

# Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 2019  
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, February 21, 2019**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**LOCATION: Imperial Irrigation District**  
**Bill Condit Auditorium**  
**1285 Broadway Avenue**  
**El Centro, CA 92243**  
**(760) 482-9618**

**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 January 24, 2019

B. Warrant Register Ratification for January 2019

C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2018 – 12/31/2018

**V. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. CNRA Action on Salton Sea projects – (Bruce Wilcox, Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy)
  - 1. Species Conservation Habitat (New River)
  - 2. Perimeter Lake Phase I (North Lake)
- B. Progress on EIFD’s (Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts)
  - 1. Imperial County – (Andy Horne, Deputy County Executive Officer, County of Imperial)
  - 2. Riverside County – (Brian Nestande, Deputy County Executive Officer, Riverside County)

**VI. REPORTS**

- A. General Manager’s Report on Activities – (Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority)
- B. Standing Reports from Federal and State Partners
  - 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)
- C. Water Resources Institute – (Suzie Earp, Director and Archivist)
- D. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – (Ray Lennox, Acting Sector Superintendent, California State Parks)
- E. Salton Sea Action Committee – (Juan DeLara, President)

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:  
Thursday, March 28, 2019  
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**  
**January 24, 2019**

**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 Thomas Tortez, Jr., President (“Chairman”), at 10:06 a.m., Thursday, January 24, 2019, at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92260, (760) 398-2651.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Director Perez led the Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL:**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Thomas Tortez, President  
Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice-President  
James C. Hanks, Director  
V. Manuel Perez, Director  
Alex Cardenas, Director  
Luis A. Plancarte, Director

**AGENCY**

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

*\* Director Estrada arrived at 10:13 during Public Comment, as noted in the text*

*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**

Ryan E. Kelley, Director  
G. Patrick O’Dowd, Director  
Altrena Santillanes, Director  
Jeff Hewitt, Director

**AGENCY**

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

**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

Brian McDonald  
Melanie Cox  
Alberto Ramirez  
Alexander Schniener?  
Vickie Doyle  
Meghan Kane  
Pat Cooper  
Wolfram Kligge  
Sarah Lopez  
Suzie Earp  
Paul Diamico  
Cindy Byerrum  
Jessica Humes  
William Jacobsen  
Greg Boston  
Ray Lennox  
Nasseer Idrisi  
Peter Carlstrom  
Crystal Howard  
Lauren Elachi  
Juan DeLara

**AGENCY**

SCE  
SSAC  
Torres Martinez Tribe  
ESSW  
IID  
DHCD/F  
Riverside County/Supervisor Perez  
Homeowner  
IID  
WRI CSUSB  
Agess  
Platinum Consulting  
IID  
Soil Stabilizers  
Soil Stabilizers  
California State Parks  
CDFW  
Congressman Ruiz  
Enviromine  
KDI  
Travertine Pt., SSAC, Federated Ins.

**II. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed the new SSA Directors:

- Alex Cardenas, Director, Division 1, Imperial Irrigation District, appointed in place of Erik J. Ortega, Director, IID Division 4. Director Cardenas said he is looking forward to working with the SSA, appreciates the passion and hard work they have done; he is here to serve.
- Luis Plancarte, Supervisor, District 2, Imperial County, appointed in place of John Renison, former Supervisor, Imperial County District 1. Director Plancarte said he has served as an alternate, is looking forward to being a more active participant and is looking forward to serving with the Board.
- Jeff Hewitt, Supervisor, District 5, Riverside County, who was unable to attend today’s meeting, was appointed in place of Marion Ashley who retired as Supervisor, Riverside County District 5.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Nathan White, CEO of Agess, Inc., working on environmental restoration projects at the Sea. He updated the SSA board on a project he is promoting at Desert Shores.

(\* Director Estrada arrived at 10:13 during Public Comment)

B. Frank Ruiz, Salton Sea Program Director for the Audubon Society, said that he, with associates representing seven different organizations state wide and locally, recently submitted a letter to the SSA in support of the North Lake plan, with recommendations to benefit the community, recreation, the economy, wildlife, etc. He asked that the Board review the letter in detail and give them their comments.

He said it is imperative to demonstrate that something positive can happen on the ground, and they feel that the SSA may be the entity that can push this forward.

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

Minutes of December 6, 2018

- A. Warrant Register Ratification for November 2018
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for December 2018
- C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2018 – 11/30/2018

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

### V. ACTION ITEMS

Consider approval of resolutions recognizing outgoing SSA Directors Renison and Ortega for their service

A draft resolution for each of the directors was included in the agenda packet for review.

*Director Perez moved that the resolutions be approved. Seconded by Director Plancarte. Unanimously carried.*

A. Mid-Term Election to fill interim vacancies for office of treasurer and secretary that were created by recent election and reappointment on member agency boards.

Vacancies occurred in the SSA offices of secretary and treasurer due to reorganization of the Boards of the agencies they represented. SSA staff provided the background on the SSA's bylaws' provision and recommended that the Board consider filling those interim vacancies (through the month of June of this year, per SSA Bylaws) so that SSA staff could move forward with the transactions of regular SSA business. Per SSA Bylaws, appointments to SSA board offices for full term are to be considered each year at the close of that FY (at the June board meeting) and prior to the start of the next FY year meeting.

Having received a recommendation that Director Perez be considered for the office of treasurer, the Chairman invited other nominations for treasurer. Director Hanks

asked if the north-south rotation schedule was going to be followed. The Chairman asked Mr. Rosentrater who would be next in the north-south rotation, to which Mr. Rosentrater responded someone from the south.

*Director Cardenas **nominated** Director Plancarte for treasurer. Director Perez withdrew his candidacy. Director Plancarte accepted the nomination, which nomination was **seconded** by Director Perez. **Unanimously carried.***

*Director Hanks **nominated** Director Cardenas for secretary. Director Cardenas accepted the nomination. **Seconded** by Director Estrada. **Unanimously carried.***

**B. Consider Appointments to SSA Board *Ad Hoc* Committees**

SSA GM/Executive Director Phil Rosentrater introduced the matter: SSA Bylaws allow the Board Chair and Board as a whole to establish *ad hoc* committees to consider policy issues in front of the SSA and to provide guidance for staff as appropriate. There are now vacancies in the current *ad hoc* Executive, Finance, Personnel, and Projects committees rosters set up by former Chairman Benoit that the SSA board may wish to fill.

*The chairman invited nominations for the Finance committee Chair.*

*Director Estrada **nominated** the treasurer, Director Plancarte, as Chair of the finance committee. Director Plancarte accepted that nomination. Nomination **Seconded** by Director Cardenas. **Unanimously carried.***

*The chairman invited nominations for the Personnel committee Chair.*

*Director Perez **nominated** Director Cardenas, secretary, as Chair of the Personnel committee. Director Cardenas accepted the nomination. Nomination **seconded** by Director Estrada. **Unanimously carried.***

**C. Consider Resolution updating signatories to the bank accounts to add the new treasurer appointed in Action Item V.B.**

When one of the signatories is changed, the bank requires a resolution of the Board establishing the current signatories. The chairman invited a motion to update the signatures.

*Director Hanks **moved** to update the signatures as recommended. **Seconded** by Director Estrada. **Unanimously carried.***

**D. Consider adoption of 2019 SSA Legislative Platform**

A draft Legislative Platform for 2019 was presented in the agenda packet for consideration.

The chairman invited a motion to adopt the legislative platform.

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

## VI. REPORTS

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

The staff report was submitted in advance for Board review. Mr. Rosentrater reported that the SSA has had a very successful past year, which included completion of the very first state-funded project ever completed at the Salton Sea – the Torres Martinez Wetlands. The project was completed on time, under budget with the Salton Sea Authority serving as lead agency under contract with the state and in partnership with the tribe.

The SSA was in partnership with all the SSA member agencies, the NGOs (non-governmental organizations), and other stakeholders across the state to secure a record level of state funding – on top of prior year's \$80.5 million in Prop 1, another \$200 million last year in Prop 68. There is work to be done in Sacramento to bring that funding "home" and implement projects. The reason the SSA is successful is because of the way this body has worked together in a unified fashion. At the federal level, the SSA and a coalition of partner agencies scored a major victory with the passage of the Farm Bill with amendments that were favorable to this area. This represents a major step forward with alignment of federal funding opportunities that were never available before.

The SSA needs to work together in the coming year to implement that Bill in a way that makes a difference here on the ground.

Mr. Rosentrater invited questions.

Director Estrada asked how frequently the *ad hoc* committees would meet, and how would they be convened? He would like to see a schedule that would bring them up to speed. Mr. Rosentrater responded that SSA staff would coordinate directors' available time to meet.

Director Perez urged that the project committee should meet as soon as possible in order to be prepared for the upcoming legislative session in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C.

At Director Cardenas's request, Mr. Rosentrater briefly described the role of SSA in dealing with some of the Farm Bill opportunities: monies are available and can be deployed on projects that are consistent with the state's SSMP around the Salton Sea. Although the money is there, it still must be acquired and directed through the agencies to the projects, so there is work to be done there. The success of that effort is more likely if there's a united front among numerous agencies, such as were represented on the dais at the SSA board meeting.

### B. Federal and State Partner Reports:

#### 1. FEDERAL: US Bureau of Reclamation ("BOR")

Genevieve Johnson, Program Manager for the Salton Sea, unable to travel to attend the meeting, called in and offered to answer any questions. Director Hanks asked if the BOR was going to support the Farm Bill funds going to the State of California or to an irrigation district. Ms. Johnson responded that the BOR fully supports the funding of any projects that can be implemented at the Sea that



would help meet the objectives of the state, certainly the department of Bureau of Reclamation as well, the irrigation districts, and the Salton Sea Authority. They would be very happy to be part of any discussions on projects and submittals to NRCS to try to get that grant funding made available to Salton Sea projects for restoration.

Director Hanks asked Mr. Rosentrater if there were a way to contact the Bureau and ask for a letter of support.

Ms. Johnson said a letter of support would be helpful when they know what the package is that's going to NRCS to apply for the Farm Bill funding.

2. STATE: Salton Sea Management Program

Bruce Wilcox, Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy, was unable to attend to give a report.

C. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities

Ray Lennox, Acting Sector Superintendent, California State Parks, reported on the Salton Sea bird festival of last weekend at the Salton Sea State Recreation Area.

At December's meeting he spoke of Desert X; State Parks is signing the special event permit for Desert X's art exhibition. Desert X will build the vessel and put it on the water at the SSSRA this weekend. They will be doing side sonar of the lake bottom looking for human interaction and natural features, then will put those images in the visitors' center, adding a 10-minute loop into the state parks' 7-minute video.

Mr. Lennox said it would be helpful to have a tri-fold to help answer the visitors' questions of what's being done about the Salton Sea (perimeter lake concept, different ways people could get involved). They haven't been able to find anything that captures what they want for their visitors.

SSSRA built a portable kayak launch and tried it out over last weekend; they are hopeful that word will get out so they can get more people out on the Sea so that they can see that it's not really like what they're reading in the media.

D. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC)

Juan DeLara, President of SSAC, offered Mr. Lennox the SSAC's brochure to review as to suitability for the SSSRA's use. Mr. DeLara introduced the members of SSAC who were present and reported that the SSAC continues to work in support of the SSA. Last month at their annual stakeholders' meeting there was a lot of community participation, strongly expressing that they want to see something done. Last week the SSAC coordinated a presentation by SSA General Manager Phil Rosentrater to Growing Coachella Valley (GCV). This group involves landowners around the Salton Sea, especially at the north end, whose support is important to EIFD formation. Mr. DeLara will put together a workshop to address their concerns. Director Estrada asked Mr. DeLara to keep the SSA board informed about the workshop as he would like to attend.

The SSAC approved a marketing agreement with LEAP to help educate the public and remote homeowners about the issues, solutions and progress.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, *Board President Thomas Tortez, Jr., invited a motion to adjourn.*

*Director Cardenas so **moved. Seconded** by Director Plancarte. There being no objection, the meeting was **adjourned** at 10:55 a.m.*

**NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

The regularly-scheduled meeting will be held  
Thursday, February 21, 2019  
10:00 a.m.

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

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**Checking Account Activity**  
**Jan. 1, 2019 through Jan. 31, 2019**



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<b>Warrant</b>	<b>Warrant</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
			<b>Beginning Cash \$ 244,019.89</b>
01/11/2019	EFT	Money Market Funds Transfer	50,000.00
01/22/2019	16460	Best, Best & Krieger	-4,216.00
01/22/2019	16461	Bravata, Lisa	-137.89
01/22/2019	16462	Central Printer Resources	-258.92
01/22/2019	16463	Platinum Consulting Group LLC	-4,456.88
01/22/2019	16464	Rosentrater, Phil	-866.07
01/22/2019	16465	SystemGo IT LLC	-699.50
01/23/2019	EFT	Verizon Wireless	-229.28
01/23/2019	EFT	AMEX	-4,690.12
01/23/2019	EFT	Visa	-240.74
01/31/2019	EFT	Service Charge	-25.00
			<b>Net Activity                    34,179.60</b>
			<b>Ending Cash                    <u><u>\$ 278,199.49</u></u></b>

**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance**  
Year to Date through December 31, 2018

	General Fund	Wetlands Grant 1	Wetlands 2	TOTAL
<b>1 INCOME</b>				
2 <b>Local Government/Member Assessments</b>	\$ 610,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 610,000
3 <b>State of California Grants</b>	-	-	-	-
4 <b>Pooled Cash Allocated Interest</b>	733	-	-	733
5 <b>Miscellaneous Revenue</b>	6,724	-	-	6,724
6 <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	617,457	-	-	617,457
<b>7 EXPENSE</b>				
8 <b>SSA Administration</b>				
9 <b>Salaries</b>				
10 <b>Salaries - GM / Executive Director</b>	54,691	-	-	54,691
11 <b>Executive Director Support</b>	36,464	-	-	36,464
12 <b>Due from Grant Funds</b>	22,954	-	-	22,954
13 <b>Admin Support B</b>	18,015	-	-	18,015
14 <b>Total Salaries</b>	132,123	-	-	132,123
15 <b>Employee Benefits</b>				
16 <b>Employee Benefits - GM / Exec. Dir.</b>	18,403	-	-	18,403
17 <b>Employee Benefits - Other SSA Staff</b>	40,742	-	-	40,742
18 <b>Total Employee Benefits</b>	59,145	-	-	59,145
19 <b>Contract Service / Professional</b>				
20 <b>Finance / CPA</b>	28,873	-	-	28,873
21 <b>Total Contract Service / Professional</b>	36,873	-	-	36,873
22 <b>Contract Attorney</b>	15,017	-	-	15,017
23 <b>Equipment Maintenance</b>	4,447	-	-	4,447
24 <b>Capital Equipment</b>	-	-	-	-
25 <b>Equipment Lease</b>	267	-	-	267
26 <b>Insurance</b>	4,669	-	-	4,669
27 <b>Office Exp/Operating Supplies</b>	621	-	-	621
28 <b>Office Exp/Online Services</b>	807	-	-	807
29 <b>Postage, Mail</b>	285	-	-	285
30 <b>Printing Services</b>	678	-	-	678
31 <b>Dues, Subscriptions</b>	10,217	-	-	10,217
32 <b>Communications</b>	1,696	-	-	1,696
33 <b>Travel/Mileage</b>	34,538	-	-	34,538
34 <b>Technical Support - Consultant</b>	-	-	-	-
35 <b>Technical Support - Engineering</b>	-	-	-	-
36 <b>Technical Support - General</b>	-	-	-	-
37 <b>Contract Svc / Website</b>	-	-	-	-
38 <b>Utilities</b>	-	-	-	-
39 <b>Grants &amp; Advocacy</b>	-	-	-	-
40 <b>Project Manager</b>	-	-	-	-

**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance**  
Year to Date through December 31, 2018

	General Fund	Wetlands Grant 1	Wetlands 2	TOTAL
41 <b>Total SSA Administration</b>	301,384	-	-	301,384
42 <b>Wetlands Grant Administration</b>				
43 <b>Contract Svcs/Attorney</b>	-	-	1,132	1,132
45 <b>Total Wetlands Grant Administration</b>	-	-	1,132	1,132
46 <b>Wetlands Grant Technical</b>				
47 <b>Contract Svcs/LCP</b>	-	-	-	-
48 <b>Contract Svcs/Construction</b>	-	-	-	-
49 <b>Transfer In/Out Grant Administration</b>	-	-	-	-
50 <b>Total Wetlands Grant Technical</b>	-	-	-	-
51 <b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	301,384	-	1,132	302,516
52 <b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 316,073</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (1,132)</b>	<b>\$ 314,942</b>

*\*No assurance is provided on these financial statements. The financial statements do not include a statement of cash flows. Substantially all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S. are not included.*

# Salton Sea Authority

## Balance Sheets

As of December 31, 2018

	General Fund	Wetlands Grant 1	Wetlands 2	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	TOTAL
<b>1 ASSETS</b>					
<b>2 Local Government/Member Assessments</b>					
<b>3 Checking/Savings</b>					
<b>4 Cash - Checking</b>	\$ 246,409	\$ -	\$ (2,364)	\$ -	\$ 244,045
<b>5 Cash - Money Market</b>	519,218	-	-	20,991	540,209
<b>6 Cash - RivCo Fund</b>	59,448	-	-	-	59,448
<b>7 RivCo investment fund</b>	1,354	-	-	-	1,354
<b>8 Cash - Petty Cash</b>	156	-	-	-	156
<b>9 Total Checking/Savings</b>	826,584	-	(2,364)	20,991	845,211
<b>10 Other Current Assets</b>					
<b>11 Prepaid Items</b>	2,255	-	-	-	2,255
<b>12 Total Other Current Assets</b>	2,255	-	-	-	2,255
<b>13 Total Current Assets</b>	828,839	-	(2,364)	20,991	847,466
<b>14 TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>828,839</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,364)</b>	<b>20,991</b>	<b>847,466</b>
<b>15 LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>					
<b>16 Liabilities</b>					
<b>17 Current Liabilities</b>					
<b>18 Accounts Payable</b>	14,846	-	-	-	14,846
<b>19 Credit Cards</b>					
<b>20 Credit Card Payable (Visa)</b>	241	-	-	-	241
<b>21 Credit Card Payable (AE)</b>	4,761	-	-	-	4,761
<b>22 Total Credit Cards</b>	5,002	-	-	-	5,002
<b>23 Other Current Liabilities</b>					
<b>24 Accrued Expenditures</b>	70,879	-	-	-	70,879
<b>25 Accrued Payroll</b>	5,701	-	-	-	5,701
<b>26 Accrued Vacation</b>	9,239	-	-	-	9,239
<b>27 Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	85,820	-	-	-	85,820
<b>28 Total Current Liabilities</b>	105,667	-	-	-	105,667
<b>29 Total Liabilities</b>	105,667	-	-	-	105,667
<b>30 Equity</b>					
<b>31 Fund Balance</b>	407,099	-	(1,233)	20,991	426,858
<b>32 Net Income</b>	316,073	-	(1,132)	-	314,942
<b>33 Total Equity</b>	723,172	-	(2,364)	20,991	741,799
<b>34 TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 828,839</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (2,364)</b>	<b>\$ 20,991</b>	<b>\$ 847,466</b>