	Vendor Name	Description	Amount
05/01/2024	7193391	Cruz, Israel	Check 11/23 voided 05/24 and reissued 06/24	305.56
05/01/2024	7484810	County of Imperial	Check 02/24 voided 05/24 and reissued 06/24	417.21
05/13/2024	EFT	Pacific Western Bank	Visa billing cycle ended 04/24	(4,268.03)
05/15/2024	Deposit	Department of Water Resources	North Lake grant reimbursement for period ended 12/23	60,228.61
05/24/2024	ACH	Lisa Bravata	Mileage and miscellaneous office expenses 05/24	(139.36)
05/29/2024	ACH	County of Riverside	North Lake grant reimbursement for period ended 12/23	(58,433.09)
05/29/2024	ACH	Ollin Strategies	Consulting services 05/24	(7,000.00)
05/29/2024	ACH	Best, Best & Krieger	Legal services 04/24	(2,346.00)
05/29/2024	ACH	SystemGo IT LLC	Website services 04/24	(1,068.50)
05/29/2024	ACH	Cultivating Conservation	Consulting services 04/24	(7,350.00)
Beginning Cash Balance \$				89,847.09
Monthly Activity				(19,653.60)
Ending Cash Balance \$				70,193.49



Salton Sea Authority Budget to Actual General Fund (Unaudited)

For the Period July 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024

	A	B	C	D	C / D	C - D
	March 2024	April 2024	YTD FY 24	Budget FY 24	YTD Target 83%	\$ Variance
1 REVENUE						
2 Local Government / Member Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 743,300	\$ 800,000	93%	\$ (56,700)
3 Other Federal / State / Local Contributions	-	-	-	25,000	0%	(25,000)
4 Sponsorships	-	-	-	25,000	0%	(25,000)
5 Grant and Other Reimbursements to General Fund	2,794	5	9,220	194,400	5%	(185,180)
6 TOTAL REVENUE	2,794	5	752,520	1,044,400	72%	(291,880)
7 EXPENSES						
8 SSA Administration						
9 Salaries & Benefits						
10 Total Salaries	16,418	16,418	178,151	309,300	58%	(131,149)
11 Total Employee Benefits	8,760	8,982	93,301	171,600	54%	(78,299)
12 Total Salaries & Benefits	25,178	25,401	271,452	480,900	56%	(209,448)
13 Contract / Professional Services						
14 DC Advocates	7,350	7,350	74,890	94,200	80%	(19,310)
15 Sacramento Advocates	7,000	7,000	70,000	88,200	79%	(18,200)
16 Attorney Fees	8,905	2,346	28,792	54,000	53%	(25,208)
17 Audit & Accounting	8,021	1,012	47,878	76,200	63%	(28,322)
18 Total Contract / Professional Services	31,275	17,708	221,560	312,600	71%	(91,040)
19 Travel/Mileage	348	(314)	16,764	40,000	42%	(23,236)
20 Equipment / IT Maintenance	382	1,069	4,507	8,300	54%	(3,794)
21 Non-capitalized Office Equipment	-	-	-	8,000	0%	(8,000)
22 Insurance	944	1,056	9,555	11,600	82%	(2,046)
23 Office Expense/Operating Supplies	100	1,640	4,527	8,700	52%	(4,173)
24 Office Expense/Online Services	193	344	3,492	4,000	87%	(508)
25 Dues, Subscriptions	676	676	7,218	10,000	72%	(2,782)
26 Operating Expenses / County Charges	157	157	4,904	7,400	66%	(2,496)
27 Board Room Usage and Recordings	-	1,192	3,580	2,400	149%	1,180
28 Interest Expense	868	-	2,056	-	N/A	2,056
29 TOTAL EXPENSES	60,121	48,927	549,614	893,900	61%	(344,286)
30 NET REVENUE / (EXPENSES)	\$ (57,328)	\$ (48,922)	\$ 202,906	\$ 150,500	135%	\$ 52,406

*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 April 30, 2024

1	ASSETS		
2	Checking/Savings	\$	119,564
4	Rent Deposits		1,250
4	Prepaid Items		18,225
5	Grants Receivable		194,207
6	TOTAL ASSETS		<u>333,246</u>
7	LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE		
8	LIABILITIES		
9	Accounts Payable		13,094
10	Credit Card Payable		4,308
11	Accrued Payroll		12,589
12	Due to Imperial County		37,491
13	Due to Riverside County		141,604
14	Accrued Vacation		51,800
15	TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>260,887</u>
16	FUND BALANCE		<u>72,359</u>
17	TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$	<u>333,246</u>

*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.

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Date: June 20, 2024

Subject: Brown Act Compliance – establishing a quorum

GENERAL:

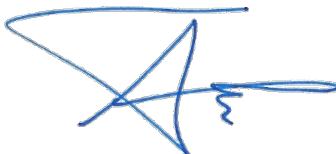
The Salton Sea Authority is a Joint Powers Agency comprised of five separate member agencies. The work of the Authority and the stakeholders who are affected by that effort span the entire region from the Mexican Border to the Banning Pass and beyond. Each member agency has its own legal jurisdiction under which it operates and from where each elected Authority board member's stakeholders reside.

In determining a quorum under the Brown Act, the Authority has long recognized the participation of members from within the respective jurisdictional boundaries of each member agency as fulfilling the requirements for meeting within the Authority jurisdiction. The purpose of this memo is to remind the board of this longstanding practice, and to reaffirm its application with respect to our continuing policy for establishing a meeting quorum.

RECOMMENDATION:

Acknowledge and file.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/GM

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Date: June 20, 2024

Subject: Revised Meeting Dates - 2024

GENERAL:

As part of the 2024/2025 budget process, staff proposed an 8-month Board meeting calendar. This proposal was driven in part to allow for targeted community engagement efforts relating to the Sea and region during the off months, either through Authority-sponsored events or via participation in activities sponsored by our partners and friends throughout the region. As a result, the remaining meetings for the current calendar year based on the revised schedule will be held in July, September, and November. No meetings will be held in August, October, or December – unless a special meeting of the Board is called.

The July and November meetings are planned to be held on the dates originally scheduled. Over the course of the past several months, staff has been enquiring about the prospect of moving the September meeting up one week, from September 19th to September 12th. The purpose of this move is to accommodate participation by staff and Board members in the National Waterways Conference, an annual gathering of key United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) leaders who are actively involved in the decision-making process associated with the often-discussed USACE feasibility study.

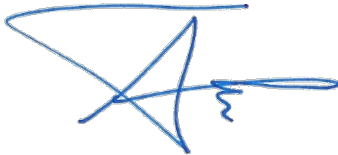
**Salton Sea Authority
2024 Schedule of Meetings**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
July 18 th	Imperial County BOS
September 12 th	Coachella Valley WD
November 14 th	Imperial County BOS

RECOMMENDATION:

Having received no objections to the date change, and having confirmed preliminarily the availability of a quorum on the revised date, staff recommends formally moving the September meeting of the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors from September 19th to September 12th.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Patrick O'Dowd', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/GM



June 17, 2024

Senator Ben Allen
1021 O Street, Room 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Monique Limon
1021 O Street, Room 6510
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator Lena Gonzalez
1021 O Street, Room 7720
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 867- Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate, Smart Agriculture, Park Creation and Outdoor Access, and Clean Energy Bond Act of 2024 – SUPPORT IF AMENDED

Dear Senators Allen, Limon and Leader Gonzalez:

We write to urge you to not allow a climate bond proposal to move forward without adequate resources to fund the state's legal and moral obligations to the Salton Sea. We understand and appreciate the pressure you are under to reduce the overall size of the bond, but ask you to please, at a minimum, mirror the Assembly's proposal to include \$240 million for the Salton Sea, with a portion of those dollars set aside for the Salton Sea Authority (Authority) to address local public health and environmental impacts associated with state and federal water conservation measures which significantly affect disadvantaged communities in our region.

The \$100 million currently being contemplated by the Senate is not even enough to cover the \$119 million the legislature voted to "shift" to the climate bond as part of last year's budget. Moreover, it is wholly inadequate to cover the state's ongoing obligations to the Salton Sea region under the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), recently adopted federal Colorado River water conservation measures, or the state's cost-share for projects that will be identified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Salton Sea Feasibility Study.

Over the past several years, the State has made progress in meeting its legal obligation to mitigate the health and environmental challenges arising from the QSA, the state facilitated transfer of water from the Imperial Irrigation District to the San Diego Water

82500 Highway 111, Suite 4
Indio, CA 92201
Phone: 760.565.3100
www.SaltonSea.com

Authority. To ensure the success of this transfer, the Legislature codified the agreement (Stats 2003, Chapters 611, 612, 613) and authorized the State to enter associated contracts to undertake the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem. That legislation provides that the State assumes “unconditional liability” to mitigate the impact of the QSA transfer on the Salton Sea and surrounding communities.

To date, the State has begun work on the Species Conservation Habitat Project, vegetation enhancement and dust suppression projects, and preliminary work on the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project. In addition, the State, in partnership with the Authority as joint local sponsors, agreed to fund half the cost of the Corps Salton Sea Feasibility Study, which when completed is expected to identify a comprehensive plan for sustainable Salton Sea restoration. Once complete, projects identified by the study will be authorized for 65% federal funding, a historic level of federal Salton Sea investment.

While we acknowledge the State’s recent progress, the Salton Sea has continued to deteriorate, outpacing the State’s ability to meet its QSA obligations. In 2017, the State Water Board issued Water Order 2017-0134 (Order) directing the State to complete annual acreage of both habitat and dust-suppression projects on 29,800 acres of exposed playa. But since the issuance of this order, the State has been unable to meet the annual acreage mandate required by the Order.

While the federal government recently committed to provide up to \$250 million to address some of the impacts from agreements which allow the Imperial Irrigation District to conserve an additional 250,000 acre feet (AF) of water, it is not anticipated that this funding will be adequate to address the impacts of both the short and long-term water conservation measures now under consideration by Reclamation and the Colorado River basin states.

In view of the State’s inability to timely meet its QSA obligations and the additional challenges posed by federal Colorado River water conservation efforts, the public health and environmental crisis facing the Salton Sea and the surrounding communities is poised to accelerate. These challenges are of a scale that cannot be addressed through piecemeal investments. While we understand the desire of policymakers to reduce the size of the bond, we submit that the challenges facing the Salton Sea quantitatively and qualitatively justify a robust investment. After all, the deterioration of the Sea is a direct result of agreements and commitments made by the State and that the State is legally obligated to uphold.


The Honorable Ben Allen et al
June 17, 2024
Page 3 of 3

Thank you for your consideration of our request as you negotiate the final legislation authorizing the bond that will be placed before voters.

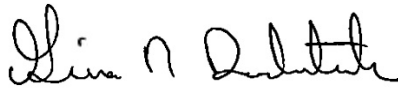
Sincerely,



Altrena Santillanes
President



Castulo Estrada
Vice President



Gina Dockstader
Secretary



Yxstian Gutierrez
Treasurer

cc:

Senator Steve Padilla
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember Lori Wilson
Grant Mack, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Samantha Arthur, Deputy Secretary for Salton Sea Policy, CNRA

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Date: June 20, 2024
Re: Election of Salton Sea Authority Officers (effective July 1, 2024)

The following guidelines are provided from the Salton Sea Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Bylaws (December 2016 update):

- 3.1 Officers: The officers of the Authority shall consist of the President, Vice-President Secretary, and Treasurer, each of whom shall be selected from the voting members of the Board of Directors.
 - 3.2 Term of Office: The term for all officers shall be one (1) year.
 - 3.3 Election of Officers: The Authority shall elect, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, its officers at its last meeting of the fiscal year, and at such other times as there may be a vacancy in any office.
 - 3.4 Rotation of Officers: It shall be a policy of the Board to encourage rotation of the offices among the Board members.
- 8.1 The fiscal year of the Authority shall be from July 1 to June 30, following.

Currently-seated officers are:

	<u>Current:</u>	<u>Agency:</u>
President	Altrena Santillanes	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Vice President	Castulo R. Estrada	Coachella Valley Water District
Secretary	Gina Dockstader	Imperial Irrigation District
Treasurer	Yxstian Gutierrez	Riverside County

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM
Date: June 20, 2024
Re: Salton Sea Authority Resolution Updating Signatories on Bank Account

BACKGROUND:

At the June 20, 2024, Salton Sea Authority (Authority) Board meeting, appointment of officers to the Board are being considered. If changes are made, this will necessitate a corresponding change in signatories on the Authority bank accounts. Banc of California requires a copy of a resolution from the Board to authorize the new signatories on Salton Sea Authority's accounts and to remove all prior signatories.

Salton Sea Authority's By-laws state that the Treasurer shall be the depository of funds. Traditionally the President, Vice-President, and Executive Director/GM have additionally been designated as signatories to ensure availability of two signatories, as required, at any given time.

The attached draft resolution includes the incoming President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the Executive Director/GM G. Patrick O'Dowd as signatories, and the removal of any others who might remain in the bank's records.

Attached please find proposed Salton Sea Authority Resolution number 24-__ for your consideration, which update the signatories to show the new President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the Executive Director/GM as signatories.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board approve attached Salton Sea Authority Resolution No. 24-__ to update the signatories on this bank account.

Respectfully submitted,



G. Patrick O'Dowd
Executive Director/GM



**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 24-__**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY DESIGNATING OFFICIALS
AUTHORIZED TO SIGN WARRANTS AND CHECKS,
TRANSFER FUNDS, AND ACCESS SAFE DEPOSIT BOX**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority (Authority), assembled in regular meeting this 20th day of June 2024, that Banc of California is instructed to honor Authority warrants or checks written or issued on accounts in the name of the Salton Sea Authority authorized or executed by any two of the following designated officials:

- _____, President
- _____, Vice-President
- _____, Treasurer
- G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/General Manager; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Banc of California is instructed to honor any transfer of funds by means of written instructions by order of any two designated officials:

- _____, President
- _____, Vice-President
- _____, Treasurer
- G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/General Manager; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all warrants and checks, and instructions to transfer funds shall adhere to the requirements of Banc of California and will be compliant with Board approved policies for funds transfers, including Procedures – Authorization for Use of Signature Stamp as amended September 21, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prior authorizations to sign warrants and checks, transfer funds and access safe deposit box(es) are hereby rescinded; and



MEMO

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O’Dowd
FROM: Lisa Moore
RE: **Federal Report**
DATE: June 17, 2024

I reported last meeting that through our work with our Congressional delegation, the Authority secured the required funding to advance a full Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Salton Sea Feasibility Study through the USACE FY24 work plan. The work plan included \$3.8 million in funding to advance a full study. This was the largest allocation for any study across the nation the USACE made in the work plan. It is a sign of USACE’s commitment to the Salton Sea.

The other avenue open to us to secure funding for the full study was by seeking a direct Congressional appropriation. Since we were unsure whether the USACE would provide funding for the study through its internal, administrative work plan process, we also submitted requests for FY25 Congressional appropriations this past March to cover USACE’s then-estimated FY24 an FY25 funding needs for the full study.

As Patrick will report in his update, we met with USACE leadership including Assistant Secretary for Civil Works Mike Connor this past month to discuss the process for moving forward with the study. In particular, we discussed the opportunity to also advance interim projects while the larger feasibility study is conducted.

As undertaking interim projects would require additional planning funds for USACE beyond those secured for the full USACE study in the work plan, we determined to continue to advocate for the FY25 Congressional funding we began seeking in March. In order for us to be successful at securing such funds, USACE will need to convey to Congress that they can put FY25 appropriated funds to use should they be secured for this purpose. Patrick is working with USACE on that messaging, while I am discussing this course with our Congressional delegation.



TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
FROM: Oracio Gonzalez, Ollin Strategies
DATE: June 2024
SUBJECT: California State Advocacy

This memorandum provides a summary of state legislative and fiscal developments related to the Authority's state advocacy.

On June 13, 2024, the legislature passed AB 107, the legislature's proposed state budget reflecting the joint legislative budget plan approved by the two houses' budget committees in late May. As adopted, AB 107 codified the governor's request to shift \$65.8 million in general fund dollars for the Salton Sea from his January 2024 proposal to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF). As noted in last month's report, the GGRF is a state account used to deposit proceeds collected under the state's Cap-and-Trade program, which sets a cap/limit on total GHG emissions that declines over time. Emitters, such as oil refineries and power plants, purchase, sell, and trade carbon allowances during quarterly auctions run by the California Air Resources Board, proceeds from which are deposited into the GGRF. Over the past three years, individual quarterly auctions have generated an average of \$1.1 billion in revenue, with annual amounts averaging \$4.2 billion.

AB 107 reflects only the legislature's budget and will not be signed by the Governor until he reaches a final agreement on the budget with both houses. One of the issues that remains outstanding is the prospect of a general obligation climate bond that the legislature is intent on placing before voters in November 2024. This item is of particular importance to the Authority, given last year's shift of \$119 million of Salton Sea restoration dollars from the general fund to a prospective climate bond. To date, the Governor's office has not proposed a climate bond reflecting these dollars and instead has left it to the legislature to develop a consensus climate bond proposal. At the moment, there is considerable disagreement between the Assembly and Senate as it relates to the Salton Sea. The Assembly, in large part thanks to Assemblymember Garcia's leadership, has made funding the Salton Sea a priority, with a minimum requested allocation of \$240 million. The Senate, however, has rejected that figure, wanting instead to invest a maximum of \$100 million. Senate negotiators have stated that the Salton Sea is not a priority for the Senate for purposes of the bond. Negotiations are ongoing.

The deadline for the legislature to pass legislation placing a bond on the November ballot is June 27, 2024. Given the constitutional requirement that bills be in print for 72 hours before they can be passed to the Governor, a final bond proposal will have to be in print no later than June 24, 2024 to meet this requirement.

Legislative

Below is the status of measures the Authority has voted to support.

AB 2757 (Garcia): will establish the Southeast California Economic Region to align state and federal programs, services and funding to promote the economic expansion of the communities most affected by the development of the Lithium Valley and other clean energy projects. Further, the bill will require the Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and Go-BIZ to develop a list of programs that will utilize the Southeast California Economic Region designation and boundaries in program and service delivery, planning activities, and making funding awards. AB 2610 (Garcia), would expand the state's authority on the take of species to, in addition to the Quantification Settlement Agreement, also include impacts attributed to implementation of the Salton Sea Management Program and any water conservation agreements negotiated between the Imperial Irrigation District and the US Bureau of Reclamation to implement the Lower Colorado Rivera Basin System Conservation and Efficiency Program for the year's 2024 to 2026, inclusive. At present, IID is negotiating an agreement to conserve 800,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water during 2024-2026.

Location: Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development.

AB 2922 (Garcia), would reauthorize the Capital Investment Incentive Program (CIIP) until January 1, 2035. The CIIP allows local governments to offer a partial property tax abatement for qualified manufacturing facilities for assessed property values in excess of \$150 million. The program, which is being used to help develop the Lithium Valley, expired in January 2024.

Location: Senate Committee on Local Government.

SB 1309 (Padilla): would direct the California Energy Commission (CEC), in consultation with other state agencies, including the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz) and the California Workforce Development Board, to establish a Lithium Battery Production Council to conduct an economic analysis on workforce development needs, infrastructure needs, sewage and wastewater treatment, and housing needs for lithium battery production.

Location: Held in "suspense" by Senate Appropriations Committee. Measure is dead for the year.

Other bills the Authority is tracking.

SB 974 (Grove), would change the amount of funding being deposited into the Salton Sea Lithium Fund, the fund created to receive 20% of revenues generated from the lithium production tax, to only 20% of the revenues collected from lithium recovered within Imperial County. Under current law, 20% of all revenues generated by the tax are to be deposited in the

Salton Sea Lithium Fund. The act would further require that 20% of the revenues generated from lithium recovered in Kern County be distributed to the communities most directly impacted by lithium extraction activities in the county.

Location: Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee

General Obligation Bonds

AB 1567 (Garcia), will place a \$15.9 billion general obligation bond before voters in November 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 the new dollars, the bond would set aside \$30 million for the Salton Sea Authority. Separately, the bill would provide \$15 million for a Salton Sea conservancy.

Location: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Senate Committee on Government and Finance

Hearing date: Not yet set.

SB 867(Allen), would place a \$15.5 billion general obligation bond before voters in November 2024. The measure includes \$100 million for Salton Sea restoration activities.

Location: Assembly Committee on Natural Resources

Hearing date: Not yet set.