



**AGENDA: SALTON SEA AUTHORITY BOARD OF**  
**DATE: DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**LOCATION: Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**  
County of Imperial  
Board of Supervisors Chamber  
County of Administration Center  
940 W Main Street, Suite 211  
El Centro, CA 92243

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

Director Ryan Kelley  
Imperial County  
940 West Main Street  
El Centro, CA 92243  
(442) 265-1020

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. CHANGES TO AGENDA**

The Board will be asked to review and may change the order of Agenda, or approve as presented. The Board may also add Agenda items as provided under Government Code section 54954.2.

## **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This Public Comments time is reserved for commenting on any item not on the agenda. California law prohibits members of the Board from acting on matters not on the agenda.

Members of the public may address the Board regarding any matter within the Authority's jurisdiction but are asked to speak to any specific item on the agenda at the time it is called.

**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@saltonsea.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, 06/18/2026 Board meeting" in the subject line, and also include your name and 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, June 17**, will be publicly acknowledged during the Board meeting. (Written comments will be included in the public record but not be read aloud.)

#### **IV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

This time is set aside for members of the Board to share thoughts and concerns about 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.

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

- A. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive, and File
  - a. Minutes of Salton Sea Authority Board Meeting 5/21/2026
  - b. Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register Ratification for May 31, 2026
  - c. Salton Sea Authority Internal Financial Report as and through of May 31, 2026
  - d. CV Strategies final reconciliation, ratification of approvals and authorization of payment
  - e. ACWA Vision for Our Water Future
    - i. Authorize Authority participate in initiative
    - ii. Approve Authority resolution of support
  
- B. Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead – Draft Environmental Impact Statement process
  - a. Torres Martinez Salton Sea/Colorado River request
  - b. Coalition alignment
  - c. Salton Sea Funding
    - i. Feasibility Study
    - ii. Health Assurance Framework

- C. Desert Shores
  - a. Review and Approve Gafcon Extension Agreement
  - b. Site Control Legal Support update
  - c. Next Steps
  
- D. Proposition 68 / North Lake Wetlands project and funding
  
- E. Consideration of Appointments for FY 2026-2027 Officers for the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors (effective July 1, 2026)
  - a. Election of President of Board
  - b. Election of Vice-President of Board
  - c. Election of Secretary of Board
  - d. Election of Treasurer of Board
  
- F. Consider Approval of Resolutions updating Signatories on Authority's bank accounts
  - 1. Resolution 26-01 Banc of California – Regular Checking
  - 2. Resolution 26-02 Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)

## **VI. REPORTS**

- A. Federal
  - 1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation
  - 2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Aron King – No Report
  
- 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
  - 3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Ray Lennox, Colorado District Superintendent.
  - 4. Salton Sea Conservancy
  
- C. Local
  - 1. Salton Sea Action Committee – Alan Pace, SSAC President
  
- D. Executive Director's Report and Comments - G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority

**VII. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

The Salton Sea Authority board is scheduled to meet on:

Thursday, July 16, at 10:00 a.m.

at

Coachella Valley Water District  
Steve Robbins Administration Bldg.  
75515 Hovley Lane, East  
Palm Desert, CA 92260  
(760) 398-2651

*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  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
May 21, 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 Estrada, at 10:05 a.m., May 21, 2026 at Coachella Valley Water District and via Zoom Webinar.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Led by President Estrada

**ROLL CALL**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE**    **AGENCY**

Gina Dockstader, Director	Imperial Irrigation District
John Aguilar, Director	Coachella Valley Water District
V. Manuel Perez, Director	Riverside County
Cástulo R. Estrada, President	Coachella Valley Water District
Joseph Mirelez, Secretary	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Rosemarie Morreo	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Ex-Officio Joe Shea	California Natural Resources Agency

**DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM** **AGENCY**

Marth Singh, Vice-President	Imperial County
Ryan E. Kelley, Director	Imperial County

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**    **AGENCY**

Yxstian Gutierrez, Director	Riverside County
Alex Cárdenas, Director	Imperial Irrigation District

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

On Site: Per Christian, Beatrice Eslamboly, and Jude Johnson, CV Strategies, Felipe Vega, Imperial County, PHD, Michael Placencia, Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, Alan Pace, Petra Geosciences, SSAC.

Via Zoom: Pat Cooper, Deputy Chief of Staff, Supervisor Perez , Riverside County, Ray Lennox, CA State Parks, Tom Sephton, Sephton Water Tech, Tina Shields, JB Hamby, IID, Mario Llanos, Miguel Hernandez, CNRA, Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute, Roger Shintaku, Erin LaCombe, CV Strategies, Tim Maurier and 9 others.

## **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Per Christian Steels Kaels, Advisor for Aquastream, Inc, Co-Founder. Introduced himself and spoke about Water Bio Remedy.

## **III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Director Perez asked for comments from other board members on the 1<sup>st</sup> Conservancy Meeting, that he was not able to attend.

President Estrada stated that it was a long meeting with good participation both in person and zoom. Questions were raised about roles between the Conservancy and the Authority, and call broad calls for collaboration between all parties. The meeting was introductory to the conservancy.

Ex-Officio Joe Shea advised that budget and staff openings were discussed.

Director Dockstader and Secretary Mirelez commented.

Director Perez highlighted segregation of duties between CARB and AQMD as an example of segregating roles between the Authority and the Conservancy to avoid public confusion.

Secretary Mirelez, stressed that while fish and the birds are important more attention needs to focus on the affected people.

President Estrada agrees that we need to prioritize projects around the communities and thinks we can echo that in the conservancy, ensuring that projects planned by the state and others are near existing communities, and acknowledged the Authority's longstanding focus in that regard.

Director Aguilar agreed the meeting was very positive, but emphasized that funding reflects priorities, and that needs to be translated into funding from the state for the Authority (and not just the Conservancy), both administratively and for project development.

## **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

President Estrada noted that item IV.C. was indicated “Pulled from the Agenda” and questioned the need to memorialize that change. He then advanced the consent calendar for consideration.

*On motion by Mirelez, second by Aguilar, the Board approved the Consent Calendar to be received and filed.*

***Approved by the following vote:***

***AYES: 10***

***NOES: 0***

***ABSTAINED: 0***

***MOTION PASSED: Unanimous***

Referring to President Estrada’s earlier comment, Director Dockstader requested that the agenda be formally considered and approved by the Board. Executive Director O’Dowd advised that practice had recently been added to Board customs and practices. Its exclusion from this agenda was a staff oversight.

*On motion by Mirelez, second by Aguilar, the Board to approve the agenda, noting that the item IV.C. was pulled from the agenda and will be addressed by the Executive Committee in consultation with CV Strategies. Director Dockstader will participate in that consultation based on her extensive past dealings with CV Strategies – particularly on the Strategic Plan.*

***Approved by the following vote:***

***AYES: 10***

***NOES: 0***

***ABSTAINED: 0***

***MOTION PASSED: Unanimous***

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

Executive Director O’Dowd provided a detailed presentation of the 2026/2027 Operating Budget for the Salton Sea Authority. He noted that while IID’s

departure will create a revenue gap, that gap is largely budgeted to be addressed from current and future agreements including the USBR Grant for the Desert Shores project (recently amended to provide a 6% indirect allocation to the Authority), Prop 68 funding from the reconstituted North Lake project, (providing \$200,000 annually for the next three years to support the Authority's collaborative effort with the state to integrate this project into the North Lake Wetlands project), and other opportunities staff is pursuing to secure necessary funding, all as outlined on the Budget Schedule.

Specific to the Prop 68 modification, support language proposed by staff and Sacramento advocacy team was flagged by Ex Officio Shea to ensure that it clearly segregated Prop 68 requests from other general funding requests of the Authority.

*On motion by Perez, second by Aguilar, the Board approved the 2026-27 Operating Budget and direct staff to distribute member contribution invoices. It was also understood and agreed that the Authority's letter requesting state funding, including support for Proposition 68 modifications, would be drafted to the mutual satisfaction of CNRA and the Executive Committee.*

*Approved by the following vote:*

*AYES: 10*

*NOES: 0*

*ABSTAINED: 0*

*MOTION PASSED: Unanimous*

**C. CV Strategies, Final Accounting – PULLED FROM THE AGENDA**

President Estrada requested direction from counsel regarding a request to speak on item IV.C. Counsel advised at the discretion of the board it would be acceptable receive comments but the Board cannot take any action on that item.

*On motion by Dockstader, second by Aguilar, for the Board to allow public comment on item IV.C*

***Approved by the following vote:***

***AYES: 10***

***NOES: 0***

***ABSTAINED: 0***

***MOTION PASSED: Unanimous***

President Estrada opened public comment.

Beatrice Eslamboly of CV Strategies provided remarks regarding outstanding invoices.

**D. Renew Office Lease**

Executive Director O'Dowd gave a brief overview of the draft lease; it reflects a 2-year term at \$1,325.00/month for year one and \$1,400 for year two and is requesting board approval to execute the lease.

***On motion by Mirelez, second by Estrada, for the renewal of the Office Lease.***

***Approved by the following vote:***

***AYES: 8***

***NOES: 2***

***ABSTAINED: 0***

***MOTION PASSED: Riverside County - No***

**E. Project Related Activity**

1. USACE Feasibility Study

a. Outreach

Ex-Officio Shea gave a brief update on the feasibility Study public meetings that were held in April.

Director Perez expressed appreciation for Ex-Officio Shea's personal interest in the work of the Authority and the community. President Estrada agreed.

Executive Director O'Dowd stated that the federal partners were very pleased with the workshops. He also acknowledged the SSAC sponsorship of the workshops.

b. Funding

Ms. Moore outlined the specifics of a funding request relating to IRA funds available. Executive Director O'Dowd explained the diligent effort pursued by Ms. Moore in attempting to secure these funds.

***On motion by Mirelez, second by Estrada, to send the Army Corps IRA funding request letter.***

***Approved by the following vote:***

***AYES: 10***

***NOES: 0***

***ABSTAINED: 0***

***MOTION PASSED: Unanimous***

2. North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project
  - a. Dispensation of Remaining Funds

Executive Director discussed during item IV.B Operating Budget

3. Desert Shores
  - a. Grant Modification

Executive Director O'Dowd gave a brief update on the amended grant and pointed out that the revised grant budget includes resources for legal support and to secure site control of the project so that we can actually build something.

b. Engagement of Council

Executive Director O'Dowd advised that two law firms who have special expertise in site control – particularly title issues surrounding large, disparate parcels and eminent domain – have been identified and actively engaged in discussion. Staff requested authorization to proceed with the selection and engagement of a law firm for site control/easements consistent with and limited to grant funding.

***On motion by Dockstader, second by Mirelez, to proceed with selection and engagement of law firm as provided for in the grant.***

*Approved by the following vote:*

*AYES: 8*

*NOES: 0*

*ABSTAINED: 0*

*MOTION PASSED: Unanimous*

**F.** Arizona Seawater Importation – Tabled for the June 18 meeting.

Tom Sephton commented on his concerns that we would be spending what is left on the Desert Shores grant on legal services.

Ron Spears commented and appreciated the work done on the Desert Shores Project, he also commented on the Army Corps North side of the Sea.

## **V. REPORTS**

**A.** Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation gave a brief update on the feasibility study and the federal appropriations needed for this work.

Ex-Officio Shea responded directly to Ron Spears comments. He stated that the Corps is presenting an array of potential concepts.

- Divided Sea with a marine South and one with more saline hypersaline, more saline to the North Sea
- Perimeter Lake
- Water optimization concept
- A Corps concept that is a combination concept that would take a different concept and divide the Sea in some places but then do optimization in other places. But it also always depends on Mother Nature!

2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Aron King, SoCal Area Mgr., Lower CO Region – No Report

**B.** State

1. State Advocacy - Nick Romo, Cruz Strategies and Glen Farrel, GF Advocacy gave a brief update.

2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency – No Report
- C. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Ray Lennox gave a brief update. He will be filling in as the Interim District Superintendent until that position is filled. He discussed the Salton Sea General Plan Process. There will be a Draft Plan in the next year or so. He also mentioned that unfortunately there has been a tremendous amount of vandalism at Mecca Beach and is currently closed to the public.
- D. Local
  1. Salton Sea Action Committee – Alan Pace, SSAC President – No Report
- E. Executive Director’s Report and Comments - G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority gave a brief update. He attended the Salton Sea Management Program Workshop on May 20. One of the big topics that came up was the health and safety and how to deal with that.

**VI. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Arizona Seawater Importation

**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**

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## Salton Sea Authority Warrant Register

May 1, 2026 through May 31, 2026

Date	Number		Amount
05/04/2026	ACH	Lee and Associates Property Management	Rent - 5/26 (1,250.00)
05/07/2026	ACH	Deposit	DWR Retention billing 242,177.44
05/11/2026	ACH	Banc of California	VISA billing cycle ended 4/26 (1,516.07)
05/26/2026	ACH	Lee and Associates Property Management	Common area maintenance 5/26 (21.14)
05/26/2026	ACH	Deposit	SSAC Reimbursement - Feasibility Study Mtg 1,500.00
05/27/2026	ACH	Lee and Associates Property Management	Rent - 5/26 (250.00)
05/27/2026	ACH	Frontier Communications	Internet service 4/26 (104.99)
05/28/2026	ACH	SystemGo IT LLC	Consulting services 5/26 (418.49)
05/28/2026	ACH	Bravata, Lisa	Expense report reimbursement (64.53)
05/28/2026	ACH	Steve Cruz	Consulting services 5/26 (7,000.00)
05/28/2026	ACH	Best, Best & Krieger	Legal services 5/26 (5,328.00)
05/28/2026	ACH	Riverside County	Payroll funding 5/26 (84,000.00)
05/28/2026	ACH	Cultivating Conservation	Consulting services 5/26 (7,350.00)
05/28/2026	ACH	Janice Rosenquist	Accounting Services 4/26 (3,025.00)
05/28/2026	ACH	O'Dowd, George Patrick	Expense report reimbursement (8,032.19)
<b>Beginning Cash Balance</b>			<b>\$ 305,866.79</b>
<b>Monthly Activity</b>			<b>125,317.03</b>
<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>			<b>\$ 431,183.82</b>



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

For the Period July 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026

	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	YTD FY 2026	C Budget FY 25	B / C YTD Target 92%	B - C \$ Variance
<b>1 REVENUE</b>									
2 Local Government / Member Assessments						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	35	39	45	7	1,514	1,750	-	-	1,750
7 Grant and Other Reimbursements to General Fund			307			6,748	-	-	6,748
8 Grant Reimbursements and Other Income	35	39	352	7	1,514	8,488	44,300	19%	(35,812)
<b>9 TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,514</b>	<b>818,488</b>	<b>1,379,300</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>(560,812)</b>
<b>10 EXPENSES</b>						-	-	-	-
11 Total Salaries	18,770	18,770	18,770	18,770	19,721	216,803	238,995	91%	(22,192)
12 Total Employee Benefits	8,374	9,995	9,995	9,995	9,734	112,615	126,574	89%	(13,959)
13 Total Salaries & Benefits	27,144	28,765	28,765	28,765	29,455	329,418	365,569	90%	(36,151)
14 Contract / Professional Services						-	-	-	-
15 DC Advocates	7,350	7,350	7,350	7,350	7,350	80,850	89,600	90%	(8,750)
16 Sacramento Advocates	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	77,000	84,000	92%	(7,000)
17 Attorney Fees	2,937	3,196	4,122	8,256	4,911	38,936	48,000	81%	(9,064)
18 Audit & Accounting	14,785	2,035	2,365	3,025	2,640	48,500	75,000	65%	(26,500)
19 Public Outreach & Engagement				685		45,685	60,000	76%	(14,315)
20 Total Contract / Professional Services	32,072	19,581	20,837	26,316	21,901	290,972	356,600	82%	(65,628)
21 Administration						-	-	-	-
22 Travel/Mileage	3,000	-	3,141		(903)	19,824	35,000	57%	(15,176)
23 Conferences/Seminars/Summits	75	1,999	1,329		130	5,775	15,000	39%	(9,225)
24 Office Rent	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	13,750	17,400	79%	(3,650)
25 OffSite Storage	125	125	125	125	125	1,375	17,401	8%	-
26 Utilities	125	72	85	229		1,400	4,000	35%	(2,600)
27 Repair and Service Maintenance						-	-	-	-
28 Office Rent, Utilities, and Repair/Maintenance	1,500	1,447	1,460	1,604	1,375	16,525	38,801	43%	(22,276)
29 Equipment / IT Maintenance	397	416	418	418	418	4,451	5,100	87%	(649)
30 Non-capitalized Office Equipment	1,663				27	1,742	5,000	35%	(3,258)

\*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 May 31, 2026

							C	B / C	B - C	
		Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	YTD FY 2026	Budget FY 25	YTD Target 92%	\$ Variance
31	Insurance	1,147	1,147	1,147	1,147	1,147	12,616	14,000	90%	(1,384)
32	Bank Fees						-	-	-	-
33	Postage/Mail	60	60	60	60	60	660		-	660
34	Office Expense/Operating Supplies	1,147		18	310	71	4,994	5,400	92%	(406)
35	Office Expense/Online Services	30	30	52	37	179	510	5,400	9%	(4,890)
36	Dues, Subscriptions	1,566	1,199	1,099	889	1,118	12,105	10,000	121%	2,105
37	Operating Expenses/County Charges	19	750			367	3,001	6,000	50%	(2,999)
38	Board Room Usage and Recordings	345	105	105	880	244	3,102	3,600	86%	(498)
39	Interest Expense						-	1,231	0%	(1,231)
40	Total Administration	10,948	7,153	8,830	5,346	4,234	85,253	144,532	59%	(59,279)
41	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	70,164	55,499	58,432	60,427	55,590	705,643	866,701	81%	(161,058)
42	<b>NET REVENUE / (EXPENSES)</b>	<b>\$ (70,129)</b>	<b>\$ (55,460)</b>	<b>\$ (58,080)</b>	<b>\$ (60,420)</b>	<b>\$ (54,075)</b>	<b>112,846</b>	<b>\$ 512,599</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>(399,753)</b>

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

For the Period July 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026

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

Note: Last grant submittal was in Dec 2025.

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

For the Period July 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026

	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	Budget	B / C YTD Target 83%	B - C \$ Variance
<b>1 REVENUE</b>								
2 Bureau of Reclamation Grant			\$ 631		\$ 46,903	\$ 744,000	6%	\$ (697,097)
<b>3 TOTAL REVENUE</b>	-	-	631	-	46,903	750,000	6%	(703,097)
<b>4 EXPENSES</b>								
5 Riverside County Salaries					-	-		-
6 SSA Salaries & Contract Accounting					2,558	15,000	17%	(12,442)
7 Contractors			631		44,345	735,000	6%	(690,655)
8 Legal Expenses					-	-		-
9 Bt `					-			-
<b>10 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	-	-	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>

Note: Last grant submittal was in Dec 2025.

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

1			
2	Checking/Savings	\$	431,184
3	Rivco Payroll		84,451
4	Rivco Investment		2,328
5	Rivco Investment FMV Ajdustment		(152)
6	Checking/Savings		517,812
7	Accounts Receivable		-
8	Rent Deposits		1,250
9	Prepaid Items		15,804
10	Due from BOR		631
11	Due from DWR		-
12	Due from Grant Funds		26,911
13	<b>Note: Li</b> Right to Use Asset		-
14		<b>\$</b>	<b>562,407</b>
15			
16	<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
17	Accounts Payable	\$	252,916
18	Accrued Expenses		12,000
19	Credit Card Payable		1,232
20	Accrued Payroll		5,109
21	Accrued Vacation		95,609
22	Accrued Sick		8,160
23	Lease Liability		453
24	Due to Other Funds		24,271
25	Due to BOR		324
26	Due to Riverside County		-
28	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>400,073</b>
30	<b>Fund Balance</b>		
31	Fund Balance		49,489
32	Net Income		112,846
34	<b>FUND BALANCE</b>		<b>162,335</b>
36		<b>\$</b>	<b>562,407</b>

\*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.

**Memorandum**

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director /GM  
**Date:** June 18, 2026  
**Re:** **CV Strategies – Final Accounting**

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By way of background: CV Strategies was initially engaged under a six-month agreement not to exceed \$42,000, approved by the Board on September 12, 2024. That agreement was modified on June 20, 2025, to extend the contract through the end of the fiscal year (one month, funded in arrears), and to add six months of service at a reduced rate of \$5,000 per month, to align with the Authority’s recently approved budget.

As the work progressed towards the development of a Strategic Plan, several factors influenced both the scope of work and timing of deliveries. Turnover at CV Strategies, losing the principal relationship manager, resulted in loss of institutional knowledge and disruption in the flow of work. In addition, we learned in November of IID’s intention to not renew its membership in the Authority after June 30<sup>th</sup> which had the potential to reshape the focus and direction of the Strategic Plan.

As the feasibility study progressed and considering the increased effort and cost, this board authorized in November of 2025 an additional \$30,000 to complete the work. The board minutes from that meeting reflect (and staff is requesting that today’s action today affirm) that the \$30,000 was new money, fully utilizing the remaining budgeted funds for the account to which this was being charged. The full \$30,000 has been paid.

Notwithstanding that payment, there remains an additional \$14,947.93 which remains billed and unpaid. This work represents additional work incurred – meeting with the then Board President, working through the various issues relating to IID’s departure, and finalizing input from staff and sustaining board members.

Staff is requesting:

1. Affirm prior authorization and ratify the payment made of the full \$30,000 as approved on November 20, 2025, and
2. Authorize the payment of \$14,947.93, in full satisfaction of all remaining claims from CV Strategies. In conjunction therewith CV Strategies and the Authority will execute a mutual release in the form attached hereto.

## **MUTUAL RELEASE AGREEMENT**

This Mutual Release Agreement (“Mutual Release”) is made and entered into as of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2026, by and between the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) and CV Strategies. Hereinafter, the Authority and CV Strategies are sometimes individually referred to as “Party,” and collectively referred to as the “Parties.”

### **RECITALS**

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Authority approved an agreement with CV Strategies to provide education, outreach and advocacy services in the amount of \$42,000 (“Agreement”); and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2025, due to an expanded scope of work and to lay the foundation for future work ahead, the Authority authorized an amendment to the Agreement to provide an additional \$7,000 in fiscal year 2025, as well as engaging CV Strategies in fiscal year 2026 for an initial period of 6 months beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> to support the Authority’s effort in broadly refining their communications footprint, with a cost not to exceed \$5,000 per month; and

WHEREAS, on November 25, 2025, the Authority approved an amended scope of services and authorized an amount not to exceed \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, throughout the period of engagement CV Strategies submitted and the Authority paid the invoices submitted by CV Strategies; and

WHEREAS, there was an unreconciled final billing between the Authority and CV Strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Parties wish to reconcile this final billing by a final payment and release all Claims as to each other; and

WHEREAS, “Claim” as used in this Mutual Release means any and all past, present, or future claims, counterclaims, cross-claims, disputes, demands, actions and causes of action, petitions, suits, debts, liabilities, defenses, obligations, damages (whether general, special, consequential, punitive, statutory, or other), penalties, costs, losses, expenses, and attorneys’ fees (whether incurred prior to or after the date of the Agreement), whether known or unknown, liquidated or unliquidated, fixed or contingent, direct or indirect, suspected or unsuspected, premised on direct recovery, contribution, or indemnity, whether based on contract, tort, statute, or other legal or equitable theory of recovery, whether written or oral, among or between the Parties.

### **AGREEMENT**

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants, mutual releases and other terms set forth in this Mutual Release, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which the Parties hereby acknowledge, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. **Incorporation of Definitions and Recitals.** The foregoing definitions and recitals

are incorporated in this Mutual Release.

2. Release Payment: The Authority shall pay CV Strategies the final invoice in the amount of \$14,947.93 as the final payment for the services performed by CV Strategies (“Payment”).

3. Release By CV Strategies. Upon receipt of the Payment from the Authority, CV Strategies unconditionally and irrevocably, fully, finally, and forever waives, releases, acquits and forever discharges the Authority from any and all Claims, except any claim for breach of this Mutual Release. Subject to the foregoing, CV Strategies understands that by signing this Mutual Release, they are waiving any and all Claims against the Authority, known or unknown, to the greatest extent allowable under law. CV Strategies represents and warrants to the Authority that they have not previously sold, encumbered, pledged, assigned or otherwise transferred any rights or interest in or to the Claims released by this Mutual Release.

CV Strategies understands that the releases contained in the foregoing paragraph shall be effective as full and final general release of all Claims, whether known or unknown, against the Authority. CV Strategies has been advised of, and they fully waive Section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California which provides:

**“A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time of executing release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.”**

CV Strategies waives any right which they have or may have under the above-mentioned Section 1542 to the fullest extent possible. CV Strategies is aware that they may hereafter discover claims or facts in addition to or different from those they now known or believe to exist with respect to the subject matter of this Mutual Release; however, they and their successors and assigns hereby settle and release all of the Claims which they have or may have against the Authority.

4. Release By Authority. The Authority unconditionally and irrevocably, fully, finally, and forever waives, releases, acquits and forever discharges CV Strategies from any and all Claims, except any claim for breach of this Mutual Release. Subject to the foregoing, the Authority understands that by signing this Mutual Release, it is waiving any and all Claims against CV Strategies, known or unknown, to the greatest extent allowable under law. The Authority represents and warrants to CV Strategies that it has not previously sold, encumbered, pledged, assigned or otherwise transferred any rights or interest in or to the Claims released by this Mutual Release.

The Authority understands that the releases contained in the foregoing paragraph shall be effective as full and final general release of all Claims, whether known or unknown, against CV Strategies. the Authority has been advised of, and it fully waives Section 1542 of the Civil Code of the State of California which provides:

**“A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his or her favor at the time**

**of executing release, which if known by him or her must have materially affected his or her settlement with the debtor.”**

The Authority waives any right which they have or may have under the above-mentioned Section 1542 to the fullest extent possible. The Authority is aware that it may hereafter discover claims or facts in addition to or different from those it now knows or believes to exist with respect to the subject matter of this Mutual Release; however, it and its successors and assigns hereby settle and release all of the Claims which it has or may have against CV Strategies.

5. Covenants Not to Sue. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing releases, the Parties hereby covenant and agree that, no Party shall institute, bring, commence or continue any action in any court, arbitration, or other forum against any other Party for any of the Claims or the Indebtedness released pursuant to this Mutual Release; provided, however, that nothing herein shall waive, release, acquit or discharge any claim or counterclaim that either party may have for enforcement or breach of this Mutual Release.

6. Acknowledgement of Adequate Consideration. The Parties hereby acknowledge and agree that the foregoing releases and covenants not to sue, as well as all other terms of this Mutual Release, are supported by adequate consideration, and the Parties hereby waive any allegation, claim and/or defense to the contrary.

7. Integration. This instrument comprises the entire understanding between the Parties concerning the subject matter of this Mutual Release and supersedes and replaces all prior negotiations and proposed agreements, both written and oral. This Agreement is a final expression of the Parties' intent with respect to the subject matter. There are no other contracts, understandings, representations, or warranties made by any other party to the Agreement except as expressly contained in this Mutual Release.

8. Independent Representation. The Parties hereby warrant that, in executing this Mutual Release, they do so with full knowledge of the rights and obligations that it may have and that they have received or have been given the opportunity to seek legal advice with respect to the matters contained in this Mutual Release. This Mutual Release is the product of joint negotiation between the Parties and, as applicable, their respective attorneys and shall not be construed for or against any of the Parties.

9. Choice of Law. This Mutual Release shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California without giving effect to principles of conflicts of law thereof.

10. Consent to Jurisdiction and Venue. The Parties hereby agree that any and all matters related to the interpretation and enforcement of this Mutual Release shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the courts having jurisdiction for the State of California, County of Riverside or the United States District Court for the Central District of California and the Parties hereby consent to such venue.

11. Severability. Should any term of this Mutual Release be deemed unlawful, that provision shall be severed and the remaining terms shall continue to be valid and fully enforceable

12. Writing Required. This Mutual Release may not be altered or amended except in writing signed by the Parties.

13. No Waiver. No waiver by any Party of any condition, or the breach of any term, provision, warranty, representation, agreement or covenant contained in this Mutual Release, whether by conduct or otherwise, in any one or more instances shall be deemed or construed as a further or continuing waiver of any such condition or breach or a waiver of any other condition or of the breach of any other term, provision, warranty, representation, agreement or covenant herein contained.

14. Counterparts. This Mutual Release may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but such counterparts, taken together shall constitute but one Mutual Release.

15. Additional Documents. Each of the Parties further agrees to execute and deliver any further documents which may be required to effectuate and/or carry out the terms of this Mutual Release.

16. Binding Effect. The Mutual Release shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties and their respective legal representatives, heirs, successors and assigns. Other than as explicitly set forth in this Mutual Release, nothing in this Mutual Release is intended to, or does, create any rights in third parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties, by and through their duly authorized representatives, have hereunder set their hands and entered into this Agreement on the day and year first written above.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

CV STRATEGIES

\_\_\_\_\_  
Erin LaCombe

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Castulo R. Estrada  
President

**Memorandum**

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director /GM  
**Date:** June 18, 2026  
**Re:** **Authorization to Participate as an ACWA Vision Partner and Adoption of Resolution Supporting the Vision for Our Water Future Initiative**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board of Directors:

1. Authorize the Salton Sea Authority to participate as a Vision Partner in ACWA's Vision for Our Water Future initiative; and
2. Adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_ expressing support for the Vision for Our Water Future.

**DISCUSSION**

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) has invited the Salton Sea Authority to participate as a Vision Partner in its Vision for Our Water Future initiative. The initiative seeks to elevate water as a statewide priority and advance policies supporting reliable, affordable, and resilient water management.

Participation as a Vision Partner is voluntary, carries no fiscal obligation, and will help ensure that Salton Sea public health, restoration, infrastructure, and Colorado River priorities remain part of statewide water policy discussions. The attached Resolution expresses the Authority's support for the initiative and authorizes participation as a Vision Partner.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_
2. ACWA Vision for Our Water Future Materials

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY  
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR  
THE ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES  
VISION FOR OUR WATER FUTURE**

**WHEREAS**, in April 2026, the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) launched Vision for Our Water Future, a member-driven initiative to identify statewide water priorities to inform engagement with California's next Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, the Salton Sea Authority (the "Authority") is a Joint Powers Authority formed in 1993 and representing Imperial County, Riverside County, Coachella Valley Water District, Imperial Irrigation District, and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians, created to coordinate actions that improve water quality, address public health, and advance restoration of the Salton Sea; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority serves as the only federally recognized local sponsor of Salton Sea restoration efforts, functioning as the coordination backbone for local, state, and federal engagement on one of California's most complex and consequential water and public health challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority, Coachella Valley Water District, and Imperial Irrigation District are each member agencies of ACWA, reflecting the longstanding commitment of the Salton Sea region's water institutions to statewide collaboration and unified advocacy on California water policy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Vision for Our Water Future priorities are a set of recommendations for the next governor, emphasizing the importance of strong leadership, sustainable investment, and coordinated action across all levels of government to secure California's water future; and

**WHEREAS**, the first priority -- to lead on water and elevate water as foundational to California's economy, agriculture, communities, environment, and climate resilience -- directly reflects the Authority's mandate, as the Salton Sea is a terminal basin receiving drainage from the Colorado River system that sustains the agricultural economies of the Imperial and Coachella Valleys and provides critical habitat along the Pacific Flyway; and

**WHEREAS**, the second priority -- to ensure safe and reliable water remains affordable through sustained and predictable funding partnerships and streamlined investment delivery -- is essential to the Authority's mission, as decades of reduced agricultural transfers to the Salton Sea have accelerated shoreline exposure, dust emissions, and public health burdens borne disproportionately by low-income communities in Imperial and Riverside Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, the third priority -- to strengthen and modernize California's water infrastructure, including both built and natural systems -- encompasses the Authority's core restoration objectives, including dust suppression, habitat restoration, and the Authority's role as Joint Local Sponsor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Imperial Stream and Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study; and

**WHEREAS**, the fourth priority -- to improve regulatory, operational, and scientific frameworks to enable efficient project delivery and adaptive water management -- aligns with the Authority's Strategic Plan commitment to advancing a Health Assurance Framework that coordinates agency responsibilities for monitoring and mitigating public health impacts at the Salton Sea; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority's five member agencies span two counties, two major water districts, and a federally recognized tribe, making the Authority a model of the multi-jurisdictional, science-based collaboration that the Vision recommendations recognize as essential to securing California's water future; and

**WHEREAS**, supporting the Vision recommendations demonstrates a unified commitment to the collaborative, practical, and equity-conscious policies necessary to protect the communities, farms, ecosystems, and economies of the Salton Sea region and the State of California; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority hereby expresses support for ACWA's Vision for Our Water Future recommendations and affirms the Authority's commitment to working collaboratively with its member agencies, partner jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians to advance reliable, affordable, and resilient water management that protects public health and advances long-term stewardship of the Salton Sea region; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Authority calls upon the State of California and the next Administration to recognize the Salton Sea as a statewide water and public health priority deserving sustained leadership, predictable funding, and coordinated regulatory action consistent with the principles set forth in the Vision for Our Water Future; and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the Executive Director is authorized to transmit this Resolution to ACWA and to any state or federal partner as evidence of the Authority's support for the Vision for Our Water Future initiative.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority at a regular meeting duly held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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President, Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors

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Secretary, Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors

# VISION

FOR OUR WATER FUTURE

## CALIFORNIA THRIVES WITH WATER

Water is the foundation upon which California is built. As the world's fourth-largest economy, the nation's breadbasket, a global technology leader, and home to extraordinary ecosystems, the prosperity of the Golden State depends on safe, resilient, and affordable water supply — now and into the future.

### WATER IS AN ESSENTIAL RESOURCE

Catastrophic wildfires, prolonged droughts, more intense storms, land subsidence, and aging infrastructure are reshaping California's risk landscape. Meeting these challenges demands that we acknowledge the seriousness of the threat, act with urgency and intention, and work together to advance our shared priorities.

### IT STARTS WITH A VISION

The Association of California Water Agencies' (ACWA) Vision for Our Water Future seeks to elevate water as a top priority for California's next governor, legislative leadership, and state officials. It provides a clear, focused framework to secure a reliable, affordable, and modern water system that supports California's economy, communities, and environment.



### BOLD LEADERSHIP IS NEEDED NOW

State and local water suppliers are on the front lines of California's water management to sustain communities, agricultural land and economy.

Water managers across the state are already pursuing local, practical and innovative solutions, but long term, meaningful progress requires a strong state partnership to achieve these shared goals. Bold leadership is needed to set a unified direction, accelerate action and deliver results that prepare California for an increasingly uncertain future.



# VISION FOR OUR WATER FUTURE

Securing California’s water future requires more than incremental fixes — it demands a fundamental shift in how the state leads, invests, and operates. The Vision for Our Water Future provides an essential framework for our next administration to:

## 1. LEAD ON WATER

Recognize water as an essential resource and the infrastructure that underpins California’s economy, housing growth, food production, environmental health, and community resilience. Sustained executive leadership is needed to improve water supply reliability, accelerate climate resilience, and ensure coordinated action across state government.

## 2. PROTECT AFFORDABILITY

Ensure safe and reliable water remains affordable by strengthening sustained state investment and funding partnerships with local, regional, and federal agencies to address rising infrastructure, climate, and regulatory costs. California’s ratepayers fund more than 85 percent of the system. Without predictable investment, these costs will increasingly fall on households, businesses, and farmers.

## 3. DELIVER CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Future-proof California’s critical water infrastructure to ensure reliable supplies in the face of climate change, growing economic and community demands, and escalating emergency risks. This requires strengthening the statewide water system, including both built and natural infrastructure, while advancing regional resilience to maximize systemwide reliability.

## 4. MODERNIZE WATER MANAGEMENT

Improve California’s regulatory and operational systems so water projects can move forward reliability and efficiently, infrastructure can be operated more flexibly, and agencies can respond more rapidly to changing conditions. California’s regulatory framework should deliver clear, coordinated decisions grounded in the best available science, while maintaining environmental protections, public transparency, and California’s existing water rights priority system.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF A MODERN WATER SYSTEM



Designed and upgraded for the future



Flexible and responsive to changing climate conditions



Supported by aligned state permitting, regulatory, & investment frameworks



Informed by technology, data, & science



Grounded in long-term affordability-term



Vision for Our Water Future is an initiative of the Association of California Water Agencies, representing approximately 470 public water suppliers in the state.

[www.acwa.com/vision](http://www.acwa.com/vision)



# VISION

FOR OUR WATER FUTURE



## Setting the Vision

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) represents approximately 470 public water agencies that collectively deliver approximately 90 percent of the water used by Californians — in their homes, on their farms, and for their businesses.

Water agencies are being proactive and are on the front lines of the state’s most pressing challenges — from droughts, floods, and wildfires to aging infrastructure and the need for more housing. Meaningful progress requires state partnership with local water suppliers to achieve common goals. Bold leadership from the governor is critical to setting a unified direction, accelerating action, and delivering results to prepare California for the future. Action is needed now.

## Why Water Matters

Water is the foundation upon which California is built. This State is the world’s fourth-largest economy, the nation’s breadbasket, a global technology leader, and home to extraordinary ecosystems. None of it functions without water.

Water is not a single-sector issue. It is the backbone every other sector depends on. It determines where homes can be built, whether farms can produce, how businesses operate and grow, and whether species can survive a changing climate. A safe, reliable, and affordable water supply is one of the most important investments California can make.

## ACTION IS NEEDED NOW



**Lead on Water**



**Protect Affordability**



**Deliver Critical Infrastructure**



**Modernize Water Management**

## California Thrives With Water

- › **Housing:** California must plan for 2.5 million new homes in the next decade. Every unit requires a reliable water supply.
- › **Agriculture:** California agriculture is 12% of the state's economy, contributing \$60 billion; employing over 400,000 people; and producing more than half of the nation's fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Both surface and groundwater are fundamental to California's agriculture sector.
- › **Economy:** California's \$4 trillion economy spans technology, innovation, manufacturing, trade, and tourism. Every dollar of it depends on a reliable water supply.
- › **Environment:** California's extraordinary ecosystems — its rivers, wetlands, and floodplains — depend on the same water system managed by local water suppliers. A thriving California requires managing water to sustain both communities and ecosystems.
- › **Public Health:** Water suppliers are California's first line of public health defense, delivering safe, clean drinking water to every community in the state.
- › **Climate Resilience:** Climate whiplash — the swing between extreme droughts and extreme floods — is increasing, snowpack is diminishing, and wildfires are growing more severe. Water suppliers are modernizing, but they cannot do it alone.

## Building A Modern System

Securing California's water future requires more than incremental fixes. It demands a fundamental shift in how the State leads, invests, and operates. The Vision for Our Water Future provides an essential framework for ensuring a resilient and reliable water system.

Funded, built, and managed for extreme conditions, our modern water system is resilient, coordinated, and flexible — meeting the needs of California's communities, economy, and environment.

- › **Anchored by Backbone Infrastructure:** The State Water Project and Central Valley Project form the foundation of the statewide water system. These assets capture and manage California's highly variable hydrology and move water where and when it is needed.
- › **Strengthened by Regional Resiliency:** Regional and watershed-based partnerships strengthen local water reliability under changing hydrologic conditions and during emergencies through coordinated planning, interconnected infrastructure, diversified supplies, and shared responsibility.
- › **Delivered Locally:** Water is delivered by local suppliers, even when conveyed through or interconnected with statewide or regional systems. Local agencies set rates and policies — ratepayers fund approximately 85% of California's water system costs — while navigating structural constraints from Proposition 218, regulatory mandates, and permitting complexity.

### Key Elements of A Modern Water System

- › Designed and upgraded for the future
- › Flexible and responsive to changing climate conditions
- › Supported by aligned state permitting, regulatory, and investment frameworks
- › Informed by technology, data, and science
- › Grounded in long-term affordability

**A modern water system must be resilient, coordinated, and flexible to meet California's evolving needs.**

## 1

### LEAD ON WATER

Recognize water as an essential resource and the infrastructure that underpins California's economy, housing growth, food production, environmental health, and community resilience. Sustained executive leadership is needed to improve water supply reliability, accelerate climate resilience, and ensure coordinated action across state government.

- › **Set a Bold Water Agenda (First 100 Days):** Establish a focused statewide water agenda aligned with this Vision for Our Water Future.

- › **Appoint Leaders to Deliver Results:** Appoint and empower leaders to deliver measurable outcomes.
- › **Unify State Agencies:** Direct state agencies to align under unified statewide water priorities and jointly advance implementation in partnership with local, regional, and federal water managers. Designate a cabinet-level water policy executive, reporting directly to the Governor, to align agencies and organize state resources to implement California's water priorities.

## 2

### PROTECT AFFORDABILITY

Ensure safe and reliable water remains affordable by strengthening sustained state investment and funding partnerships with local, regional, and federal agencies to address rising infrastructure, climate, and regulatory costs. California's ratepayers fund more than 85% of the system. Without predictable investment, these costs will increasingly fall on households, businesses, and farmers.

- › **Secure Sustainable Water Funding:** Create a reliable sustainable state funding source for water infrastructure that provides predictable, long-term investment. This funding should support critical water infrastructure projects, environmental needs, and California's Human Right to Water while leveraging federal, regional, and local investment.

- › **Accelerate Funding:** Improve funding programs and coordination so investments reach projects faster — reducing administrative delays, lowering project costs, and accelerating infrastructure delivery.
- › **Integrate Investments Across Sectors:** Align state investments and integrate water infrastructure funding across energy, housing, and climate and hazard mitigation to advance multi-benefit projects and maximize federal, state, and regional investment.



# 3

## DELIVER CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Future-proof California’s critical water infrastructure to ensure reliable supplies in the face of climate change, growing economic and community demands, and escalating emergency risks. This requires strengthening the statewide water system, including both built and natural infrastructure, while advancing regional resilience to maximize systemwide reliability.

- › **Strengthen the State’s Water Backbone:** Upgrade, repair, and optimize California’s essential backbone infrastructure — the California State Water Project and Central Valley Project.
  - ◆ **Modernize and Protect Infrastructure:** Advance a durable Delta conveyance solution, strengthen Delta levees, safeguard critical infrastructure from subsidence and seismic risk, and upgrade system technologies — including Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations, snowpack measurement, and remote monitoring control.

- ◆ **Improve Coordinated Operations:** Integrate operations of the California State Water Project and Central Valley Project to increase system flexibility, expand the storage and movement of water, and enhance water supply reliability.
- › **Safeguard Colorado River Water Supplies:** Protect California’s Colorado River allocation, consistent with the State’s legal entitlements and the efforts of the Colorado River Board of California.
- › **Empower Regional Water Solutions:** Champion regional and watershed-based solutions. State policy should empower regions with the tools, flexibility, and investment needed to advance regional planning, partnerships, and projects that diversify water supplies, strengthen system connectivity and operational efficiency, and restore ecosystem functions to ensure reliable water supplies.

# 4

## MODERNIZE WATER MANAGEMENT

Improve California’s regulatory and operational systems so water projects can move forward reliably and efficiently, infrastructure can be operated more flexibly, and agencies can respond more rapidly to changing conditions. California’s regulatory framework should deliver clear, coordinated decisions grounded in the best available science, while maintaining environmental protections, public transparency, and California’s existing water rights priority system.

- › **Improve Permitting Performance:** Enhance the clarity, coordination, and efficiency of state permitting processes to accelerate infrastructure and operational improvements; eliminate avoidable costs; and ensure state and local agencies deliver timely, accountable results.
  - ◆ **Integrate Permit Requirements:** Integrate requirements and processes across regulatory agencies to eliminate redundancy and inconsistency.
  - ◆ **Enhance Regulatory Certainty:** Establish transparent procedures, clear criteria for permit approval, and accountable timelines for agency decisions — developed in direct partnership with water suppliers.

- ◆ **Streamline Pathways:** Create efficient pathways to advance multi-benefit, climate-resilient water supply projects.
- › **Modernize Water Operations:** Advance operational approaches that reflect changing climate realities to improve water supply reliability across environmental, agricultural, and urban sectors. This may include coordinated reservoir management, flexible diversion rules tied to real-time hydrology, accelerated groundwater recharge and conjunctive use, expanded water transfers, and other adaptive strategies.
- › **Strengthen Water Data and Science:** Invest in integrated, science-based statewide data systems and technology that improve transparency, inform real-time decisions, and strengthen regulatory and operational performance to increase efficiency and better manage water resources.

**VISION**  
FOR OUR WATER FUTURE



Vision for Our Water Future is an initiative of the Association of California Water Agencies, representing approximately 470 public water agencies in California.

# VISION

FOR OUR WATER FUTURE

## Join the Vision for Our Water Future

ACWA's Vision for Our Water Future is a statewide, member-driven initiative to elevate water as a top priority for California's next Administration and advance a unified policy agenda for safe, reliable, and affordable water.

Coalition partners play a critical role in reinforcing the importance of water across sectors — from housing and agriculture to economic growth and climate resilience.

By joining this effort, your organization helps amplify a shared message and align priorities that support California's future.

Complete the form to confirm your organization's support



Become a Vision Partner



Scan for the Partner Toolkit or visit [acwa.com/vision](https://acwa.com/vision)

### What It Means to Be a Vision Partner

Participation is flexible and scalable based on your organization's priorities and capacity. Vision Partners will be listed on the ACWA website with a logo under our "Partners" section at [acwa.com/vision](https://acwa.com/vision).

ACWA invites coalition partners to engage in three key ways:

#### 1. Amplify

Help raise awareness and reinforce the importance of water across your networks.

- › Share Vision content on your organization's social media channels.
- › Communicate with your membership about the Vision through newsletters, meetings, or committees.
- › Use provided talking points and fact sheets in your outreach.

#### Optional Opportunities:

- › Participate in earned media (e.g., op-eds, joint statements).
- › Provide input to inform issue-specific Vision fact sheets (e.g., housing, agriculture).

#### 2. Engage

Incorporate Vision priorities into your advocacy and outreach.

- › Include relevant Vision priorities in meetings with gubernatorial candidates, legislative leadership, and Administration officials.
- › Share the Vision document and fact sheet in policy discussions.
- › Designate a spokesperson to represent your organization at ACWA-led events and discussions.

#### Optional Opportunities:

- › Integrate Vision priorities into your organization's panels, webinars, and events.
- › Participate in joint outreach or convenings with ACWA and partners.

#### 3. Advance

Support long-term efforts that align with Vision priorities.

- › Consider supporting future legislation and administrative actions that advance the Vision.

### Questions

For more information or to get involved, please contact ACWA Regulatory Relations Director [Chelsea Haines](mailto:Chelsea.Haines@acwa.com) at (916) 669-2431.

## Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director /GM  
**Date:** June 18, 2026  
**Re:** **Federal Engagement Update: Post-2026 Colorado River DEIS, Coalition Comment Record, and FY27 Feasibility Study Funding**

### Summary

Over the past five months, the Authority has continued to pursue a sustained, multi-track effort to keep the Salton Sea inside the Colorado River post-2026 framework rather than treated as a separate, deferred problem: direct outreach to Interior and Reclamation leadership, a coordinated coalition comment record regarding the Draft EIS, an active FY27 appropriations request with strong congressional backing, and a supplemental historical submission for the administrative record. Staff recommend the Board direct staff to continue its escalation of engagement to convert this record into a funded, enforceable federal commitment.

### The Coalition Comment Record

Seven comment letters were filed by Salton Sea stakeholders regarding the DEIS, and together they function as a coordinated record. Each targets a different leg of Reclamation's rationale for excluding Salton Sea impacts:

- [The Authority](#) converted Reclamation's own FY2021 budget justification into an affirmative \$332.5 million funding demand;
- The [Colorado River Board](#) challenged deferring impacts to a separate USACE study;
- [Imperial County](#) and [Imperial Irrigation District](#) built the detailed factual and legal record;
- [CVWD](#) addressed drainage infrastructure;
- The [environmental justice coalition](#) supplied the public health record under Executive Order 12898; and
- The [Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians](#) followed with a sovereign consultation demand under Executive Order 13175 that remains open.

Because each letter carries different standing - regional authority, state board, county, irrigation district, environmental justice coalition, tribal government - no single rebuttal can dismiss the record as parochial or redundant. The shared premise, conceded in Reclamation's own DEIS language, is that the Sea is the engineered terminus of the federal delivery system, not an externality, which undercuts the agency's stated basis for non-analysis.

## **Direct Outreach and Its Reception**

In parallel, the Authority and CVWD leadership have engaged Interior and Reclamation directly:

- The January follow-up to Assistant Secretary Travnicsek and Deputy Commissioner Palumbo on WRDA 2026 language and Feasibility Study acceleration;
- Formal CVWD board member meeting requests in March;
- The draft Outreach, Education, and Relationships (OER) work plan presented in April;
- The May 22 letter to Secretary Burgum on the IRA set-aside; and
- The June 8 historical appendix submitted to the administrative record.

The response to date has been extremely limited - an acknowledgment from Assistant Secretary Travnicsek and a non-committal reply from Reclamation regarding the OER citing internal review timing. *The Torres Martinez consultation request of May 28, which carries an independent obligation under Executive Order 13175, remains unacknowledged.*

## **FY27 Appropriations Request**

The Authority's \$2,146,000 FY27 request to further fund the Feasibility Study and reach a timely Chief's Report is fully matched by DWR and builds on \$7,187,999 in federal funding already secured through the Authority's persistent effort. Senators Padilla and Schiff have included the full amount in their congressional CDS requests, with Representatives Ruiz and Calvert providing continued advocacy. This is another substantial increment of an nearly fully funded, locally matched project, timed to be in place as Reclamation's new conservation mandates further reduce Sea inflows.

## **Path Forward**

Staff intend to keep this record moving: securing a substantive response to the Tribe's consultation request before the Final EIS issues, pressing Interior and Reclamation for a decision timeline on the FY27 request given existing congressional support, and ensuring the coalition record - reinforced by the historical appendix - is before the drafter of the Final EIS and Record of Decision. The region has historically been treated as easy to defer while broader system fights dominate attention; the breadth of this record, paired with active congressional backing, gives the Authority and the broader local community a stronger basis than in past cycles to insist the Salton Sea remain inside the Colorado River decision, not outside it.

# Salton Sea Health Assurance Framework

A Strategic Governance Framework for Understanding, Monitoring, and Managing the Human Consequences of a Changing Colorado River System

Salton Sea Authority

June 2026

## Introduction

The Salton Sea is entering a period of rapid and continuing transition.

The system is changing, communities will be affected, and no integrated federal, state, local, tribal, scientific, and public health framework presently exists to understand those consequences as a whole.

For more than a century, the Sea has functioned as the receiving environment for agricultural drainage generated by the Colorado River delivery system. During most of that period, the consequences of that arrangement were primarily hydrologic. Water levels fluctuated. Salinity increased. Biological conditions evolved. The effects remained largely confined to the Sea itself.

That condition no longer exists.

Conservation programs, water transfers, shortage operations, climate pressures, and changing Colorado River management are altering the Sea's hydrology and accelerating shoreline recession. As conditions change, new exposure pathways emerge connecting physical conditions at the Sea to the communities that live around it.

Some risks are understood. Others are not.

The challenge facing the Salton Sea is therefore not simply environmental. It is institutional.

The issue is not the absence of effort. It is the absence of an integrated system capable of understanding, communicating, and managing cumulative consequences over time.

No single entity is presently responsible for understanding the cumulative public-health implications of changing conditions at the Sea. No entity is charged with integrating air quality, shoreline recession, biological transition, vector dynamics, hydrology, community observations, and public-health indicators into a unified understanding of risk.

The absence of that capacity is the problem the Health Assurance Framework is designed to solve.

The Framework establishes the institutional infrastructure required to operate that system on a sustained and transparent basis.

## **The Right to Know**

The purpose of the Framework is not to prove that a particular risk exists.

Its purpose is to ensure that communities have access to the best available understanding of conditions that may affect them, and that uncertainty itself is systematically understood and communicated.

Residents of Mecca, North Shore, Thermal, Bombay Beach, Salton City, Coachella, and the Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians should not be required to assemble information from multiple agencies, studies, jurisdictions, and academic disciplines in order to understand conditions in their own communities.

They have a right to know.

The Framework establishes the institutional capacity necessary to provide that understanding.

In doing so, it transforms dispersed information into actionable public knowledge.

## **The Federal Nexus**

The Salton Sea receives drainage generated by federally authorized Colorado River deliveries. Federal operational decisions influence the quantity, timing, and reliability of those deliveries, and those decisions affect conditions at the Sea.

The federal government owns roughly 40 percent of the lands in and surrounding the Salton Sea and has a legal obligation to manage those lands in compliance with local, state, and federal law, including the Clean Air Act. The Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians' reservation occupies approximately 24,000 acres in and around the Sea, and the federal government holds a legal duty to ensure the protection of those lands.

For that reason, federal participation is not incidental. It is structural to the operation of the system itself.

This is not a claim that every consequence is known. It is a recognition that federal actions influence basin conditions, and that those consequences require coordinated understanding and response.

## **The Coordination Gap**

The Salton Sea is not underserved by agencies. It is underserved by coordination.

Numerous public agencies possess authority over portions of the problem. Air quality agencies monitor dust. Public-health agencies track health outcomes. Water agencies manage water. Tribal governments manage tribal resources. Federal and state agencies collect scientific information. Universities conduct research.

Each performs an important function. None is responsible for understanding the whole.

The result is a fragmented system in which data, expertise, and responsibility are dispersed across institutions while communities experience the cumulative consequences.

Data exists. Expertise exists. Authority exists. But no entity is responsible for integrating them into a coherent understanding and communicating that understanding to the public.

The Framework does not replace those institutions. It connects them.

## **The Framework**

The Health Assurance Framework establishes a permanent, adaptive coordination system built around six core functions: integrated monitoring, hydrologic and exposure modeling, adaptive management, public communication and community notification, interagency coordination, and scientific partnership and community-based research.

Together, these functions create the institutional capacity necessary to understand changing conditions, identify emerging risks, communicate findings, and inform future management decisions.

Success is measured not by the elimination of uncertainty, but by the capacity to identify, understand, communicate, and respond to changing conditions as they emerge.

## **The Salton Sea Authority**

The Salton Sea Authority is uniquely positioned to serve as the coordinating entity for the Framework.

The Authority's purpose is not to replace existing agencies. Its role is to ensure that existing authorities function as a coordinated system, facilitating coordination, maintaining institutional continuity, supporting scientific integration, and ensuring that communities remain informed as conditions evolve.

The Authority's value lies not in performing every function itself, but in ensuring that the many entities already engaged in Salton Sea issues operate as a coherent system over time.

## **Federal Resources**

The Framework requires dedicated federal resources to be established and sustained at a scale commensurate with the public health obligation it addresses. The Owens Lake dust-control program, which costs more than \$75 million per year to operate at a site one third the size of the Salton Sea, provides a useful benchmark for the level of sustained investment that addressing exposed lakebed conditions requires.

Federal resources may be secured through multiple channels, including government-to-government consultation, existing federal commitments, and congressional action. The

federal government's own documented estimates of its management obligations at the Sea provide a meaningful starting point for determining the appropriate scale of that investment.

The Salton Sea is not a static condition to be solved once and forgotten. It is a dynamic system whose hydrology, biology, chemistry, and relationship to surrounding communities will continue to evolve as Colorado River operations evolve. The purpose of the Framework is not to predict every future condition. It is to establish the enduring institutional capacity necessary to understand and respond to those conditions as they emerge.

## **Conclusion**

The greatest challenge facing the Salton Sea is not that all risks are known. It is that many are not.

The Health Assurance Framework acknowledges that uncertainty is itself a management challenge. Its purpose is not to eliminate uncertainty. Its purpose is to ensure that uncertainty is studied, understood, communicated, and managed through a coordinated, transparent, and accountable public process.

Communities living beside the Salton Sea have a right to know what is changing, what those changes may mean, and how public institutions intend to respond.

The question is not whether conditions at the Salton Sea will continue to change. The question is whether public institutions are equipped to understand and respond to those changes.

The Health Assurance Framework exists to ensure that they are.

**Memorandum**

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director /GM  
**Date:** June 18, 2026  
**Re:** **Authorization of Amendment No. 5 to Agreement with Gafcon PM-CM LLC**

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Staff recommends approval of Amendment No. 5 to the existing Agreement for Services with Gafcon PM-CM LLC for continued project management services associated with the Desert Shores Restoration Project. Since its original approval in October 2023, the agreement has been amended to support feasibility evaluation, community engagement, procurement and management of technical studies, labor compliance services, and project management associated with geotechnical, soils, and hydrogeological investigations necessary to advance the project. Throughout this effort, Gafcon has served as an important strategic partner in helping the Authority navigate the technical complexities of the project while maintaining engagement with the community and other local stakeholders.

Amendment No. 5 provides for project management services during the design, engineering, and permitting phase of the Desert Shores Restoration Project consistent with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Grant Agreement R22AC00215, as amended. The amendment authorizes additional compensation in an amount not to exceed \$86,155, increasing the total contract value to \$188,000. The term of the amendment is intended to be coterminous with the current grant modification, which expires December 31, 2027. Upon completion, the current grant-funded effort is anticipated to advance the project through design and permitting, resulting in a shovel-ready project suitable for future construction funding opportunities.

**Financial Summary**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Current Contract Value	\$101,845
<b>Amendment No. 5</b>	<b>\$86,155</b>
Revised Contract Value	\$188,000
Contract Term	Through December 31, 2027

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement for Services with Gafcon PM-CM LLC in a form approved by legal counsel.

**Memorandum**

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director /GM  
**Date:** May 21, 2026  
**Re:** **Authorization of Amendment No. 5 to Agreement with Gafcon PM-CM LLC**

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Staff recommends approval of Amendment No. 5 to the existing Agreement for Services with Gafcon PM-CM LLC for continued project management services associated with the Desert Shores Restoration Project. Since its original approval in October 2023, the agreement has been amended to support feasibility evaluation, community engagement, procurement and management of technical studies, labor compliance services, and project management associated with geotechnical, soils, and hydrogeological investigations necessary to advance the project. Throughout this effort, Gafcon has served as an important strategic partner in helping the Authority navigate the technical complexities of the project while maintaining engagement with the community and other local stakeholders.

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**Memorandum**

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director /GM  
**Date:** June 18, 2026  
**Re:** **Status Update – Proposition 68 Fund Repurposing and Collaborative Activities with CNRA/DWR**

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**Overview**

In January, the Board approved the repurposing of the remaining Proposition 68 funds associated with the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project. Under that action, the Authority authorized the release of those funds to the State for integration into the larger North Lake Wetlands Project, while reserving **\$200,000 per year for three years (\$600,000 total)** to support the Authority’s continued collaborative role. This structure ensures that the Authority maintains its statutory stewardship responsibilities under AB 71 and the 2020 MOU while enabling the State to meet its internal budgeting and contracting requirements.

**State Budget Action**

The State’s FY 2026-27 Budget Change Proposal (BCP) for **Salton Sea Habitat Restoration** is advancing through the Legislature. The BCP proposes:

- **Reversion of \$16.8 million** in unspent Proposition 68 funds from the original Pilot Project;
- **New appropriation of \$16.2 million** in capital outlay to DWR for the consolidated North Lake Wetlands Project;
- **\$600,000 to CNRA** for an agreement with the Salton Sea Authority to support our collaborative activities over the next three years.

The BCP explicitly recognizes the Authority’s role as a Joint Powers Authority representing regional and tribal leadership and identifies our continued involvement as essential to successful project delivery.

The Budget Change Proposal reflecting these activities is attached for Board review.

### **Summary of Activities**

Authority staff continues to work closely with CNRA and DWR to support the consolidation of the 156-acre Pilot Project area into the 1,315-acre North Lake Wetlands Project. Activities underway or planned include:

- Coordinating with State agencies on design integration, environmental documentation, and permitting;
- Ensuring continuity between prior Pilot Project work and the expanded project scope;
- Engaging member agencies, tribal governments, and community stakeholders to maintain transparency and alignment with local priorities;
- Supporting State-led planning, reporting, and public communication requirements under the Salton Sea Program.

### **Next Steps**

Staff will continue to coordinate with CNRA and DWR as the BCP moves toward enactment, prepare for execution of the CNRA-SSA agreement upon budget approval, and maintain active participation in the North Lake Wetlands Project design and implementation process. Regular updates will be provided to the Projects Committee and the Board.

### **Recommendation**

Receive and file. No Board action is requested.

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**Budget Change Proposal - Cover Sheet**  
 DF-46 (REV 03/25)

<b>Fiscal Year</b> 2026-2027	<b>Business Unit Number</b> 3860, 0540	<b>Department</b> Water Resources, Natural Resources Agency
<b>Hyperion Budget Request Name</b> 3860-163-COBCP-2026-MR 0540-130-BCP-2026-MR		<b>Relevant Program or Subprogram</b> Continuing Formulation of the California Water Plan - 3230; Administration of Natural Resources - 0320

**Budget Request Title**

Salton Sea Habitat Restoration

**Budget Request Summary**

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) Salton Sea Restoration Office (SSRO) requests the reversion of \$16.8 million Proposition 68, Section 80111(a), and a new appropriation of \$16.2 million capital outlay to DWR and \$600 thousand to the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) for an agreement with the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) for the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project. This project will become a component of the adjacent North Lake Wetlands Project and will protect public health by suppressing dust from exposed lakebed and restore habitat for fish and birds. This project is also needed to comply with the state's restoration requirements under the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Stipulated Order 2017-0134 (Water Board Order).

<b>Requires Legislation (submit required legislation with the BCP)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Trailer Bill Language <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Budget Bill Language <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed</b> Click or tap here to enter text.
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<b>Does this BCP contain information technology (IT) components?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>If yes, departmental Chief Information Officer must sign.</i>	<b>Department CIO</b> Click or tap here to enter text.	<b>Date</b> Click or tap to enter a date.
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**For IT requests, specify the project number, the most recent project approval document (FSR, SPR, S1BA, S2AA, S3SD, S4PRA), the approval date, and the total project cost.**

**Project No.** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Approval Date:** Click or tap to enter a date.

**Project Approval Document:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Total Project Cost:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**If proposal affects another department, does other department concur with proposal?**  Yes  No

*Attach comments of affected department, signed and dated by the department director or designee.*

<b>Prepared By</b> Evon Willhoff	<b>Date</b> 5/14/2026	<b>Reviewed By</b> Brian Fuller	<b>Date</b> 5/14/2026
<b>Department Director</b> Cindy Messer	<b>Date</b> 5/14/2026	<b>Agency Secretary</b> Amanda Martin for Sec. Crowfoot	<b>Date</b> 5/14/2026

**Department of Finance Use Only**

**Additional Review:**  Capital Outlay  ITCU  FSCU  OSAE  Dept. of Technology

<b>Principal Program Budget Analyst</b> Andrew Hull	<b>Date submitted to the Legislature</b> 5/14/2026
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## A. Problem Statement

The SWRCB Water Board Order requires the state's Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) to construct 29,800 acres of habitat and dust suppression projects on exposed lakebed at the Salton Sea by 2028. In addition, the state signed onto the 2022 Colorado River Commitments Agreement (Commitments Agreement) and has committed to expediting project implementation in conjunction with a new set of conservation measures that have been adopted by California water agencies that utilize Colorado River water. The Salton Sea, California's largest lake, is receding primarily due to water conservation actions in the Imperial Valley that have reduced inflows to the Salton Sea. Less inflow into the Sea results in declining lake levels and increased lakebed exposure. As the Sea shrinks, critical habitat is lost, and the remaining habitat is compromised as the saline lake becomes saltier, creating an inhospitable environment for fish and birds. As more areas of lakebed become exposed, it increases the potential for harmful dust emissions that threaten the health of surrounding disadvantaged communities. In addition to the habitat benefits, SSMP projects address a major environmental justice issue by constructing projects that will reduce harmful air quality impacts from the windblown dust originating from exposed lakebed.

The SSMP, a joint program of CNRA, DWR, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, is required to implement restoration projects at the Salton Sea to suppress dust and create wildlife habitat under the Water Board Order. DWR, on behalf of the SSMP, is responsible for entering into contracts that allow the SSMP to plan, permit, and construct projects using the department's various contracting authorities that are unique to DWR and DWR's SSRO. DWR also contracts work necessary to complete reports and presentations, including an annual requirement to produce a report and presentation to SWRCB and the public on the status of compliance with project acreage targets. This annual reporting requirement is defined in the SWRCB Water Board Order.

The North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project (Pilot Project) is located in the community of North Shore. North Shore is also a severely disadvantaged community. \$19.25 million of Prop 68 funding for the Pilot Project was originally approved in the 2020 Budget Act for the planning and construction of a 156-acre lake to provide habitat for fish and birds. In 2021, the Prop 68 funds were encumbered into a local assistance funding agreement with the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) to plan and construct the Pilot Project. SSA encountered delays in project planning due to complications that arose related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, delayed site access approvals, additional site investigations, and the need to identify an alternative water supply. These delays and unplanned work resulted in unanticipated costs. Based on the new site assessments and feasibility studies, the project design has been updated. However, remaining funds are not sufficient to complete the design and construct the project. SSA's funding agreement with DWR terminated on December 31, 2025. To resolve these challenges, DWR seeks to revert the remaining \$16.8 million of Prop 68 Pilot Project funding and appropriate it between DWR and CNRA. The Pilot Project will then be combined with the adjacent, larger 1,315-acre North Lake Wetlands Project. Combining the projects into one bigger project will save time, money, and resources to finalize the project design together and bid and construct the work under one contract. A portion of the funding (\$600 thousand) is proposed for CNRA to execute an agreement with SSA that will facilitate the SSA's continued involvement in project delivery, given SSA's role as a Joint Powers Authority comprised of regional and tribal leaders whose input is essential for ensuring project success.

**Resource History**  
(Dollars in thousands)

<b>Program Budget</b>	<b>PY - 4</b>	<b>PY - 3</b>	<b>PY - 2</b>	<b>PY-1</b>	<b>PY</b>	<b>CY</b>
Authorized Expenditures	\$29,250	\$40,000	10,000	96,593**	\$121,154 4	\$147,600
Actual Expenditures	\$61,222	\$43,582*	\$34,397	\$67,090	\$45,084	\$35,355
Revenues	0	0	0	0	0	0
Authorized Positions	14	14	14	17	17	22
Filled Positions	8	10	13	14	14	17
Vacancies	6	4	1	3	3	5

\*Actual expenditures are higher than authorized FY expenditures due to previous appropriations with extended encumbrance periods.  
 \*\* Table has been updated to reflect \$70M in Federal Trust Fund Authority and the associated expenditures for the Species Conservation Habitat Project.

**SSMP Combined Workload History**

<b>Workload Measure</b>	<b>PY – 4 (20/21)</b>	<b>PY – 3 (21/22)</b>	<b>PY – 2 (22/23)</b>	<b>PY – 1 (23/24)</b>	<b>PY (24/25)</b>	<b>CY (25/26)</b>
Acres in Planning and Permitting	1,709	3,842	8,942	7,208	10,388	4,706
Acres in Construction	4,100	5,809	5,504	4,960	3,116	8,058
Acres in Operations and Monitoring	0	22	327	871	3,626	3,732*

\*Current year acres in O&M are a projection of expected acres completed by December 31, 2025.

**B. Justification**

As described in the 2020-2021 BCP, the Pilot Project was planned to be a stand-alone project that would be linked to an adjacent, larger North Lake Project as funding became available. As of 2025-2026, Climate Bond (Proposition 4) funding became available for the larger, adjacent North Lake Wetlands Project. With schedule delays and inadequate funding for the Pilot Project, this proposal seeks to revert \$16.8 million and newly appropriate \$16.2 million Prop 68 for of capital outlay to DWR and \$600 thousand Prop 68 to CNRA for an agreement with the Salton Sea Authority for the Northlake Wetlands Project . The consolidation of the two efforts into one will save time and money while protecting the delivery of project acres with similar habitat, dust reduction, and recreational benefits. This action is consistent with the original intent of the Pilot Project that foreshadowed the incorporation of the two projects. The action will leverage two funding sources to maximize the state's investment and improve the timeline to deliver a project that will benefit the communities at the northern end of the Sea.

## C. Departmentwide and Statewide Considerations

The SSMP's work falls under Goal 2) Protect and Enhance Natural Ecosystems of the California Water Resilience Portfolio. Additionally, this work is called out in action 17 of the portfolio:

*17. Minimize air pollution and restore habitat at the Salton Sea.*

*17.1 Support achievement of milestones within the 10-year Salton Sea Management Plan to minimize air pollution and preserve fish and wildlife habitat.*

*17.2 Develop criteria and a monitoring plan to evaluate Salton Sea improvements to local air quality and environmental habitat.*

*17.3 Building upon previous work, complete an independent feasibility analysis of water importation options for the Salton Sea.*

Additionally, the implementation of dust suppression and fish and wildlife habitat projects would be supported by signatories of the recently signed "Commitment to Support Salton Sea Management Related to Water Conservation in the Lower Colorado River Basin" (Commitments Agreement) found here:

[https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/saltnsea/pdf\\_files/Salton\\_Sea\\_Agreement\\_signed\\_12.9.22.pdf](https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/saltnsea/pdf_files/Salton_Sea_Agreement_signed_12.9.22.pdf).

Under this Commitments Agreement, the California Natural Resources Agency commits to accelerating project delivery and to continue pursuing additional funding for projects to build on State funding already committed to Salton Sea Management Program implementation.

In 2019, Governor Newsom formally apologized to California Native American Tribes for the state's legacy of violence and neglect and recommitted to the Tribal consultation requirements set forth in Governor Jerry Brown's [Executive Order B-10-11](#).

The SSMP strives to support [Statement of Administration Policy on Native American Ancestral Lands](#) and [Executive Order N-15-19](#) by conducting early, often, and meaningful tribal consultation with the tribes with current lands and ancestral ties to the Salton Sea.

The SSMP advances the Executive Order on Equity ([Executive Order N-16-22](#)) by incorporating equity and community engagement into planning and program implementation, particularly as the SSMP works with disadvantaged communities in the Eastern Coachella and Imperial Valleys.

Finally, the SSMP advances the State's goal to protect 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030 (30x30 [Executive Order N-82-20](#)) by restoring nearly 30,000 acres of habitat around the Salton Sea.

## D. Outcomes and Accountability

The proposed reversion and new appropriation of Prop 68 funding will combine the Pilot Project's 156-acre planning area and remaining Prop 68 funding with the North Lake Wetlands Project's 1,315-acre planning area and Prop 4 funds will consolidate the planning, design, contracting, and construction into one effort. Planning is well underway with encroachment permits secured and surveys (biological, archeological, and environmental) and environmental documents either completed or underway for both projects. Contracting is expected to be completed by the end of 2026 with construction beginning in 2027.

### Projected Outcomes

Workload Measure	CY (FY25-26)	BY (FY26-27)	BY+1	BY+2	BY+3	BY+4
Acres in Planning and Permitting	156	156*	0	0	0	0
Acres in Construction	0	0	156	156	156	0
Acres in Operations and Monitoring	0	0	0	0	0	156

\*In FY 26-27, the 156 acres would shift to DWR and will be included in the planning and permitting of the North Lake Wetlands Project by expanding the project to incorporate the 156 acres in addition to the project's 1,315 acres. With the approval of this BCP, new total project acres for the North Lake Wetlands Project will be 1,471 acres. This projected is planned to have a three-year Progress Design Build design & construction schedule.

#### E. Implementation Plan

SSMP projects take multiple years to plan, construct, and begin operations and maintenance. Project areas are identified, land access and environmental permitting initiated and construction contracts developed. Environmental surveys, which can be season specific, permitting, and public outreach all inform the schedule. The Projects that are in planning and permitting will be in construction in either 2027-28 or 2028-29. Depending on the size and complexity of the project, construction can take several years, but those projects will move into acres in operation and maintenance when construction is complete. The North Lake Wetlands Project is in planning; a Progressive Design Build Contract is scheduled to be awarded in 2026 with this construction beginning in 2027.

In addition, the SSMP Annual Report describes the previous year's actions and accomplishments at the Salton Sea. Outcomes are measured within this detailed report, which reports on items such as progress of restoration projects, associated completed acres of said projects, departures from acreage requirements and plans to catch up to these requirements, organizational capacity building, budget, and outreach and engagement. The Annual report is released online annually in March, and the State Water Board holds a Salton Sea hearing or workshop every spring to detail progress and maintain accountability. The SSMP project tracker on the State's SSMP website reports acreage targets and benefits to surrounding populations by way of dust suppression and habitat creation. This website is updated twice a year. Finally, outcomes are communicated regularly by the SSMP. The program convenes meetings in impacted communities as well as virtually to communicate the program's progress and information is shared in a monthly e-newsletter.

#### F. Supplemental Information (If Applicable)

CNRA requests funding be available for encumbrance or expenditure until June 30, 2027, and liquidation until June 30, 2031, to align with DWR's project implementation timeframe.

# BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

(Dollars in Thousands)

BCP Title: Critical Project Funding for Salton Sea Habitat Restoration

BR Name: 0540-130-BCP-2026-MR

Budget Request Summary

## Operating Expenses and Equipment

Operating Expenses and Equipment	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
54XX - Special Items of Expense	0	600	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Operating Expenses and Equipment</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Total Budget Request

Total Budget Request	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
<b>Total Budget Request</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Fund Summary

### Fund Source

Fund Source	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Local Assistance - 6088 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Fund	0	600	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Local Assistance Expenditures</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# Program Summary

## Program Funding

Program Funding	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
0320 - Administration of Natural Resources Agency	0	600	0	0	0	0
<b>Total All Programs</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$600</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

(Dollars in Thousands)

BCP Title: Salton Sea Habitat Restoration

BR Name: 3860-163-COBCP-2026-MR

Budget Request Summary

## Capital Outlay

Capital Outlay	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
5360000 – Overall Capital Outlay	0	16,228	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Capital Outlay</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$16,228</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Total Budget Request

Total Budget Request	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
<b>Total Budget Request</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$16,228</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

## Fund Summary

### Fund Source

Fund Source	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Capital Outlay - 6088 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Fund	0	16,228	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Capital Outlay Expenditures</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$16,228</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$16,228</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# Projects Summary

## Project Funding

Project Funding	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
00006461 – Salton Sea North Lake Project	0	16,228	0	0	0	0
<b>Total All Projects</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$16,228</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Memorandum**

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** G. Patrick O’Dowd, Executive Director/GM  
**Date:** June 18, 2026  
**Re:** **Election of Salton Sea Authority Officers (effective July 1, 2026)**

The following guidelines are provided from the Salton Sea Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Bylaws (December 2016 update):

- 3.1 **Officers:** The officers of the Authority shall consist of the President, Vice-President Secretary, and Treasurer, each of whom shall be selected from the voting members of the Board of Directors.
- 3.2 **Term of Office:** The term for all officers shall be one (1) year.
- 3.3 **Election of Officers:** The Authority shall elect, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, its officers at its last meeting of the fiscal year, and at such other times as there may be a vacancy in any office.
- 3.4 **Rotation of Officers:** It shall be a policy of the Board to encourage rotation<sup>1</sup> of the offices among the Board members.

8.1 The fiscal year of the Authority shall be from July 1 to June 30, following.

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Currently-seated officers are:

	<u>Current:</u>	<u>Agency:</u>
President	Castulo R. Estrada	Coachella Valley Water District
Vice President	Martha Singh	Imperial County
Secretary	Joseph Mirelez	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Treasurer	Vacant	

<sup>1</sup> While rotation is encouraged as a matter of board policy, it is not required. Each of the four designated Officer positions have previously been held by the same officer for multiple consecutive terms.

**Memorandum**

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors

**From:** G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM

**Date:** June 18, 2026

**Re: Salton Sea Authority Resolution Updating Signatories on SSA Bank Account**

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**BACKGROUND:**

At the June 18, 2026, Salton Sea Authority (Authority) Board meeting, appointment of officers to the Board are being considered. If changes are made, this will necessitate a corresponding change in signatories on the Authority bank accounts. Banc of California requires a copy of a resolution from the Board to authorize the new signatories on Salton Sea Authority's accounts and to remove all prior signatories.

Salton Sea Authority's Bylaws state that the Treasurer shall be the depositary of funds. Traditionally the President, Vice-President, and Executive Director/GM have additionally been designated as signatories to ensure availability of two signatories, as required, at any given time.

The attached proposed resolution includes the incoming President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the Executive Director/GM G. Patrick O'Dowd as signatories, and the removal of any others who might remain in the bank's records.

Attached please find proposed Salton Sea Authority Resolution number 26-01 for your consideration, which update the signatories to show the new President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the Executive Director/GM as signatories.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board approve attached Salton Sea Authority Resolution No. 26-01 to update the signatories on this bank account.



**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY  
RESOLUTION NO. 26-01**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY DESIGNATING OFFICIALS  
AUTHORIZED TO SIGN WARRANTS AND CHECKS,  
TRANSFER FUNDS, AND ACCESS SAFE DEPOSIT BOX**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority (Authority), assembled in regular meeting this 18th day of June 2026, that Banc of California is instructed to honor Authority warrants or checks written or issued on accounts in the name of the Salton Sea Authority authorized or executed by any two of the following designated officials:

- \_\_\_\_\_, President
- \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President
- \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary
- \_\_\_\_\_, Executive Director/General Manager; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Banc of California is instructed to honor any transfer of funds by means of written instructions by order of any two designated officials:

- \_\_\_\_\_, President
- \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President
- \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary
- \_\_\_\_\_, Executive Director/General Manager; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all warrants and checks, and instructions to transfer funds shall adhere to the requirements of Banc of California and will be compliant with Board approved policies for funds transfers, including Procedures – Authorization for Use of Signature Stamp as amended September 21, 2023; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that prior authorizations to sign warrants and checks, transfer funds and access safe deposit box(es) are hereby rescinded; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Secretary is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this resolution to Banc of California.

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President  
Salton Sea Authority

**Memorandum**

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM  
**Date:** **June 18, 2026**  
**Re:** **Update LAIF Authorizations**

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**BACKGROUND:**

A resolution using the Salton Sea Authority's standard bank resolution template to update signatories was passed by the Salton Sea Authority Board and forwarded to the California State Treasurer's Office.

The Treasurer's Office representative with whom Salton Sea Authority staff was working contacted Salton Sea Authority staff Friday with LAIF wording to use on the Salton Sea Authority resolution to update LAIF authorizations.

Attached please find proposed Salton Sea Authority resolution number 26-02 entitled, "Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority authorizing investment of monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund."

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board approve Resolution No. 26-02 entitled, "Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority authorizing investment of monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund."



**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY  
RESOLUTION NO. 26-02**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT  
OF MONIES IN THE LOCAL AGENCY INVESTMENT FUND**

**WHEREAS**, The Local Agency Investment Fund is established in the State Treasury under Government Code section 16429.1 *et. seq.* for the deposit of money of a local agency for purposes of investment by the State Treasurer; and

**WHEREAS**, the Salton Sea Authority (“SSA” or “Authority”) Board of Directors hereby finds that the deposit and withdrawal of money in the Local Agency Investment Fund in accordance with Government Code section 16429.1 *et. seq.* for the purpose of investment as provided therein is in the best interests of the Authority;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors hereby authorizes the deposit and withdrawal of SSA monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund in the State Treasury in accordance with Government Code section 16429.1 *et. seq.* for the purpose of investment as provided therein.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, as follows:

Section 1. The following Salton Sea Authority officers holding the title(s) specified hereinbelow or their successors in office are each hereby authorized to order the deposit or withdrawal of monies in the Local Agency Investment Fund and may execute and deliver any and all documents necessary or advisable in order to effectuate the purposes of this resolution and the transactions contemplated hereby:

\_\_\_\_\_, President  
\_\_\_\_\_, Vice-President  
\_\_\_\_\_, Secretary  
\_\_\_\_\_, Executive Director/General Manager; and

Section 2. This resolution shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded by the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors by resolution and a copy of the resolution rescinding this resolution is filed with the State Treasurer’s Office.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Secretary is hereby directed to furnish a certified copy of this resolution to Banc of California.

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President  
Salton Sea Authority



## Cultivating Conservation

### MEMO

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O'Dowd  
FROM: Lisa Moore  
RE: **Federal Appropriations Report**  
DATE: June 15, 2026

The Salton Sea Feasibility Study was initiated by and is sustained through the Authority's federal advocacy and engagement. One of the few mega projects in the nation, the total funding estimate to arrive at a full basin wide Corps project is approximately \$22 million to be divided equally between the Corps and joint local sponsors.

In order to ensure the Corps has the funding to undertake this work, the Authority advocates for funding through the federal appropriations process and has thus far secured over \$7 million in federal funds. This work is required to keep the project moving forward.

Beginning in February, the Authority began working with the Corps to determine their funding needs for FY27 so that we could put in a formal request for federal appropriations with our Congressional delegation, a process which begins in March. While our projected need for FY27 in our official Corps estimate is \$2.146 million, the Corps supplied a smaller revised estimate of funding need of roughly \$700k. This estimate concerned us given new requirements the Corps has instituted that are likely to increase costs, the importance of the work and our desire to accelerate it.

In our discussions with our Congressional delegation and our joint sponsor DWR, we decided to request the larger \$2.146 million amount in funding from the FY27 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

Typically, Congressional staff will only request the amount of funding the Corps provides (in this case, about \$700k). However, given the importance of the work and the overall situation on the Colorado River, **both Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff requested the full \$2.146 million the Authority requested.** This is a sign of the importance of this work to our Senators.

The Senators' request is now in the hands of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. This legislation is typically introduced in July for subcommittee and then full committee consideration.



## State Advocacy Update - May 2026

The Legislature has reached the half-way point of the 2026 legislative year, and continues to be actively engaged in a number of policy and budget issues. The following reflects the timeline for legislative activities through the remainder of the 2026 session. At this point, there are only 31 working days remaining in the legislative session.

- **June 15:** Legislature approved two-party budget agreement
- **July 1:** Fiscal year begins
- **July 2:** Legislature begins Summer recess
- **August 3:** Legislature returns from Summer recess
- **August 31:** Last day of 2025-26 legislative session

On June 15, the Legislature approved AB 109, which reflects the Assembly-Senate two-party budget agreement that memorializes the work of the Legislature and its budget committees and subcommittees over the preceding several months. Next, the legislative leadership will engage in negotiations with the Governor over remaining outstanding details to arrive at a three-party budget agreement over the coming days, which will then be considered on the Floor of each House and signed by the Governor in advance of the July 1 start of the new fiscal year.

Notably, the Legislature's two-party budget includes the reversion of \$16.8 million from Proposition 68 (Section 80111(a)) and then new appropriations of:

- \$16.2 million capital outlay to the Department of Water Resources for the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project
- \$600,000 to the California Natural Resources Agency for an agreement with the Salton Sea Authority relative to implementation of the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project

It is unlikely that the final three-party budget agreement that emerges in the coming days will address Proposition 4 allocations or Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund allocations, among other budget items. The Legislature has indicated a

desire to continue work and discussions on those items through the Legislature's Summer recess with a plan to revisit those issues in follow-up budget-related legislation in August.

As part of the broader state budget conversations, the Authority engaged with Assembly and Senate budget committees, legislative leadership, and the Salton Sea legislative delegation members regarding the Authority's support for the May Revise budget proposal relative to the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project and agreement between CNRA and the Authority. Additionally, the Authority's budget engagement continued to socialize a request for a budget augmentation in the amount 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 (**Attachment**).

Discussions regarding remaining and outstanding budget matters will continue in earnest through the Legislature's Summer recess and into August.