



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

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 82500 Highway 111, Suite 4, Indio, CA 92201.