

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY SPECIAL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 19, 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 10:05 a.m., March 19, 2026 at Imperial County BOS Chamber and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Secretary Singh

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE

Gina Dockstader, President
Ryan E. Kelley, Director
Martha Singh, Secretary
Joseph Mirelez, Treasurer
Indians
RoseMarie Morreo, Director
Indians
John Aguilar, Director
Ex-Officio Joe Shea

AGENCY

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM

V. Manuel Perez, Director
Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice-President

AGENCY

Riverside County
Coachella Valley Water District

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Alex Cárdenas, Director
Yxstian Gutierrez, Director

AGENCY

Imperial Irrigation District
Riverside County

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

No Changes, vote was taken to approve the agenda.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

On Site: Miguel Hernandez, CNRA, Vickie Doyle, IID, Thomas Brinkerhoff and Trina Hamby, ICPD

Via Zoom: Lisa Moore, Cultivating Conservation, Glenn Farrel, GF Advocacy, Nick Romo

Cruz Strategies, Tom Sephton, Sephton Water Technology, Janet Wilson, Emmanuel Martinez, CVAG, Stephanie Holstege, Waterboard, Jim Barrett, CVWD, Antonio Ortega, IID, Kimberly, Jake, Juan De Lara, SSAC, Larissa Sinclair, Camila Bautista, Audubon, Czar Tide, Pat Cooper, Jasmyn Phillips, Kelley, Geoffrey Holbrook, Erin LaCombe

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Larissa Sinclair is developing a community Salton Sea pop up museum project, bringing local history, memories and photography, creating a space for locals and visitors. Her website is visitsaltonseas.com

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority SPECIAL Board Meeting 02/19/2026
 2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for February 1, 2026 through February 28, 2026
 3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report as of January 31, 2026

Director Aguilar, asked to confirm that Vice-President Estrada was in attendance at the 2/19 meeting, was not reflected on the minutes, asked to correct Estrada's attendance on the 2/19/2026 minutes

On motion by Mirelez second by Aguilar, to correct Estrada's attendance on the 2/19/2026 minutes and the Board approved the Consent Calendar per staff recommendation.

Approved by the Following Vote:

Ayes: 10

Noes: 0

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

ABSTAINED: 0

- B. Salton Sea Authority 5-Year Strategic Plan – Review, Discuss, Approve, and authorize implementation.

O'Dowd gave a brief summary of the plan.

Director Aguilar inquired about the Matrix, Strategy 1 and 8.

Strategy 1 mentions an MOU with the conservancy to be executed by the end year, 2026, asked if that had started yet and if the conservancy was on board to do an MOU. O'Dowd responded that it seemed like a reasonable objective and a responsible timeline to implement that. It would give both organizations clarity and direction.

Strategy 8 mentions forming health agencies, has that been initiated? O'Dowd responded that this refers to the frame work of assurance that has been previously discussed and have taken steps to meet with representatives from various public health agencies and have received positive feedback from them on forming this.

Shea stated that he hasn't had a chance to review the strategic plan in full and that this is the 1st time he has heard any mention of the MOU but is willing to further this discussion. O'Dowd, it's a concept, we just need to find out who to talk to at the conservancy to see if this will work.

On motion by Perez, second by, Mirelez the Board approved the 5-Year Strategic Plan.

Approved by the Following Vote:

Ayes: 10

Noes: 0

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

ABSTAINED: 0

- C. Fiscal 2027 Budget Principals – Review and Direction, O'Dowd stated that there will be no increase in the member contributions for FY26-27. Any new positions within the Authority will require funding.
- D. Discuss reorganizational strategies for the Authority including leadership and membership qualification. Actions may include reorganization of board officers.

Directors Perez, Singh, Mirelez, Estrada and Kelley discussed 3 options:

1. Elect a Temporary President until June and follow through with our regular election in June.
2. Elect New President now and continue to full fill the year plus these additional 3 months.

3. Leave as is and have elections in June.

Vice-President Estrada accepted the role at President until June when we will have the elections.

Upon motion by Kelley, this is not a reflection to Chairwoman Dockstader, this is the decision by IID to leave the organization and that an organization must be headed and fronted by a participant that has obligated and responsible into the agency. Kelley made the motion to change and move in order if accepting with the officers that are in place and to readdress at the regular election cycle for the Salton Sea Authority.

On motion by Kelley, second by Mirelez the Board approved reorganization of the Board.

Approved by the Following Vote:

Ayes: 7

Noes: 3

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

ABSTAINED:

- E. Colorado River Post 2026 Operating Guidelines EIS Update

President Dockstader gave a brief update. There were no 7 state agreements, JB Hamby has been working diligently, there's been no movement with the upper basin. There have been talks in bringing in a mediator. Discussions have gone as far as a 2-year agreement, just to have something on the table.

- F. Proposition 68 /North Lake Wetlands Funding Update and possible action

O'Dowd gave a brief update. No new information regarding state putting something together to facilitate the advancement of the remaining \$17MM by fiscal year.

Ex-Officio Shea responded, DWR just rec'd the FINAL 12/31/2025 quarterly report on Monday, they are working on closing out by next week. Shea will have an update on the proposal at the next meeting in May, that will clearly outline how they would like to proceed. Shea also commented on the status of the site investigations; this will allow contractors to recruit and get someone under contract to build this project.

- G. USACE Feasibility Study

1. RAPID Implementation

O'Dowd stated this the Rapid Implementation, is that they want to see projects not proposals.

Shea responded that we need to figure out how to rally around this plan and prioritize the process so we can continue to remain focused on the Sea solution.

2. Outreach, Education, and Relationships

O'Dowd gave a brief update. There has been discussions on a resource for outreach and engagement and working on a discreet funding for that. He's hoping to have update at the next meeting in May.

3. Appropriations

a. Federal

Ms. Moore, gave a brief update on the appropriations process for FY 26-27. IN FY26, we secured \$1.76MM for the Army Corp Study and for clarification, the Army Corp seeks funds in the congressional appropriations process, that go to the Arm Corp of Engineers, so that funding doesn't go to the Authority, so we need to advocate for the, she also gave an update on the FY27. She wanted to thank Supervisor Perez, County of Riverside and Supervisor Kelley and Secretary Crowfoot for sending in individual letters of support.

b. State

Nick Romo gave a brief update on the work they have been doing. They are bringing Senator Padilla up to speed and engaging Padilla on the Colorado River and the Feasibility study. The state is looking at a \$25B budget deficit so that earmark requests were asked to max out at \$1M, for local projects of which they did put a \$1MM earmark to Padilla to support community engagement and other activities.

c. Other

H. Desert Shores

1. Grant Status

2. Next Steps

O'Dowd is working on finalizing the grant agreement with the Bureau. Hopefully next year we will have a shovel ready project.

Tom Sephton commented.

V. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation gave an update during Item G discussion.
2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Unassigned – No Report

B. State

1. State Advocacy - Nick Romo, Cruz Strategies and Glen Farrel, GF Advocacy, gave an update during Item G discussion.
2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency, gave a brief update on future USACE workshops and the two more ponds being filled at the SCH. Work continues in the center and wet pond.
3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Ray Lennox, Colorado District Superintendent. – No Report

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 an update on an event he attended at Bombay Beach, where the public could engage in writing and drawings of the Sea. O'Dowd also mentioned receiving CV Strategies final bill and will bring up for discussion at the May meeting.

VI. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Director Kelley requested a presentation on the proposed Arizona seawater

- importation project
- State 17MM advancement update
- Patrick to give an update on the funding for outreach and engagement
- Discuss CV Strategies Final Bill

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

The Salton Sea Authority board is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, May 21, at 10:00 a.m.

at

Coachella Valley Water District

75515 Hovley Lane, East

Palm Desert, CA 92260

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.