



Prop 68 passage accelerates progress at Salton Sea

(For Immediate Release)

Approval of Proposition 68 by California voters grants \$200 Million toward projects that will accelerate progress at the Salton Sea.

As the largest inland lake in the state of California, the Salton Sea is a vital rest stop for nearly two thirds of all migratory waterfowl species traveling the Pacific Flyway. The Sea's ecosystem, human health and economy are threatened by rising salinity levels and lowering water elevations at the sea that can expose dusty shoreline if action is not taken.

"Proposition 68 funding will go a long way toward the 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 (SSA). Progress at the Salton Sea equals progress in water security benefiting everyone in California, notes O'Dowd.

The SSA is a joint powers authority empowered to work in consultation and cooperation with the state of California Natural Resources Agency to restore the Salton Sea.

"The Salton Sea Authority looks forward to efficiently implementing projects that protect human health, preserve vital habitat, and stimulate economic opportunity that can sustain a healthy, prosperous Sea over the long term," stated Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director of the SSA.

Proposition 68 grants \$200 million for Salton Sea revitalization that consists of \$30 million to the Salton Sea Authority (includes minimum of \$10 million allocated to improve water quality at the New River) and \$170 million to the California Natural Resources Agency for a 10-Year Plan of the Salton Sea Management Program to deploy habitat and dust suppression projects. Total cost of the state's 10-Year Plan is estimated at \$403 Million.

The SSA, in partnership with the Torres Martinez tribe, recently delivered the first state-funded project ever completed at the Sea, a wetlands restored on tribal land. Rosentrater notes that the SSA has consistently delivered all of its recent state-funded projects on time and on budget, a model for successful performance that the SSA Board is committed to maintain in partnership with the state.

The SSA and its partner agencies – Torres Martinez Tribe, Coachella Valley Water District, Riverside and Imperial Counties, and Imperial Irrigation District – are working tirelessly to establish a healthy, prosperous future for the Salton Sea. To learn more about progress at the Salton Sea, visit www.SaltonSeaAuthority.org

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