Salton Sea Authority

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
June 18, 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 10:13 a.m., June 18, 2026, at Imperial County BOS Chamber and via Zoom Webinar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Vice-President Singh

ROLL CALL

DIRECTORS PRESENT ON SITE		AGENCY
Cástulo R. Estrada, President		Coachella Valley Water District
Gina Dockstader, Director		Imperial Irrigation District
Joseph Mirelez, Secretary	*10:18am*	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Rosemarie Morreo, Director	*10:18am*	Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
Martha Singh, Vice-President		Imperial County
Ryan E. Kelley, Director	*10:21am*	Imperial County

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA ZOOM **AGENCY**

DIRECTORS ABSENT	AGENCY
Yxstian Gutierrez, Director	Riverside County
Alex Cárdenas, Director	Imperial Irrigation District
John Aguilar, Director	Coachella Valley Water District
V. Manuel Perez, Director	Riverside County
Ex-Officio Joe Shea	California Natural Resources Agency

Chairman Estrada asked if there any changes to the agenda, there were none.

On motion by Dockstader, second by Estrada, *the Board* ***approved*** *the Agenda.*

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: *6*
NOES: *0*
ABSTAINED: *0*

MOTION PASSED: *Unanimous*

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

On Site: Tina Shields, IID, Christopher Thomas, DWR, Mario Llanos, CNRA, Jude Johnson, CV Strategies, Mario Llanos, CNRA, Christopher Thomas, DWR.

Via Zoom: Tom Sephton, Sephton Water Tech, JB Hamby, IID, Miguel Hernandez, CNRA, Michael Cohen, Pacific Institute, Mason Osgood, Neil Desai, National Parks Conservation Association, John Monsen, Sierra Club and 4 others.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mason Osgood, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) discussed the Cadiz project.

Neal Desai of NPCA and John Monsen, Sierra Club shared similar remarks.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

No Comments

IV. 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

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

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: *8*
NOES: *0*
ABSTAINED: *0*
MOTION PASSED: *Unanimous*

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. Executive Director O’Dowd gave a brief update. Torres Martinez Tribe requested a nation-to-nation consultation, vs sending in an EIS comment letter. Chairman Mirelez advised the tribe had not yet been contacted in regards thereto. Director Kelley asked if the board could also communicate with the government. O'Dowd stated that a Draft Resolution is prepared but held per the Chairman's request, but would be introduced in July if the government consultation is not scheduled.

b. Secretary Estrada asked for clarification on the federal funding that was discussed at the last meeting. Lisa Moore stated that the Authority is actively pursuing several funding sources:

1. $2.146MM that the Army Corps needs to complete the feasibility study
2. Additional IRA resources a separate effort to secure the funding in this effort in the amount of $100MM.
3. There was a request for $7MM to complete the study
    a. $4.1MM to complete the Feasibility Study
    b. $3MM to the Authority for outreach and engagement relating thereto
4. $1MM separate CVWD commitments agreement through IRA

Ms. Moore advised that the $2.146MM was included in both Senators Padilla and Schiff congressionally directed spending request at the Authority's request.

The Authority requested $332MM from IRA funds based on the Trump Administration's estimate to address federal lands.

At the request of Director Dockstader Ms. Tina Shields from IID, Water Department Manager gave a brief update on the Colorado river negotiations, touching on the Law of the River.

c. Salton Sea Funding
    i. Feasibility Study, Ms. Willhoff gave a brief update on the Salton Sea USACE/Authority/DWR feasibility study.
    ii. Health Assurance Framework was also discussed.

C. Desert Shores

Executive Director O'Dowd gave a brief update. Last month the board approved securing legal services to draft an easement for project purposes. Gafcon's contract has been exhausted, and the grant has been modified to continue to support this effort. Recommending approval from the board.

On motion by Mirelez, second by Estrada, *the Board* ***approved*** *the* Gafcon Extension Agreement

Approved by the following vote:
AYES: *8*
NOES: *0*
ABSTAINED: *0*
MOTION PASSED: *Unanimous*

D. Proposition 68 / North Lake Wetlands project and funding

Mr. Romo from Cruz Strategies gave a brief update on the Prop 68 monies, that has been approved and will be eligible pending the disbursement schedule from the state.

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

On motion by Estrada to nominate Mirelez and second by Singh, *the Board* ***approved Mirelez as President.***

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: *8*
NOES: *0*
ABSTAINED: *0*
MOTION PASSED: *Unanimous*

   b. Election of Vice-President of Board

On motion by Mirelez to nominate Estrada and second by Singh, the Board approved Estrada as Vice-President.

Approved by the following vote:
AYES: *8*
NOES: *0*
ABSTAINED: *0*

MOTION PASSED: *Unanimous*

   c. Election of Secretary of Board

On motion by Mirelez to nominate Singh and second by Estrada, *the Board* ***approved Singh as Secretary.***

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: *8*
NOES: *0*
ABSTAINED: *0*

MOTION PASSED: *Unanimous*

   d. Election of Treasurer of Board

On motion by Mirelez to nominate Kelley and second by Dockstader, the Board approved Kelley as Treasurer.

Approved by the following vote:

AYES: *8*
NOES: *0*
ABSTAINED: *0*

MOTION PASSED: *Unanimous*

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)

On motion by Mirelez, second by Estrada, the Board approved Resolutions updating signatories for Banc of California and LAIF accounts.

Approved by the following vote:
AYES: *8*
NOES: *0*
ABSTAINED: *0*

MOTION PASSED: *Unanimous*

V. REPORTS

A. Federal

1. Federal Activities – Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation, gave brief update.

2. US Bureau of Reclamation – Aron King. No Report

B. State

1. State Advocacy - Nick Romo, Cruz Strategies and Glen Farrel, GF Advocacy, gave a brief update. They are advocating additional funding for the Authority.

2. State of California – Mr. Miguel Hernandez, Public Affairs Officer, California Natural Resources Agency gave a brief update.

3. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – Ray Lennox, Colorado District Superintendent. No Report

4. Salton Sea Conservancy, Executive Director O'Dowd invited the Conservancy to join us with updates at the Authority's meetings.

C. Local

1. Salton Sea Action Committee – Alan Pace, SSAC President. No Report

D. Executive Director's Report and Comments - G. Patrick O'Dowd, Executive Director/GM, Salton Sea Authority stated that the Authority's July meeting will tentatively feature an update on the Arizona Sea Water Importation Project, pending scheduling confirmation from project officials.

VI. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Update/Presentation on the Sea Importation Project
- Chairman Mirelez to provide update on the Torres Martinez Salton Sea/Colorado River consultation request

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

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.