



## ***Governor Brown boosts healthier Salton Sea***

(News Release -- For Immediate Release)

The Salton Sea is on a path toward a healthier, manageable future thanks to two bills signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown.

One bill (SB 5 – De Leon) sets the stage for major funding while a second bill (SB 615 – Hueso) streamlines infrastructure designs urgently needed in this unique environment.

“The Salton Sea Authority (SSA) applauds the Governor for his bold leadership in providing California voters with the option to accelerate recovery efforts at the Salton Sea through the first 10-year phase of the state’s Salton Sea Management Plan,” commented G. Patrick O’Dowd, President of the Salton Sea Authority. “Progress at the Sea equals progress in water security benefiting everyone in California.”

The financial means to accomplish these improvements will pivot upon passage of SB 5, which proposes a bond on the June 2018 ballot that includes up to \$200 million to the Salton Sea. This funding represents about half of the projected costs to complete the state’s Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) 10-year plan.

The second bill (SB 615 --Hueso) provides a special design exemption to expedite infrastructure below the existing Sea shoreline. SB 615 will efficiently accelerate progress at the Sea while balancing safety needs of declining ecosystem health, particularly the urgency of implementing projects to protect human health from potential dust storms from exposed playa.

These two historic bills are the product of enormous momentum growing at the Salton Sea, observes Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director of the SSA. Decades of indecision and inaction at the Sea are being overcome by a unified coalition of state and local agencies with NGOs from environmental, farming, business and environmental justice concerns all supporting a pragmatic path forward with the State’s Salton Sea Management Plan (SSMP) 10-year plan.

The SSA is a joint powers authority empowered by the state legislature to work in consultation and cooperation with the California Natural Resources Agency to revitalize the Salton Sea. As the largest inland lake in the state of California, the Salton Sea is home to nearly two thirds of all migratory waterfowl traveling the Pacific Flyway. The Sea’s ecosystem and neighboring economy are threatened by rising salinity levels and lowering water elevations. This trend is expected to worsen as a result of reduced water inflows from Mexico, improved on-farm water use efficiency, as well as agricultural water transferred for urban uses.

The SSA and its partner agencies – Imperial Irrigation District, Riverside and Imperial Counties, Coachella Valley Water District, and Torres Martinez Tribe – are working tirelessly to establish a healthy, prosperous future for a smaller but sustainable Salton Sea.

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