



**AGENDA:** **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**DATE:** **Thursday, September 12, 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 via video/teleconference from:

Director Yxstian Gutierrez  
Riverside County 5<sup>th</sup> District  
4080 Lemon Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502

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*

**II. CHANGES TO AGENDA**

The Board will be asked to review and may change the order of Agenda items to accommodate scheduling or other needs of the Board, the public, or meeting participants. Members of the public are encouraged to arrive at the beginning of the meeting to ensure they are present for Board discussion or action regarding items of interest. The Board may also add Agenda items but only as provided under Government Code section 54954.2.

**III. 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 acting 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, 9/12/2024 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, September 11**, will be publicly acknowledged during the Board meeting. (Written comments will be included in the public record but not be read aloud.)

#### **IV. 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.

#### **V. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION**

##### A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File

1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Special Board Meeting July 18, 2024
2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification July 31, 2024
3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for June 30, 2024 and July 31, 2024

##### B. Resolution in Recognition of Director’s Service to the Salton Sea Authority

##### ~~C. HD Presentation – System Conservation Implementation Agreement (SCIA)~~

*Postponed until November, 2024 Board Meeting to be held in Imperial County*

##### D. SSMP – Monitoring Implementation Plan Presentation – Tonya Marshall, CDFW

##### E. Education, Outreach, and Advocacy – Review current priorities and budget allocations

- a. Education - Fact-Finding Trips / Summit
- b. Outreach - Health & Safety, Project Input
  - i. local projects
  - ii. Feasibility Study

- c. Advocacy (State and Federal)

F. Salton Sea Authority Committees - Legislative Advocacy

G. Project Updates

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

**VI. 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 – Cassandra Van Dyne, Interpreter & Educator, 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

**VII. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- 1. Approval of 2025 Meetings Calendar

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

The Salton Sea Authority board is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, November 14, 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 at the front desk at 82500 Highway 111, Suite 4 Indio, CA 92201.*



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
July 18, 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 Dockstader, at 10:04 a.m., July 18, 2024, at County of Imperial Board of Supervisors BOS Chamber and via Zoom Webinar.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Director Aguilar

**ROLL CALL**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE**

Gina Dockstader, Secretary  
John Aguilar, Director  
Alex Cárdenas, Director  
John Aguilar, Director

**AGENCY**

Imperial Irrigation District  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Coachella Valley Water District

**DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM**

V. Manuel Perez, Director  
Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice-President  
Ex-Officio Samantha Arthur

**AGENCY**

Riverside County  
Coachella Valley Water District  
California Natural Resources Agency

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Altrena Santillanes, President  
Yxstian Gutierrez, Treasurer  
Ryan E. Kelley, Director  
Thomas Tortez, Director  
Luis A. Plancarte, Director

**AGENCY**

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
Riverside County  
Imperial County  
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
Imperial County

Note: Directors Tortez and Plancarte arrived after roll call.

**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: Trina Hamby, Public Health, Imperial County, Vickie Doyle, IID, Terry Partida Rodriguez, The Desert Review, Mike Lueller, City of Calipatria Journalist, Felipe Vega, ICPHD and Miguel Hernandez, CNRA.

Via Zoom: Tom Sephton, Brittney Coronado, Jim Barrett, CVWD, Jasmyn Phillips, Stephanie Holstege, Leah Mathews, Ron Spears and Juan DeLara.

## **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 June 26, 2024
2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for June 30, 2024
3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for May 31, 2024

*On motion by Cardenas, second by Dockstader, the Board approved the Consent Calendar to be received and filed.*

*Approved by the following vote:*

*AYES: President Dockstader, Director Tortez, Director Aguilar and Cardenas*

*NOES: 0*

*ABSENT: Directors Estrada, Plancarte, Kelley, Santillanes, Perez and Gutierrez*

*ABSTAINED: 0*

*MOTION PASSED: 4-0*

### B. Resolution in Recognition of Director’s Service to the Salton Sea Authority

*On motion by Cardenas, second by Aguilar, the Board approved to move Item B. to the September 12, 2024 meeting and add item F, Consider Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees for FY 2024-2025 to the agenda.*

*Approved by the following vote:*

*AYES: President Dockstader, Director Tortez, Director Aguilar and Cardenas*

*NOES: 0*

*ABSENT: Directors Estrada, Plancarte, Kelley, Santillanes, Perez and Gutierrez*

*ABSTAINED: 0*

*MOTION PASSED: 4-0*

- C. Document Retention Policy – Review and Approve updated policy for retaining agency documents. Executive Director O’Dowd gave a brief update on the documents the Authority has accumulated in the last 30 years. Director Aguilar asked if counsel has reviewed the policy, Patrick stated that it was largely drafted by them.

***On motion by Aguilar, second by Tortez the Board approved the Document Retention Policy.***

***Approved by the following vote:***

***AYES:*** President Dockstader, Directors Tortez, Aguilar and Cardenas

***NOES:*** 0

***ABSENT:*** Directors Estrada, Plancarte, Kelley, Santillanes, Perez and Gutierrez

***ABSTAINED:*** 0

***MOTION PASSED:*** 4-0

- D. UCR Salton Sea Summit (Summit) – Participation and Potential Support. Executive Director O’Dowd introduced this item to the board. This is important work, and our participation is equally important. Executive Director O’Dowd is requesting that the board approve a \$500.00 donation to the Summit and also asked for agency consideration for their individual support. President Dockstader, Directors Aguilar and Perez provided comments.

***On motion by Tortez, second by Cardenas the Board approved \$500.00 in support of the UCR Salton Sea Summit.***

***Approved by the following vote:***

***AYES:*** Directors Dockstader, Tortez, Aguilar, Perez, Plancarte, Estrada and Cardenas

***NOES:*** 0

***ABSENT:*** Directors Kelley, Santillanes, and Gutierrez

***ABSTAINED:*** 0

***MOTION PASSED:*** 7-0

- E. Project Updates

1. Executive O’Dowd stated there is a technical meeting in Sacramento to be held on August 12-13 with DWR and the state to discuss the current budget, technical challenges and other funding resources that may be out there. We are looking to revisit the scope and scale of the project to implement a 1<sup>st</sup> phase that meets the needs of the local community in a timely fashion and to address the grant expiration of December 2024 that needs to be extended. Vice President Estrada expressed an interest in being more closely informed of this effort .

Director Perez, expressed concerns about related matters that might affect this project.

2. Desert Shores, Executive O’Dowd stated a scope of work for the geotechnical studies needed to complete the CEQA analysis of this project has been developed intended to be funded under the USBR grant.

Ron Spears expressed concerns about the delays, the increasing cost of the project, and the availability of funds. He requested the oversight committee be afforded a chance to review the preliminary report before the outreach meeting.

3. Bombay Beach, Executive O’Dowd gave a brief update. Frank Ruiz is no longer with Audubon, he is now working with Congressman Ruiz and hoping that Frank can join us on a regular basis. President Dockstader congratulated Frank

#### Consider Appointments to Ad Hoc Committees for FY 2024-2025

Executive Director O’Dowd introduced the proposed committees. Director Perez expressed a desire to be specifically included in legislative discussions of the Executive Committee, or to clarify the memo describing the responsibilities of the committees such that it is clear what committee has specific oversight of this aspect of the Authority’s work. Directors Aguillar and Estrada provided comments.

***On motion by Cardenas, second by Aguilar the Board approved the Ad Hoc Committees with the motion to revise the Memo, per Director Perez’s request.***

***Approved by the following vote:***

***AYES:*** Directors Dockstader, Tortez, Aguilar, Perez, Plancarte, Estrada and Cardenas

***NOES:*** 0

***ABSENT:*** Directors Kelley, Santillanes, and Gutierrez

***ABSTAINED:*** 0

***MOTION PASSED:*** 7-0

## **V. REPORTS**

### A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation gave a brief update on the WRDA and the Energy and Water Appropriations bill.
2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Jeremy Brooks – No Report

### B. State



1. State Advocacy Report – Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies gave a brief update on the State’s budget, AB 2757, AB 2922, SB 1309 and SB583, the Salton Sea Conservancy’s deadline to be advanced to the Governor is August 30.
2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency gave an update on the Fall Projects and the State Water Board Meeting.

President Dockstader requested a copy of the community needs report so the Authority can post on their website and have a more in-depth discussion at the September meeting.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Cassandra Van Dyne, Interpreter & Educator, California State Parks gave a brief update. There have been 19,504-day visitors and 9,828 campers in the last 12 months. They had the Bombay nature club visit/campout, went on a night search for Scorpions and the North Shore Community Center did a nature walk. They are in the planning stages in putting together some field trips or visit the local schools. Director Cardenas was very interested in the Scorpion search, Cassandra said she is more than happy to set something up for him. Samantha also wanted to mention that there is a Youth Grant program open until August 14 with a series of workshops statewide. Miguel will send out the details to the board.

#### C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee – Alan Pace, SSAC President gave a brief update on the Salton Sea Summit and that they are planning more tours at the end of October.

- D. Executive Director’s Report and Comments - G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority gave a brief update on the tours he is working on fact finding missions, including tours at Owens Lake, Pardo Dam and Salt Lake City in February.

Director Cardenas wanted to update everyone that the IID has initiated the environmental assessment period regarding the 2024-2026 temporary Colorado River System Conservation program. Comment period ends that last Sunday of July. IID unveiled a draft program plan for the deficit irrigation to help the hydrology issue. They are close to finalizing the system conservation implementation agreement “SCIA” and is requesting a presentation of these important updates be added to the agenda at the next Salton Sea Authority September board meeting.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

The Salton Sea Authority board is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, September 12, at 10:00 a.m.

at

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 located at 82500 Highway 111, Suite 4 Indio, CA 92201.*



**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Checking Account Activity**  
 July 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024

<b>Date</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
07/02/2024	1436	Secretary of State	Public agency registration FY 24/25	(6.50)
07/02/2024	EFT	Lee and Associates Property Management	Office rent 07/24	(1,200.00)
07/05/2024	EFT	Lee and Associates Property Management	HVAC service maintenance	(250.00)
07/09/2024	EFT	Banc of California	Bank supplies charge to be refunded	(106.92)
07/11/2024	EFT	Banc of California	Visa billing cycle ended 06/24	(4,162.76)
07/15/2024	EFT	Frontier Communications	Internet service 07/24	(99.99)
07/16/2024	Deposit	Department of Water Resources	North Lake grant reimbursement for period ended 03/24	4,737.53
07/19/2024	EFT	Imperial Irrigation District	Electricity service 06/24	(206.41)
07/29/2024	EFT	Frontier Communications	Internet service 07/24	(105.14)
08/01/2024	ACH	Best, Best & Krieger	Legal services 06/24	(4,716.90)
08/01/2024	ACH	Ollin Strategies	Consulting services 07/24	(7,000.00)
08/01/2024	ACH	SystemGo IT LLC	Website services 06/24	(382.00)
08/01/2024	ACH	Cultivating Conservation	Consulting services 06/24	(7,350.00)
08/01/2024	ACH	Eide Bailly LLP	Accounting services 05/24	(4,769.40)
08/01/2024	ACH	Western Growers	Membership renewal FY 25	(400.00)
08/01/2024	ACH	Lisa Bravata	Mileage reimbursements 06/24 and 07/24	(149.41)
08/05/2024	Deposit	County of Riverside	Member contribution FY 24/25	200,000.00
08/05/2024	Deposit	County of Imperial	Member contribution FY 24/25	200,000.00
08/05/2024	EFT	Lee and Associates Property Management	Office rent 08/24	(1,200.00)
08/06/2024	EFT	Deluxe Small Businesses	Office sign	(395.68)
08/12/2024	EFT	Banc of California	Visa billing cycle ended 06/24	(2,127.11)
08/12/2024	Credit	Banc of California	Bank supplies charge to be refunded	106.92
08/12/2024	Deposit	Bureau of Reclamation	Grant reimbursement for period ended 06/24	19,477.15
08/23/2024	EFT	Federal Express	County of Riverside bank signature card	(21.35)
08/26/2024	EFT	Frontier Communications	Internet service 08/24	(94.99)
08/29/2024	EFT	Imperial Irrigation District	Electricity service 07/24	(200.75)
<b>Beginning Cash Balance \$</b>				<b>253,937.30</b>
<b>Monthly Activity</b>				<b>389,376.29</b>
<b>Ending Cash Balance \$</b>				<b>643,313.59</b>



# Salton Sea Authority

## Budget to Actual

### General Fund (Preliminary & Unaudited)

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

	A	B	C	D	C / D	C - D
	May 2024	June 2024	YTD FY 24	Budget FY 24	YTD Target 100%	\$ Variance
<b>1 REVENUE</b>						
2 Local Government / Member Assessments	\$ -	\$ 66,700	\$ 810,000	\$ 800,000	101%	\$ 10,000
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	40	3,877	13,888	194,400	7%	(180,512)
<b>6 TOTAL REVENUE</b>	40	70,577	823,888	1,044,400	79%	(220,512)
<b>7 EXPENSES</b>						
<b>8 SSA Administration</b>						
9 Salaries & Benefits						
10 Total Salaries	25,685	19,140	222,976	309,300	72%	(86,324)
11 Total Employee Benefits	12,696	10,083	116,079	171,600	68%	(55,521)
12 Total Salaries & Benefits	38,381	29,222	339,055	480,900	71%	(141,845)
13 Contract / Professional Services						
14 DC Advocates	7,350	7,350	89,590	94,200	95%	(4,610)
15 Sacramento Advocates	7,000	7,000	84,000	88,200	95%	(4,200)
16 Attorney Fees	5,165	1,715	35,673	54,000	66%	(18,327)
17 Audit & Accounting	4,769	5,880	59,278	76,200	78%	(16,923)
18 Total Contract / Professional Services	24,285	21,945	268,540	312,600	86%	(44,060)
19 Administration						
20 Travel/Mileage	2,720	8,864	28,348	40,000	71%	(11,652)
21 Office Rent, Utilities, and Repair/Maintenance	1,200	1,805	3,005	-	N/A	3,005
22 Equipment / IT Maintenance	382	382	5,271	8,300	64%	(3,030)
23 Non-capitalized Office Equipment	-	-	-	8,000	0%	(8,000)
24 Insurance	1,056	1,056	11,667	11,600	101%	67
25 Office Expense/Operating Supplies	1,894	998	7,419	8,700	85%	(1,281)
26 Office Expense/Online Services	240	867	4,599	4,000	115%	599
27 Dues, Subscriptions	676	676	8,570	10,000	86%	(1,431)
28 Operating Expenses / County Charges	1,157	157	6,217	7,400	84%	(1,183)
29 Board Room Usage and Recordings	-	-	3,580	2,400	149%	1,180
30 Interest Expense	(3)	(62)	1,991	-	N/A	1,991
31 Total Administration	9,322	14,742	80,666	100,400	80%	(19,734)
<b>32 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	71,988	65,910	688,262	893,900	77%	(205,638)
<b>33 NET REVENUE / (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>\$ (71,948)</b>	<b>\$ 4,667</b>	<b>\$ 135,626</b>	<b>\$ 150,500</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>\$ (14,874)</b>

\*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**  
**Budget to Actual**  
**DWR - Proposition 68 Grant (Preliminary & Unaudited)**  
 For the Period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

	A	B	C	B / C	B - C
	June 2024	YTD FY 24	Budget FY 24	YTD Target 100%	\$ Variance
<b>1 REVENUE</b>					
2 State of California Grant (Prop 68)	\$ 140,840	\$ 264,480	\$ 2,000,000	13%	\$ (1,735,521)
<b>3 TOTAL REVENUE</b>	140,840	264,480	2,000,000	13%	\$ (1,735,521)
<b>4 EXPENSES</b>					
5 Salton Sea Authority Salaries	3,093	10,711	79,700	13%	(68,989)
6 Department of Water Resources-North Lake Demo	137,747	253,769	1,920,300	13%	(1,666,531)
<b>7 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	140,840	264,480	2,000,000	13%	(1,735,521)
<b>8 NET INCOME / (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		<b>\$ -</b>

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# Salton Sea Authority Budget to Actual BOR -DSR (Preliminary & Unaudited)

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

	A	B	C	B / C	B - C
	June 2024	YTD FY 24	Budget FY 24	YTD Target 100%	\$ Variance
<b>1 REVENUE</b>					
2 Bureau of Reclamation Grant	\$ 19,477	\$ 67,187	\$ 750,000	9%	\$ (682,813)
<b>3 TOTAL REVENUE</b>	19,477	67,187	750,000	9%	\$ (682,813)
<b>4 EXPENSES</b>					
5 Salton Sea Authority Salaries	756	2,851	25,000	11%	(22,149)
6 Bureau of Reclamation-Desert Shores Revitalization	18,722	64,336	725,000	9%	(660,664)
<b>7 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	19,477	67,187	750,000	9%	(682,813)
<b>8 NET INCOME / (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		<b>\$ -</b>

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**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Balance Sheet**  
(Preliminary & Unaudited)  
As of June 30, 2024

1	<b>ASSETS</b>		
2	Checking/Savings	\$	288,119
3	Rent Deposits		1,250
4	Prepaid Items		13,561
5	Grants Receivable		256,132
6	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u><b>559,096</b></u>
7	<b>LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>		
8	<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
9	Accounts Payable		32,462
10	Credit Card Payable		4,176
11	Deferred Revenue		210,000
12	Accrued Payroll		15,939
13	Due to Imperial County		18,722
14	Due to Riverside County		220,919
15	Accrued Vacation		51,800
16	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>554,017</u>
17	<b>FUND BALANCE</b>		<u>5,079</u>
18	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<u><b>559,096</b></u>

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# Salton Sea Authority

## Budget to Actual

### General Fund (Unaudited)

For the Period July 1, 2024 through July 31, 2024

	A	B	C	B / C	B - C
	July 2024	YTD FY 25	Budget FY 25	YTD Target 8%	\$ Variance
<b>1 REVENUE</b>					
2 Local Government / Member Assessments	\$ 810,000	\$ 810,000	\$ 800,000	101%	\$ 10,000
3 Other Federal / State / Local Contributions	-	-	10,000	0%	(10,000)
4 Sponsorships	-	-	10,000	0%	(10,000)
5 Grant and Other Reimbursements to General Fund	13	13	30,000	0%	(29,987)
<b>6 TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>810,013</b>	<b>810,013</b>	<b>850,000</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>(39,987)</b>
<b>7 EXPENSES</b>					
<b>8 SSA Administration</b>					
9 Salaries & Benefits					
10 Total Salaries	24,360	24,360	225,900	11%	(201,540)
11 Total Employee Benefits	12,873	12,873	127,000	10%	(114,127)
12 Total Salaries & Benefits	37,233	37,233	352,900	11%	(315,667)
13 Contract / Professional Services					
14 DC Advocates	7,350	7,350	89,600	8%	(82,250)
15 Sacramento Advocates	7,000	7,000	84,000	8%	(77,000)
16 Attorney Fees	2,527	2,527	59,400	4%	(56,873)
17 Audit & Accounting	5,010	5,010	62,000	8%	(56,990)
18 Other Contract Services	-	-	17,400	0%	(17,400)
19 Total Contract / Professional Services	21,887	21,887	312,400	7%	(290,513)
20 Administration					
21 Travel/Mileage	1,084	1,084	50,000	2%	(48,916)
22 Office Rent, Utilities, and Repair/Maintenance	1,406	1,406	24,000	6%	(22,594)
23 Equipment / IT Maintenance	382	382	5,100	7%	(4,718)
24 Non-capitalized Office Equipment	515	515	8,000	6%	(7,485)
25 Insurance	1,056	1,056	13,000	8%	(11,944)
26 Office Expense/Operating Supplies	537	537	8,700	6%	(8,163)
27 Office Expense/Online Services	350	350	5,400	6%	(5,050)
28 Dues, Subscriptions	1,076	1,076	10,000	11%	(8,924)
29 Operating Expenses / County Charges	155	155	5,400	3%	(5,245)
30 Board Room Usage and Recordings	-	-	3,600	0%	(3,600)
31 Interest Expense	-	-	1,500	0%	(1,500)
32 Total Administration	6,562	6,562	134,700	5%	(128,138)
<b>33 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>65,682</b>	<b>65,682</b>	<b>800,000</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>(734,318)</b>
<b>34 NET REVENUE / (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>\$ 744,331</b>	<b>\$ 744,331</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>1489%</b>	<b>\$ 694,331</b>

\*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

(Preliminary & Unaudited)

As of July 31, 2024

1	<b>ASSETS</b>		
2	Checking/Savings	\$	259,977
3	Accounts Receivable		600,107
4	Interest Receivable		34
5	Rent Deposits		1,250
6	Prepaid Items		11,829
7	Grants Receivable		251,395
8	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,124,591</b>
9	<b>LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>		
10	<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
11	Accounts Payable		57,512
12	Credit Card Payable		2,224
13	Accrued Payroll		26,585
14	Due to Imperial County		18,722
15	Due to Riverside County		218,339
16	Accrued Vacation		75,696
17	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>399,077</b>
18	<b>FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>725,514</b>
19	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,124,591</b>

\*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:** September 12, 2024

**Re: Education, Outreach, and Advocacy**

Since its inception in 1993, the Authority has played a leading role in giving voice to opportunities and challenges at the Sea. The scope and nature of that effort has evolved over time, driven by an array of factors including the QSA, better scientific understandings, and political will to name a few. But there has never been a more critical time than now for the Authority to undergird and elevate this role due to real time pressing issues and efforts, including:

- **Feasibility Study** - collecting community input for and providing community feedback for a comprehensive ecosystem restoration plan eligible for 65% federal funding
- **Local Projects** – Support community outreach and engagement relating to Authority-led Special Projects including but not limited to North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project and Desert Shores Restoration Project
- **Climate Resiliency Bond** - advocating for passage and implementation, which provides \$170 million for the Salton Sea, including \$10 million for the Conservancy and the Authority
- **Salton Sea Conservancy** - collaborating in the creation of the to be formed entity which will be responsible for owning lands at and around the Sea and maintaining projects completed by the Salton Sea Management Program
- **Colorado River impacts** - articulating to community members and other affected stakeholders the local impacts (including Health, Ecosystem, and Economic) and mitigation measures associated with both recently implemented and anticipated future measures to improve the health of the Colorado River
- **Legislative Advocacy** – In support of the above efforts and in order to secure continued funding at the federal and state levels, continue to advocate for sound polices and adequate resources.

Authority staff have long been in discussions with CV Strategies, a well established and highly regarded local public relations firm with extensive experience in the water

industry. We had initially engaged in conversations to explore whether they would be able to partner with us to implement the scope of work outlined under the now expired state contract, but were informed by the state that only employees of the Authority or its member agencies could be reimbursed for work thereunder. Nonetheless, our conversations continued, and as a result thereof and to accomplish the necessary effort discussed above, a six-month scope of work was created (see attached) which when completed will lay the foundation for a focused effort to advance the priorities of the Authority.

Through a three phased process and working together with the Authority, its member agencies, our partners and other local stakeholders, CV Strategies will develop and assist in the implementation of a program of "Engagement Implementation & Outreach Support". While we have long recognized the need for this work, it was not included in the Fiscal 2025 budget as there was a pending formal request for extension of our agreement as expressly provided therein, which we reasonably anticipated that they would honor, which did not happen.

As a result, in the alternative therefore, and in order to fund this agreement, staff is recommending that state advocacy budget allocation be redirected for a period not to exceed six months while this program is developed and implemented. In that interim period, the Executive Director, working in collaboration with the Authority's member agencies and their advocacy teams, will ensure that state legislative matters relating to the Salton Sea are responsibly considered and addressed. That effort will further be supported in part by CV Strategies as appropriate under their agreement, and by board oversight, either by the Executive Committee or possibly a new committee of the board formed specifically to provide guidance and oversight in this area.

One alternative the board may consider would be to fund this agreement from budgeted operating surpluses. Our preliminary annual report shows that in fiscal 2024 the Authority performed to expectations with positive operating results, and that next year an operating surplus of approximately \$50,000 is budgeted, which was intended to be set aside to increase reserves. At the discretion of the board, some or all of that surplus could be used to fund this agreement. With reflection and consideration, it is also possible to revisit the need for state advocacy sooner than six months if warranted, perhaps after and informed by the completion of the first two phases of the CV Strategies agreement.

### **Recommendation:**

Because of the pressing needs around outreach, engagement, and education, staff is recommending a pause in the state advocacy contract effective 9/30/2024, and the authorization to enter into an agreement with CV Strategies for the scope of work outlined in the attached proposal.

July 14, 2024

G. Patrick O'Dowd  
Executive Director/General Manager  
Salton Sea Authority  
82-500 CA-111 Suite 4,  
Indio, CA 92201

Dear Patrick:

Thank you for allowing CV Strategies the opportunity to assist the Salton Sea Authority with its communication needs.

As requested, we are providing a proposal for local, regional and legislative outreach, acting as a community liaison for the Salton Sea Authority and engaging media, residents, elected officials and stakeholders with accurate information and meaningful interaction. ***Simply put, our goal is to help you educate and activate our Coachella Valley and Imperial County communities.***

As a comprehensive public engagement firm, CV Strategies is involved in active, ongoing communications work with more than 150 public agencies, municipalities, special districts, and retail clients, tackling issues such as engagement campaigns, awareness initiatives and strategic planning.

With a history of moving the needle on brand awareness and credibility building, we will leverage past successes to increase awareness and public perspective. We know what works and what does not, and our holistic approach to outreach ensures that each tactic is considered, evaluated and implemented with precision.

We look forward to collaborating with you and helping the Authority achieve its outreach goals. Please see the attached proposal for initial suggestions and scope of work.

Sincerely,



Erin LaCombe  
Founder, President  
CV Strategies  
erin@CVStrat.com | ph: 760.641.0739

## *Scope of Work*

CV Strategies understands this engagement to include the following communications support.

### **Phase One // Month 1**

#### **Development of a Community Outreach and Resource Plan**

Phase One includes a swift assessment of current resource allocations and communications tools, in addition to the development of a more detailed engagement plan. Phase one also involves creation of an outreach timeline, which includes matching audiences, key messages, and delivery vehicles for the most effective communication effort.

- Facilitated kickoff workshop with staff to identify key issues and relevant facts
- Prioritize information to provide maximum value to stakeholders
- Conduct a comprehensive review of past and current outreach efforts
- Review current media coverage and reporting to gauge current public perception and inform the plan
- Identify key stakeholders and influencers, including:
  - Counties Officials and Key Staff
  - Legislators
  - Local City Government
  - Economic Organizations
  - Special Interest Associations
  - Media
  - NGOs and Environmental Audiences
  - Local and Impacted Tribes
  - Nonprofits
  - Residents & Businesses
  - Other Influencers
- Build a vertical messaging strategy designed to garner support and educate stakeholders
- Provide a report of initial findings, goals and objectives
- Attend meetings to ensure key stakeholders are continually informed of progress and garner organizational feedback

**Proposed Hours: 35-40**

**Not to Exceed Cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

## **Phase Two // Months 2-3**

### ***Brand Enhancement & Primary Resource Development***

Phase Two includes building a campaign aesthetic that clearly identifies the “promise” of the initiative. In addition, key branded templates and tools will be created and designed to ensure a consistent look, feel and message.

- Build key message plan highlighting key story elements, facts and benefits
- Develop the nexus points available among initiatives, vehicles and audience
- Craft talking points supporting initial messaging plan and incorporating staff feedback
- Craft campaign look and feel, incorporating organizational input
- Identify earned media strategy and contacts
- Provide related strategic support
- Facilitate video and photography shoot to create a baseline of resources
- Create initial materials such as presentations, documents, flyers, etc. used to support the effort

**Proposed Hours: 75-80**

**Not to Exceed Cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

## **Phase Three // Months 2-6**

### ***Engagement Implementation & Outreach Support***

Phase Three is built based on organizational input. In this phase, CV Strategies will leverage targeted vehicles to distribute key messages and serve as a repository of information for participating agencies, cities and counties.

- Build suite of outreach and education tools
- Mobilize and train speakers and advocates team
- Execute meeting/presentation strategy to groups and organizations identified
- Identify potential communication challenges and opportunities as they arise
- Propel positive stories using various mediums
- Execute public information functions, as needed
- Keep a pulse on stakeholder attitudes
- Produce video series to support outreach
- Incorporate lessons learned and opportunities revealed from other experience
- Update interactive web presence with digital engagement tools
- Assess and update website content to ensure that all existing information remains accurate and timely
- Create collateral and presentation materials for use in supporting outreach efforts
- Facilitate Community Meetings and Tours, providing personal interactions with the Coachella Valley and Imperial County communities, key stakeholders and the media

**Proposed Hours: 100-110**

**Not to Exceed Cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

## Professional Services

OUTREACH STRATEGY	DELIVERABLES	ESTIMATE
Phase 1 // Assess & Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Key Audiences</li> <li>» Outreach Plan</li> <li>» Timeline</li> <li>» Account Management &amp; Meetings</li> </ul>	
Phase 2 // Initial Resource Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Key Message Plan &amp; Message Deck</li> <li>» Campaign Look</li> <li>» Photo &amp; Video Resource Library</li> <li>» Collateral, Presentations and Digital Resources</li> <li>» Account Management &amp; Meetings</li> </ul>	
Phase 3 // Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Additional Outreach Tools, as needed</li> <li>» Video Series</li> <li>» Spokesperson Training</li> <li>» Website Content Update</li> <li>» Press Releases &amp; Distribution</li> <li>» Account Management &amp; Meetings</li> </ul>	
<b>Subtotal</b>		
<b>Total Not to Exceed</b>		

### ..... Rates for Communication Services .....

- » President - \$\_\_\_/hour
- » Executives - \$\_\_\_/hour
- » Directors - \$\_\_\_/hour
- » Specialists/Design/Video/Photography - \$\_\_\_/hour
- » Translation - \$\_\_\_/hour
- » Support Staff - \$\_\_\_/hour

### ..... Terms & Compensation .....

Either party may end this agreement by providing written notice to the other party. In the event of termination, CV Strategies shall be paid for all hours and expenses accrued up to the date of termination.

Hard costs incurred by CV Strategies will be billed to the client with a nominal service charge of 10% (not to exceed \$250 per item). This includes all anticipated hard costs such as printing, mailing, photography, video, advertising, etc. Required travel mileage will be billed at the published IRS rate.

All services and hard costs will be billed monthly. Invoices should be paid in full upon receipt.

### ..... Agreed & Approved .....

Name	Signature
Title	Date



**MEMO**

**TO:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O’Dowd  
**FROM:** Lisa Moore  
**RE:** **Federal Report**  
**DATE:** September 10, 2024

**I. Appropriations**

Congress is working on its annual appropriations legislation for FY25. As I reported during the last meeting, the House has advanced the Energy and Water Appropriations bill through committee. This legislation includes a \$2 million plus up from Congressman Ruiz to increase funding for Reclamation’s Salton Sea Research Program — the account through which Reclamation funds some of its Salton Sea work.

On September 6, the Senate advanced its Energy and Water Appropriations bill through Committee. That legislation also includes a \$2 million plus up requested by Senator Padilla for the same Reclamation program. Typically if identical legislation is included in appropriations measures in both the House and Senate, that measure will be retained in final legislation. This would double the Salton Sea Research Program funding from \$2 million to \$4 million.

**II. Corps Feasibility Study**

The Corps has been working on a budget for both the full Course of Action 2 (COA2/full study) for the Salton Sea Feasibility Study and for “early implementation projects” that could be advanced while the full study is prepared. Looking ahead, the Corps has estimated a \$2.146 million need for both the feasibility study and early implementation projects for FY26.

As reported in prior meetings, the Authority successfully secured a legislative fix in the FY24 federal appropriations process to enable the Corps to dedicate additional funding to our feasibility study. By Corps policy, feasibility studies are required to be implemented in 3 years and for \$3 million (split 50/50 with the local sponsor/s). The Corps, Authority and State determined that to address the Salton Sea holistically, we would need a waiver from this policy and additional funding to implement a full study, dubbed COA2. After securing the legislative fix, the Authority worked to secure Corps funding through its 2024 work plan, which included \$3.8 million for the Salton Sea Feasibility study — the largest amount approved by the Corps for any project.

The ultimate goal of this work is to fund long-range Salton Sea projects at a 65% federal share. This would amount to the most significant federal commitment to the Salton Sea in its history. The partnership among the Corps, the Authority and the State is strong and an example of what can be accomplished when state, federal and local entities like the Authority work together. Congress in particular is apt to support efforts like this where all levels of government are working together toward a common cause.



Our approach to securing funding for FY24 and FY25 has been to pursue multiple legislative and administrative vehicles in order to ensure the funds are made available to the Corps to keep this critical work on track. For FY26, this will include working to secure funds in the Corps work plan administratively and pursuing FY26 appropriations through Congress.

### **III. Bicameral New River and Tijuana Cross Border Pollution Legislation Introduced**

On September 5, Senators Padilla and Butler and Representatives Vargas, Ruiz and Peters introduced the Boarder Water Quality Restoration and Protection Act of 2024. The legislation would designate the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the lead to coordinate all state, Tribal, federal and local agencies to address cross border pollution in these watersheds; to implement a comprehensive water quality management program for each watershed; require the identification of priority projects to address cross border pollution; and allow EPA to receive funds and distribute funds to local partners to construct, operate and maintain priority projects.

The bill would also designate a new Geographic Program within EPA to better manage and prioritize these watersheds. EPA manages 12 Geographic Programs around the country that aim to protect local ecosystems through local capacity building. The legislation would implement a number of recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office (GAO)'s 2020 report on the International Boundary and Water Commission and its work in our region.



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

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This memorandum provides a summary of legislation impacting the Salton Sea adopted and passed to the Governor prior to the Legislature’s adjournment for the year on August 31, 2024.

SB 583: Salton Sea Conservancy

Shortly after returning from summer recess for the final month of the legislative session in August, Senator Padilla made a motion to move SB 583 from the inactive file, where it had sat since September 2023, to the unfinished business file, effectively reviving the measure. On the last week of the legislative session, the measure was amended to reflect an agreement with the Governor’s office to strictly limit the proposed conservancy to the operation and maintenance of projects completed pursuant to the Salton Sea Management Program. The Authority had spent considerable time briefing the Governor’s office, and these amendments reflected the Authority’s position. Prior to engaging the Governor’s office, the Authority had also spent time aggressively lobbying Senators and Assemblymembers as the measure moved through the legislative process. While the Authority did secure amendments when the measure was heard before the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee, including membership on the conservancy board for all authority member agencies, the permanent vice presidency of the conservancy, and a requirement that the conservancy develop a plan to minimize duplication with the conservancy, we remained concerned the conservancy would encroach on the Authority’s role as the lead entity on restoration activities.

With the conservancy limited to O&M of completed projects, the language requiring the Authority to serve as the permanent vice president of the conservancy, as well as the required operating plan to minimize duplication was also stricken from the bill.

As noted in last month’s report, the climate resiliency bond that will go before voters in November 2024 sets aside \$10 million for either the Salton Sea Authority or “the creation of a Salton Sea Conservancy.” With SB 583 likely to get signed, the Authority will have to assess how much of the \$10 million it should request for its purposes, and how much should be left for the creation of a conservancy. Note, language was added to SB 583 making its enactment contingent on the passage of the climate resiliency bond. In the event the bond fails, SB 583 will not go into effect.

A copy of the amendments made to the measure prior to passage are included at the end of this memoranda.

AB 2757 (Garcia): Southeast California Economic Region.

This measure will establish, until January 1, 2030, the Southeast California Economic Region to align state and federal programs, services, and funding within communities most impacted by the extraction and processing of lithium or other minerals from the Salton Sea via stimulating economic development. The measure enacts a recommendations of the Lithium Valley Commission to create a zone to align state and federal programs, services, and funding within communities most impacted by lithium recovery and processing of lithium and other minerals from the Salton Sea. As part of the measure, the state will form an Inter-Agency Leadership Team, consisting of representatives from Labor and Workforce Development Agency, the Office of Planning and Research, and GO-Biz, to prepare a list of state programs that must use the Southeast California Economic Region designation for planning and funding purposes.

AB 2922 (Garcia): Capital Investment Incentive Program

Reinstates the Capital Investment Incentive Program (CIIP) until January 1, 2035, and expands the program to cover lower initial investment amounts if a project proponent meets additional job creation requirements. Specifically, the program will be opened to qualified manufacturing facilities with assted value that exceeds \$25 million if they develop a plan outlining the types of jobs that will be created, their compensation, and explicit commitments across fringe benefits, wage rate and overall dollar amount that will be used to compensate workers. The plan must also provide targeted hiring preferences for local residents, community area residents and disadvantaged workers.

## SB 583: Salton Sea Conservancy (Amendments)

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**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)~~

(c) “Fund” means the Salton Sea Conservancy Fund established pursuant to Section 33825.

~~(e)~~

(d) “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)~~

(e) “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)~~

(f) “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)~~

(g) “Salton Sea Authority” has the same meaning as subdivision (d) of Section 2941 of the Fish and Game Code.

~~(k)~~

*(h)* “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.

~~*(f)* “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)*~~

*(i)* “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~~ both of the following purposes:

(1) To ~~oversee the operation, maintenance, and management of projects~~ operate, maintain, and manage projects, as they are completed, that are planned ~~and or~~ 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~~ land and property ~~rights~~ rights, including easements and water rights, within the Salton Sea region after restoration or mitigation 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.~~ stakeholders.

~~(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)~~

(C) Identifying and working to resolve any barriers or impediments to the conservancy's 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~~ One public ~~members~~ member appointed by the ~~Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate, Governor,~~ who ~~are~~ is not an elected ~~officials~~ official and who ~~reside~~ resides within 50 miles of 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 50 miles of 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 50 miles of the conservancy's territory.

(D) One member who is appointed by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and is 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.

(O) The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, or the director's designee.

(2) The board shall also consist of ~~six~~ seven 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) The Chairperson of the State Air Resources Board, or the chairperson's designee.

~~(C)~~

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

~~(D)~~

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

~~(E)~~

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

~~(F)~~

(G) 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.

(f) Each voting member specified in subparagraphs (A) to (O), inclusive, of paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) shall have demonstrated interest and expertise in at least one of the conservancy's purposes described in subdivision (a) of Section 33812. This demonstrated interest and expertise shall include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

(1) Experience with any of the following:

(A) A land conservation nonprofit organization.

(B) A public agency focused on land conservation.

(C) Public land management.

(2) Experience as a professional with expertise in one or more functions of the board, including operations and maintenance.

(3) Experience with activities that benefit disadvantaged communities identified pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code.

**33815.** The Secretary of the Natural Resources ~~Agency~~ Agency, or the secretary's designee, 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.~~ board. The board's voting members shall annually elect from among themselves a vice chairperson of the board. If the vice chairperson's position becomes vacant, a new vice chairperson shall be elected by the board's voting members to serve for the remainder of the term.

**33816.** ~~A majority~~ Eight 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~~ eight 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~~ may 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. The conservancy may also enter into access agreements, such as easements, to further the conservancy's purposes described in subdivision (a) of Section 33812.

**33820.** (a) ~~The board~~ Before January 1, 2027, the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency shall appoint an executive officer of the conservancy. The executive officer shall be exempt from civil service.

(b) On or after January 1, 2027, 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.~~ The Legislature intends to support the fund through 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.

**33826.** The conservancy may engage in partnerships with tribes, 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.
- (g) The conservancy may provide advance payment of up to one-half of the total grant award for a project that satisfies both of the following criteria:
  - (1) The project proponent is a nonprofit organization or a disadvantaged community, or the project benefits a disadvantaged community.
  - (2) The total grant award for the project is less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000).

**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.** (a) The conservancy may acquire from willing sellers or ~~transferors~~ *transferors, including state agencies*, interests in real ~~property~~ *property, including access and water rights*, and improve, lease, or transfer interests in real property, in order to carry out the purposes of this division.

(b) The conservancy may, before the completion of restoration or mitigation projects, enter into easements for property rights to be assigned to the conservancy after completion by the Salton Sea Management Program.

(c) The acquisition of an interest in real property under this section is not subject to the Property Acquisition Law (Part 11 (commencing with Section 15850) of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code). However, the conservancy may request the State Public Works Board to review and approve specific acquisitions. The conservancy may also request assistance in acquiring real property from the Department of Water Resources.

**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 by, or transferred to,~~ 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 work plan 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:~~ any party's, including the state's, responsibility under existing law or any party's authority to carry out any responsibility under existing law.

~~(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.~~

#### **CHAPTER 6. Contingent Operation**

**33838.** This division shall become operative only if the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024 (Chapter 83 of the Statutes of 2024) is approved by the voters at the November 5, 2024, statewide general election.

**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.