



OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 20, 2025

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 10:05 a.m., June 20, 2025 at the Imperial County BOS Chamber and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Director Singh

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

Gina Dockstader, President
Director Singh, Director
Joseph Mirelez, Director
Indians

AGENCY

Imperial Irrigation District
Imperial County
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice-President
John Aguilar, Director
Ex-Officio Joe Shea

AGENCY

Coachella Valley Water District
Coachella Valley Water District
California Natural Resources Agency

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Yxstian Gutierrez, Treasurer
Ryan E. Kelley, Director
V. Manuel Perez, Director
Alex Cárdenas, Director

AGENCY

Riverside County
Imperial County
Riverside County
Imperial Irrigation District

President Dockstader asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Executive Director O'Dowd requested that we move the Federal report to allow time for a late arriving Director.

Board Voted

On motion by Dockstader second by, Singh the Board approved moving the federal report to the top of the agenda.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAINED:

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

On Site: Pete Rodriguez, Tara Mulally, CV Strategies, Trina Hamby, Imperial County, EHD

Via Zoom: Pat Cooper, Riverside County, Taylour Unzicker, CA State Parks, Tom Sephton, Lisa Moore, Cultivating, tom Sephton, EcoMedia Compass, Nick Romo, Cruz Strategies, Steve Cruz, Crus Strategies, Taylour Unzicker, State Park, Carlos Campos, BB&K, Ron Spears, Bahia Del Mar Property Owners Association Board of Directors, Aydee Palomino, Alianza, Selene Lopez, Shana Rapaport, Jim Barrett, CVWD, Tina Shields, IID, Elizabeth Jachens, Bill Sidhu, Janice Rosenquest, SSA, CPA.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Singh gave an update on a visit the Imperial County Board of Supervisors made to DC, June 2-5. They met with Federal Representatives, to make sure they were advocating the urgency for federal investment and cross agency coordination to address the environmental crisis caused in regard to our receding Salton Sea.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
 - a. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Special Board Meeting 5/23/2025
 - b. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for May 31, 2205
 - Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for May 31, 2025

On motion by Mirelez second by, Singh 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. Consideration of Appointments for FY 2025-2026 Officers for the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors (effective July 1, 2025)

Executive O'Dowd gave a brief introduction and statement regarding current and past board rules and practices for filling leadership roles.

a. Election of President of Board

On motion by Estrada to nominate Dockstader and second by, Singh the Board approved Dockstader as President.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAINED:

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

b. Election of Vice-President

On motion by Dockstader to nominate Estrada, and second by, Mirelez the Board approved Estrada as Vice-President.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAINED:

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

c. Election of Secretary of Board

On motion by Dockstader to nominate Singh, and second by Mirelez the Board approved Singh as Secretary.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAINED:

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

d. Election of Treasurer of Board

On motion by Singh to nominate Mirelez, and second by Dockstader the Board approved Mirelez as Treasurer.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAINED:

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

- C. Consider Approval of Resolutions updating Signatories on Authority's bank accounts

1. Resolution 25-__ Banc of California – Regular Checking
2. Resolution 25-__ Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)

On motion by Mirelez and second by Estrada the Board approved Resolutions updating signatories for Banc of California and LAIF accounts.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAINED:

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

- D. Consider Approval of ACWA Resolutions of Endorsement and Support

- a. Resolution 25-__ - Endorse and Support G. Patrick O'Dowd for ACWA Region 9 Vice Chair

On motion by Dockstader and second by Singh the Board supports and approves the Resolution for G. Patrick O'Dowd for ACWA Region 9 Vice President.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAINED:

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

- b. Resolution 25-__ - Endorse the candidacy of Carol Lee Gonzalez Brady for ACWA Vice President

On motion by Dockstader and second by Mirelez the Board supports and approves the Resolution to endorse the candidacy for Carol Lee Gonzalez, for ACWA Vice-President.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAINED:

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

- E. Proposition 4 Update - Cruz Strategies,

Mr. Cruz and Mr. Romo have had conversations with legislators with interest in the Salton Sea, as well as the administration including Joe Shea of CNRA. They gave a brief update on the \$10MM and discussed submitting letters individually or joint to support the Authority's request as outlined in the Matrix. VP Estrada asked the timing of possible funding and, Cruz advised the budget will be approved before July 1, but the trailer and bond allocations will be voted on afterwards. He also confirmed that the Authority's proposed Bond Allocation Matrix was submitted to Senator Padilla's office. O'Dowd advised draft letters have been prepared and will go out timely. Currently, the State has proposed all the \$10MM to be used for the Conservancy, though as evidenced by the Matrix the Authority has specific needs including supporting the feasibility study, outreach and engagement efforts.

Director Aguilar stated that the legislation will want to know more specific details of where this money is going.

Mr. Shea reminded that the \$10MM Authority/Conservancy set aside is part of a larger \$10B bond, and believes there may be other opportunities to fund projects. He emphasized the shared priorities of State and the Authority.

F. Outreach & Engagement amended scope and contract – CV Strategies

O'Dowd noted CV Strategies came on board 6 months ago and is still in the process of completing their initial assignment. Due to expanded scope an additional \$7k was requested to complete the initial scope, reflecting budgeted costs incurred in 2024 . In addition \$5k/month for the first 6 months of 2025 was requested to work on refining the scopes of work which might be funded by bond or other resources as they become available\.

On motion by Dockstader and second by Mirelez the Board supports and approves the Staff recommendation of \$7,000 for the remainder of 2024 work and \$5,000 for the first six months of 2025 for Outreach & Engagement, all consistent with approved budget.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAINED:

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

G. USBR Grant Modification Request – Desert Shores.

O'Dowd gave a brief outline of this request. We have a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation for \$1.25MM to address the issues at the North Shore. Due to the grant structure, it is necessary to reclassify grant funds restricted for construction for use in preconstruction costs to complete engineering, design, and permitting. A formal written request to the Bureau authorization to move forward is recommended.

Ron Spears asked for an accounting of grant disbursements to date and Staff committed to provide a history of project receipts and expenditures.

On motion by Mirelez and second by Dockstader the Board supports and approves the request for USBR Grant Modification Request for Desert Shores.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: 8

NOES: 0

ABSTAINED:

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

H. Project Updates

- a. North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project, O'Dowd gave a brief update. We are working with the state on identifying and refining the revised project scope. Based on the geo-technical and engineering work that was done, which reduces the lake to approx. 30-acre lake and introduced a new concept of wetlands. A more comprehensive report should be available for our next meeting for.
- b. Bombay Beach has been transferred to the state as one of the SSMP projects for implementation.

V. **REPORTS**

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation, Ms. Moore gave her report at the beginning of the meeting.
2. US Bureau of Reclamation – No Report

B. State

1. State Advocacy – Steve Cruz, Cruz Strategies, gave their report during item E.
2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency – No Report
3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Taylour Unzicker, State Park Interpreter, Ocotillo Wells District. Mr Unzicker gave a brief update.

April and May down on visitation compared to last year.

April visitor center down 22%

May visitor center down 35%

April Day Use down 27%

May Day Use down 39%

April Camping down 21%

May camping down 17%

They did have upticks in previous years during Coachella and Stagecoach but didn't see that this year.

Treasurer Mirelez commented that the Torres Martinez Tribe has family events and would like to collaborate future events with the state park.

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee – Alan Pace, SSAC President – No Report

- D. Executive Director's Report and Comments - G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority, gave a brief update on the feasibility study and that it is critical to the effort's success that the study has a proper

assessment of the hydrology study of the sea for now and future projects. The Army Corp was working with UCR to develop a scope and contract to do the work but was proven to be unachievable, so the Army Corp is now working with DWR who has done a lot of this work already and have come up with a framework with DWR and will have it reviewed by the Army Corp professionals.

Also, there is a sidecar exercise, early increment projects on the North Eastern quadrant of the Sea that O'Dowd will be bringing the Chairman up to speed on. Mr. Shea wanted to reiterate that the state is going above and beyond on the Army Corp project with DWR.

VI. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- A. Public Health & Safety
- B. Board Committee Assignments

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12pm

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority board is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, July 17, at 10:00 a.m.

at

Coachella Valley Water District
Steve Robbins Administration Bldg.
75515 Hovley Lane, East
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 398-2651

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.