

TERM SHEET
Extension and Expansion of the August 31, 2016
Memorandum of Understanding Regarding
the Coordination of Activities to Manage the Salton Sea

Discussion Draft for Intergovernmental Review. July 2026.

1. Purpose

To extend the August 31, 2016 Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Department of the Interior (DOI) and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), as supplemented by the January 2017 Addendum, in advance of the expiration of its initial ten-year term on August 31, 2026, and to expand the instrument to include the Salton Sea Authority (the Authority) as a party. The extended and expanded MOU would carry forward the coordination architecture of the 2016 instrument, update it to reflect current realities, and organize its near-term implementation around two priorities: the Imperial Streams Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study and the Framework of Assurance.

2. Parties

- United States Department of the Interior.
- California Natural Resources Agency.
- Salton Sea Authority, a joint powers authority whose member agencies are the County of Imperial, the County of Riverside, the Coachella Valley Water District, and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.

3. Updated Recitals Reflecting Current Realities

- The 2016 MOU and 2017 Addendum remain the operative instruments for Federal and State coordination at the Salton Sea, and the Parties intend continuity of that coordination without interruption.
- The Authority and the California Department of Water Resources are the joint non-federal sponsors of the Imperial Streams Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, authorized under the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 and being prepared by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in coordination with the sponsors.
- Reclamation's Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operations Draft Environmental Impact Statement (January 2026, Section 3.2.7) identifies the SSMP long-range plan and the USACE feasibility process as the venues within which Salton Sea impacts are considered, making formal coordination among the Parties to those processes a stated premise of the Federal environmental review.

- The Authority has adopted the Framework of Assurance as its governance instrument for evaluating conditions, commitments, and proposed actions at the Salton Sea against consistent principles, including the Acceptable Condition Standard.
- The Parties reaffirm the recognition in the 2016 MOU of tribal jurisdiction and interests, the United States trust responsibility, and the duty of meaningful government to government consultation prior to any action related to the Sea that impacts a tribe. The Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians are concurrently a member agency of the Authority; such membership does not substitute for, limit, or diminish any separate government-to-government consultation obligations owed by the United States.

4. Feasibility Study Implementation

- DOI will coordinate with the USACE feasibility process, including timely provision of Reclamation, USGS, USFWS, BLM, and BIA information, data, and technical expertise relevant to study scope, alternatives, and design.
- The Parties will align SSMP project sequencing, the study's recommended plan, and Federal and State funding pursuit so that design and construction of resultant projects can begin on the schedule contemplated in the study process.
- The Parties will coordinate land ownership, rights-of-way, and withdrawal information necessary for project development, carrying forward the corresponding provisions of the 2014 DOI and Authority MOU.
- The Parties will designate a senior policy official from each Party to a working group, continuing the Salton Sea Working Group structure of the 2016 MOU with the Authority seated.

5. Authority Board Participation

- DOI, through the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science or a designee, may participate in meetings of the Authority Board of Directors on a regular basis as an ex officio, non-voting federal participant, in the same general capacity as the California Natural Resources Agency participates under the 2020 CNRA and Authority MOU. Such participation is intended to support coordination, information exchange, public accountability, and alignment of activities under this MOU. Such participation shall not confer voting rights, fiduciary obligations, or authority over matters within the jurisdiction of the Authority or any other Party.

6. Framework of Assurance; Outreach, Information, and Education

- The Parties acknowledge the Authority's adoption of the Framework of Assurance and will consider its principles in coordination activities under this MOU, including in the evaluation of project commitments, baselines, and reporting.
- Consistent with the Framework's Right to Know principle, the Authority will lead a coordinated outreach, information, and education program regarding conditions at

the Sea, the feasibility study, and implementation progress, in collaboration with CNRA and the Department of Water Resources, with Federal participation through the working group.

- The Parties will maintain and share monitoring information, building on the science and monitoring integration objectives of the 2016 MOU.

7. Provisions Carried Forward

- All provisions of the 2016 MOU and 2017 Addendum not modified hereby are carried forward in substantially their existing form.

8. Term and Execution

- Initial term to extend through the later of: (i) ten years from the effective date; or (ii) the expiration of any agreement, extension, or successor arrangement that extends Colorado River operational guidelines for Lake Powell and Lake Mead beyond September 30, 2026; renewable by agreement.
- Transmittal of this term sheet to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science and to the Office of the California Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy for concurrent review.
- Confirmation of drafting assignments and a single review cycle in advance of the August 31, 2026 expiration date.