



# Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2018  
10:00 a.m.

Imperial Irrigation District  
Bill Condit Auditorium  
1285 Broadway Avenue  
El Centro, CA 92243  
(760) 482-9618



**AGENDA: BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**DATE: Thursday, January 25, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**LOCATION: Imperial Irrigation District**  
**Bill Condit Auditorium**  
**1285 Broadway Avenue**  
**El Centro, CA 92243**  
**(760) 482-9618**

**Director Marion Ashley will be attending via videoconference from:**  
**Riverside County Administration Center**  
**Conference Room D**  
**4080 Lemon St., 5th floor**  
**Riverside, CA 92501**

**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 (*see attached*)**

- A. Minutes of December 7, 2017
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for November 2017
- C. Warrant Register Ratification for December 2017
- D. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2017 – 11/30/2017
- E. Mid-Year Review of Finances/Fund Transfers 2016-2017

**V. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Presentation of Leadership Recognition Plaque to Director Ryan E. Kelley
- B. Briefing on Minute 323 for Colorado River Compact – (Tina Shield, Imperial Irrigation District)
- C. Salton Sea Tourism Study Briefing – (Kathy Strong, Greater Palm Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau)
- D. North Lake Proposal Briefing – (Brian Nestande, County of Riverside Executive Office)

**VI. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Consider adoption of proposed revision to Salton Sea Authority Travel Policy

**VII. 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. Standing Report
  - 1. FEDERAL: US Bureau of Reclamation – (Genevieve Johnson, Program Manager for the Salton Sea)
  - 2. STATE: Salton Sea Management Program – (Bruce Wilcox, Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy)
- D. Salton Sea Action Committee – (Juan DeLara, President)

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

Thursday, February 22, 2018  
10:00 a.m.  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Steve Robbins Administration Building  
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 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**  
**December 7, 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 G. Patrick O’Dowd, President, at 10:03 a.m., December 7, 2017, at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92260, (760) 398-2651.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman O’Dowd led the Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL:**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

G. Patrick O’Dowd, President  
James C. Hanks, Vice-President  
Cástulo R. Estrada, Treasurer  
Thomas Tortez, Secretary  
V. Manuel Perez, Director  
Altrena Santillanes, Director\*

**AGENCY**

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

*\* Director Santillanes arrived at 10:06, before public comment.*

*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.*

**DIRECTORS ABSENT**

Marion Ashley, Director  
Ryan E. Kelley, Director  
Erik J. Ortega, Director  
John Renison, Director

**AGENCY**

Riverside County  
Imperial County  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Imperial County

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**  
**VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**AGENCY**

None

**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

**AGENCY**

Kaylee Nelson	US Bureau of Reclamation
Alberto Ramirez	Torres Martinez
Harvey Niskala	GLC Enterprises
Nikola Lakic	Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.
Jeff Mercer	Granite Construction
Jeff Geraci	CRWQCB
Gloria Sampson	
Dan Farris	CVWD
Daniel Sundahl	
Kelly Claar	CA State Parks
Jack Jessup	
Pat Cooper	Supervisor Perez office
Michael Flores	Calif. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Brad Williams	Granite Construction
Vickie Doyle	IID
Levi Anderson	Twenty-Nine Palms BOM

**II. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- A. Director Hanks pointed out that it is Pearl Harbor Day
- B. Director O'Dowd briefly commented on a Wild Coachella presentation that he had attended at UCR the previous evening.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- A. Mr. Nikola Lakic read a prepared statement.

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

- A. Minutes of October 26, 2017
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for September 2017
- C. Warrant Register Ratification for October 2017
- D. Internal Financial Report for: 07/01/17 – 10/31/17
- E. Resolution Designating Authorized Signatories for Rabobank Accounts

- F. Approve transition of payroll processing of SSA staff Phillip Johnson and Lisa Bravata from private agency payroll processing to County payroll system (net savings to SSA on overhead combined with improved compensation to staff)
- G. Approval of 2018 Board Meeting Schedule

*Director Tortez moved that the Consent Calendar be approved. Seconded by Director Perez. Unanimously carried.*

**V. ACTION ITEM**

- A. Consider adoption of draft SSA Legislative Platform for 2018

The proposed legislative platform was discussed, including the option to pull it to discuss further in order to broaden the scope of its focus, and a counter suggestion that the platform is needed now. Chairman O'Dowd suggested that it be passed today and amended later. There being no disagreement, the Chair entertained a motion to approve.

*Director Perez so moved. Seconded by Director Estrada. Unanimously carried.*

**VI. DISCUSSION ITEM**

- A. State Water Board - Notice of Wastewater Change Petition WW0093

The SSA board discussed the CVWD petition to State Water Resources Control Board to reduce flow of a small portion of treated wastewater discharged to the Whitewater storm channel at some point in the future. Discussion focused on challenges in managing limited discharge flows amid competing priorities for regulatory requirements, market demands and long-term management of Salton Sea programs.

**VII. REPORTS**

- A. General Manager's Report on Activities – (Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority)

Mr. Rosentrater asked if the Board had any questions or comments on the report he had provided to the Board in advance of the meeting.

Chairman O'Dowd described additional detail he would like to have on all the projects around the sea.

- B. Legislative Update – (Phillip Johnson, Assistant Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority)

Mr. Johnson pointed out and described a new item of note – HR 434 – the New Water Available to Every Reclamation State Act. Staff recommends support of this bill. The Chairman invited a motion.

*Director Tortez moved to approve. Seconded by Director Perez. Unanimously carried.*

### C. Standing Report

1. FEDERAL: US Bureau of Reclamation – (KayLee Nelson, Planner - Water Resources, Engineering Services Office)

Ms. Nelson reported that Reclamation is involved with the Salton Sea. She expressed their interested in working with the State and other partners to find a solution to boat access to the sea, and noted that the Department has met with IID and the Torres Martinez Tribe, and will meet at CRWUA next week with NGOs (non-governmental organizations) interested in the Salton Sea.

2. STATE: Salton Sea Management Program – (Bruce Wilcox, Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy)

Mr. Wilcox reported that the State has hired Scott Wilson, of DFW, to be in charge of SSMP matters here in this area. He will report to DFW but will take direction from the SSMP. Kent Nelson of DWR has retired. Mr. Wilcox detailed additional progress being made on the SSMP. IID should be able to advertise for Red Hill Bay construction after the start of the new year.

A letter of interest should be advertised next week to look at water import, but the plan must focus on the water that's there now.

- D. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – (Kelly Claar, Salton Sea Sector Superintendent)

Ms. Claar reported on available activities (bird and nature walks, bird festival weekend coming up) and that the department is reorganizing internally. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer, and they offer free camping in exchange for volunteer hours.

- E. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) (Juan DeLara)

Mr. DeLara reported that the SSAC has raised funds to be matched dollar-for-dollar by Federated Insurance. He told of SSAC's priorities (education and outreach and advocacy), and of their support activities.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Board President O'Dowd entertained a motion to adjourn.

*Motion by Director Perez, Seconded by Director Hanks. Unanimously carried.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.*

#### **NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

The regularly-scheduled meeting will be held

10:00 a.m. Thursday, January 25, 2018

Imperial Irrigation District

Bill Condit Auditorium

1285 Broadway Avenue

El Centro, CA 92243

(760) 482-9618

**Warrant Register**  
**November 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017**



<b>Warrant Date</b>	<b>Warrant Number</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
11/13/2017	EFT	FedEx	35.30
11/13/2017	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	207.48
11/13/2017	EFT	American Express	1,541.26
11/14/2017	16320	Best, Best & Krieger	2,259.20
11/14/2017	16319	Johnson, Phillip	246.33
11/14/2017	16318	OfficeTeam	9,441.88
11/14/2017	16317	RivCo EDA	24,568.07
11/14/2017	16316	Sampson, GJ Acct	3,950.50
11/14/2017	16315	SystemGo IT LLC	687.00
11/14/2017	16314	RivCo EDA	30,118.69
11/20/2017	16321	MAP Productions Inc	5,796.65
11/20/2017	16322	Reliable Tree Care - 214	7,200.00
11/22/2017	EFT	FedEx	27.31
11/24/2017	EFT	Verizon Wireless	228.97
11/30/2017	16323	OfficeTeam	4,713.33
11/30/2017	16324	Platinum Consulting Group LLC	127.50
11/30/2017	16325	RivCo EDA	850.45
11/30/2017	16326	Sampson, GJ Acct	6,943.00
11/30/2017	EFT	Rabobank	25.00
<b>Total \$</b>			<b>98,967.92</b>



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



<b>Warrant Date</b>	<b>Warrant Number</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
12/05/2017	EFT	FedEx	27.44
12/11/2017	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	1,094.23
12/11/2017	EFT	American Express	6,455.27
12/13/2017	16327	Altec	462.00
12/13/2017	16328	Best, Best & Krieger	606.57
12/13/2017	16329	Bravata, Lisa	103.36
12/13/2017	16330	OfficeTeam	3,316.25
12/13/2017	16331	Petty Cash	92.54
12/13/2017	16332	Sampson, GJ Acct	6,133.00
12/13/2017	16333	Seroy, Linda	86.36
12/13/2017	16334	SystemGo IT LLC	687.00
12/13/2017	16335	Rosentrater, Phil	214.94
12/18/2017	16336	Rosentrater, Phil	681.05
12/18/2017	EFT	Pitney Bowes	88.09
12/26/2017	EFT	Verizon Wireless	228.97
12/27/2017	16337	Alliant Consulting Inc	243.75
12/27/2017	16338	OfficeTeam	6,062.34
12/27/2017	16339	RivCo EDA	12,916.72
12/27/2017	16340	Rosentrater, Phil	107.66
12/27/2017	16341	Sampson, GJ Acct	5,580.00
12/29/2017	EFT	Rabobank	25.00
<b>Total \$</b>			<b>45,212.54</b>

**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Balance Sheet by Fund**  
As of November 30, 2017

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
0001010 · Cash - Checking	13,501.61	6,621.47	0.00	20,123.08
0001011 · Cash - Money Market	681,312.23	0.00	20,991.43	702,303.66
0001012 · Cash - RivCo Fund	19,000.75	0.00	0.00	19,000.75
0001015 · Cash - Petty Cash	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>714,014.59</b>	<b>6,621.47</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>741,627.49</b>
Accounts Receivable				
0001210 · Accounts Receivable	0.00	168,595.68	0.00	168,595.68
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>168,595.68</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>168,595.68</b>
Other Current Assets				
0001380 · Other Receivables	508.14	0.00	0.00	508.14
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>508.14</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>508.14</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>714,522.73</b>	<b>175,217.15</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>910,731.31</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>714,522.73</b>	<b>175,217.15</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>910,731.31</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
0002010 · Accounts Payable	17,583.86	48,500.13	0.00	66,083.99
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>17,583.86</b>	<b>48,500.13</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>66,083.99</b>
Credit Cards				
0002015 · Credit Card Payable	1,094.23	0.00	0.00	1,094.23
0002016 · Credit Card Payable AE	3,169.69	0.00	0.00	3,169.69
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>4,263.92</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,263.92</b>
Other Current Liabilities				
0002820 · Deferred Revenue	0.00	26,936.97	0.00	26,936.97
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26,936.97</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26,936.97</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>21,847.78</b>	<b>75,437.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>97,284.88</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>21,847.78</b>	<b>75,437.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>97,284.88</b>
Equity				
0003009 · Fund Balance	289,031.93	-127,424.12	20,991.43	182,599.24
Net Income	403,643.02	227,204.17	0.00	630,847.19
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>692,674.95</b>	<b>99,780.05</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>813,446.43</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>714,522.73</b>	<b>175,217.15</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>910,731.31</b>

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

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Income</b>			
0004662 · Local Gov/Member Assessments	610,000.00	0.00	610,000.00
0004660 · State of California Grants	0.00	375,924.20	375,924.20
0004710 · Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	504.11	0.00	504.11
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>610,504.11</b>	<b>375,924.20</b>	<b>986,428.31</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>1020000 · SSA ADMINISTRATION</b>			
<b>1025010 · Salaries</b>			
Salaries - RivCo EDA	33,999.86	0.00	33,999.86
Salaries - Admin Support A	15,639.62	0.00	15,639.62
<b>Total 1025010 · Salaries</b>	<b>49,639.48</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>49,639.48</b>
<b>1025500 · Employee Benefits</b>			
Employee Benefits - RivCo EDA	9,743.04	0.00	9,743.04
Employee Benefits - SSA	8,506.04	0.00	8,506.04
<b>Total 1025500 · Employee Benefits</b>	<b>18,249.08</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>18,249.08</b>
<b>1026050 · Contract Svc/Professional</b>			
Contract Svc/Prof - Adm Sup C	4,927.50	0.00	4,927.50
Contract Svc/Prof - Adm Sup D	18,880.55	0.00	18,880.55
Contract Svc/Prof - Exec Sup	31,978.05	0.00	31,978.05
Contract Svc/Prof - Finance	19,425.00	0.00	19,425.00
<b>Total 1026050 · Contract Svc/Professional</b>	<b>75,211.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>75,211.10</b>
<b>1026010 · Contract Svc/Attorney</b>			
Contract Svcs/Attorney - Genera	5,207.20	0.00	5,207.20
1026010 · Contract Svc/Attorney - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total 1026010 · Contract Svc/Attorney</b>	<b>5,207.20</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,207.20</b>
1026095 · Contract Svc/Equipment Maint	4,215.50	0.00	4,215.50
1028551 · Capital Equipment <\$5,000	-150.00	0.00	-150.00
1026096 · Contract Svc/Equipment Lease	88.09	0.00	88.09
1026120 · Insurance	9,550.83	0.00	9,550.83
1027030 · Office Exp/Operating Supplies	653.99	0.00	653.99
1027035 · Office Exp/Online Services	680.28	0.00	680.28
1026450 · Postage, Mail	321.68	0.00	321.68
1026470 · Printing Services	462.00	0.00	462.00
1026439 · Dues, Subscriptions	4,296.00	0.00	4,296.00
1026350 · Communications	1,326.26	0.00	1,326.26
1026370 · Travel/Meetings	28,657.10	0.00	28,657.10
<b>Total 1020000 · SSA ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>198,408.59</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>198,408.59</b>
<b>6020000 · WETLANDS GRANT ADMINISTRATION</b>			
6026010 · Contract Svcs/Attorney	2,021.90	0.00	2,021.90
6026013 · Contract Svcs/Accountant	6,430.60	4,014.40	10,445.00
<b>Total 6020000 · WETLANDS GRANT ADMINISTRATI...</b>	<b>8,452.50</b>	<b>4,014.40</b>	<b>12,466.90</b>
<b>6040000 · WETLANDS GRANT TECHNICAL</b>			
6046070 · Contract Svcs/LCP	0.00	1,803.75	1,803.75
6046080 · Contract Svcs/Construction	0.00	142,901.88	142,901.88
<b>Total 6040000 · WETLANDS GRANT TECHNICAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>144,705.63</b>	<b>144,705.63</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>206,861.09</b>	<b>148,720.03</b>	<b>355,581.12</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>403,643.02</b>	<b>227,204.17</b>	<b>630,847.19</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>403,643.02</b>	<b>227,204.17</b>	<b>630,847.19</b>

## Commission Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director  
**Date:** January 25, 2018  
**Re:** **Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Administrative Budget Transfers for Board Approval**  
**CM No. IV.E - 1-25-18**

**GENERAL**

During finalization of FY 2016-2017 accounting in preparation for the financial statement audit it was determined that certain budget line items required reallocation. The items were reviewed with the *ad hoc* Finance Committee at its mid-year meeting on December 18, 2017 subsequent to distribution of the financial reports and budgets to the Committee members prior to the meeting in accordance with the Brown Act.

**Proposed Budget Transfers**

**(1) Staff Support**

<u>Funding From</u>		<u>Funding To</u>	
Administrative Support - C	\$ 5,555	General Manager	\$ 5,250
		Fringe Benefits - GM	\$ 305
	<u>\$ 5,555</u>		<u>\$ 5,555</u>

Increase GM support budget to cover previous year cost included in FY2015-2016 budget but billed late and not previously accrued.

**(2) Administrative Support**

<u>Funding From</u>		<u>Funding To</u>	
Administrative Support - D	\$ 2,695	Fringe Benefits - Staff	\$ 2,695
	<u>\$ 2,695</u>		<u>\$ 2,695</u>

Reverse portion of earlier reallocation between administrative staff cost and temporary agency staff cost. Original reallocation not fully used.

**(3) Travel, Mileage, Conference Fees**

<u>Funding From</u>		<u>Funding To</u>	
Contingency Reserve	\$ 8,900	Travel, Mileage, Conferences	\$ 8,900
	<u>\$ 8,900</u>		<u>\$ 8,900</u>

Increased activity at EPA, USDA, Army Corps as well as State Water Resources Control Board and legislative bond support required additional travel to DC and Sacramento to defend and promote Salton Sea plans and solutions.

**RECOMMENDATION**

As there were no objections raised regarding the proposed fund transfers by members of the Finance Committee the Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors approve the proposed budget transfers as submitted hereinabove.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater  
 GM/Executive Director

## Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director  
**Date:** January 25, 2018  
**Re:** **Presentation of Leadership Recognition Plaque to Director Ryan E. Kelley**  
**CM No.** V.A – 01-25-2018

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### GENERAL:

Presentation of Leadership Recognition plaque to Director Ryan E. Kelley in grateful recognition of his leadership as Chairman of the Board of Salton Sea Authority 2016-2017.

During the term of Director Kelley's leadership, the Salton Sea Authority delivered the Financial Feasibility Action Plan (FFAP) to the state of California -- on time and under budget -- in accord with the state directive under AB 71 (Perez) requiring the California Natural Resources Agency to work in cooperation and consultation with the SSA on matters relating to revitalization of the Salton Sea.

The SSA FFAP provided a blueprint for an actionable plan for progress at the Sea that called for the state to integrate and encourage development of renewable energy resources and recreational opportunities that could revitalize the local economy around the Sea and generate economic resources that could be woven into a stronger local, state and federal fabric of support for a healthier and more prosperous Salton Sea. President Kelley called for the FFAP to incorporate all communities around the Sea, and to embrace the Salton Sea Restoration Renewable Energy Initiative as a fundamental component of a larger comprehensive plan submitted to the CNRA.

President Kelley also played a critical role in the team of SSA member agencies with San Diego County Water Authority that challenged the state commitment to fulfilling its obligations to the terms of the QSA, and pressed for more well-defined terms of state performance in a 10-Year Plan as a subset of the state's Salton Sea Management Plan. His efforts were reinforced with negotiations that produced a Stipulated Order eventually adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board that further defined state accountability to deliver tangible results for a smaller, sustainable Salton Sea in the next ten years.

These key actions, among many others, have resulted in a unified local consensus at the Salton Sea Authority necessary to harness historic levels of new state and federal support and cooperation.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater  
GM/Executive Director

# Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director  
**Date:** January 25, 2018  
**Re:** **Briefing on Minute 323**  
**CM No.** V.B – 1/25/18

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## GENERAL:

Recognizing that a healthy future for the Salton Sea is mutually dependent upon the faithful exercise of agreements among other interests that share the Colorado River Basin, it is important for the SSA Directors to gain perspective on progress in agreements that contribute to water security throughout the system.

Some of those agreements extend beyond the Salton Sea and the international border to include Mexico, the upstream neighbor to the Salton Sea. The complexity of negotiations involving the International Water and Boundary Commission are relevant to a better understanding of the Salton Sea implications of cross-border cooperation on water projects.

This presentation will update the Salton Sea Authority board on Minute 323 and how it effects the Colorado River Basin as the water source pivotal to water security in the southwest, including the Salton Sea.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater  
GM/Executive Director

# Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director  
**Date:** January 25, 2018  
**Re:** **Salton Sea Tourism Study Briefing**  
**CM No.** V.C – 1/25/18

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## GENERAL:

With the cessation of mitigation water flows to the Salton Sea, stakeholders in the regional tourism economy are focusing sharply on the state commitments at the Sea as represented in the Salton Sea Management Plan (SSMP) and what this means in economic impacts.

The Greater Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau commissioned research several years ago to assess negative impacts on the tourism economy resulting from zero action at the Sea. These findings were included in a widely circulated report "Hazard's Toll" which demonstrated that the Do-Nothing scenario is the most costly of all options available for a future Salton Sea.

With the emergence of the state's 10-Year Plan as a subset of the SSMP, the Palm Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau again commissioned expert economists to examine the impact – the benefit of avoided economic losses – resulting from implementation of the 10-Year Plan. The analysis also includes findings in the potential economic benefits for a more fully revitalized Salton Sea configured to offer a North Sea that provides air quality protection, deep water habitat restoration, recreational amenities.

The analysis was completed by "Tourism Economics," an Oxford Economics Company with more than four decades of experience in combining an understanding of tourism dynamics with rigorous economics in order to answer critically important questions facing destinations, developers, and strategic planners.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater  
GM/Executive Director

## Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director  
**Date:** January 25, 2018  
**Re:** **North Lake Proposal Briefing**  
**CM No.** V.D – 01-25-18

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### GENERAL:

A representative from Riverside County will be presenting the latest update on a concept that Riverside County is considering supporting as an infrastructure investment consistent with the state long range planning in the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP).

An updated stable shoreline concept capturing flows from the north end of the Sea is being proposed for purposes of providing deep water habitat, air quality protection from exposed playa and recreational uses that can improve the economic well-being of the Sea communities.

Supervisor Perez recently unveiled this concept at the Water and Energy Summit in Palm Springs on January 11. The North Lake concept may also utilize an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District, which could help finance the potential project.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater  
GM/Executive Director



## Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director  
**Date:** January 25, 2018  
**Re:** Proposed Revision to Salton Sea Authority Travel Policy  
**CM No.** VI.A - 01/25/2018

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### **GENERAL:**

The annual independent audit of SSA finances gave highest marks in every category this past year, but noted that the SSA travel policy is obsolete in some areas and thus due for an update. Accordingly, SSA staff researched best management practices and model policies recently adopted in other agencies in order to clarify, streamline, and update the SSA travel policy.

The updated draft policy was circulated to legal counsel as well as to SSA's accounting and CPA contractors for additional input prior to distribution and review by the SSA Board *ad hoc* Financial Committee. As there were no concerns or amendments offered, the draft policy is brought to the full SSA board for consideration.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board approve the updated SSA travel policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater  
GM/Executive Director

# Salton Sea Authority

## Travel Reimbursement Policy

(Revised 12/7/17)

This policy defines the procedures for the originating of travel requests, reimbursement of funds expended and the establishment of reimbursement limitations. The procedures shall be as follows:

1. Travel is not authorized until approved by the General Manager/ Executive Director.
2. If the travel request is approved by the General Manager/Executive Director, the Secretary or Secretary's designee will make the necessary arrangements.
3. Whenever an expense advance is required, the Secretary will submit the advance request to Finance no later than one week prior to the day the trip begins in order to allow for normal processing. No advance will be made if received by Finance after this time.
4. Employee's expense claims shall be approved in accordance with the requirements of the General Manager/Executive Director, and shall be submitted to the accountant for the Authority no later than the end of the month following the month in which the employee incurred the expenses. No claim will be allowed after that time and any advances will be deducted from pay. Receipts must be attached for all expenditures for which reimbursement is being requested. Reimbursement will not be made if receipt is lost.
5. Reimbursement will be made for per diem (\*Includes tax and tip and no receipts required) within the limitation of the GSA Guidelines applicable to the date of filing of the reimbursement claim:
  - A. Current per diem GSA guidelines for meal reimbursement as of 12-7-17 are:
    1. Unspecified locales at \$51 per day
    2. Higher cost cities at \$59 and up. Sacramento is \$64; Washington DC is \$69.  
Meals that are included with the registration costs will be deducted from the per diem amount paid to the employee. (i.e. if lunch is provided to all attendees \$15 will be deducted from that day's per diem.)
  - B. Hotel: Actual cost.
  - C. Taxicab: Actual cost plus fifteen (15%) percent tip.
  - D. Tips:  
Bellman – two (\$2.00) dollars for one (1) bag plus one (\$1.00) dollar per bag extra.  
Skycap -two (\$2.00) dollars for one (1) bag plus one (\$1.00) dollar per bag extra.

- E. Entertainment: Theater, magazines, newspapers, in-room movies - NO REIMBURSEMENT.
- F. Telephone: Personal calls - NO REIMBURSEMENT - except for one call of three (3) minutes duration or less resulting from change of plans such as cancelled airline flight and for overnight travel, one safe arrival call home of three (3) minutes duration or less.

6. Other

- A. Privately Owned Vehicle. Under certain circumstances, employees may use their own vehicle for travel on Authority business. They must make a written request to the General Manager/Executive Director and obtain approval prior to travel. A copy of current insurance coverage, in the minimum amount of \$100,000/\$300,000, must be attached. Reimbursement will be on a per mile basis at the IRS Standard Mileage Rate. The reimbursement may not exceed the cost of the standard, unrestricted round-trip airline coach airfare in effect at the time, plus any personal auto mileage and airport parking that would have been incurred and reimbursable if airline transportation had been used. Reimbursement will not be allowed for any other transportation for the duration of the trip.

- B. Meals.

There will be no reimbursement for breakfast on the day the trip starts unless the travel is required to begin one hour before an employee's normal start time. There will be no reimbursement for dinner on the day the trip ends unless the travel is required to end after 7:00 p.m.

The meal limitation may be exceeded when the meal is an organized luncheon, banquet or other meeting with meal, if the same cost is charged to all those in attendance.

- C. Meals for others. Employees are not authorized to purchase meals for others without prior written approval.
- D. Advances. There will be no advance allowed for a trip of one day or less or for trips where the estimated expenditures are less than forty (\$40.00) dollars. All advances must be cleared no later than the end of the month following the month in which the employee incurred the expenses or they will be deducted from pay.
- E. Drinks. Alcoholic beverages are not reimbursable.
- F. Extended Travel Arrangements.  
Under certain circumstances with prior approval, the Authority may pay lodging, meals and other reasonable incidental expenses incurred at the destination required

for business purposes when travel is extended for a time beyond what is normally required for such purposes (i.e., over a weekend), if the extension of time reduces the transportation costs that would otherwise have been incurred, thereby resulting in a net cost savings overall. Whenever such situations occur, they shall be fully described on the expense claim form subsequently prepared to document the travel activity. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Authority shall not pay for transportation costs other than to and from the destination required for business purposes.

## 7. Special Circumstances.

A. Rental vehicles. Under certain circumstances, employees may use rental vehicles at their destination. If the travel is being performed on public transportation and the rental of a vehicle is more economical than using taxicabs or shuttles, authorization may be granted by the General Manager/Executive Director. Requests must be made prior to the trip. As a reminder to employees, supplemental auto insurance is not to be purchased.

### B. General Manager/ Executive Director

The General Manager shall be allowed his/her actual expenses in travel and attendance at Authority-related meetings and official business. Reimbursement for such expenses is subject to the provisions of this policy. The Internal Revenue Service rates for reimbursement of travel, meals, lodging, and other actual and necessary expenses as established in Publication 463, or any successor publication, shall be used to determine reimbursement rates for the General Manager.

All expenses must be verified by a valid original receipt, which includes the name of the vendor (e.g. hotel, restaurant) date of service and actual amount charged. In extenuating circumstances, in the absence of the original receipt a credit card statement may be considered for documentation of an expense.

C. Excess cost. If an employee believes that the expenses incurred while traveling require special consideration because of the high cost of meals at the location or other special circumstances, the employee shall submit the justification and obtain written approval from the General Manager/Executive Director prior to the travel.

## 8. Penalties

Penalties for the misuse of public resources or falsifying expense reports in violation of expense reporting policies may include, but not be limited to, the penalties specified in Government Code section 53232.4.

## Staff Report

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phillip Johnson, Assistant Executive Director, SSA  
**Date:** January 25, 2018  
**Re:** **Legislative Update**  
**CM No.** **VII.B – 1/25/2018**

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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

#### **SB-5 (De Leon) California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018**

**SSA Position:** **SUPPORT**

**Status:** **Enrolled Sept. 16, 2017.**

“Scheduled for election on June 5 statewide primary ballot”

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 bond also grants \$170 million to the California Natural Resources Agency for restoration activities identified in the Salton Sea Management Program Phase 1: 10-Year Plan.

## Federal Bill Summaries

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

**SSA Position:** Staff Recommends **SUPPORT**

**Status:** Introduced to the Senate on Jan. 5, 2017. Read twice and referred to the committee on Energy and Natural Resources on Jan. 5, 2017. Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearings held on July 26, 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 Secretary 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 need 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. 1460 (Murkowski) - Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017**

**SSA Position:** Watch

**Status:** Introduced to the Senate, referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held Sept. 19, 2017.

S. 1460 is the major energy bill that will be discussed in 2018, this bill gained a lot of momentum in 2017 but fell short. Of note, this bill provides assistance to geothermal energy.

Specifically, it calls upon that within 10 years of enacting this bill that major producing geothermal sites should be identified to significantly increase new geothermal energy capacity on public land.

The SSA will also push for consideration of a revenue sharing provision to be added in this bill.

### **H.R. 434 (Denham) - New Water Available to Every Reclamation State Act**

**SSA Position:        SUPPORT**

**Status:                Introduced to the House, referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on Jan. 11, 2017. Referred to the Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans on Feb. 7, 2017.**

This bill authorizes the Department of the Interior, for 15 years after this bill's enactment, to provide financial assistance, such as secured loans or loan guarantees, to entities that contract under federal reclamation law to carry out water projects within the 17 western states served by the Bureau of Reclamation, other states where the Bureau is authorized to provide project assistance, Alaska, and Hawaii. Projects eligible for assistance include:

- non-federal water infrastructure projects that would contribute to a safe, adequate water supply for domestic, agricultural, environmental, or municipal and industrial use;
- projects for enhanced energy efficiency in the operation of a water system;
- projects for accelerated repair and replacement of aging water distribution facilities;
- brackish or sea water desalination projects; and
- the acquisition of real property or an interest therein for water storage, reclaimed or recycled water, or wastewater that is integral to such a project.
- Eligible project costs must be reasonably anticipated to be at least \$20 million.

The total amount of federal assistance for a project shall not exceed 80% of its total cost.

Interior shall establish: (1) a repayment schedule for each secured loan based on the useful life of the project, and (2) a uniform system to service the federal credit instruments made available under this bill.

### **H.R. 3281 (Lamborn) - Reclamation Title Transfer and Non-Federal Infrastructure Incentivization Act**

**SSA Position:        Watch**

**Status:**                   **Introduced to the House, referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on July 18, 2017. Placed on the Union Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 242 on Sept. 27, 2017.**

This bill authorizes the Department of the Interior to convey U.S. interest in an eligible reclamation project or facility to an agency of a state political subdivision, a joint action or powers agency, a water users association, or an Indian tribe or tribal utility authority that holds a water service contract for such property and that has the capacity to continue to manage the property for the same purposes for which it has been managed under reclamation law.

Criteria for determining whether facilities are eligible for title transfer:

- (1) the transfer will not have an unmitigated significant effect on the environment
- (2) the qualifying entity intends to use the property for substantially the same purposes the property is being used for at the time Interior evaluates the potential transfer
- (3) the qualifying entity agrees to provide the United States the equivalent of the present value of any repayment obligation or other income stream the United States derives from the assets to be transferred.

Salton Sea Authority staff will continue to watch the progress of this bill as it may expedite facility or land transfers in certain situations at the Salton Sea.

#### 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.