



**\*\*\*CANCELED\*\*\***  
due to lack of quorum

**AGENDA: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**DATE: Thursday, March 23, 2017**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**LOCATION: Coachella Valley Water District**  
**Steve Robbins Administration Building**  
**75515 Hovley Lane East**  
**Palm Desert, CA 92260**  
**(760) 398-2651**

**The Following Board Member Will be Attending by Teleconference:**

SSA Director Patrick O'Dowd will be participating via teleconference from Embassy Suites, 900 10<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20001; Telephone (202) 739-2001.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**II. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

*This is the time set aside for any Board Member to ask questions or address any issue posed by a member of the public.*

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Board relating to any matter within the Authority's jurisdiction. **This Public Comments time is reserved for matters not already on the agenda. The law prohibits members of the Board from taking action on matters not on the agenda.***

*Citizens are invited to speak on any item listed in the agenda upon presentation of that item.*

*Remarks shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes unless additional time is authorized by the Board.*

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR – Receive, Approve, and File**

- A. Minutes of February 23, 2017
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for January 2017
- C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2017 – 01/31/2017
- D. Controller Report, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter

**V. REPORTS**

- A. General Manager's Report on Activities – (Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority)
- B. Legislative Update – (Phillip Johnson, Assistant Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority)
- C. Legal Counsel Update – (Bob Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger LLP)
- D. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – (Jose Renteria, Senior Park Aide, Salton Sea State Recreation Area)
- E. Salton Sea Action Committee – (Juan DeLara, President)

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

Thursday, April 27, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Imperial Irrigation District

Bill Condit Auditorium

1285 Broadway Avenue

El Centro, CA 92243

(760) 482-9618

*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 in the lobby at the front desk of the County Law Building located at 82995 Highway 111, Indio, CA 92201.*



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**  
**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**February 23, 2017**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority” or “SSA”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by Ryan E. Kelley, President, at 10:03 a.m., Thursday, February 23, 2017, at the Salton Community Services District, 1209 Van Buren Avenue, Suite 1, Salton City, CA 92274, (760) 394-4242.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Ryan Kelley led the Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL:**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Ryan E. Kelley, President  
G. Patrick O’Dowd, Vice President  
Cástulo R. Estrada, Treasurer  
Thomas TorteZ, Secretary + \*  
Marion Ashley, Director + ^  
James C. Hanks, Director +  
John Renison, Director

**AGENCY**

Imperial County  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla  
Riverside County  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Imperial County

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Frank Durgin, Director  
(Pending)  
Erik J. Ortega, Director

**AGENCY**

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla  
Riverside County  
Imperial Irrigation District

+ *Directors TorteZ, Ashley, and Hanks are carrying two votes today.*

\* *Director TorteZ came in at 10:05 a.m. – just after roll call.*

^ *Director Ashley left at 11:20 a.m.*

*In keeping with the Salton Sea Authority Bylaws, there being at least three of the five member agencies represented, and a +single Director carrying the vote of both Directors when the second Director of the same agency is absent, a Quorum was declared, and the meeting proceeded.*

**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT**

Phil Rosentrater, Executive Director/General Manager  
Bob Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

**AGENCY**

Bruce Wilcox	CNRA
Suzie Earp	WRI CSUSB
David Rangel	Water Train
LaVon Jaksch	
Ed Hoffman	Citizen/Tax Payer
Enry D.	Resident
Art Gertz	Resident/Property Owner
Jack Jessup	
Edwin Delgado	IV Press
Bob Brodie	Resident
Jeni Bate	Resident
Jeff Ziegenbein	Association of Compost Producers
Paddie & John Connelly	W.S. Lions
Jim Hudson	EPN-USA
Pat Cooper	Supervisor Benoit
Doug Wylie	RWQCB
Stan Snyder	Lewis Brisbois
Loren and Carlene Ness	Residents
Dorothy Murray	Resident
Jim Murray	Resident
Darlene B. Felton	Next Door Vista Del Mar
Tom Sephton	Sephton Water Technology
Andy Horne	County of Imperial
Debbie Livesay	
Juan DeLara	Federated Insurance/SSAC
Alberto Ramirez	Torres Martinez DCI
Bibianna Ekay	Owner
Pam Eckert	Resident
James O. Bynion	So Cal Resident
Kerry F. Morrison	Ecomedia Compass, West Shores Salton Sea

**II. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- A. Director Hanks would like the Board to revisit discussion of the SSWIFT plan and Geotubes.
- B. Director Renison reported that the New River Improvement Plan is gaining traction – the State Water Board and the State EPA indicate that \$1.4 million will be released soon for the engineering portion of the New River Improvement Plan in Calexico.

- C. Director Ashley gave an update on the Governor’s search for a replacement for Riverside County Supervisor John J. Benoit.
- D. Director Kelley thanked the Salton Community Special District for hosting the current Salton Sea Authority Board meeting, helping the SSA to reach more of those who have homes in the area.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- A. Art Gertz – “Save Our Sea” – collectively, we are bigger than this problem.
- B. Kerry Morrison – Update on upcoming events, including a canal walk this weekend and a down-home celebration March 12.
- C. Bob Brodie – Urged the Board to continue doing what they’re doing, listen to the people, overcome politics, bring in water.
- D. John Connelly – California should build more reservoirs to capture the rain and snow that is overflowing Oroville dam, for example. The sooner the better for California.
- E. Jeni Bates – How does the Salton Sea Authority intend to compel the current US president to action?
- F. Carlene Ness – Would love to hear the positive accomplishments of the Salton Sea Authority and how the residents can help the SSA accomplish their goals.
- G. Darlene Felton – Agreed with preceding statements, wants to see water brought in, dust controlled quickly – supports locals who have respiratory problems, wants to see what SSA is accomplishing for them, to see forward progress.
- H. Tom Sephton – Congratulated the SSA Board on holding the current and previous meeting within sight of the Salton Sea. Fish and Wildlife have cut staff – is there any public body monitoring status of SS – water quality, fish population, etc.?
- I. Pam Eckert – Asked for help for local residents for whom dust is a great concern: add water. She says that there are lots of volunteers willing to help.

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR – Receive, Approve, and File**

- A. Minutes of January 26, 2017
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for December 2016
- C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2016 – 12/31/2016
- D. Resolution for ACWA Region 9 Board representative from SSA
- E. Resolution Designating Authorized Signatories for Rabobank Accounts
- F. Change-of-Date Request for December 2017 SSA Board Meeting

*The opportunity to discuss being presented but none taking place, Chairman Kelley invited a motion to approve. Director Ashley **moved** that the Consent Calendar be approved. **Seconded** by Director Renison. **Unanimously carried.***

## V. PRESENTATIONS

### A. SSMP 10-Year Plan

Bruce Wilcox, Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy, California Natural Resources Agency, gave an update on the state's 10-Year Plan. The 10-Year Plan will evaluate the SSWIFT perimeter lake program, what can be done on the east and west sides of the Sea from a water perspective, and take a look at Geotubes to see how well they will work. Funding will be discussed with the Governor's office. Also included is a plan to reconnect two or three of the harbors to the existing Sea.

The Science committee will meet on March 8. The State signed a contract with a consulting firm to begin the preliminary design and engineering of the 10-Year Plan. Tetra-Tech won the bid through the state procurement process – a \$1.5 or \$1.6 million contract for on-call services.

Mr. Wilcox is trying to get some of the legislative people down for a tour of the Sea to push for more funding – lots of competition for funds with Oroville dam flooding.

The state monitors birds at the Sea. Mr. Wilcox has asked the Department of Fish and Wildlife to start monitoring fish at the Sea. The MOU with the Department of the Interior designated \$30 million for monitoring, operations, and maintenance. The State will have TetraTech look into Geotubes and into pumping water from the rivers.

Mr. Wilcox opened the floor to questions. Director Renison asked if the water import concept were gaining popularity in Washington. Mr. Wilcox commented that one of the first things the 10-Year Plan would investigate is the viability of water import. Although people are right that bringing water in could help, there are other issues. There are a couple of water import scenarios that have more thought behind them that may be being considered by some agencies. The State is not discounting anything, and believes the Federal Government has to become involved in it.

Director Hanks said he first heard of the water import/export concept about 40 years ago. He said there were fatal flaws in the studies of the water import/export concept. What he sees as the biggest issues are:

- 1) It brings in more salt, so the incoming water needs to be treated.
- 2) No water crosses between Mexico and the US without going through the International Boundary Commission, so an important question to ask those presenting water import or import/export proposals is, "Are you making contact with the International Boundary Commission?"
- 3) Lack of funding and funding mechanism.
- 4) If the pump-out portion of pump-in/pump-out is rejected – in the absence of a place to pump out water – then the center of the lake must be the pump out area to maintain the quality of water around the perimeter that would sustain fish and wildlife. Without pump-out the lake will continue to become more and more saline. He, along with others, would prefer a large blue sea, but when looking for answers, even if the water is brought in, it might take care of air quality issues, but the water would continue to become more saline to the point that the fish would not survive.

Director Renison added that the Army Corp of Engineers would have to be involved also. Also, on water import/export, it is very political and difficult to get traction for forward progress on projects with the changes in administration every six years in Mexico.

Director O'Dowd addressed comments about how long it has taken to get here: SSA "doesn't have a checkbook," and presentations until now don't have feasible plans using known resources. There are slim funds to go around. We need to connect the 17 western states – the Salton Sea problem is all of their problems.

*(Director Estrada stepped out for a couple of minutes at this point, returned.)*

#### B. Audubon Approach to Salton Sea Collaborative

Frank Ruiz, Salton Sea Program Director of Audubon California, introduced himself as a local, and described Audubon's program as multi-dimensional, covering human health, habitat protection, community participation, economic development. He shared Audubon's plan for 2017, involving collaboration, science, policy, community engagement, communications. They, also, are trying to get funding, put pressure on the state as a non-governmental organization. A full report is available from the Audubon society upon request.

Their Salton Sea campaign and Colorado River campaign are closely related and they want to take a very comprehensive approach. He said that Audubon California is happy to cooperate with SSA, invited SSA to use Audubon in any way possible – to provide resources, to provide information. Their biology department is working on other projects they could share later.

## VI. REPORTS

#### A. General Manager's Report on Activities

Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director of the SSA, said the report had been submitted for their review, and asked the Board if they had any questions. There were none.

*Director Ashley had to leave the meeting at 11:20 a.m. at this point in the proceedings.*

#### B. Legislative Update

Phillip Johnson, Assistant Executive Director of the SSA, covered a few minor edits to the report – a few late-breaking items that didn't make it into the report. One was the rewording of SB 615, which he read aloud, which will appear in next month's legislative report. It includes the renaming of the Salton Sea Restoration Act as the John J. Benoit Salton Sea Restoration Act. He also reviewed the status of a few potential new administration cabinet members of relevance to the SSA.

The Board voted to support SB 615: *Director Kelley moved to support. Seconded by Director Renison. Unanimously carried.*

C. Standing Report

1. FEDERAL:

Marc Maynard, Natural Resource Specialist of the US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Interim Program Manager for Salton Sea, revisited some of the earlier topics from a federal perspective. The Bureau plans their budget three years out. The BOR conducted quarterly water quality sampling at the Salton Sea since the early 2000s; that information is available on their website. They have resolved technical difficulties they had last year and are resuming the sampling next week. They have not yet broken ground on the 57-acre Holtville wetland project.

2. STATE: Assistant Secretary of Resources for Salton Sea

Mr. Wilcox covered this report during the Ten-Year Plan discussion in V.A.

D. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC)

Juan DeLara, SSAC President, pointed out to those present that he is also with Federated Insurance, owners of most of the land covered with palm trees and citrus trees near the Salton Sea. SSAC was dark in February, but will have their quarterly meeting March 10. He also invited those present to a Salton Sea prayer event on February 25.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, *Director Kelley invited a motion to adjourn. Director Renison so moved. Seconded by Director O'Dowd. Unanimously carried.* The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

Thursday, March 23, 2017

10:00 a.m.

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



**Warrant Register**  
**Jan 1, 2017 through Jan 31, 2017**



<b>Warrant Date</b>	<b>Warrant Number</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
01/09/2017	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	2,524.70
01/09/2017	EFT	FedEx	61.84
01/11/2017	EFT	American Express	1,090.05
01/17/2017	16164	ACWA	4,170.00
01/17/2017	16165	Best, Best & Krieger	2,288.28
01/17/2017	16166	CSDA	1,231.00
01/17/2017	16167	Desert Sun	138.00
01/17/2017	16168	Johnson, Phillip	288.80
01/17/2017	16169	OfficeTeam	12,668.27
01/17/2017	16170	Platinum Consulting Group LLC	42.50
01/17/2017	16171	RivCo EDA	9,581.54
01/17/2017	16172	Sampson, GJ Acct	5,773.00
01/17/2017	16173	SystemGo IT LLC	594.00
01/21/2017	EFT	Verizon Wireless	187.73
01/31/2017	EFT	Rabobank	25.00
<b>Total \$</b>			<b>40,664.71</b>

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03/06/17

Accrual Basis

**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Balance Sheet by Fund**  
As of January 31, 2017

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	310 RCPP - NRCS	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Current Assets					
Checking/Savings					
0001010 - Cash - Checking	-3,641.00	15,963.83	-127.50	0.00	12,195.33
0001011 - Cash - Money Market	630,384.37	62,088.67	0.00	20,991.43	713,464.47
0001012 - Cash - RivCo Fund	4,855.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,855.90
0001015 - Cash - Petty Cash	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>631,799.27</b>	<b>78,052.50</b>	<b>-127.50</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>730,715.70</b>
Accounts Receivable					
0001210 - Accounts Receivable	0.00	26,936.97	0.00	0.00	26,936.97
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26,936.97</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26,936.97</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>631,799.27</b>	<b>104,989.47</b>	<b>-127.50</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>757,652.67</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>631,799.27</b>	<b>104,989.47</b>	<b>-127.50</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>757,652.67</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>					
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable					
0002010 - Accounts Payable	24,441.20	74,511.67	0.00	0.00	98,952.87
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>24,441.20</b>	<b>74,511.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>98,952.87</b>
Credit Cards					
0002015 - Credit Card Payable	2,730.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,730.00
0002016 - Credit Card Payable AE	4,082.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,082.09
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>6,812.09</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>6,812.09</b>
Other Current Liabilities					
0002820 - Deferred Revenue	-310,000.00	24,048.09	0.00	0.00	-285,951.91
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>-310,000.00</b>	<b>24,048.09</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-285,951.91</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>-278,746.71</b>	<b>98,559.76</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-180,186.95</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-278,746.71</b>	<b>98,559.76</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-180,186.95</b>
Equity					
0003009 - Fund Balance	301,084.14	-277,704.83	0.00	20,991.43	44,370.74
Net Income	609,461.84	284,134.54	-127.50	0.00	893,468.88
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>910,545.98</b>	<b>6,429.71</b>	<b>-127.50</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>937,839.62</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>631,799.27</b>	<b>104,989.47</b>	<b>-127.50</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>757,652.67</b>

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03/06/17

Accrual Basis

## Salton Sea Authority Revenue & Expenditure by Fund July 2016 through January 2017

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	310 RCPP - NRCS	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
0004662 · Local Gov/Member Assessments	920,000.00	0.00	0.00	920,000.00
0004660 · State of California Grants	0.00	460,180.54	0.00	460,180.54
0004710 · Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	732.53	0.00	0.00	732.53
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>920,732.53</b>	<b>460,180.54</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,380,913.07</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>1020000 · SSA ADMINISTRATION</b>				
<b>1025010 · Salaries</b>				
Salaries - RivCo EDA	58,693.98	0.00	0.00	58,693.98
Salaries - Admin Support A	22,526.27	0.00	0.00	22,526.27
<b>Total 1025010 · Salaries</b>	<b>81,220.25</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>81,220.25</b>
<b>1025500 · Employee Benefits</b>				
Employee Benefits - RivCo EDA	15,265.00	0.00	0.00	15,265.00
Employee Benefits - SSA	12,274.33	0.00	0.00	12,274.33
<b>Total 1025500 · Employee Benefits</b>	<b>27,539.33</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,539.33</b>
<b>1026050 · Contract Svc/Professional</b>				
Contract Svc/Prof - Adm Sup C	15,232.50	0.00	0.00	15,232.50
Contract Svc/Prof - Adm Sup D	23,582.69	0.00	0.00	23,582.69
Contract Svc/Prof - Exec Sup	38,062.86	0.00	0.00	38,062.86
Contract Svc/Prof - Finance	34,318.50	0.00	0.00	34,318.50
<b>Total 1026050 · Contract Svc/Professional</b>	<b>111,196.55</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>111,196.55</b>
<b>1026010 · Contract Svc/Attorney</b>				
Contract Svcs/Attorney - Genera	10,018.12	0.00	0.00	10,018.12
<b>Total 1026010 · Contract Svc/Attorney</b>	<b>10,018.12</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>10,018.12</b>
1026095 · Contract Svc/Equipment Maint	3,564.00	0.00	0.00	3,564.00
1028551 · Capital Equipment <\$5,000	788.13	0.00	0.00	788.13
1026096 · Contract Svc/Equipment Lease	174.96	0.00	0.00	174.96
1026120 · Insurance	10,065.94	0.00	0.00	10,065.94
1027030 · Office Exp/Operating Supplies	1,810.98	0.00	0.00	1,810.98
1027035 · Office Exp/Online Services	634.72	0.00	0.00	634.72
1026450 · Postage, Mail	502.31	0.00	0.00	502.31
1026470 · Printing Services	458.67	0.00	0.00	458.67
1026439 · Dues, Subscriptions	5,497.00	0.00	0.00	5,497.00
1026350 · Communications	2,788.98	0.00	0.00	2,788.98
1026370 · Travel/Meetings	37,682.58	0.00	0.00	37,682.58
1026430 · Advertising	138.00	0.00	0.00	138.00
1026060 · Contract Svcs/WRI,Archive Mgmt	16,666.67	0.00	0.00	16,666.67
<b>Total 1020000 · SSA ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>310,747.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>310,747.19</b>
<b>6020000 · WETLANDS GRANT ADMINISTRATION</b>				
6026010 · Contract Svcs/Attorney	523.50	0.00	0.00	523.50
6026014 · Contract Svcs/TM Proj Mgmt	0.00	25,063.75	0.00	25,063.75
<b>Total 6020000 · WETLANDS GRANT ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>523.50</b>	<b>25,063.75</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>25,587.25</b>

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03/06/17

Accrual Basis

**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Revenue & Expenditure by Fund**  
July 2016 through January 2017

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	310 RCPP - NRCS	TOTAL
<b>6040000 - WETLANDS GRANT TECHNICAL</b>				
6046020 - Contract Svcs/AMEC - update	0.00	-787.50	0.00	-787.50
6046025 - Contract Svcs - AMEC/NSYC	0.00	3,949.71	0.00	3,949.71
6046040 - Contract Svcs/Design	0.00	2,007.54	0.00	2,007.54
6046070 - Contract Svcs/LCP	0.00	1,812.50	0.00	1,812.50
6046080 - Contract Svcs/Construction	0.00	144,000.00	0.00	144,000.00
<b>Total 6040000 - WETLANDS GRANT TECHNICAL</b>	0.00	150,982.25	0.00	150,982.25
<b>608000 - RCPP NRCS PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>				
6085013 - Contract Services - Accountant	0.00	0.00	127.50	127.50
<b>Total 608000 - RCPP NRCS PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>	0.00	0.00	127.50	127.50
<b>Total Expense</b>	311,270.69	176,046.00	127.50	487,444.19
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	609,461.84	284,134.54	-127.50	893,468.88
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>609,461.84</b>	<b>284,134.54</b>	<b>-127.50</b>	<b>893,468.88</b>

**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY**  
**CASH BALANCES FROM 7/1/16 - 12/31/16**

	<u>Jul 31, 16</u>	<u>Aug 31, 16</u>	<u>Sep 30, 16</u>	<u>Oct 31, 16</u>	<u>Nov 30, 16</u>	<u>Dec 31, 16</u>
<b>Checking/Savings</b>						
<b>0001010 - Cash - Checking</b>	9,723.48	56,336.21	1,253.03	51,127.21	32,452.49	12,860.04
<b>0001011 - Cash - Money Market</b>	510,645.07	660,049.01	620,318.24	590,419.00	540,515.24	698,458.78
<b>0001012 - Cash - RivCo Fund</b>	9,984.06	2,242.27	28,256.32	22,887.33	17,281.09	10,660.78
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	530,352.61	718,627.49	649,827.59	664,433.54	590,248.82	721,979.60

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that the bank reconciliations were prepared accurately and within 30 days of the date of the statement. A review of cash balances, and future assessment billings reveals that the Authority will meet its expenditure obligations for the next six months as required by California Government Code Sections 53646(b)(2) and (3), respectively.

***Cindy Byerrum, CPA***  
***Platinum Consulting Group***  
***Contract CPA***

## Staff Report

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Johnson, Assistant Executive Director, SSA  
**Date:** March 23, 2017  
**Re:** **Legislative Update**  
**CM No.** **V.B – 03/23/2017**

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Staff members from agencies of the Salton Sea Authority are coordinating a unified response to threats and opportunities in the legislative arena at both the state and federal levels.

SSA and its member agencies jointly engaged in the following activities to drive legislative and policy initiatives supported by the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors:

### California Senate/Assembly Bill Summaries

#### **AB-1562 (Garcia) Salton Sea Restoration**

**SSA Position:** **Watch**

**Status:** **Introduced on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

AB-1562 is currently being developed, staff will continue to watch and make the appropriate updates when available.

#### **AB-798 (Garcia) Salton Sea restoration**

**SSA Position:** **Watch**

**Status:** **Introduced on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

AB-798 is currently being developed, staff will continue to watch and make the appropriate updates when available.

**SB-701 (Hueso) State Resources Obligations Act of 2018**

**SSA Position: Watch**

**Status: Introduced on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Referred to Coms. on N.R. & W. and GOV. & F on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Set for hearing on March 28.**

SB 701 would advance a state general obligation bond for the 2018 primary or general election ballot to fulfill the state's resources settlement obligations in a variety of conflicted areas throughout the state, including Salton Sea restoration and QSA implementation.

Funding levels within the general obligation bond measure are undefined at this time, to allow interested stakeholder groups to present empirical data to support specific funding allocations and levels within the measure.

**SB-615 (Hueso) The John J. Benoit Salton Sea Restoration Act**

**SSA Position: SUPPORT**

**Status: Introduced on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Referred to Com. on N.R. & W on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Set for hearing on March 28.**

SB 615 would require the Natural Resources Agency, to develop a 10-year plan by January 1, 2018. This plan seeks to implement the memorandum of understanding between the Agency and the US Department of Interior which was entered into in August of 2016 and would require the agency to address specified issues in the plan.

This bill would also be renaming the Salton Sea Restoration Act as the "John J. Benoit Salton Sea Restoration Act."

**AB-18 California Clean Water, Climate, Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018.**

**SSA Position: SUPPORT**

**Status: Introduced on December 5th, 2016, may be heard in committee January 5<sup>th</sup>. Referred to Com. on W., P. & W on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Re-referred to Com. on APPR on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Coauthors revised on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

AB 18 would authorize the issuance of \$3.105 billion in State General Obligation bonds to finance parks, water, climate adaptation, coastal protection, and outdoor access programs. This bond would be placed on the June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018 statewide primary direct election.

The main funding categories for the bond are as follows: 1) safe neighborhood parks in park-poor communities; 2) local and regional parks; 3) state parks, with a focus on deferred maintenance in existing parks; 4) trails and waterfront access; 5) rural community recreational needs; 6) river parkways; 7) state conservancies and regions not covered by conservancies; and 8) habitat needs, including wildlife corridors, climate change adaptation, and healthy soils and forests.

Of note for the SSA this bond would specifically grant \$30 million to the Salton Sea Authority. Of this amount, not less than \$10 million shall be available for purposes consistent with the New River Water Quality, Public Health, and River Parkway Development Program. This funding along with the possibility of other pockets of funding from the bond provides the basis for the SSA Board of Directors to support AB 18.

The Senate bill version, SB-5 California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 introduced by Senator De León of note grants \$40 million to the Salton Sea Authority.

### **SB 859 - Public resources: greenhouse gas emissions and biomass**

**SSA Position:        Staff Recommends SUPPORT**

**Status:                Introduced on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 368, Statutes of 2016 on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

SB 859 appropriates \$1.4 million from the Waste Discharge Permit Fund for the State Water Board to provide grants for the projects that eliminate public health and safety risks for wastewater, agricultural and other discharge of urbanized areas of tributaries of the Salton Sea. The FY 2016-17 beginning balance is approximately \$14.6 million. Under the current fee schedule, total revenue is anticipated to be approximately \$124.6 million and total expenditures are anticipated to be approximately \$127.5 million.

The recommendation of staff is that the SSA supports this bill as it aligns with the SSA platform, and to follow up with the State Water Board to how best apply for said grant.



**SB 1416 (Stone) - Voluntary contribution: Revive the Salton Sea Fund**

**SSA Position: SUPPORT**

**Status: Approved by the Governor and Chaptered by Secretary of State. Chapter 219, Statutes of 2016 on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

SB 1416 would create a Revive the Salton Sea Fund allowing voluntary designation of personal income tax refunds to be deposited in the Revive the Salton Sea Fund. This bill would prohibit a voluntary contribution designation for the Revive the Salton Sea Fund from being added on the tax return until another voluntary contribution designation is removed or a space is available. Contributions will be allocated to the Natural Resources Agency for distributions of competitive grants to provide funds or supplement funding of the state, county and local agencies, nonprofit, and projects identified as necessary for the restoration and maintenance of the Salton Sea and to develop a mechanism to provide ongoing public awareness, as specified.

The contributions to the fund shall be used for the following items. (1) Programs to create statewide public awareness and grassroots support for the restoration of the Salton Sea. (2) Programs to engage the public through promotion and education about the Salton Sea. (3) Current and future projects identified as necessary for restoration and maintenance of the Salton Sea, including projects identified by the Salton Sea Authority.

Staff will monitor the progress of this fund as well as the usage of donated funds. There were 686 donations made to this fund in February.

**SB 1074 (Hueso) - Energy Federal Trust Fund: geothermal projects**

**SSA Position: Staff Recommends SUPPORT**

**Status: Introduced on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016. Chaptered by Secretary of State, Chapter 539, Statutes of 2016 on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.**

SB 1074 authorizes revenues to recover lithium, metals, and other beneficial minerals from highly mineralized geothermal brines at existing geothermal facilities that are in disadvantaged communities. These activities will provide economic growth and local employment opportunities.

Specifically, this bill directs \$2.5 million of Federal Trusts Funds for competitive grants in mineral recovery from geothermal brine, such as lithium recovery projects.

The recommendation of staff is that the SSA supports this bill as it aligns with the SSA platform.

Staff will follow up with the Geothermal Grant and Loan Program (GRDA) about the requirements specific to the special solicitation being offered pursuant to Senate Bill 1074.

### **SB 231 (Hertzberg) - Local government: fees and charges.**

**SSA Position:** Watch

**Status:** Introduced on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017. Referred to Com. on GOV. & F on Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Set for hearing April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

SB 321 defines the term “sewer” and would also make findings and declarations relating to the definition of the term “sewer” under the existing law of Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act.

Of note for the SSA SB 231 clarifies that storm water and sewer can be treated the same under Prop 218. This may open new financial options that have not previously been available to agencies that fall under the sewer and storm water distinctions. Thus the Salton Sea Authority will continue to watch this bill’s progress.

### Federal Bill Summaries

### **S. 2012 (Murkowski) - North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2016**

**SSA Position:** Watch

**Status:** Introduced to Senate on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Currently on the Senate Floor voting upon amendments as of Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Passed the Senate as of April 20<sup>th</sup>. Rules Committee Resolution H. Res. 744 Reported to House. The resolution provides for consideration of S. 2012 and H.R. 5233 on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendment to Senate bill and House requests a conference May 26th, 2016. The House had named their conferees for the joint committee however the Senate has not, as talks have stalled as of June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Senate disagrees to the House amendment to the Senate bill, agrees to request for conference, and the Presiding

**Officer appoints the following conferees: Murkowski, Barrasso, Risch, Cornyn, Cantwell, Wyden, and Sanders on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Conference Cmte Held on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Murkowski pushing for action on the bill, but House GOP looking to hold off on energy bill until the next administration on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

The relevance of adding S. 2012 on to the SSA legislative report is that S. 1407 (Heller) Supported by the SSA, has been added to this bill via amendment. S. 1407 has been added by way of amendment 3286 to amendment 2953. Amendment 2953 was passed by the Senate; however our “revenue sharing provision” in S.1407 in which we supported the bill did not make the cut.

The SSA should continue to watch and send out letters of support for the addition of the “revenue sharing provision” to S.2012 as the Senate and House try to compromise between S.2012 and its House counterpart H.R. 8. As the final “energy bill” may hold value to the SSA.

Staff will continue to keep tabs on what shapes up to be the 2017 Energy Bill as Senators Murkowski and Bishop discussed the possibility of reviving parts of the legislation in the New Year. Staff will be meeting with staff from Senator Murkowski office to discuss possibility of 2017 Energy Bill.

### **S. 32 (Feinstein) - California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2017**

**SSA Position: Support**

**Status: Introduced to the Senate on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on Jan. 5th, 2017.**

Of note for the SSA the “disposition of revenues” section has remained the same as in S. 2568, the previous year’s bill concerning this issue. The specifics that affect SSA and “of note” this only applies to the development of wind or solar energy land managed by the BLM are as follows:

- 25% of the payments go to counties involved.
- 35% of the payments go to “Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund” which is managed by the Sec. of the Interior.

- Areas that are eligible for such “funds” that are of note for the SSA are ones around wind or solar development areas that are in need of restoring and protecting such as: wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors, and water resources.

With the “disposition of revenues” section in mind the SSA should support S. 32 going forward.

**S.612 (Cornyn) - Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act**

**SSA Position: SUPPORT**

**Status: Introduced to the Senate on February 27th, 2015. Became Public Law No: 114-322, on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

This bill provides for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

Of note for the SSA Section 4011 modifies the WRDA 2007 authorization of Salton Sea Restoration Pilot Projects by striking the term “pilot” and adding “Salton Sea Authority or other non-federal interest” as potential parties for implementation agreements.

The SSA Board supports S. 612 due to the bill specifically designating the SSA as a preferred partner for the funding agreements to be established with the Army Corps as well as the re-authorization of appropriations in the amount of \$30 million for Salton Sea projects from WRDA 2007.

Terminology Reference

**Chaptered** - After a bill has been signed by the Governor, the Secretary of State assigns the bill a Chapter Number, for example, “Chapter 123, Statutes of 1998,” which subsequently may be used to refer to the measure.

**Held under submission** - action taken by a committee when a bill is heard in committee and there is an indication that the author and the committee members want to work on or discuss the bill further, but there is no motion for the bill to progress out of committee. This does not preclude the bill from being set for another hearing.

**Inactive file** - The portion of the Daily File containing legislation that is ready for floor consideration, but, for a variety of reasons, is dormant. An author may move a bill to the inactive file if he or she wishes to take it up at a later date. Once a bill is on the inactive file, one day’s public notice is needed to place it back on the agenda.

**Suspense File** - A bill or set of bills, with a fiscal impact, set aside in Appropriations Committee by a majority of Members present and voting. These bills may be heard at a later hearing.