

County of Riverside

RIVERSIDE OFFICE:
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92502-1647
(951) 955-1040
Fax (951) 955-2194



DISTRICT OFFICE/MAILING ADDRESS
78015 Main Street, Ste. 205
La Quinta, CA 92253-3420
(760) 863-8211
Fax (760) 863-8905

SUPERVISOR V. MANUEL PEREZ FOURTH DISTRICT

March 6, 2026

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ken Calvert
U.S. House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Raul Ruiz, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
2342 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Padilla, Senator Schiff, Representative Calvert & Representative Ruiz:

As Supervisor for Riverside County's Fourth District, representing the eastern two-thirds of Riverside County, and also as a Director of the Salton Sea Authority, I am writing to convey my strong support for the Salton Sea Authority's FY 2027 Energy and Water Appropriations request for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding to advance the Salton Sea Imperial Streams Feasibility Study (Corps Feasibility Study).

Senator Padilla, Senator Schiff, Representative Calvert & Representative Ruiz
March 6, 2026
Page 2

The Salton Sea spans 370 square miles in Imperial and Riverside Counties and is California's largest lake. The Sea has been sustained by agricultural return flows, which have declined nearly 15 feet since 2003, and will expose roughly 30,000 acres of dry lakebed. It has been estimated that the Sea's playa will become exposed at a rate of 5,500 acres per year and that by 2045 there will be total increase of between 75,000 and 92,300 acres relative to 2003. The Sea is also now twice as salty as the ocean, causing major declines in fish and bird populations along a major stopover in the Pacific Flyway.

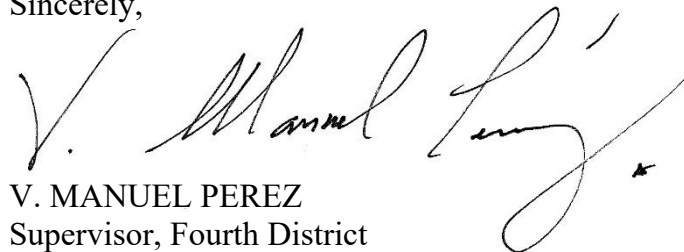
Air pollution linked to playa exposure contributes to high rates of asthma and respiratory illness, particularly in children. This is particularly the case for the disadvantaged communities surrounding the Salton Sea which suffer from the highest rates of these illnesses in the state.

The negative impacts caused by declining Sea inflows are likely to accelerate and expand because of anticipated federal water supply cutbacks likely to be adopted as part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Colorado River guidelines revisions. Now in draft form, Reclamation contemplates Sea impacts from cutbacks will be addressed through the Corps Feasibility Study.

The completion of the Corps Feasibility Study is a required prerequisite to securing 65 percent federal funding to address these critical concerns. Given the likelihood that these problems will be compounded by Reclamation's anticipated action, I ask that you ensure the Corps Feasibility Study is fully funded and accelerated to protect the communities I represent.

If you have any questions about my support for this funding request, please don't hesitate to contact me at (760) 863-8211. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Manuel Perez", with a small asterisk at the end of the signature.

V. MANUEL PEREZ
Supervisor, Fourth District

VMP:das