

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director /GM
Date: February 19, 2026
Re: Authorization to Send Comment Letter re: Colorado River Operating Guidelines EIS

Summary:

Attached is the Salton Sea Authority's draft comment letter to the U.S. Department of the Interior regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Post-2026 Colorado River Operational Guidelines. This letter outlines the Authority's concerns about the lack of analysis and mitigation for the Salton Sea in the Draft EIS and urges the Bureau of Reclamation to fulfill its legal obligations to federal and tribal lands in the region. It also recommends specific actions, including full funding and policy alignment for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Salton Sea Feasibility Study.

Purpose:

This letter is being submitted as part of the public comment process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It is intended to ensure that the Salton Sea - and the communities, tribal lands, and federal responsibilities tied to it - are fully considered in the development of new Colorado River operating rules.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the distribution of the letter in final form, affixing the signatures of all currently authorized Board members. Once authorized, staff will proceed with signature collection and submission. The letter will be transmitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior and relevant stakeholders upon finalization.