



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
May 23, 2025**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The scheduled Special meeting of the Salton Sea Authority ("Authority") Board of Directors ("Board") was called to order by Chair Dockstader, at 10:01 a.m., May 23, 2025 at the Cambria Imperial Hotel and via Zoom Webinar.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Led By Trina Hamby

**ROLL CALL**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE**

Gina Dockstader, Secretary  
Alex Cárdenas, Director  
Martha Singh, Director  
Joseph Mirelez, Director  
Ex-Officio Joe Shea

**AGENCY**

Imperial Irrigation District  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Imperial County  
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
California Natural Resources Agency

**DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM**

John Aguilar, Director

**AGENCY**

Coachella Valley Water District

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

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

**AGENCY**

Riverside County  
Riverside County  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Imperial County -Arrived 11:02am

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

On Site: Trina Hamby, Imperial County Environmental Consumer Protection Manager, Imperial County Public Health Department Environmental Health Division, Tara Brava Mulally, CV Strategies, Tom Sephton, Jasmyn Phillips

Via Zoom: Lisa Moore, Cultivating Conservation, Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute, Pat Cooper, Deputy Chief of Staff, Riverside County, Taylour Unzicker, CA State Parks, Nick Romo and Steve Cruz, Cruz Strategies, Glenn Farrel, GF Advocacy, Shant Siyahian, Larissa, Janice Rosenquest, Ron Spears, Chairman, Desert Shores Channel Restoration Project Oversight Committee, Aydee Palomina, Alianza and Juan DeLara, SSAC.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Comments

## **III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

President Dockstader and Director Cardenas thanked Ex-Officio for the SCH event the day prior and asked to also thank Secretary Crowfoot.

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

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting 3/20/2025
  2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for 2/28/2025, 3/31/2025, 4/30/2025
  3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Reporting through 4/30/2025

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

*Approved by the following vote:*

*AYES: 8*

*NOES: 0*

*ABSTAINED:*

*MOTION PASSED: Unanimous*

- B. Salton Sea Authority 2025/2026 Operating Budget – Review and Approve  
O'Dowd introduced and recommended approval. President Dockstader had questions regarding the sponsorship, 15K increase and auditing salary. O'Dowd responded.

***On motion by Cardenas second by, Mirelez the Board approved  
2025/2026 Operating Budget.***

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

***AYES: 8***

***NOES: 0***

***ABSTAINED:***

***MOTION PASSED: Unanimous***

**C. Federal Matters**

**1. Imperial Streams Salton Sea and Tributaries Feasibility Study, CA**

**Federal Funding Request**

**a. Review and Approve Supporting Resolution**

GM O'Dowd introduced Lisa Moore to give an update on the process. Director Cardenas recommended edits regarding tone and further recognition of TMDCI.

***On motion by Cardenas second by, Singh the Board approved the  
Supporting Resolution, subject to the two edits.***

***Adopting Resolution Subject to the two edits by the following  
vote:***

***AYES: 8***

***NOES: 0***

***ABSTAINED:***

***MOTION PASSED: Unanimous***

**D. State Legislative Matters**

**1. Legislative Task Force**

Based on input and feedback from the membership, President Dockstader designated herself, Vice-President and Director Singh to serve as the Board's Legislative Task Force.

**2. Introduction of Cruz Strategies**

O'Dowd gave a brief introduction to Cruz Strategies and handed it off to Steve Cruz. Steve introduced his team, Nick Romero and Glenn Farrel of GF Advocacy. Steve has been in this line of work for over 30 years. Glenn has his own firm but shares an office with Cruz. Dockstader, commented that she looks forward to our new partnership. Cardenas asked about having guiding principles on hydrology. O'Dowd stated that we had distributed key messages, a

living document representing a collective understanding amongst the member agencies on different issues. The issue of hydrology will be further refined for clarity of message.

3. Proposition 4 Update and Direction

O'Dowd gave a brief update. The Authority has been working with Cruz on prop 4. He explained that the bond started out at \$40MM, reduced to \$10MM, then the governors budget came out and proposed Zero dollars for the Authority and \$10MM to the State for the conservancy. With limited time in the legislative calendar, Cruz team continues to work with the legislators, testifying in budget committees, reaching out to memberships, putting this issue in front of them.

4. Other pending state legislation - Nick briefly went over the Cap and Trade, that impacts expenditures to the states and some that will impact the Salton Sea.

E. Project Activity

1. North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project

a. Ratify Extension/Amendment to Authority/RIVCO Agreement  
O'Dowd introduced to the board, board acted with no further discussion.

***On motion by Morales second by Cardenas the Board approved the Extension/Amendment to Authority/Rivco Agreement.***

***Adopting Resolution Subject to the two edits by the following vote:***

***AYES: 8***

***NOES: 0***

***ABSTAINED:***

***MOTION PASSED: Unanimous***

2. Desert Shores – O'Dowd gave a brief update. Project is rapidly advancing. We are working with the Bureau of Reclamation to reallocate grant funds to meet higher than anticipated technical and design cost requirements. Tom Sephton commented. A request is being drafted and will be presented at the Authority's next meeting.

## **V. REPORTS**

### **A. Federal**

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation gave a brief update on two new nominations moving through the Senate.

### **B. State**

F. State Advocacy – Cruz Strategies, Steve Cruz reported earlier on the State Legislative Matters and also mentioned that the state was approved by the Wildlife Board for a \$5.3MM grant in partnership with Audubon on the East side of the Sea.

C. Executive Director's Report and Comments - G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority, gave a brief update, he is working with CV Strategies on finalizing the "Key Messages". O'Dowd also thanked Cambria hotel for allowing the Authority to use their facility for this "Special" meeting.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned 10:22am

### **NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

The Salton Sea Authority board is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, June 19, at 10:00 a.m.

at

Imperial County BOS Chamber

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