

July 2025

Honorable Steve Padilla
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Scott Wiener, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8630
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Benjamin Allen, Chair
Senate Budget Subcommittee #2
#4
1021 O Street, Suite 6610
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Jesse Gabriel, Chair
Assembly Budget Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Steve Bennett, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee
1021 O Street, Suite 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposition 4 – Salton Sea Funding Allocation – Salton Sea Authority

On behalf of , we urge an equitable allocation of funding included in Proposition 4 to support essential and ongoing activities in and around the Salton Sea. Specifically, we propose that the funds provided under Section 91033(b) be allocated as follows:

- **\$5 million** to the Salton Sea Authority to continue its work relating to the Salton Sea Management Program, including in partnership with the Department of Water Resources (together as “joint local sponsors” and the United States Army Corps of Engineers) continued pursuit of a comprehensive ecosystem restoration plan which when completed will facilitate access to 65% matching funds for all work thereafter relating thereto, collaboration with the state in accordance with AB71 (2013 Perez) on the creation and implementation of the Salton Sea conservancy, and related environmental, public safety, and economic revitalization efforts.
- **\$5 million** to California Natural Resources Agency to fund the creation of the Salton Sea Conservancy which was established through the 2024 statute.

The newly formed Salton Sea Conservancy provides a critical tool for ensuring future sustainable management and revitalization of the Sea. However, the Conservancy is still in its formative phase and requires a solid foundation to launch and carry out its mission effectively. At the same time, the Salton Sea Authority continues its invaluable work in collaborating with the state in the implementation of the Salton Sea Management Program, spearheading initiatives that address environmental degradation, public health concerns, and the economic disinvestment plaguing our region.

These efforts are essential to securing an equitable and sustainable future for the Salton Sea and the frontline communities most impacted by its decline.

Consistent with the bill text and preceding negotiations, we strongly believe that the limited funding available through Proposition 4 must be equitably shared between the Authority and the Conservancy to enable complementary efforts. Without adequate resources, the progress made toward environmental and public health improvements in the region would be at risk, perpetuating inequities that disproportionately burden the most vulnerable populations in the Coachella Valley.

Our communities deserve a robust, coordinated effort to address the complex challenges posed by the Salton Sea. We urge you to prioritize a balanced funding approach for both the Salton Sea Authority and the Salton Sea Conservancy.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We stand ready to support this effort in any way possible and look forward to working together to uplift the health and resilience of our communities.

Sincerely,