

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**January 15, 2026**

**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 10:07 a.m., January 15, 2026 at Coachella Valley Water District and via Zoom Webinar.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Led by Ex-Officio Shea

**ROLL CALL**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE**

Gina Dockstader, President  
Alex Cárdenas, Director  
Ryan E. Kelley, Director  
Joseph Mirelez, Treasurer  
RoseMarie Morreo, Director  
V. Manuel Perez, Director  
Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice-President  
Ex-Officio Joe Shea

**AGENCY**

Imperial Irrigation District  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Imperial County  
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
Riverside County  
Coachella Valley Water District  
California Natural Resources Agency

**DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM**

Martha Singh, Secretary

**AGENCY**

Imperial County

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Yxstian Gutierrez, Director  
John Aguilar, Director

**AGENCY**

Riverside County  
Coachella Valley Water District

President Dockstader asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

Minutes Reflect wrong location of the 11/20 meeting, corrected to show North Shore Fire Station, #41.

Secretary Singh arrived after roll call.

***On motion by Cardenas second by, Dockstader the Board approved changes to 11/20/2025 Minutes.***

***Approved by the Following Vote:***

***Ayes: 7***

***Noes: 0***

***MOTION PASSED: Unanimous***

***ABSTAINED: 0***

## **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

On Site: Enrique Arroyo, Ocotillo Wells, Pat Cooper, Riverside County, Beatrice Eslamboly, Jennifer Barnakian-Poland, CV Strategies, Mark Monin, Jim Barrett.

Via Zoom: Tom Sephton, Lisa Moore, Cultivating, Tom Sephton, Nick Romo, Cruz Strategies, Steve Cruz, Cruz Strategies, Chris Nielsen, Nielsen Strategies, Miguel Hernandez, CNRA, Larissa Sinclair, Roni Hewitt, Neal Desai, Chance Wilcox, NPCA, Kim Ferree, SD Natural History Museum, Kean Corrigan, Emmanuel Martinez, Thomas Brinkerhodd, ICAPCD, Evon Willhoff, DWR, Jamie Asbury, IID, Antonio Ortega, Griselda Melgoza, Issac, Antonio Ortega, Peter, Menifee TV, Casey, Janet, Jasmyn Phillips, Felipe, ICPHD, Vega, Lillian Garcia, Patrick Stephens, Menefee, Erin LaCombe, Chuck Tobin, Ryan Dominguez, Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute, C. Pendergast, Jessica Humes, Stephanie Holstege, Shana Rapoport.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mark Monen thanked the Salton Sea Authority.  
Larissa Sinclair commented on the long-term planning and community engagement aspects.  
Chance Wilcox, lives in Morongo Valley, and is the Director of the California Desert Program National Parks Association spoke about Cadiz.

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

## **III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File

1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting 01/15/2026
2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for 11/30/25 and 12/31/25
3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for 11/30/25

***On motion by Cardenas second by, Dockstader the Board approved the Consent Calendar.***

***Approved by the Following Vote:***

***Ayes: 8***

***Noes: 0***

***MOTION PASSED: Unanimous***

***ABSTAINED: 0***

- B. Review Annual Audit – Davis Farr. Jonathan Foster gave a brief presentation and issued a clean audit opinion.

***On motion by Morales second by, Dockstader the Board approved the Audit.***

***Approved by the Following Vote:***

***Ayes: 8***

***Noes: 0***

***MOTION PASSED: Unanimous***

**ABSTAINED: 0**

- C. Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District Presentation – Jeremy Whittie, gave a presentation on how changes at the Sea are affecting Vector Control in his service area.

Tom Sephton commented.

- D. Colorado River Policy Platform, Director O’Dowd and Lisa Moore introduced this item. Directors Cardenas, Estrada, Kelley and Perez commented. It was suggested by Director Perez to hold a SPECIAL Meeting to discuss. Estrada suggested that Director O’Dowd consolidate all the comments he’s getting and come up with one that he recommends to the Board.

***Perez asked to repeat the motion. On motion by Kelley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mirelez to reconvene on February 19 to review comments to be submitted under the EIS over the Bureau of Reclamation comment period.***

***Approved by the Following Vote:***

***Ayes: 8***

***Noes: 0***

***MOTION PASSED: Unanimous***

***ABSTAINED: 0***

- E. Strategic Planning/Governance/Restructure – President Dockstader considered resigning in light of IID’s pending departure but wants to see the Strategic Plan come to fruition.

Director Perez expressed a desire to agendize this a Board leadership. Director Estrada concurred and requested that an item be added to the March, 2026 Board meeting agenda to consider a reorganization of the board, including potentially electing new board officers.

Separately, staff recommended tabling the Strategic Plan in light of IID’s announced departure and the leadership state of flux. The Board chose instead to have CV Strategies provide a brief update and directed them to return to the March 19 Board meeting to present the final report, which should address prospectively IID’s departure and the possibility of broadening the membership base and classes.

## F. Project Related Activity

1. USACE Feasibility Study – Director O’Dowd gave a brief update. CNRA has held several outreach events with the Army Corp. The Corp is scheduling roll out plan in the next month or so.
2. North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project, Director O’Dowd gave a brief update.
  - a. Grant Expiration
  - b. Dispensation of Remaining Funds - O’Dowd will be drafting a memo requesting the board provide authorization to staff to negotiate and implement a plan for those funds to for project purposes, while preserving the Authority’s participation in North Lake integration and project implementation.

Director Perez is looking to see a balance between wetland and recreation, more concerned with public health. We need to ask the community what they want to see.

Joe stated that the State’s revised proposal should address that balance.

3. Desert Shores – Director O’Dowd gave a brief update on modifying the grant on a 90-day extension. O’Dowd was just informed that this extension will not require additional USBR approvals and should be finalized shortly to facilitate the completion of design of a “shovel ready project” for Desert Shores.

## V. **REPORTS**

### A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation – gave a brief update.
2. US Bureau of Reclamation - Unassigned

### B. State

1. State Advocacy - Nick Romo, Cruz Strategies and Glen Farrel, GF Advocacy gave a brief update.
2. rop 4 and the conservancy.
3. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency, gave a brief update.
4. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Enrique Arroyo, State Park Ocotillo Wells District Superintendent, gave a brief update.

### 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 – nothing additional to report.

**VI. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:22p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

A **SPECIAL** meeting of the Salton Sea Authority board has been called to meet on: Thursday, February 19, at 10:00 a.m.

Location to be determined.

*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.*