



**AGENDA:** **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**DATE:** **Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.**  
**LOCATION:** Coachella Valley Water District  
Steve Robbins Administration Bldg.  
75515 Hovley Lane East  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

The following Salton Sea Authority Directors will be attending remotely via video/teleconference from the location(s) indicated:

Director Kelley  
Imperial County  
940 W. Main Street  
El Centro, CA 92243

Remote participation for this meeting is accessible at:  
<http://www.SaltonSea.com/meetings>

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **ROLL CALL**

*A copy of the agenda and supplemental materials will be available for viewing or download from [SaltonSea.com/meetings](http://www.SaltonSea.com/meetings)*

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This Public Comments time is reserved for comments on any non-action agenda item and for matters not on the agenda. California law prohibits members of the Board from taking action on matters not on the agenda.

Members of the public may address the Board regarding any matter within the Authority's jurisdiction and are invited to speak to any specific action item in the agenda at the time it is called. All other remarks should be provided during this general public comment period.

**Speakers should state their name for the record and address all comments to the Chair, limiting remarks to three (3) minutes.**

In person attendees should complete a "request to speak" form and provide it to the Clerk of the Board. Remote speakers must use Zoom's "raised hand" feature (or if by phone, press \*9) to be recognized.

Written comments may be emailed to **info@saltonseas.com**, or delivered by hand or mail to 82500 Highway 111, Suite 4, Indio, California, "Attn: Clerk of the Board, Salton Sea Authority". Please include "Public Comment, 05/21/2026 Board meeting" in the subject line, and also include your name, address (addresses will be redacted), referencing the specific agenda item if appropriate.

All written comments will be distributed to the Board, posted on **SaltonSea.com** for public viewing and, **if received before noon on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**, publicly acknowledged during the Board meeting. (Written comments will be included in the public record but not be read aloud.)

**III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

This time is set aside for members of the Board to share thoughts and concerns regarding general Authority matters not on the agenda, ask questions of staff, and request items to be added to a future agenda.

The Brown Act expressly prohibits lengthy Board Member discussion of matters not on the agenda. The Board may at its discretion (by 4/5 vote) add items deemed to be an emergency to the agenda to allow for public discourse.

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

A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File

1. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting 3/19/2026
2. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for March and April 2026
3. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report for April 2026

B. Salton Sea Authority 2026/2027 Operating Budget – Review and Approve

1. Member Contributions
2. Federal Funding
3. State Funding
4. Expense Detail

C. CV Strategies, Final Accounting

D. Renew Office Lease

- E. Project Related Activity
  - 1. USACE Feasibility Study
    - a. Outreach
    - b. Funding
  - 2. North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project
    - a. Dispensation of Remaining Funds
  - 3. Desert Shores
    - a. Grant Modification
    - b. Engagement of Council
- F. Arizona Seawater Importation

## **V. REPORTS**

- A. Federal
  - 1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation
  - 2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Aron King, SoCal Area Mgr., Lower CO Region
- B. State
  - 1. State Advocacy - Nick Romo, Cruz Strategies and Glen Farrel, GF Advocacy
  - 2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency
- C. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Ray Lennox  
Colorado District Superintendent.
- D. Local
  - 1. Salton Sea Action Committee – Alan Pace, SSAC President
- E. Executive Director’s Report and Comments - G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority

## **VI. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

### **NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

The Salton Sea Authority board is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, June 18, at 10:00 a.m.

at

Imperial County BOS Chamber

940 W Main Street

El Centro, CA 92243

(442) 265-1020

*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.*

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*



## Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register

March 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026

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| <b>Date</b>                   | <b>Number</b> |                                        | <b>Amount</b>                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 03/03/2026                    | ACH           | Lee and Associates Property Management | Rent -3/26 (1,250.00)                    |
| 03/03/2026                    | ACH           | Imperial Irrigation District           | Utilities - 2/26 (84.66)                 |
| 03/10/2026                    | ACH           | Deposit                                | Prop 68 Grant Reimbursement 168,297.41   |
| 03/11/2026                    | ACH           | Banc of California                     | VISA billing cycle ended 2/26 (2,695.54) |
| 03/27/2026                    | ACH           | Frontier Communications                | Internet service 2/26 (104.99)           |
| 03/31/2026                    | ACH           | Best, Best & Krieger                   | Legal services 2/26 (6,133.00)           |
| 03/31/2026                    | ACH           | Allied                                 | Insurance renewal 4/26-4/27 (10,062.00)  |
| 03/31/2026                    | ACH           | SystemGo IT LLC                        | Consulting services 3/26 (418.49)        |
| 03/31/2026                    | ACH           | Cultivating Conservation               | Consulting services 3/26 (7,350.00)      |
| 03/31/2026                    | ACH           | Steve Cruz                             | Consulting services 3/27 (7,000.00)      |
| 03/31/2026                    | ACH           | Riverside County                       | Payroll Transfer (100,000.00)            |
| 03/31/2026                    | ACH           | County of Riverside - Executive Office | DWR 68 Grant Reimbursement (165,779.65)  |
| 03/31/2026                    | ACH           | Janice Rosenquist                      | Accounting Services 2/26 (2,035.00)      |
|                               |               |                                        | <hr/>                                    |
| <b>Beginning Cash Balance</b> |               |                                        | <b>\$ 472,704.14</b>                     |
|                               |               |                                        | <hr/>                                    |
| <b>Monthly Activity</b>       |               |                                        | <b>(134,615.92)</b>                      |
|                               |               |                                        | <hr/>                                    |
| <b>Ending Cash Balance</b>    |               |                                        | <b>\$ 338,088.22</b>                     |



## Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register

April 1, 2026 through April 30, 2026

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| <b>Date</b>                   | <b>Number</b> |                                        |                                         | <b>Amount</b>        |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 04/01/2026                    | ACH           | Imperial Irrigation District           | Utilities - 2/26                        | (83.84)              |
| 04/02/2026                    | ACH           | Lee and Associates Property Management | Rent - 4/26                             | (1,250.00)           |
| 04/13/2026                    | ACH           | Banc of California                     | VISA billing cycle ended 3/26           | (2,002.16)           |
| 04/15/2026                    | ACH           | Grant Reimbursement fro DWR            | Due from DWR (Prop 68)                  | 575,510.97           |
| 04/28/2026                    | ACH           | Alexander Delaherran                   | Community outreach meeting refreshments | (685.00)             |
| 04/28/2026                    | ACH           | Frontier Communications                | Internet service 3/26                   | (104.99)             |
| 04/29/2026                    | ACH           | Imperial Irrigation District           | Utilities - 3/26                        | (145.16)             |
| 04/30/2026                    | ACH           | Best, Best & Krieger                   | Legal services 4/26                     | (7,051.30)           |
| 04/30/2026                    | ACH           | SystemGo IT LLC                        | Consulting services 4/26                | (418.49)             |
| 04/30/2026                    | ACH           | Allied                                 | Insurance renewal 4/26-4/27             | (4,852.00)           |
| 04/30/2026                    | ACH           | Cultivating Conservation               | Consulting services 4/26                | (7,350.00)           |
| 04/30/2026                    | ACH           | Steve Cruz                             | Consulting services 4/26                | (7,000.00)           |
| 04/30/2026                    | ACH           | County of Riverside - Executive Office | DWR Grant Expenditures                  | (574,283.08)         |
| 04/30/2026                    | ACH           | Janice Rosenquist                      | Accounting Services 3/26                | (2,365.00)           |
| 04/30/2026                    | ACH           | Bravata, Lisa                          | Expense report reimbursement            | (141.38)             |
| <b>Beginning Cash Balance</b> |               |                                        |                                         | <b>\$ 338,088.22</b> |
| <b>Monthly Activity</b>       |               |                                        |                                         | <b>(32,221.43)</b>   |
| <b>Ending Cash Balance</b>    |               |                                        |                                         | <b>\$ 305,866.79</b> |

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## Salton Sea Authority Budget to Actual General Fund (Unaudited)

For the Period July 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026

|                                                   | Nov 2025       | Dec 2025       | Jan 2026  | Feb 2026  | Mar 2026   | YTD FY 26 | YTD FY 2026    | C<br>Budget<br>FY 25 | B / C<br>YTD<br>Target<br>83% | B - C<br>\$ Variance |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>1 REVENUE</b>                                  |                |                |           |           |            |           |                |                      |                               |                      |
| 2 Local Government / Member Assessments           | 200,000        | 200,000        |           |           |            |           | 800,000        | \$ 800,000           | 100%                          | \$ -                 |
| 3 Other Federal / State / Local Contributions     |                |                |           |           |            |           | -              | 525,000              | 0%                            | (525,000)            |
| 4 Sponsorships                                    |                |                |           |           |            |           | 10,000         | 10,000               | 100%                          | -                    |
| 5 Other Grants                                    |                |                |           |           |            |           | -              | -                    | -                             | -                    |
| Interest Income                                   |                |                |           |           |            |           | -              | -                    | -                             | -                    |
| 6 Miscellaneous Revenue                           | 10             | 13             | 35        | 39        | 45         | 7         | 236            | -                    | -                             | 236                  |
| 7 Grant and Other Reimbursements to General Fund  |                | 2,334          |           |           | 307        |           | 6,748          | -                    | -                             | 6,748                |
| 8 Grant Reimbursements and Other Income           | -              | 2,347          | 35        | 39        | 352        | 7         | 6,974          | 44,300               | 16%                           | (37,326)             |
| <b>9 TOTAL REVENUE</b>                            | <b>200,000</b> | <b>202,347</b> | <b>35</b> | <b>39</b> | <b>352</b> | <b>7</b>  | <b>806,974</b> | <b>1,379,300</b>     | <b>59%</b>                    | <b>(572,326)</b>     |
| <b>10 EXPENSES</b>                                |                |                |           |           |            |           |                |                      |                               |                      |
| 11 Total Salaries                                 | 18,770         | 18,770         | 18,770    | 18,770    | 18,770     | 18,770    | 197,082        | 238,995              | 82%                           | (41,913)             |
| 12 Total Employee Benefits                        | 9,954          | 9,996          | 8,374     | 9,995     | 9,995      | 9,995     | 102,881        | 126,574              | 81%                           | (23,693)             |
| 13 Total Salaries & Benefits                      | 28,723         | 28,766         | 27,144    | 28,765    | 28,765     | 28,765    | 299,963        | 365,569              | 82%                           | (65,606)             |
| 14 Contract / Professional Services               |                |                |           |           |            |           | -              | -                    | -                             | -                    |
| 15 DC Advocates                                   | 7,350          | 7,350          | 7,350     | 7,350     | 7,350      | 7,350     | 73,500         | 89,600               | 82%                           | (16,100)             |
| 16 Sacramento Advocates                           | 7,000          | 7,000          | 7,000     | 7,000     | 7,000      | 7,000     | 70,000         | 84,000               | 83%                           | (14,000)             |
| 17 Attorney Fees                                  | 1,896          | 2,368          | 2,937     | 3,196     | 4,122      | 8,256     | 34,026         | 48,000               | 71%                           | (13,974)             |
| 18 Audit & Accounting                             | 1,925          | 4,345          | 14,785    | 2,035     | 2,365      | 2,200     | 45,035         | 75,000               | 60%                           | (29,965)             |
| 19 Public Outreach & Engagement                   |                | 10,000         |           |           |            |           | 685            | 60,000               | 76%                           | (14,315)             |
| 20 Total Contract / Professional Services         | 18,171         | 31,063         | 32,072    | 19,581    | 20,837     | 25,491    | 268,246        | 356,600              | 75%                           | (88,354)             |
| 21 Administration                                 |                |                |           |           |            |           | -              | -                    | -                             | -                    |
| 22 Travel/Mileage                                 | 3,025          | 65             | 3,000     | 3,000     | 3,141      | 3,000     | 26,727         | 35,000               | 76%                           | (8,273)              |
| 23 Conferences/Seminars/Summits                   |                |                | 75        | 1,999     | 1,329      |           | 5,645          | 15,000               | 38%                           | (9,355)              |
| 24 Office Rent                                    | 1,250          | 1,250          | 1,250     | 1,250     | 1,250      | 1,250     | 12,500         | 17,400               | 72%                           | (4,900)              |
| 25 Utilities                                      | 10             | 169            | 125       | 72        | 85         | 290       | 1,630          | 4,000                | 41%                           | (2,370)              |
| 26 Repair and Service Maintenance                 |                |                |           |           |            |           | 149            | -                    | -                             | 149                  |
| 27 Office Rent, Utilities, and Repair/Maintenance | 1,260          | 1,260          | 1,260     | 1,260     | 1,260      | 1,260     | 13,589         | 21,400               | 63%                           | (7,811)              |
| 28 Equipment / IT Maintenance                     | 397            | 397            | 397       | 418       | 418        | 418       | 4,034          | 5,100                | 79%                           | (1,066)              |
| 29 Non-capitalized Office Equipment               |                |                | 1,663     |           |            |           | 1,715          | 5,000                | 34%                           | (3,285)              |
| 30 Insurance                                      | 1,147          | 1,147          | 1,147     | 1,147     | 1,147      | 1,147     | 11,469         | 14,000               | 82%                           | (2,531)              |

\*No assurance is provided on these financial statements. The financial statements do not include a statement of cash flows. Substantially all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. are not included.



## Salton Sea Authority Budget to Actual General Fund (Unaudited)

For the Period July 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026

|    |                                   |                   |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    | C              | B / C             | B - C                |                  |
|----|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
|    |                                   | Nov 2025          | Dec 2025          | Jan 2026           | Feb 2026           | Mar 2026           | YTD FY 26          | YTD FY 2026    | Budget<br>FY 25   | YTD<br>Target<br>83% | \$ Variance      |
| 31 | Bank Fees                         |                   |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    | -              | -                 | -                    | -                |
| 32 | Postage/Mail                      |                   |                   | 60                 |                    |                    |                    | 180            |                   | -                    | 180              |
| 33 | Office Expense/Operating Supplies | 675               | 125               | 1,328              | 162                | 362                | 411                | 6,053          | 5,400             | 112%                 | 653              |
| 34 | Office Expense/Online Services    | 90                | 90                | 30                 | 90                 | 112                | 110                | 542            | 5,400             | 10%                  | (4,858)          |
| 35 | Dues, Subscriptions               | 1,097             | 1,098             | 1,566              | 1,199              | 1,099              | 889                | 11,388         | 10,000            | 114%                 | 1,388            |
| 36 | Operating Expenses/County Charges | 874               |                   | 48                 |                    |                    |                    | 1,814          | 6,000             | 30%                  | (4,186)          |
| 37 | Board Room Usage and Recordings   | 513               | 105               | 411                | 917                |                    |                    | 3,111          | 3,600             | 86%                  | (489)            |
| 38 | Interest Expense                  |                   |                   |                    |                    |                    |                    | -              | 1,231             | 0%                   | (1,231)          |
| 39 | Total Administration              | 9,079             | 4,287             | 10,985             | 10,192             | 8,870              | 7,235              | 86,216         | 127,131           | 68%                  | (40,915)         |
| 40 | <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>             | 55,973            | 64,116            | 70,201             | 58,538             | 58,471             | 61,492             | 654,425        | 849,300           | 77%                  | (194,875)        |
| 41 | <b>NET REVENUE / (EXPENSES)</b>   | <b>\$ 144,027</b> | <b>\$ 138,231</b> | <b>\$ (70,166)</b> | <b>\$ (58,499)</b> | <b>\$ (58,120)</b> | <b>\$ (61,485)</b> | <b>152,549</b> | <b>\$ 530,000</b> | <b>29%</b>           | <b>(377,451)</b> |

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**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Budget to Actual**  
**DWR - Proposition 68 Grant (Unaudited)**

For the Period July 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026

|                                                 | Nov 2025    | Dec 2025    | Jan 2026    | Feb 2026 | Mar 2026 | Apr 2026 | YTD FY 26   | C<br>Budget  | B / C<br>YTD Target<br>83% | B - C<br>\$ Variance |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>1 REVENUE</b>                                |             |             |             |          |          |          |             |              |                            |                      |
| 2 State of California Grant (Prop 68)           | \$ -        | \$ 639,458  |             |          | \$ -     |          | \$ 826,455  | \$ 1,976,000 | 42%                        | \$ (1,149,545)       |
| <b>3 TOTAL REVENUE</b>                          | -           | 639,458     |             |          |          |          | 826,455     | 1,976,000    | 42%                        | (1,149,545)          |
| <b>4 EXPENSES</b>                               |             |             |             |          |          |          |             |              |                            |                      |
| 5 SSA Salaries & Contract Accounting            |             | 2,334       |             |          |          |          | 4,852       | 15,000       | 32%                        | (10,148)             |
| 6 Riverside County Salaries                     |             |             |             |          |          |          | -           | -            |                            | -                    |
| 7 Contractors                                   |             | 637,124     |             |          | -        |          | 821,603     | 1,961,000    | 42%                        | (1,139,397)          |
| 8 Department of Water Resources-North Lake Demo |             |             |             |          |          |          | -           |              |                            | -                    |
| <b>9 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                         | -           | 639,458     |             |          |          |          | 826,455     | 1,976,000    | 42%                        | (1,149,545)          |
| <b>10 NET INCOME / (LOSS)</b>                   | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |          |          |          | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b>  | <b>-</b>                   | <b>-</b>             |

Note: Last grant reimbursement submitted for Dec 2025.

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## Salton Sea Authority Budget to Actual BOR -DSR (Unaudited)

For the Period July 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026

|                                                      | Nov 2025    | Dec 2025    | Jan 2026    | Feb 2026    | Mar 2026    | Apr 2026    | YTD FY 26   | Budget      | B / C          | B - C        |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
|                                                      |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             | YTD Target 83% | \$ Variance  |
| <b>1 REVENUE</b>                                     |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                |              |
| 2 Bureau of Reclamation Grant                        | \$ -        | \$ 6,539    |             |             | \$ 631      |             | \$ 46,903   | \$ 744,000  | 6%             | \$ (697,097) |
| <b>3 TOTAL REVENUE</b>                               | -           | 6,539       | -           | -           | 631         | -           | 46,903      | 750,000     | 6%             | (703,097)    |
| <b>4 EXPENSES</b>                                    |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |                |              |
| 5 Riverside County Salaries                          |             |             |             |             |             |             | -           | -           |                | -            |
| 6 SSA Salaries & Contract Accounting                 |             | 969         |             |             |             |             | 2,558       | 15,000      | 17%            | (12,442)     |
| 7 Contractors                                        |             | 5,570       |             |             | 631         |             | 44,345      | 735,000     | 6%             | (690,655)    |
| 8 Legal Expenses                                     |             |             |             |             |             |             | -           | -           |                | -            |
| 9 Bureau of Reclamation-Desert Shores Revitalization |             |             |             |             |             |             | -           | -           |                | -            |
| <b>10 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                             | -           | 6,539       | -           | -           | 631         | -           | 46,903      | 750,000     | 6%             | 750,000      |
| <b>11 NET INCOME / (LOSS)</b>                        | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>-</b>       | <b>\$ -</b>  |

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**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Balance Sheet**  
(Unaudited)  
Apr 2026

|    |                                             |           |                |
|----|---------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1  | <b>ASSETS</b>                               |           |                |
| 2  | Checking/Savings                            | \$        | 305,867        |
| 3  | Rivco Payroll                               |           | 29,906         |
| 4  | Rivco Investment                            |           | 2,328          |
| 5  | Rivco Investment FMV Adjustment             |           | (152)          |
| 6  | Checking/Savings                            |           | 337,950        |
| 7  | Accounts Receivable                         |           | -              |
| 8  | Rent Deposits                               |           | 1,250          |
| 9  | Prepaid Items                               |           | 17,664         |
| 10 | Due from BOR                                |           | 631            |
| 11 | Due from DWR                                |           | 242,177        |
| 12 | Due from Grant Funds                        |           | 26,911         |
| 13 | Right to Use Asset                          |           | 3,052          |
| 14 | <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                         | <b>\$</b> | <b>629,635</b> |
| 15 | <b>LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>       |           |                |
| 16 | <b>LIABILITIES</b>                          |           |                |
| 17 | Accounts Payable                            | \$        | 12,328         |
| 18 | Accrued Expenses                            |           | 45,390         |
| 19 | Credit Card Payable                         |           | 1,532          |
| 20 | Accrued Payroll                             |           | 5,109          |
| 21 | Accrued Vacation                            |           | 95,609         |
| 22 | Accrued Sick                                |           | 8,160          |
| 23 | Lease Liability                             |           | 3,861          |
| 24 | Due to Other Funds                          |           | 324            |
| 25 | Due to BOR                                  |           | 24,271         |
| 26 | Due to Riverside County                     |           | 231,013        |
| 28 | <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>                    |           | <b>427,597</b> |
| 30 | <b>Fund Balance</b>                         |           |                |
| 31 | Fund Balance                                |           | 49,489         |
| 32 | Net Income                                  |           | 152,549        |
| 34 | <b>FUND BALANCE</b>                         |           | <b>202,038</b> |
| 36 | <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b> | <b>\$</b> | <b>629,634</b> |

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**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director /GM  
**Date:** May 21, 2026  
**Re:** **FY 2026/27 Proposed Budget - Narrative Overview**

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This memorandum presents the Authority's proposed General Fund Budget for FY 2026/27 with narrative explanation of material assumptions. The Board is asked to review, discuss, and approve the proposed budget.

**REVENUE ASSUMPTIONS**

**Member Assessments - \$610,000**

Budget maintains member contributions at prior year levels. Member assessments are the Authority's most stable revenue source.

**Grant Reimbursements - \$310,000 net**

Represents administrative overhead retained from three grant programs: Desert Shores (USBR, 6% on \$500K spend); North Lake Pilot Project / NLPDP (CDWR, 40% on \$200K annual program); and IRA / Feasibility Study Program (USBR, 40% on \$500K). Total gross grant activity is \$1.2M; net reimbursement to the General Fund is \$310,000. The IRA overhead component of \$200,000 is the single largest contingent item in the budget.

**Account 4092 - \$80,000**

This line carries an \$80,000 projection without a confirmed source. Management is pursuing state and federal partnership reimbursements and supplemental federal program funding relating to the Feasibility Study to cover it. In FY 2025/26, the same account was budgeted at \$525,000 for anticipated IRA receipts that did not materialize; the estimate has been right-sized accordingly and expenses were not incurred relating thereto.

**EXPENDITURE ASSUMPTIONS**

**Salaries and Benefits - \$515,963**

Current staff receive a 5% cost-of-living adjustment. Benefits increase 5% over prior year actuals. Three new positions - one Assistant General Manager (\$120K base) and two half-time interns (\$25/hour) - are budgeted at half-year each but will not be recruited or filled unless and until IRA grant funding is secured. Their cost is directly offset by the grant overhead they support; if funding is not secured, the positions are not filled.

**Advocacy - \$216,000 (\$120K DC / \$96K Sacramento)**

The DC advocacy contract has not been adjusted in four years despite substantially increased workload from Colorado River post-2026 negotiations, WRDA 2026, the IRA funds

utilization, and Feasibility Study coordination. The proposed rate of \$10,000 per month reflects a modest realignment to workload. Sacramento advocacy is budgeted at \$9,000 per month, reflecting an anticipated increase in state engagement as the Feasibility Study, North Lake Pilot Project, and state budget processes intensify.

**Legal - \$42,000 (\$18K General / \$24K Legislative)**

Legal costs are split for the first time into general corporate counsel (\$18K) and legislative/regulatory support (\$24K), the latter reflecting work on the Feasibility Study, WRDA language, and federal regulatory engagement. The split improves cost visibility for grant reporting.

**All Other Operating**

Finance/CPA (\$75K), outreach (\$40K), rent (\$18K), travel and conferences (\$54K), and remaining operating costs are generally estimated at 5% above prior year actuals or consistent with modified contractual terms. No new categories relative to prior year.

**GRANT ADMINISTRATION**

Separate from the General Fund, the Authority anticipates \$1.2M in gross grant receipts and \$890K in program expenditures across three programs: NLPDP (CDWR, \$200K receipts / \$120K spend), Desert Shores (USBR, \$500K / \$470K), and IRA/Colorado River (USBR, \$500K / \$300K, contingent). Net reimbursement of \$310,000 flows to the General Fund as described above.

**FINANCIAL RISK AND CONTINGENCY**

The budget's two unconfirmed revenue lines - \$200,000 in IRA program overhead and \$80,000 in account 4092 - are partially self-mitigating. The new staff positions funded by the IRA overhead will not be filled if the grant is not secured, so that revenue risk does not translate directly into a deficit. The \$80,000 in 4092 represents the residual exposure.

The Authority is forecasting to close FY 2025/26 with approximately \$175,000 in cash reserves. This reserve is sufficient to sustain operations through timing delays or a revenue shortfall without program disruption. Management does not treat the reserve as a substitute for securing the contingent revenues, but it provides meaningful operational flexibility.

Management will return to the Board with a mid-year budget status report by the close of Q1 FY 2026/27.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Management recommends the Board:

- Approve the FY 2026/27 Proposed General Fund Budget as presented;
- Authorize the Executive Director to execute expenditures consistent with the approved budget;
- Direct management to provide a mid-year budget status report no later than [Month] 2026; and
- Authorize the Executive Director to accept and administer federal or state grant awards consistent with program priorities described herein, subject to Board notification.

**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Final Draft Budget**  
**FY 2026/27**

|                             |                                                        | FY 26/27<br>Proposed<br>General Fund<br>Budget | FY 25/26<br>Trailing 12<br>Actuals | FY 25/26<br>Adopted<br>Budget<br>General Fund | Excess FY25/26<br>over budget |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>              |                                                        |                                                |                                    |                                               |                               |
| 1                           | 4000 Local Gov/Member Assessments                      | 610,000                                        | 800,000                            | 800,000                                       | -                             |
| 2                           | 4005 Grant Funding                                     |                                                |                                    | -                                             | -                             |
| 3                           | 4006 Grants & Other Reimbursements to General Fund     | 310,000                                        | 11,459                             | 44,300                                        | (32,841)                      |
| 4                           | 4091 Sponsorships                                      | 24,000                                         | 10,000                             | 10,000                                        | -                             |
| 5                           | 4092 Other Fed/State/Local Reimb.                      | 80,000                                         | -                                  | 525,000                                       | (525,000)                     |
| 6                           | <b>Total Revenue</b>                                   | \$ 1,024,000                                   | \$ 821,459                         | \$ 1,379,300                                  | \$ (557,841)                  |
| <b>Expenses</b>             |                                                        |                                                |                                    |                                               |                               |
| 7                           | <b>Administration</b>                                  |                                                |                                    |                                               | -                             |
| 8                           | Total Employee Salaries                                | 338,929                                        | 238,504                            | 238,750                                       | (246)                         |
| 9                           | Total Employee Benefits                                | 177,034                                        | 118,646                            | 126,452                                       | (7,806)                       |
| 10                          | <b>Total Salaries and Benefits</b>                     | \$ 515,963                                     | \$ 357,150                         | \$ 365,202                                    | \$ (8,052)                    |
| 11                          | <b>6000 Contract Service / Professional</b>            |                                                |                                    |                                               |                               |
| 12                          | 6100 Finance / CPA                                     | 75,000                                         | 53,505                             | 75,000                                        | (21,495)                      |
| 13                          | 6103 DC Advocates                                      | 120,000                                        | 80,850                             | 89,600                                        | (8,750)                       |
| 14                          | 6104 Sacramento Advocate                               | 96,000                                         | 77,000                             | 84,000                                        | (7,000)                       |
| 15                          | 6110 Outreach & Engagement (Other Contract Services)   | 40,000                                         | 53,988                             | 60,000                                        | (6,013)                       |
| 16                          | 6201 Attorney - General                                | 18,000                                         | 29,014                             | 48,000                                        | (18,986)                      |
| 17                          | 6202 Attorney - Legislative                            | 24,000                                         |                                    |                                               | -                             |
| 18                          | 6300 Equipment Maintenance                             | 5,000                                          | 4,410                              | 4,989                                         | (579)                         |
| 19                          | 6310 Office Equipment and Furniture < \$5,000          | 3,500                                          | 1,715                              | 5,000                                         | (3,285)                       |
| 20                          | 6325 Insurance                                         | 16,500                                         | 15,189                             | 10,933                                        | 4,257                         |
| 21                          | 6330 Office Exp/Operating Supplies                     | 5,000                                          | 6,407                              | 5,400                                         | 1,007                         |
| 22                          | 6335 Office Exp/Online Services (Licenses & User Fees) | 4,000                                          | 1,553                              | 4,053                                         | (2,500)                       |
| 23                          | 6340 Postage, Mail                                     | 200                                            | 180                                |                                               | 180                           |
| 24                          | 6350 Dues, Subscriptions                               | 12,000                                         | 11,637                             | 10,000                                        | 1,637                         |
| 25                          | 6355 Communications                                    |                                                | (209)                              |                                               | (209)                         |
| 26                          | 6360 Interest Expense - RIVCO Investment               |                                                | (513)                              | 1,300                                         | (1,813)                       |
| 27                          | 6365 Rent                                              | 18,000                                         | 15,022                             | 17,400                                        | (2,378)                       |
| 28                          | 6366 Repair and Service Maintenance                    | 1,200                                          |                                    |                                               | -                             |
| 29                          | 6370 Travel/Mileage                                    | 42,000                                         | 40,648                             | 35,000                                        | 5,648                         |
| 30                          | 6375 Conferences/Seminars                              | 12,000                                         | 5,645                              | 15,000                                        | (9,355)                       |
| 31                          | 6380 Public Relations                                  |                                                | 125                                |                                               | 125                           |
| 32                          | 6400 Operating Expenses/County Charges                 | 3,800                                          | 2,538                              | 6,000                                         | (3,462)                       |
| 33                          | 6403 Technical Support - General                       | 4,800                                          | 1,576                              | 5,600                                         | (4,024)                       |
| 34                          | 6407 Communications & Outreach (Offsite Mtgs Support)  | 3,600                                          | 2,713                              | 3,600                                         | (887)                         |
| 35                          | 6420 Utilities                                         | 2,400                                          | 1,586                              | 4,000                                         | (2,414)                       |
| 36                          | <b>Total Operating Expenses</b>                        | \$ 1,022,963                                   | \$ 761,731                         | \$ 850,077                                    | \$ (88,346)                   |
| 37                          | <b>Net Revenue / (Expenses)</b>                        | \$ 1,037                                       | \$ 59,728                          | \$ 529,223                                    | \$ (469,495)                  |
| <b>Grant Administration</b> |                                                        |                                                |                                    |                                               |                               |
| 38                          | <b>Grant Reimbursements</b>                            |                                                |                                    |                                               |                               |
| 39                          | 4010 Grant Funding - CDWR (NLPDP)                      | 200,000                                        | 1,042,680                          | 2,044,300                                     | (1,001,620)                   |
| 40                          | 4015 Grant Funding - USBR (Desert Shores)              | 500,000                                        | 287,991                            | 750,000                                       | (462,009)                     |
| 41                          | 4016 Grant Funding - USBR (IRA)                        | 500,000                                        |                                    |                                               |                               |
| 42                          | <b>Grant Revenues Total</b>                            | \$ 1,200,000                                   | \$ 1,330,671                       | \$ 2,794,300                                  | \$ (1,463,629)                |
| 43                          | <b>Grant Expenditures</b>                              |                                                |                                    |                                               |                               |
| 44                          | 5010 Grant Funding - CDWR (NLPDP)                      | 120,000                                        | 1,031,221                          | 2,000,000                                     | (968,779)                     |
| 45                          | 5015 Grant Funding - USBR (Desert Shores)              | 470,000                                        | 287,991                            | 750,000                                       | (462,009)                     |
| 46                          | 5016 Grant Funding - USBR (IRA/CO River)               | 300,000                                        |                                    |                                               |                               |
| 47                          | <b>Grant Expenditures Total</b>                        | \$ 890,000                                     | \$ 1,319,212                       | \$ 2,750,000                                  | \$ (1,430,788)                |
| 48                          | <b>Net Grant Receipts (see line 3)</b>                 | \$ 310,000                                     | \$ 11,459                          | \$ 44,300                                     | \$ (32,841)                   |

## LEASE EXTENSION ADDENDUM

Addendum to Extend Lease dated March 25, 2024 (“Lease”) By and Between J & J Investments (“Lessor”) and Salton Sea Authority (“Lessee”)

**WHEREAS**, Lessor and Lessee desire to Extend the Lease for the leased Premises located in the City of Indio, CA at 82-500 Highway 111 Unit 4, as provided for in the original Lease. The current term of the Agreement expired on April 30, 2026. Lessee is currently month-to-month

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the parties mutually agree to make the following modifications and additions to the Lease:

1. The extended term of the lease shall be two (2) years, commencing July 1, 2026 and terminating June 30, 2028.
2. Rent shall be:  
Year 1: \$1,325.00 per month  
Year 2: \$1,400.00 per month
3. All other terms and conditions of the Lease shall remain unchanged.

Executed as of \_\_\_\_\_

**LESSOR:**  
J & J Investments

**LESSEE:**  
Salton Sea Authority

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Joseph Peterson

Name: G. Patrick O’Dowd

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director /GM  
**Date:** May 21, 2026  
**Re:** IRA Funding Request to Secretary Burgum - Authorization and Signatory Direction

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## BACKGROUND

The Post-2026 Colorado River Operations Draft EIS identifies the USACE Imperial Streams and Salton Sea Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study as the primary vehicle to address Salton Sea impacts from post-2026 Colorado River conservation measures. Notably, however, the DEIS failed to analyze those impacts on the Salton Sea, federal Salton Sea lands, or the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Tribe.

## PRIOR EFFORTS TO SECURE RESOURCES

Over the course of 2026, staff and our support team have pursued multiple avenues to fund activities necessary to ensure the Feasibility Study's success:

In January, at a meeting with Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Andrea Travnicek and Deputy Commissioner David Palumbo, the Authority requested sufficient IRA funding to fully fund the Feasibility Study and support community education and engagement. A follow-up written request was transmitted. No response was received.

Subsequently, with support from CVWD Board Members Estrada and Aguilar, the Authority pursued reprogramming of \$1,000,000 in existing Commitments Agreement funds to implement a defined three-year Outreach, Education, and Relationships Program — designed to help communities understand the Feasibility Study, its benefits, and facilitate meaningful public input. After meetings with Bureau of Reclamation staff from Washington and Temecula, it was determined that insufficient time remained for the Bureau to act on the request before the current fiscal period closed.

The need is real, documented, and unmet.

## **CURRENT OPPORTUNITY**

We have learned that Interior is soliciting requests for allocation of remaining unspent IRA funds, with a submission deadline of Friday, May 23, 2026.

To ensure the Salton Sea is properly positioned in that process, staff has prepared the attached letter to Secretary Burgum requesting that Interior set aside \$332.5 million in remaining IRA funds - based on Reclamation's own FY2021 Budget Justification estimate of its Clean Air Act compliance costs for Reclamation-owned exposed playa lands - to address federal land management obligations and Torres Martinez trust responsibilities at the Salton Sea.

The letter notes that this figure, prepared six years ago, is likely a conservative underestimate, as it does not account for other Interior agency lands, Torres Martinez tribal lands, or the acceleration of playa exposure resulting from conservation actions contemplated in the DEIS. It further notes that the USACE Feasibility Study, while critical, is not targeted to addressing Interior's federal land management obligations - those are a separate and parallel federal responsibility.

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

The Board is requested to:

1. Authorize transmission of the attached letter to Secretary Burgum; and
2. Provide direction as to signatories.

Staff recommends the letter be transmitted under the signature of the Authority Board President, with co-signatures from member agency board representatives as the Board directs.

## **Attachments:**

- Draft Letter to Secretary Burgum (May 18, 2026)
- January 2026 Follow-Up Letter to ASWS Travnicek and Deputy Commissioner Palumbo
- Proposed IRA Work Plan — Outreach, Education, and Relationships Program
- Meeting Request Letters — Acting Commissioner Cameron (March 24, 2026)



May 18, 2026

The Honorable Doug Burgum  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Burgum:

As you solicit funding requests from Colorado River stakeholders to address impacts from Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead (Post-2026 Guidelines), I urge you to ensure that the Department of the Interior (Interior) first sets aside \$332.5 million from remaining Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds to address impacts to Salton Sea lands owned by Interior and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Tribe (Torres Martinez Tribe).

While Reclamation failed to evaluate the impact of the Post-2026 Guidelines Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) alternatives on the Salton Sea, federal Salton Sea lands and the Torres Martinez Tribe, Reclamation has formulated a funding estimate of its own Clean Air Act compliance costs for Reclamation-owned Salton Sea lands associated with reduced Sea inflows.

This estimate provides a meaningful starting point for a federal funding commitment.

In particular, the Trump Administration's FY2021 Reclamation Budget Justification both acknowledged Reclamation's federal Clean Air Act liability for Reclamation-owned Salton Sea exposed playa lands and estimated compliance costs. In that document, attached, Reclamation estimated that 8.75 square miles of its lands would be exposed over the following 10 years. It then estimated the cost to address Reclamation's federal Clean Air Act liability for those exposed lands conservatively at \$332.5 million with annual operations and maintenance costs of \$4.375 million.

As described in our comments on the DEIS, Interior owns roughly 40% of the lands in and surrounding the Salton Sea. In addition, the Torres Martinez Aboriginal homeland is comprised of 24,000 acres in and around the Salton Sea. The federal Clean Air Act requires Interior to ensure its land management conforms to Riverside and Imperial County air quality plans. Imperial County's Clean Air Act maintenance plan is premised on ensuring that exposed playa lands, including Reclamation-owned lands, are managed to reduce particulate matter pollution. In addition, the federal law provides

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Fax: 760.262.3008

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that Interior holds the “highest responsibility and trust” to safeguard tribal assets, including the Torres Martinez Salton Sea reservation lands.

Reclamation’s FY21 \$332.5 estimate, prepared six years ago, is likely a gross underestimation of Interior’s Salton Sea management costs as it does not analyze impacts of reduced Salton Sea inflows to other Interior agency lands, to Torres Martines tribal lands, or account for the acceleration of Salton Sea exposed playa that will result from the conservation actions contemplated in the DEIS. It is also important to note that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Imperial Streams and Salton Sea Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (Feasibility Study) initiated and sponsored by the Salton Sea Authority to address long-range Salton Sea management, it is not targeted to addressing Interior federal land management obligations at the Sea.

These impacts must all be considered in the DEIS process to ensure that full funding to mitigate the Salton Sea impacts of Colorado River conservation on our communities, to address Salton Sea federal land management needs and to fulfill Interior’s trust responsibilities to the Torres Martinez is provided by the federal government. In the meantime, we urge you to use IRA funds to begin to address these federally recognized obligations.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Dear Assistant Secretary Travnicsek and Deputy Commissioner Palumbo,  
Thank you again for taking the time to meet with Chairman Mirelez, our consultants, and me on Wednesday. We greatly appreciate your engagement and the opportunity to discuss the Salton Sea's role in the broader post-2026 Colorado River framework. While the Salton Sea Authority will be submitting formal comments on the Draft EIS, we hope to serve as an informal and constructive resource to you as negotiations proceed. Our aim is to ensure that the Salton Sea is addressed meaningfully through the IRA mitigation package and as contemplated by the Draft EIS, which relies on our Salton Sea Feasibility Study as the primary mitigation vehicle for post-2026 impacts. The Corps currently estimates approximately \$4.2 million to complete the Feasibility Study, with a target Chief's Report by 2029. We are working with the Corps to develop a cost estimate for accelerating completion. We anticipate that IRA funding to support this acceleration - along with capacity resources for the Authority to build public support as the non-federal sponsor - would likely not exceed \$7 million. While modest in scale, this investment would be highly impactful in advancing our shared goals. We are committed to doing our part to help ensure the success of this effort - and, by extension, to support your leadership in delivering meaningful outcomes for the region. As we also discussed, we are working with the House and Senate to secure WRDA 2026 language that would:

- Clarify the Corps' authority to undertake work on other federal lands;
- Direct the Corps to count benefits to federal lands in its cost-benefit analysis; and
- Ensure that air quality and public health benefits are fully valued in the Feasibility Study.

This language will be critical to securing a favorable Chief's Report and addressing Interior's federal lands obligations through the Feasibility Study.

### **Authority WRDA 2026 Request**

Language Request: *"Imperial Streams Salton Sea, CA — In carrying out the Imperial Streams Salton Sea investigation, the Secretary shall consider the comprehensive benefits of alternative plans, including air quality and public health benefits and benefits of portions of alternatives that would be constructed on federal lands. The Secretary and Chief of Engineers are authorized to recommend a project that includes construction on federal lands, and that is justified by comprehensive benefits, including air quality and public health benefits and benefits of portions of a project that would be constructed on federal lands."*

Justification: The Corps, the Salton Sea Authority, and CA DWR are currently formulating the Imperial Streams Salton Sea Feasibility Study which will extend over federal lands. The Salton Sea and surrounding lands are located on federal lands (BLM,

BOR, FWS, NPS, and DOD), among other entities. Historically, there have been policy questions whether the Corps should recommend projects that include work on other federal lands and whether it could consider benefits to those lands. In addition, the Corps has traditionally focused on a project's benefits to aquatic resources and has not weighed air quality or broader public health benefits. The requested WRDA language would clarify that the Corps can recommend projects on other federal lands and consider the associated benefits to such lands, as well as air quality and public health benefits.

Thank you again for your time and leadership. We look forward to supporting your efforts and continuing this important work together.

Sincerely,



## PROPOSED WORK PLAN

**Outreach, Education, and Relationships Program**  
**Implemented by the Salton Sea Authority**  
*in coordination with the*  
*California Department of Water Resources (DWR)*

**Submitted by Coachella Valley Water District**  
(Applicant of Record)

**Total Project Cost: \$1,000,309**  
**Federal Request: \$1,000,000**

### 1. Project Overview & Background

Pursuant to the 2022 Commitment Agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), and the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), \$1,000,000 in Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) (PL 117-169) funding was identified to support staffing and technical implementation related to drought mitigation and Salton Sea restoration.

The Commitments Agreement was adopted pursuant to IRA § 50233 which provided \$4 billion in funding to address Colorado River drought, including by giving Reclamation broad authority to address Colorado River conservation impacts to the Salton Sea. The Commitments Agreement further directed that Interior “shall coordinate with the ... United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to seek additional financial resources to the Sea.” Commitments Agreement § V.D. The Commitments Agreement further provides that “[i]n addition to the specific commitments described above, the Department will continue to pursue additional funding or provide technical capacity as needed.” Commitments Agreement § VI.B.

This work plan reflects the reprogramming of those funds from CVWD to the **Salton Sea Authority** (“the Authority”) to effectuate PL 117-169 § 50233 and the Commitments Agreement direction to seek additional USACE resources to benefit the Salton Sea. The Authority, together with the **California Department of Water Resources (DWR)**, serves as **joint local sponsor** of the USACE **Salton Sea Feasibility Study (FS)**. The FS evaluates long-term restoration, public health, and environmental conservation alternatives for the Salton Sea, including habitat restoration, dust suppression, water management, infrastructure improvements, and potential water importation concepts.

The Authority will implement this three-year Outreach, Education, and Relationships (OER) Program to support federally required engagement, interagency coordination, and public communication associated with the FS. The Authority will **leverage the resources, expertise, and community relationships of its member agencies** to maximize regional capacity and ensure effective outreach.

CVWD will withdraw its previously submitted biologist proposal **only after** Reclamation approves the reprogramming, ensuring the \$1,000,000 allocation remains protected.

## 2. Regulatory Context

The outreach and engagement activities described in this work plan support and align with three interconnected federal NEPA and planning processes:

### A. SEIS for Interim Conservation Measures (2023–2026)

The Bureau of Reclamation’s **Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)** for interim conservation measures addressed short-term Lower Basin operations and system conservation actions through 2026.

Reclamation issued a **Record of Decision (ROD)** for the SEIS, which acknowledged the need to address Salton Sea impacts associated with conservation actions, although it did not include specific mitigation measures.

### B. Post-2026 Colorado River Operations EIS/DEIS

Reclamation’s draft **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** for post-2026 Colorado River operations will establish long-term operating guidelines for the river system. The DEIS and Final EIS reinforce the need for a long-term federal management (or conservation) pathway for the Salton Sea.

Outreach conducted under this work plan will support Reclamation’s reliance on the USACE FS as a key measure to its efforts to ensure Colorado River water supply security.

### C. USACE Feasibility Study NEPA Process

The FS includes preparation of a **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)**, a **Final EIS**, and a **Record of Decision (ROD)**. The ROD completes NEPA compliance but **does not authorize project implementation**.

### D. USACE Planning Process

Separate from NEPA, the Corps’ planning process culminates in a **Chief’s Report**, which is the Corps’ formal recommendation to Congress.

Congressional authorization through a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is required before implementation.

**This work plan directly supports both the NEPA process and the development of the Chief’s Report.**

### 3. Goals and Objectives

#### Goal 1 — Support the Feasibility Study (FS) and Chief’s Report Development

- Provide coordinated outreach and engagement aligned with Corps planning milestones.
- Ensure community input informs the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) and final recommendation.
- Support DWR–Authority joint sponsor responsibilities.

#### Goal 2 — Strengthen Regional Engagement

- Conduct inclusive outreach to Tribal governments, local communities, agricultural districts, and local governments.
- Provide clear, accessible information about FS purpose, alternatives, and implications.

#### Goal 3 — Enhance Interagency Coordination

- Facilitate communication among the Corps, Reclamation, Interior, DWR, CNRA, IID, CVWD, and Authority member agencies.
- Support alignment of federal, state, and regional priorities.

#### Goal 4 — Build Sustainable Outreach Capacity

- Establish a dedicated OER Manager.
- **Enhance the Authority’s long-term restoration capacity** through specialized communications, facilitation, and member agency integration.

### 4. Detailed Work Plan Tasks

#### Phase 0 — Pre-Hire Period (Months 1–6)

**Purpose:** Maintain continuity of outreach while recruiting the Manager.

**Activities:**

- Contractual communications advisory services provide interim support.
- Recruitment, interviews, and onboarding of the Manager.
- Issuance of a one-time signing incentive to secure a qualified candidate.

#### Task 1 — Outreach & Public Education

**Purpose:** Provide clear, accessible information about the FS, DEIS/EIS, and drought-related mitigation activities.

**Activities:**

- Develop outreach materials explaining FS purpose, alternatives, schedule, and decision framework.
- Coordinate messaging with DWR and the Corps.
- Conduct community meetings, workshops, listening sessions, and briefings.
- Produce multilingual materials and digital content.
- Ensure continuity with SEIS and post-2026 EIS engagement commitments.

## **Task 2 — Stakeholder & Tribal Engagement**

**Purpose:** Ensure meaningful engagement with Tribal governments and regional stakeholders.

### **Activities:**

- Coordinate with DWR’s Tribal Affairs Office and the Corps’ Tribal liaison.
- Conduct government-to-government engagement support activities.
- Document stakeholder concerns and integrate them into joint sponsor coordination.
- Ensure Tribal perspectives are incorporated into the FS DEIS/EIS process.

## **Task 3 — Interagency Coordination**

**Purpose:** Support alignment among federal, state, and regional partners.

### **Activities:**

- Facilitate coordination between the Authority, DWR, the Corps, Reclamation, Interior, CNRA, IID, CVWD, and member agencies.
- Prepare briefing materials for joint sponsor meetings.
- Support Corps planning milestones and FS schedule alignment.
- Maintain continuity with SEIS and post-2026 EIS implementation.

## **Task 4 — Public Events, Tours, and Summits**

**Purpose:** Provide on-the-ground visibility into FS alternatives and regional conditions.

### **Activities:**

- Plan and execute tours for DWR, the Corps, Reclamation, and stakeholders.
- Organize regional summits and public events.
- Provide logistics, translation, facilitation, and event staffing.

## **Task 5 — Communications Advisory Services**

**Purpose:** Provide strategic communications support throughout the project.

### **Activities:**

- Develop messaging, materials, and digital content.
- Support media engagement as appropriate.
- Provide graphic design and web content support.

## **Task 6 — Reporting & Documentation**

**Purpose:** Ensure compliance with federal reporting requirements.

### **Activities:**

- Maintain records of outreach activities.
- Prepare quarterly reports consistent with USBR and Corps requirements.
- Document joint sponsor coordination with DWR.
- Support documentation required for the FS DEIS/EIS and Chief’s Report.

## **Task 7 — Member Agency Coordination and Resource Integration**

**Purpose:** Leverage the Authority’s regional structure to maximize efficiency and impact.

### **Activities:**

- Coordinate with member agencies to utilize staff expertise, facilities, and community networks.
- Integrate member agency technical staff into briefings and tours.
- Use member agency facilities for public meetings and events.
- Maintain a regular coordination schedule with member agency leadership.

## **5. Schedule of Milestones**

| <b>Milestone</b>                                    | <b>Expected Completion</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Recruitment and Hiring of Outreach Manager          | Month 3                    |
| Initial Communications Strategy & Materials Drafted | Month 6                    |
| Launch of First Community Tour/Public Forum Series  | Month 9                    |
| Annual Progress Review and Work Plan Update         | Months 12, 24, 36          |
| Final Project Summary & Closeout Report             | Month 36                   |

## **6. Performance Monitoring & Reporting**

### **Programmatic Reporting**

- Quarterly updates detailing progress toward tasks
- Metrics on public attendance, materials distributed, and engagement outcomes
- Documentation of joint sponsor coordination with DWR
- Support for FS DEIS/EIS public engagement documentation
- Support for Corps planning documentation required for the Chief’s Report

### **Financial Reporting**

- Submission of SF-425 Federal Financial Reports
- Compliance with USBR financial management requirements

### **Final Report**

- Comprehensive summary of accomplishments
- Recommendations for long-term community engagement beyond the initial 3-year term

## 7. Budget Summary

| <b>Category</b>                                 | <b>Total Project Cost<br/>(3 Years)</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Salaries & Wages (Incl. COLA and Bonus)         | \$378,300                               |
| Fringe Benefits (40% Rate)                      | \$139,320                               |
| Equipment & Supplies                            | \$21,900                                |
| Contractual Services (Advisory, Events, Design) | \$361,000                               |
| Travel (Community & Interagency)                | \$20,000                                |
| Indirect Costs (7.5% Rate)                      | \$69,789                                |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                              | <b>\$1,000,309</b>                      |

**Salton Sea Authority  
Summary Budget**

| <b>CATEGORY</b>                       | <b>SUBCATEGORY</b>    | <b>YEAR 1</b>  | <b>YEAR 2</b>  | <b>YEAR 3</b>  | <b>TOTAL</b>     |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>PERSONNEL</b>                      |                       |                |                |                |                  |
| OER Manager Salary                    | Salary                | 90,000         | 126,000        | 132,300        | 348,300          |
| Recruitment Incentive                 | One-time              | 30,000         | -              | -              | 30,000           |
| <b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>                |                       | <b>120,000</b> | <b>126,000</b> | <b>132,300</b> | <b>378,300</b>   |
| <b>FRINGE BENEFITS (40%)</b>          |                       |                |                |                |                  |
| Fringe on Salary                      | 40% Rate              | 36,000         | 50,400         | 52,920         | 139,320          |
| <b>TOTAL FRINGE</b>                   |                       | <b>36,000</b>  | <b>50,400</b>  | <b>52,920</b>  | <b>139,320</b>   |
| <b>EQUIPMENT &amp; SUPPLIES</b>       |                       |                |                |                |                  |
| Laptop                                | Equipment             | 2,500          | -              | -              | 2,500            |
| Phone/Tablet                          | Equipment             | 1,200          | -              | -              | 1,200            |
| Portable Projector/Speakers           | Equipment             | 1,000          | -              | -              | 1,000            |
| Meeting Equipment                     | Equipment             | 1,500          | -              | -              | 1,500            |
| Printing & Outreach Materials         | Supplies              | 7,500          | -              | -              | 7,500            |
| Translation/Interpretation Materials  | Supplies              | 5,000          | -              | -              | 5,000            |
| Software Licenses                     | Supplies              | 1,200          | -              | -              | 1,200            |
| General Office Supplies               | Supplies              | 2,000          | -              | -              | 2,000            |
| <b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT &amp; SUPPLIES</b> |                       | <b>21,900</b>  | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>       | <b>21,900</b>    |
| <b>CONTRACTUAL</b>                    |                       |                |                |                |                  |
| Communications Advisory Services      | Contract              | 72,000         | 72,000         | 72,000         | 216,000          |
| Public Events/Tours/Summits           | Contract              | 25,000         | 15,000         | 10,000         | 50,000           |
| Facilitation & Engagement Consultants | Contract              | 20,000         | 20,000         | 10,000         | 50,000           |
| Graphic Design/Web Content            | Contract              | 10,000         | 5,000          | 5,000          | 20,000           |
| Translation & Interpretation Services | Contract              | 10,000         | 10,000         | 5,000          | 25,000           |
| <b>TOTAL CONTRACTUAL</b>              |                       | <b>137,000</b> | <b>122,000</b> | <b>102,000</b> | <b>361,000</b>   |
| <b>TRAVEL</b>                         |                       |                |                |                |                  |
| Community Meetings                    | Travel                | 6,000          | 4,000          | 2,000          | 12,000           |
| Interagency Meetings                  | Travel                | 4,000          | 2,000          | 2,000          | 8,000            |
| <b>TOTAL TRAVEL</b>                   |                       | <b>10,000</b>  | <b>6,000</b>   | <b>4,000</b>   | <b>20,000</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>             |                       | <b>324,900</b> | <b>304,400</b> | <b>291,220</b> | <b>920,520</b>   |
| <b>INDIRECT COSTS (7.5%)</b>          | plied to Direct Costs | 24,368         | 22,830         | 22,591         | 69,789           |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                    |                       | <b>349,268</b> | <b>327,230</b> | <b>313,811</b> | <b>1,000,309</b> |



# Salton Sea Authority

May 19, 2026

Honorable Eloise Gomez Reyes, Chair  
Senate Budget Subcommittee #2  
1021 O Street, Suite 7210 Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Steve Bennett, Chair  
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #4  
1021 O Street, Suite 4710  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable John Laird, Chair Senate Budget  
and Fiscal Review Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8720 Sacramento, CA 95814

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

**SUBJECT: Support for May Revise Salton Sea Restoration Allocation and Request for Budget Augmentation to Advance Community Engagement and Coordination in Support of the Salton Sea Federal Feasibility Study**

Dear Senators Reyes and Laird and Assemblymembers Bennett and Gabriel:

On behalf of the Salton Sea Authority, I would like to express our strong support for the Governor's May Revise budget proposal and its provisions related to the North Lake Pilot Project. Additionally, I would like to encourage the Assembly and Senate budget leadership to consider a budget augmentation of \$5 million over three years to advance community engagement and coordination within the Imperial Valley in support of the Salton Sea Federal Feasibility Study.

The Salton Sea Authority is a Joint Powers Authority comprised of regional and tribal leaders with decades of engagement in Salton Sea restoration. Our role is to convene local stakeholders, surface regional priorities, and partner with State and federal agencies on implementation. That partnership role has grown considerably in recent years as the Salton Sea has become central to both California's long-range water policy and to federal Colorado River negotiations. The Salton Sea Authority serves as joint local sponsor, alongside the California Department of Water Resources, on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Salton Sea Feasibility Study - the federal planning process that will determine the scope and structure of long-term federal restoration investment at the Salton Sea.

Within that broader framework, the North Lake Pilot Project represents the most immediate opportunity to deliver tangible restoration benefits to the Salton Sea community. Funded through Proposition 68, the project would directly benefit the community of North Shore, which bears a disproportionate share of the public health and environmental burdens associated with the Salton Sea's recession. The North Lake Pilot is a restoration investment and a community investment all-in-one.

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The Salton Sea Authority has led development of the North Lake Pilot and remains committed to its success. DWR's adjacent North Lake Wetlands project offers a practical path to overcome implementation challenges by combining both efforts into a single, larger project that maximizes ecological and community benefit. The May Revise proposal supports exactly this kind of state-local collaboration.

The Salton Sea Authority also strongly supports the May Revise proposal's inclusion of funding for a formal agreement between CNRA and the Salton Sea Authority. The Salton Sea Authority's membership - regional water agencies, local governments, and tribal nations with direct stakes in restoration outcomes - provides an engagement infrastructure that state agencies cannot replicate. Maintaining the Salton Sea Authority's active institutional role is not a procedural courtesy; it is a practical necessity for ensuring that restoration decisions reflect the communities most affected by them, and for fulfilling the Salton Sea Authority's obligations as a federal co-sponsor of the Feasibility Study.

In addition, the Salton Sea Authority strongly encourages a budget augmentation of \$5 million over three years to support a structured engagement and coordination program that empowers residents, Tribal governments, community-based organizations, and environmental justice advocates to meaningfully participate in shaping the federal feasibility study and responding to the environmental and public health consequences of the Colorado River agreement.

Completion of the federal feasibility study is the required step to unlock a 65 percent federal cost-share for restoration projects identified through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers process. Strong community engagement and visible support from state and local elected officials will be essential as the Salton Sea Authority and its partners work to advance these priorities through Congress. The Salton Sea Authority will administer these funds as the central coordinating body responsible for elevating community priorities, aligning regional input, and supporting federal, state, and local collaboration.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of these Salton Sea Authority budget priorities.

Sincerely,



## **Governor's 2026-2027 May Revise Summary**

May 14, 2026

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On May 14, Governor Newsom released the [May Revision](#) to his proposed fiscal year 2026-2027 budget. The Governor's May Revision updates the January Budget with stronger revenue estimates and a refined plan to stabilize the state's finances over multiple years. In January, the Administration proposed closing a \$2.9 billion shortfall in 2026-27 and ending with \$4.5 billion in discretionary reserves, while acknowledging a projected deficit in 2027-28. The Governor committed to returning in May with a plan to balance both fiscal years and maintain adequate reserves.

The May Revision fulfills that commitment and serves as the Administration's final multiyear budget proposal, balancing the state budget through 2028. It provides a spending plan that maintains positive year-end balances in both 2026-27 and 2027-28 and preserves substantial reserves. It also reduces projected operating deficits in later years by more than half compared to the January forecast.

The proposal does not introduce significant new ongoing spending. Instead, it deposits funds into the Projected Surplus Temporary Holding Account for the first time. This sets aside resources from 2026-27 to support the following fiscal year.

The state's \$350 billion total budget benefits from a major revenue upgrade. General Fund revenues are \$16.5 billion dollars higher than projected in January across the three-year window. Personal income tax accounts for \$13.6 billion of this increase, driven by a spike in 2025 capital gains and \$ 11.9 billion in higher cash receipts through April. The broader economic outlook remains relatively unchanged.

After accounting for solutions, General Fund spending is estimated at 246.6 billion dollars in 2026-27, which is 1.8 billion dollars below the January estimate.

## Highlights by Issue Areas

Below, we have included proposals of interest or significance in the Governor's revised budget, broken down by subject area. A link to the full May Revise summary is included [here](#).

**Please note that the May Revise only includes changes or new proposals to the Governor's January Budget. If not included here, then no changes have been proposed. Here is [our write-up of the January budget proposal](#)**

### Housing & Homelessness

- **Aligning Local Housing Policies:** Proposes policies to reduce affordable housing costs by encouraging local governments to waive development fees and limiting the ability to charge fees on state-funded projects, ensuring more state funding goes directly toward housing production.
- **Housing Agency Reorganization:** Provides staffing and operational resources to support the creation of the new California Housing and Homelessness Agency, improving coordination across departments and maintaining continuity of housing programs statewide.
- **Disaster Rebuilding Fund:** Establishes a \$100 million fund to help disaster-impacted homeowners rebuild by expanding access to financing, lowering borrowing costs, and partnering with lenders and philanthropic organizations to fill gaps left by insurance shortfalls.
- **Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP):** The May Revision maintains \$500 million for a future Round 7 but ties this funding to stronger accountability measures and performance standards. These include requirements that local jurisdictions maintain a compliant housing element, adopt pro-housing policies, align with state guidance on encampment response, and demonstrate progress in reducing homelessness. The stated goal is to “better connect state funding with local policy decisions and outcomes, ensuring that investments lead to increased housing production, improved placements into permanent housing, and more effective regional coordination.”
- **Civil Rights Enforcement:** Adds staff and funding to the Civil Rights Department to reduce complaint backlogs, shorten wait times, and improve enforcement of housing and employment protections.

- **Infill Infrastructure Funding:** Reallocates approximately \$7 million in previously uncommitted funds to support additional infill housing and infrastructure projects, helping advance development in existing communities.

### **Transportation & Infrastructure**

- **Clean California:** Provides \$40 million to continue efforts to clean highways, reduce litter, and address encampments.
- **AI for Transportation:** Invests \$16.4 million to use AI tools to improve road safety and traffic management.
- **Encampment Liaisons:** Provides funding to continue addressing homelessness along highways and connect individuals to services.
- **LA 2028 Games Transportation:** Proposes automated enforcement and continued planning for dedicated Olympic traffic lanes to improve transportation during the Games. The automated enforcement program is intended to deter unauthorized use of the GRN through the issuance of fines to vehicles that do not have authorization to use the GRN while also enabling CHP to prioritize its limited resources effectively across the Games' security needs.
- **Mobile Driver's License (mDL):** Adds \$5 million to continue the digital driver's license pilot and expand participation.
- **State Office Building Upgrade:** Provides \$14.3 million for early planning and design to renovate the 10th and O Street building, preparing for construction after the Legislature moves to the new Capitol Annex.

### **Energy & Natural Resources**

- **State Parks Expansion:** Launches "State Parks Forward," a major effort to add three new state parks in underserved areas and expand existing parks by about 30,000 acres through low-cost land acquisitions and partnerships.
- **Healthy Rivers Program:** Provides \$25 million to support water flows, habitat restoration, and science efforts tied to the Bay-Delta plan.
- **Wildlife Coexistence:** Adds \$1 million to improve response to human-wildlife conflicts.

- **Air Toxics Research:** Provides \$2.5 million for research to reduce cancer risks from harmful air pollutants.
- **Recycling Program Investments:** Invests over \$200 million to stabilize recycling markets, improve materials, and expand access.
- **In-State Recycling Manufacturing:** Provides \$75 million to support recycling infrastructure and manufacturing jobs.
- **Material Quality Improvements:** Adds \$100 million to upgrade recycling systems and improve material quality.
- **Redemption Access Expansion:** Provides \$50 million to increase recycling access in underserved and rural areas.
- **CEQA Clearinghouse Modernization:** Authorizes a new fee on CEQA document submissions to fund upgrades to the State Clearinghouse system, improving efficiency, access, and processing of environmental review documents.
- **Pest Prevention Programs:** Provides \$10.5 million to maintain efforts to detect and prevent invasive pests, backfilling reduced federal funding.
- **Industrial Hemp Program:** Provides one-time funding and shifts oversight to the federal program due to insufficient state fee revenue.
- **Animal Care (Prop 12):** Adds funding to implement animal welfare requirements, with some ongoing costs due to delayed fee collection.

### **Criminal Justice & Public Safety**

- The May Revision includes funding to establish a new “honor housing” unit at Corcoran State Prison, focused on rehabilitation and reentry. It provides \$9.7 million in 2026–27 and \$12.6 million in ongoing costs, along with additional staffing, while shifting housing across the system and slightly reducing overall prison capacity.
- **CDCR Cost Saving Measures**
  - **Incarcerated Firefighter Pay:** Provides funding to implement higher wages for incarcerated firefighters, including paying federal minimum wage during active fire incidents and upgrading payroll systems.

- **Food Funding Adjustment:** Adds ongoing funding to cover higher food costs driven by new requirements to source more food from within California.
  - **Workers' Compensation Staffing:** Provides funding and positions to improve return-to-work coordination, aiming to reduce workers' compensation costs over time.
- **Mental Health Receivership**
    - **Mental Health Receivership:** The May Revision provides additional funding and staffing to support the court-appointed Receiver overseeing prison mental health services, with costs partially covered by a dedicated fund that is expected to be exhausted by 2027–28.
    - **Staffing & Training:** Expands mental health staffing and clinician training programs to improve hiring and retention.
    - **Resource Teams:** Adds funding to expand specialized teams that support high-need mental health patients across more prisons.
    - **Crisis Intervention Teams:** Funds new teams to respond to mental health crises in prisons and help prevent self-harm and emergencies.
- **Other Public Safety Provisions**
    - **Community Corrections Grants:** The May Revision estimates \$132.2 million in funding for county probation programs that reduce returns to prison.
    - **Human Trafficking Prosecution Grants:** Provides \$10 million one-time funding for grants to support vertical prosecution models, improving investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.
    - **MMIP Grants:** Provides \$10 million one-time funding for tribes to support efforts to track, investigate, and solve missing and murdered Indigenous persons cases.
    - **Next Gen 9-1-1 Upgrade:** Provides \$141.9 million to modernize the 9-1-1 system, moving to a unified statewide network and upgrading outdated equipment.
    - **Emergency Operations Facility:** Adds ongoing funding to staff and fully operate a new Southern California emergency response center.

- **Nonprofit Security Grants:** Provides \$40 million to help nonprofits improve security against hate-based threats.
- **Victims of Crime Funding:** Provides \$25 million to backfill declining federal funds and maintain services for crime victims.
- **Antitrust Enforcement Funding:** Provides additional funding to the Department of Justice to increase enforcement of antitrust enforcement, respond to reduced federal oversight, and protect consumers from unfair business practices.

## Health and Human Services

- **Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax**
  - Uses money from the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax—about \$4.5 billion in 2025–26 and \$2.5 billion in 2026–27—to help fund Medi-Cal. It also includes additional funding to increase payments to hospitals, clinics, and behavioral health providers, with over \$1 billion in 2025–26 and more in the following years.
  - The May Revision proposes to seek renewal of an MCO Tax effective January 1, 2027. The May Revision includes \$575 million in 2026–27, \$2.3 billion each in 2027–28 and 2028–29, and \$1.7 billion in 2029–30 from this new tax to support the Medi-Cal program and maintain targeted rate increases for primary, maternal, and non-specialty mental health care implemented on January 1, 2024.
- The May Revision reflects significant Medi-Cal cost changes due to a new federal policy requiring individuals with unsatisfactory immigration status to exit managed care plans. Beginning January 1, 2027, these individuals will instead receive services through the fee-for-service system, resulting in reduced spending of about \$584 million in 2026–27 and \$1.5 billion in ongoing costs.
- **H.R. 1 Impacts:** The May Revision reflects costs of approximately \$1.5 billion General Fund in 2026–27, an increase of \$363.1 million General Fund in 2026–27 compared to the Governor’s Budget. The May Revision projects total H.R. 1 disenrollment of 44,000 in 2026–27 and 1.3 million by 2029–30, a decrease of 478,000 in 2026–27 and 446,000 by 2029–30 compared to the Governor’s Budget.

- **County Administration Funding:** The May Revision includes a one-time increase of \$262 million (\$74 million General Fund) in 2026–27, along with additional funding in the following two years, to help counties manage increased workload from Medi-Cal eligibility changes tied to federal policy (H.R. 1). This funding supports key county functions such as processing applications and renewals, handling call center volume, implementing work requirements, and providing optional surge staffing to address higher demand. In total, the May Revision provides \$2.8 billion (\$705.3 million General Fund) for county Medi-Cal administration in 2026–27.
- **Work Requirements:** New federal work and community engagement requirements for certain adults will reduce Medi-Cal enrollment and costs over time, though exemptions (like medical frailty) mean more people will retain coverage than initially expected.
- **Emergency Services Funding:** A reduction in the federal match for emergency services—from 90% to 50%—will significantly increase General Fund costs for covering certain Medi-Cal populations.
- **Immigrant Eligibility Changes:** Federal policy changes will limit full-scope Medi-Cal eligibility for some non-citizens, shifting them to restricted or fee-for-service coverage and increasing state costs due to reduced federal funding.
- **More Frequent Eligibility Checks:** Moving from annual to semiannual eligibility reviews will reduce overall enrollment and costs, as more individuals are expected to lose coverage during redeterminations.
- **Reduced Retroactive Coverage:** Shortening the retroactive coverage window (from three months to one or two months) will reduce Medi-Cal spending by limiting how far back benefits can be applied.
- **Hospital Quality Assurance Fee:** Updates to the hospital tax program shift funding between the state and hospitals, with pending federal approval creating uncertainty around final costs and savings.
- **Proposed May Revise Cost Savings in Health & Human Services**
  - **Higher Premiums:** Increases monthly premiums from \$30 to \$50 for certain adults, reducing state costs.

- **Asset Limits:** Reinstates stricter asset limits for seniors and disabled adults, lowering enrollment and costs.
  - **Enhanced Care Management:** Tightens eligibility and services, reducing spending.
  - **Community Supports:** Narrows eligibility and services for certain supports to cut costs.
  - **PACE Rate Cap:** Lowers payment rates for elderly care programs to reduce spending.
  - **Medical Loss Ratio Funds:** Redirects insurer rebates to the state General Fund.
  - **Acupuncture Benefit:** Eliminates optional adult acupuncture coverage to save costs.
- **Child Care and Development**
    - **Child Care Admin Costs:** Provides \$65.1 million to slightly increase funding for child care program administration.
    - **Child Care Infrastructure:** Allocates \$28 million in federal funds for facilities impacted by recent natural disasters.
    - **Child Care COLA Reduction:** Reduces the planned cost-of-living increase for child care programs, lowering it to about 2% to help balance the budget.
- **Other Health & Human Service Adjustments**
    - **CalWORKs Grant Increase:** The May Revision reflects a 1.8-percent increase in CalWORKs Maximum Aid Payment levels, effective October 1, 2026, estimated to cost \$59.5 million in 2026-27. These increased grant costs are funded entirely by the Child Poverty and Family Supplemental Support Subaccount of the Local Revenue Fund.
    - **CalFresh Work Requirements/Admin Funding:** Provides \$30 million one-time funding to help counties handle increased workload from new CalFresh work requirements.

- **State Admin Cost Overages:** Adds funding to cover CalFresh administrative costs that exceed the federal reimbursement limit.
- **CalFood Funding:** Provides a one-time \$30 million increase for food banks, in addition to ongoing support.
- **Conforming IHSS with Medi-Cal Immigrant Eligibility:** AN increase of \$30.8 million General Fund in 2026-27 to conform IHSS to the delayed transition to restricted-scope Medi-Cal for individuals impacted by the federal eligibility change for qualified non-citizens to July 1, 2027.
- **Immigration Legal Services:** Provides \$20 million one-time funding to expand legal support for individuals facing immigration proceedings.
- **Adult Protective Services:** Cuts funding and rolls back program expansion, raising the eligibility age from 60 back to 65.
- **Hospital Financial Support:** Allows up to \$50 million in one-time funding to provide short-term relief for hospitals facing serious financial distress.

### **General Government and Other May Revise Provisions**

- **California Civic Media Program:** \$10 million in General Fund annually in 2026-27 and 2027-28 for the California Civic Media Program, a public-private partnership, to support California's newsrooms, increase access to information, and strengthen community engagement statewide. This funding is in addition to the \$10 million General Fund provided in the 2025 Budget Act, bringing total investments in this program to \$30 million in General Fund.

### **Higher Education**

- **Cal Grant Program Caseload Adjustments:** Estimated Cal Grant expenditures of approximately \$2.5 billion in 2024-25, \$2.9 billion in 2025-26, and \$3.2 billion in 2026-27 based on the latest estimates of enrollment of Cal Grant-eligible students. These estimates reflect an increase of \$4.8 million in the one-time General Fund in 2025-26 and \$31.5 million in the ongoing General Fund in 2026-27.
- **Middle Class Scholarship Program:** A one-time net decrease of \$90.5 million General Fund to reflect the revised estimate for Middle Class Scholarship Program awards issued in the 2025-26 academic year as costs are paid in arrears in accordance with the 2025 Budget Act.

- **Golden State Teacher Grant Program (GSTG):** The May Revision withdraws the Governor’s Budget proposal to reappropriate \$14.4 million General Fund to support the GSTG. Revised program estimates reflect the full expenditure of these funds in 2025-26. Alternatively, as referenced in the TK-12 Education Chapter, the May Revision includes an ongoing increase of \$16.2 million in federal special education (IDEA) funds to support the GSTG, with grant awards of up to \$20,000 for prospective special education teachers.

### **TK-12 & Early Childhood Education**

- **LCFF cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)** of 2.87 percent, up from 2.41 percent at Governor's Budget
- **Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant:** \$5 billion (from \$2.8 billion at Governor's Budget) for professional development for TK-3 teachers and elementary school site administrators on the principles and guidelines of developmentally appropriate instruction; teacher recruitment and retention strategies; and career pathways and dual enrollment expansion efforts consistent with the Master Plan for Career Education.
- **Teacher Training and Retention:**
  - \$30 million one-time Proposition 98 General Fund for the statewide teacher residency technical assistance center, extending its ability to support local educational agencies in implementing, expanding, and sustaining teacher residency programs, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification Incentive Program, and other grow-your-own educator preparation programs through 2034.
  - \$16.2 million ongoing federal special education (IDEA) funds and \$1.6 million one-time federal Title II funds to continue the Golden State Teacher Grant Program (GSTG).
- **School Nutrition:** \$2.8 million in additional ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund to fully fund the universal school meals program in 2026-27.
- **Menstrual Products Mandate:** \$1.7 million in additional ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund for the Public School Restrooms: Menstrual Products mandated program.