



Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2019
10:00 a.m.

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



AGENDA: **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
DATE: **Thursday, September 19, 2019**
10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: **Coachella Valley Water District**
Steve Robbins Administration Building
75515 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 398-2651

I. CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL

*A copy of the complete agenda packet is available for viewing or download at:
<http://saltonseaauthority.org/ssa-board-of-directors-meeting-7/>*

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 June 27, 2019
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for June 2019
- C. Warrant Register Ratification for July 2019
- D. Warrant Register Ratification for August 2019
- E. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2018 – 6/30/2019
- F. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2019 – 7/31/2019

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Presentation of Leadership Recognition Plaque to Director Thomas Torte, Jr.
- B. West Shores Project Update (Nathan White, CEO & Founder, Agess, Inc.)

VI. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Ratification of SSA interagency coordination to restore research vessel access to the Salton Sea via dredging project at the North Shore Yacht Club
 - 1. MOU with Riverside County for Restoration of Research Vessel access to Sea
 - 2. Funding Agreement with Bureau of Reclamation for Restoration of Research Vessel access to Sea
 - 3. Funding Agreement with Coachella Valley Mountain Conservancy for Restoration of Research Vessel access to Sea
- B. Consider Nominations to ACWA Region 9 Board

VII. 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. State Advocacy Report (Oracio Gonzalez, Principal, Ollin Strategies)
- D. Federal Activities Update (Lisa Moore Lehman, Partner, Cultivating Conservation)
- E. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities – (Steve Quartieri, Acting District Superintendent, California State Parks)
- F. Salton Sea Action Committee – (Juan DeLara, President)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Thursday, October 24, 2019
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

June 27, 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 Torte, Jr., President, at 10:12 a.m., June 27, 2019, at the Imperial Irrigation District, Bill Condit Auditorium, 1285 Broadway Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243, (760) 760-482-9618.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Torte led the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL:

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Thomas Torte, President
Cástulo R. Estrada, Vice-President
Alex Cardenas, Secretary *
Luis A. Plancarte, Treasurer
James C. Hanks, Director
Ryan E. Kelley, Director
V. Manuel Perez, Director

AGENCY

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Jeff Hewitt, Director

AGENCY

Riverside County

** (Director Cardenas arrived while the teleconferencing script was being read - immediately after roll call.)*

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

G. Patrick O'Dowd, Director
Altrena Santillanes, Director

AGENCY

Coachella Valley Water District
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

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

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**AGENCY**

Dan Farris
Brittany Blanco
Arkie Mayes
Andy Horne
Katie Burnworth
Emmanuel Martinez
Luis Olmedo
Tom DuBose
Victor Carrillo
Marco Garco
Mario Renteria
Juan De Lara
Maximiliano Ochoa
Paloma Ledesma
Genevieve Johnson
Deanna Morrell
Mark T. Gran
Steve Quartieri
Vickie Doyle

CVWD
CCV
ICBCTC
IC-CFO
IC APCD
IID
CCV
DuBose Design Group

Senator Hueso
SSAC, Federated Insurance
CCV
CCV
BOR
BOR
Cal Energy
California State Parks
IID

II. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (reserved until later)**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- A. Tom DuBose, of DuBose Design Group raised concerns about state transparency in its selection process for Salton Sea projects. He was part of a team that responded to Department of Water Resources (DWR) for a design-build proposal at the Salton Sea. He was told this morning that his largely local team was not short-listed. Mr. Dubose is reaching out to local stakeholders to inform them that they need to be aware of the process and what's going on.
- B. Ernesto Partida, Ch. E., resident of Palm Desert, asked the Board Secretary to read to the Board his comment that was translated into English – a report on decontamination tests he ran in the pond in front of the North Shore Beach and Yacht Club, from which he concluded that water unsuitable for the life of fauna can be corrected in a relatively short time.

- C. Maximiliano Felipe Ochoa, with Comité Cívico del Valle, long-time resident of the eastern Coachella Valley, residing in the North Shore community. Comité with other nonprofits and organizations, recently submitted a self-nomination for AB 617 that seeks to select communities most affected and burdened by air pollutants to prepare these communities for emissions reductions programs and empower these communities through scientific means to monitor the air they breathe. The nomination encompasses the City of Coachella, the unincorporated communities of Thermal, Oasis, Mecca, North Shore, and Chiriaco Summit, all forming the East Coachella Valley.
- D. Luis Olmedo, Executive Director of Comité Cívico del Valle, with a follow-up to Mr. DuBose's presentation. At yesterday's meeting at the Capitol they had a conversation about the different elements and parameters the locals would like to see and the order in which they would like to see projects that prioritize local vendors, local companies, local work force, and engagement in the community.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of May 23, 2019
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for May 2019
- C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2018 – 4/30/2019
- D. Approval of letter to International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) calling for action to address public and environmental threats from degraded New River water quality from Mexico impacting Imperial County and the Salton Sea

*Director Perez **moved** that the Consent Calendar be approved. **Seconded** by Director Hanks.*

Director Kelley asked to speak regarding the letter approval request: The reason they asked to add the letter approval to the agenda is because of its importance to the County of Imperial: the effluent that comes from Mexicali via the New River is not to the standard of California water quality, which even the IBWC recognizes. It is not even meeting the standards of Minute Order from the '80s, and that needs to be addressed.

***Unanimously carried** by roll call vote.*

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Consider adoption of proposed Salton Sea Authority annual budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20

*Director Hanks **moved** that the proposed Salton Sea Authority annual budget for FY 2019-20 be approved. **Seconded** by Director Perez. **Unanimously carried** by roll call vote.*

B. Election of Officers, effective July 1, 2019

Chairman Torteز opened the floor for nomination of Chairman of the board. Director Cardenas asked, and the Chairman confirmed, that officer terms of service are typically for one year.

Director Hanks suggested that the board keep with its tradition of alternating the office of president between north and south, and, in keeping with that, suggested a motion for items one through four:

*Director Hanks made a **motion** to approve the following slate of nominees:*

1. Director Estrada as President (seconded by Director Kelley),
2. Director Cardenas as Vice-President,
3. Director Plancarte as Secretary, and
4. Director Hewitt as Treasurer.

***Motion** by Director Hanks, **seconded** by Director Kelley.*

Director Perez (Riverside County Supervisor, District 4) asked Director Hewitt (Riverside County Supervisor, District 5) if he would mind if he were the nominee for Treasurer in the place of Director Hewitt. Director Hewitt conceded.

*Director Hanks **revised his motion**/slate of candidates to include Director Perez as Treasurer. And Director Kelley reconfirmed his **second**.*

The chairman restated the final slate of nominees as:

1. Director Estrada as President,
2. Director Cardenas as Vice-President,
3. Director Plancarte as Secretary, and
4. Director Perez as Treasurer.

*The motion was **unanimously carried** by roll call vote.*

C. Consider approval of resolutions updating signatories on SSA's bank accounts

1. Res. No. 19-07 Rabobank
2. Res. No. 19-08 Pacific Western Bank
3. Res. No. 19-09 Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF)

*The Chairman invited a motion to approve the resolutions updating signatories on SSA's bank accounts. Director Plancarte so **moved**. **Seconded** by Director Cardenas. **Unanimously carried** by roll call vote.*

D. Consider Appointments to *Ad Hoc* Committees

1. *Ad Hoc* Executive Committee
2. *Ad Hoc* Finance Committee
3. *Ad Hoc* Personnel Committee
4. *Ad Hoc* Projects Committee

Chairman Torteز opened this item; Director Estrada suggested the same pattern of appointing the *ad hoc* committees be followed as in the past. Director Kelley, in turn,

reminded that the *ad hoc* committees are the president's prerogative, and suggested that the selection be deferred to the president in conjunction with the Executive Director.

*Director Kelley moved that the president select the Ad Hoc committee members as needed in conjunction with the Executive Director. **Seconded** by Director Estrada. **Unanimously carried** by roll call vote.*

- E. Consider Appointments to *Ad Hoc* Selection Committee to review proposals and select contractor to provide state advocacy support for funding.

Recognizing that the *Ad hoc* Selection committee would follow the same pattern as the other *ad hoc* committees (that the Chairman would select the *Ad hoc* committee members as needed in conjunction with the Executive Director), Chairman Torteز invited a motion.

*Director Kelley so moved. **Seconded** by Director Plancarte. **Unanimously carried** by roll call vote.*

VI. **REPORTS**

A. General Manager's Report on Activities

Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority, had submitted a written report, in the board meeting packet, prior to the meeting, and added to it at this meeting:

A meeting was held in Sacramento yesterday in the Governor's conference room, called and arranged by Assembly member Garcia. He invited the Secretary of Resources, Wade Crowfoot, to attend, as well as staff from the Resources Agency. There were representatives from Imperial County, Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Valley Water District, Riverside County, as well as Salton Sea Authority and many of the NGOs.

The point of the meeting was to discuss pending legislation on a Salton Sea oversight committee that was suggested as a consideration in a bill authored by Assembly member Garcia, Bill AB 1657. That particular discussion took place at the end of an about-2-hour meeting. It was recommended by the folks in the room, and decided by the legislator, that that would be a two-year bill – he would not try to move that bill this year.

Reports and updates focused on the 10-year plan and on the status of state funding. Those of us who are involved in this need to keep track of how do we know where that money is being spent? How? What has been spent already? What's available? More thorough accounting of that money was asked for in that meeting: And there was acknowledgement from the Secretary that that would be forthcoming.

The project performance of the state beyond the 10-year plan: They spent quite a bit of time on the Red Hill Bay project as well as the water quality issues related to the New River. Locals in attendance emphasized that we need action on these items, not more ribbon cuttings. They want to see things happening – ground and dirt moved,

and we want to work more closely with the engineers on the state as they design these projects and bring them into implementation.

Boating access was also brought up. There currently is no launch point for vessels around the Salton Sea. There are new explorations for potential launch points such as at the north shore, and a need to find additional ones at the south end and on the west side. As the sea elevation recedes, it is mandated by several state and federal agencies that they have access so they can go out and monitor and report on changing conditions at the sea.

The Salton Sea Authority is committed to working with its partners to make that happen.

The meeting took on a form of workshop format give-and-take. Deputy Secretary Tom Gibson of California Natural Resources Agency is engaged and seems to have been given considerable authority to make decisions and move forward.

As funding has been lined up and projects have been identified, Salton Sea Authority is moving into a new phase in which it is imperative for the locals to stay on top of this. Salton Sea Authority has a role to play in this accountability exercise. The Secretary acknowledged this yesterday, said Resources needs to stay very tight with Salton Sea Authority to maintain a trajectory that reflects the priority of the locals rather than simply what the state wants to have done on its own timelines.

B. Federal and State Partner Reports

1. FEDERAL

Genevieve Johnson, Program Manager for the Salton Sea, US Bureau of Reclamation, reported on Bureau of Reclamation activities in and around the Salton Sea:

- Dust mitigation and suppression project – working on cooperative agreement paperwork with Department of Water Resources, will prioritize areas of high emissivity around the Salton Sea – especially on federal lands.
- Red Hill Bay – entering into an Interagency Agreement with the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge; providing \$1.2M for final construction of Red Hill Bay. Both the State and Reclamation will be providing technical assistance – especially engineering – for construction.
- Making progress on an agreement with the Salton Sea Authority to provide funding for research boat access at the North Shore Marina (the launch there is currently impaired). They expect funding to be awarded by September.
- Started a process with IID to do a test well around Salton City wash area to see if there is sufficient quality and quantity of ground water. IID has completed the permitting, is completing environmental compliance documents.
- Wetlands for Holtville – trying to improve water quality: the record of survey is being reviewed by the County surveyor's office; the bid will follow.
- Water quality monitoring: completed by IID and funded by BOR: all three areas show improvements.

- New River (water source for one of the wetlands) – shows 99.9% reduction of fecal coliform.
- Preliminary data in June showed Salton Sea salinity at 67-68‰/1000.

At the end of Ms. Johnson's report, Mr. Rosentrater offered that SSA federal consultant Lisa Lehman was on the phone if the Board would like to hear updates from the DC portfolio. There being no objection from the Board, the Chairman invited Ms. Lehman to speak.

Lisa Lehman of Cultivating Conservation reported:

Congress is working on the Federal Appropriations Bill; USDA Projects include:

- Energy & Water Appropriation for BOR passed the House this week with the following provisions which SSA and its partner agencies had worked together to secure:
 - Passage of USDA appropriations with inclusion of SSA board-approved priorities:
 - Provided multi-year funding with USDA; and,
 - Prioritized the spending.
- Senator Feinstein has been instrumental in working with the Army Corps of Engineers for advancing a faster way of permitting.

2. STATE: Salton Sea Management Program

Bruce Wilcox, Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy, had a conflicting meeting and was unable to be present and did not provide a written report.

C. Salton Sea State Recreation Area Update on Activities

Steve Quartieri, Acting District Superintendent, California State Parks, reported that two new permanent staff members for the SSSRA will include a park maintenance supervisor and a park maintenance worker. Four seasonal members have been added, and the visitor's center will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. seven days a week through the summer.

Operation has transferred from the Colorado Desert to Ocotillo Wells. Staff were able to add a new cadet who is on field training office protocols. As a result, safety patrols have increased at the State Recreation Area.

D. Salton Sea Action Committee

Juan De Lara, President of the SSAC, reported that they have four elements to their organization: education and outreach, advocacy, fundraising, and private-public partnerships. SSAC will be working with Tom DuBose on his private-public partnerships.

Mr. De Lara introduced SSAC members representing Imperial County, and shared SSAC's focus.

They will be working on a virtual tour of the Salton Sea. They had a stakeholders meeting in May, will plan another in September or October.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Before adjourning, Director Cardenas thanked Chairman Tortez for his service in keeping the meetings going and keeping them short, and for his leadership.

There being no further business, Director Tortez invited a motion to adjourn. Director Cardenas so moved. There being no objection, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Thursday, September 19, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

No meeting in July or August

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

Checking Account Activity

June 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019



Warrant	Warrant	Vendor	
Date	Number	Name	Amount
Beginning Cash			\$ 104,721.15
06/17/2019	EFT	American Express	(2,324.86)
06/24/2019	16502	Best, Best & Krieger	(3,836.04)
06/24/2019	16503	CalDesal	(5,000.00)
06/24/2019	16504	Central Printer Resources	(604.15)
06/24/2019	16505	Cultivating Conservation	(5,949.52)
06/24/2019	16506	OfficeTeam	(13,102.52)
06/24/2019	16507	Platinum Consulting Group LLC	(6,757.84)
06/24/2019	16508	Rosentrater, Phil	(595.08)
06/24/2019	16509	SystemGo IT LLC	(699.50)
06/24/2019	16510	RivCo EDA	(750.00)
06/24/2019	EFT	Rabobank Visa	(656.63)
06/25/2019	EFT	Verizon Wireless	(267.14)
Net Activity			(40,543.28)
Ending Cash			\$ 64,177.87

Checking Account Activity

July 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019



Warrant	Warrant	Vendor	
Date	Number	Name	Amount
		Beginning Cash	\$ 64,177.87
07/11/2019	16512	Petty Cash	(136.88)
07/11/2019	16519	SystemGo IT LLC	(699.50)
07/11/2019	16520	WESTCAS	(220.00)
07/15/2019	16513	Best, Best & Krieger	(8,114.80)
07/15/2019	16514	Bravata, Lisa	(99.18)
07/15/2019	16515	Central Printer Resources	(258.92)
07/15/2019	16516	Cultivating Conservation	(4,100.00)
07/15/2019	16517	OfficeTeam	(5,470.36)
07/15/2019	16518	RivCo EDA	(24,661.52)
07/17/2019	EFT	Verizon Wireless	(267.88)
07/23/2019	EFT	AMEX Payment	(3,105.48)
07/23/2019	EFT	Visa Payment	(1,476.88)
07/31/2019	EFT	Transfer From MMA	321,126.77
		Net Activity	272,515.37
		Ending Cash	\$ 336,693.24

Checking Account Activity

August 1, 2019 through August 31, 2019



Warrant	Warrant	Vendor	
Date	Number	Name	Amount
Beginning Cash			\$ 336,693.24
08/14/2019	1001	Best, Best & Krieger	(2,264.41)
08/14/2019	1002	Cultivating Conservation	(4,100.00)
08/14/2019	1003	MAP Productions Inc	(3,724.00)
08/14/2019	1004	OfficeTeam	(9,108.33)
08/14/2019	1005	Platinum Consulting Group LLC	(3,216.46)
08/14/2019	1006	RivCo HR	(1,541.00)
08/14/2019	1007	Rosentrater, Phil	(505.35)
08/14/2019	1008	SystemGo IT LLC	(699.50)
08/16/2019	Deposit	FY19-20 Member Contributions - CVWD	150,000.00
08/19/2019	EFT	Amex Payment	(3,932.87)
08/23/2019	EFT	Transfer from MMA to Checking	56.30
08/23/2019	Deposit	FY19-20 Member Contributions - RivCo	150,000.00
08/23/2019	Deposit	FY19-20 Member Contributions - IID	150,000.00
08/29/2019	Deposit	FY19-20 Member Contributions - TM	10,000.00
Net Activity			430,964.38
Ending Cash			\$ 767,657.62

Salton Sea Authority
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance
(Unaudited)

Year to Date through June 30, 2019

	General Fund	Wetlands Grant 1	Wetlands 2	TOTAL
1 INCOME				
2 Local Government/Member Assessments	\$ 610,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 610,000
3 State of California Grants	-	-	-	-
4 Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	2,342	-	-	2,342
5 Miscellaneous Revenue	7,827	-	-	7,827
6 TOTAL INCOME	620,170	-	-	620,170
7 EXPENSE				
8 SSA Administration				
9 Salaries				
10 Salaries - GM / Executive Director	125,000	-	-	125,000
11 Grant Support	25,015	-	-	25,015
12 Executive Director Support	41,316	-	-	41,316
13 Admin Support A	46,161	-	-	46,161
14 Admin Support B	37,793	-	-	37,793
15 Total Salaries	275,286	-	-	275,286
16 Employee Benefits				
17 Employee Benefits - GM / Exec. Dir.	38,769	-	-	38,769
18 Employee Benefits - Other SSA Staff	66,696	-	-	66,696
19 Total Employee Benefits	105,465	-	-	105,465
20 Audit/Accounting	68,057	-	-	68,057
21 Contract Attorney	55,645	-	-	55,645
22 Equipment Maintenance	8,644	-	-	8,644
23 Capital Equipment	-	-	-	-
24 Equipment Lease	535	-	-	535
25 Insurance	7,743	-	-	7,743
26 Office Exp/Operating Supplies	2,686	-	-	2,686
27 Office Exp/Online Services	3,895	-	-	3,895
28 Postage, Mail	869	-	-	869
29 Printing Services	1,800	-	-	1,800
30 Dues, Subscriptions	11,873	-	-	11,873
31 Communications	5,195	-	-	5,195
32 Travel/Mileage	66,897	-	-	66,897
33 Technical Support - Consultant	-	-	-	-
34 Technical Support - Engineering	-	-	-	-
35 Technical Support - General	-	-	-	-
36 Contract Svc / Website	-	-	-	-
37 Utilities	-	-	-	-
38 Grants & Advocacy	23,100	-	-	23,100
39 Project Manager	-	-	-	-
40 Total SSA Administration	637,688	-	-	637,688

Salton Sea Authority
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance
(Unaudited)

Year to Date through June 30, 2019

	General Fund	Wetlands Grant 1	Wetlands 2	TOTAL
41 Wetlands Grant Administration				
42 Contract Svcs/Attorney	-	-	1,573	1,573
44 Total Wetlands Grant Administration	-	-	1,573	1,573
45 Wetlands Grant Technical				
46 Contract Svcs/LCP	-	-	-	-
47 Contract Svcs/Construction	-	3,724	-	3,724
48 Transfer In/Out Grant Administration	-	-	-	-
49 Total Wetlands Grant Technical	-	3,724	-	3,724
50 TOTAL EXPENSE	637,688	3,724	1,573	642,985
51 NET INCOME	\$ (17,518)	\$ (3,724)	\$ (1,573)	\$ (22,815)

**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
(Unaudited)
As of June 30, 2019

	General Fund	Wetlands Grant 1	Wetlands 2	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	TOTAL
1 ASSETS					
2 Local Government/Member Assessments					
3 Checking/Savings					
4 Cash - Checking	\$ 66,984	\$ -	\$ (2,806)	\$ -	\$ 64,178
5 Cash - Money Market	300,135	-	-	20,991	321,127
6 Cash - RivCo Fund	89,267	-	-	-	89,267
7 RivCo investment fund	2,663	-	-	-	2,663
8 Cash - Petty Cash	63	-	-	-	63
9 Total Checking/Savings	459,113	-	(2,806)	20,991	477,298
10 Other Current Assets					
11 Prepaid Items	14,049	-	-	-	14,049
12 Total Other Current Assets	14,049	-	-	-	14,049
13 TOTAL ASSETS	473,161	-	(2,806)	20,991	491,347
14 LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
15 Liabilities					
16 Current Liabilities					
17 Accounts Payable	45,057	3,724	-	-	48,781
18 Credit Cards					
19 Credit Card Payable (Visa)	1,477	-	-	-	1,477
20 Credit Card Payable (AE)	2,597	-	-	-	2,597
21 Total Credit Cards	4,074	-	-	-	4,074
22 Other Current Liabilities					
23 Accrued Expenditures	1,057	-	-	-	1,057
24 Accrued Payroll	26,540	-	-	-	26,540
25 Accrued Vacation	6,852	-	-	-	6,852
26 Total Other Current Liabilities	34,450	-	-	-	34,450
27 Total Current Liabilities	83,580	3,724	-	-	87,304
28 Total Liabilities	83,580	3,724	-	-	87,304
29 Equity					
30 Fund Balance	407,099	-	(1,233)	20,991	426,858
31 Net Income	(17,518)	(3,724)	(1,573)	-	(22,815)
32 Total Equity	389,581	(3,724)	(2,806)	20,991	404,042
33 TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 473,161	\$ -	\$ (2,806)	\$ 20,991	\$ 491,347

Salton Sea Authority
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance
(Unaudited)
Year to Date through July 31, 2019

	General Fund	Wetlands 2	TOTAL
1 INCOME			
2 Local Government/Member Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
3 Grant Funding	-	-	-
4 State of California Grants	-	-	-
5 Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	56	-	56
6 Miscellaneous Revenue	36	-	36
7 TOTAL INCOME	92	-	92
8 EXPENSE			
9 SSA Administration			
10 Salaries			
11 Salaries - GM / Executive Director	6,609	-	6,609
12 Grant Support	7,272	-	7,272
13 Admin Support A	5,455	-	5,455
14 Admin Support B	4,379	-	4,379
15 Total Salaries	23,716	-	23,716
16 Employee Benefits			
17 Employee Benefits - GM / Exec. Dir.	2,192	-	2,192
18 Employee Benefits - Other SSA Staff	5,204	-	5,204
19 Total Employee Benefits	7,396	-	7,396
20 Audit/Accounting	-	-	-
21 Contract Attorney	2,264	-	2,264
22 Equipment Maintenance	700	-	700
23 Capital Equipment	-	-	-
24 Equipment Lease	-	-	-
25 Insurance	502	-	502
26 Office Exp/Operating Supplies	206	-	206
27 Office Exp/Online Services	61	-	61
28 Postage, Mail	80	-	80
29 Printing Services	-	-	-
30 Dues, Subscriptions	27	-	27
31 Communications	268	-	268
32 Travel/Mileage	4,813	-	4,813
33 Technical Support - Consultant	-	-	-
34 Technical Support - Engineering	-	-	-
35 Technical Support - General	-	-	-
36 Contract Svc / Website	-	-	-
37 Technical Support - Enviromental	-	-	-
38 Technical Support - Fiscal	-	-	-

Salton Sea Authority
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Fund Balance
(Unaudited)

Year to Date through July 31, 2019

	General Fund	Wetlands 2	TOTAL
39 Communications & Outreach	-	-	-
40 Utilities	-	-	-
41 Grants & Advocacy	4,100	-	4,100
42 Project Manager	-	-	-
43 Total SSA Administration	44,132	-	44,132
44 Wetlands Grant Administration			
45 Contract Svcs/Attorney	-	-	-
47 Total Wetlands Grant Administration	-	-	-
48 Wetlands Grant Technical			
49 Contract Svcs/LCP	-	-	-
50 Contract Svcs/Construction	-	-	-
51 Transfer In/Out Grant Administration	-	-	-
52 Total Wetlands Grant Technical	-	-	-
53 TOTAL EXPENSE	44,132	-	44,132
54 NET INCOME	\$ (44,041)	\$ -	\$ (44,041)

**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

(Unaudited)

As of July 31, 2019

General Fund	Wetlands 2	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	TOTAL
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1 ASSETS

2 Local Government/Member Assessments

3 Checking/Savings

4 Cash - Checking	\$ 318,458	\$ -	\$ 20,991	\$ 336,643
5 Cash - PW Checking	50	-	-	50
6 Cash - Money Market	56	-	-	56
7 Cash - RivCo Fund	74,066	-	-	74,066
8 RivCo investment fund	2,663	-	-	2,663
9 Cash - Petty Cash	200	-	-	200

10 Total Checking/Savings	395,494	-	20,991	413,679
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11 Other Current Assets

12 Prepaid Items	14,250	-	-	14,250
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13 Total Other Current Assets	14,250	-	-	14,250
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14 TOTAL ASSETS	1,019,744	-	20,991	1,037,929
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15 LIABILITIES & EQUITY

16 Liabilities

17 Current Liabilities

18 Accounts Payable	17,781	-	-	21,505
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19 Credit Cards

20 Credit Card Payable (Visa)	466	-	-	466
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21 Credit Card Payable (AE)	3,764	-	-	3,764
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22 Total Credit Cards	4,230	-	-	4,230
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23 Other Current Liabilities

24 Accrued Expenditures	-	-	-	-
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25 Accrued Payroll	35,341	-	-	35,341
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26 Accrued Vacation	6,852	-	-	6,852
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27 Total Other Current Liabilities	652,193	-	-	652,193
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28 Total Current Liabilities	674,204	-	-	677,928
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29 Total Liabilities	674,204	-	-	677,928
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30 Equity

31 Fund Balance	389,581	-	20,991	404,042
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32 Net Income	(44,041)	-	-	(44,041)
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33 Total Equity	345,540	-	20,991	360,002
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34 TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 1,019,744	\$ -	\$ 20,991	\$ 1,037,929
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Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director
Date: September 19, 2019
Re: **Presentation of Leadership Recognition Plaque to Director Thomas Torte, Jr.**
CM No. V.A – 09-19-2019

GENERAL:

The Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors is pleased to present a Leadership Recognition plaque to Director Thomas Torte, Jr., in grateful recognition of his leadership as Chairman of the Board of Salton Sea Authority 2018-2019.

During the term of Director Torte's leadership, the Salton Sea Authority the Salton Sea Authority secured broad, historic support among the SSA member agencies and partner organizations to achieve unprecedented progress in federal legislation aligning US Dept of Agriculture programs and funding with the nexus of the Salton Sea and beneficial agricultural activity in the watershed. As a result, projects at the Salton Sea may qualify for federal program funding (nearly \$5 Billion) that can be matched with state and other nonfederal funding to achieve progress at the sea benefiting all stakeholders – including the federal government that holds almost 40 percent of the land in and around the sea with public trust responsibilities.

The Salton Sea Authority also provided critical support and information awareness that helped lead to historic local unity for the Perimeter Lake, a project proposed to establish a stable shoreline around the rim of the Salton Sea that will deliver multiple benefits: dust control, habitat restoration, recreational opportunity and renewable energy development. The SSA memorialized support for this concept by adopting a Resolution of Support, as did both counties, the IID and CVWD, the Torres Martinez tribe, along with every city council in both Imperial and Coachella Valleys plus every sovereign tribal nation. In addition, regional planning groups like CVAG support the concept along with private sector advocates of Salton Sea revitalization such as SSAC.

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: September 19, 2019
Re: Ratification of agreements between the Salton Sea Authority and local and federal partners for joint participation in project to restore research vessel access to Salton Sea via North Shore Yacht Club
CM No. VI.A – 09-19-2019

BACKGROUND:

Harbors that once provided access to the Sea are now unable to continue that function due to lowered Sea elevations and silt drift that has blocked ingress/egress from the harbors.

This growing concern has been brought to the attention of the SSA Board by university research teams as well as repeated state and federal agency staff reports that access points are compromised for research vessels required to fulfill state and federally mandated research on Salton Sea environmental conditions.

In response, and consistent with SSA board policy (Principle #1 “Assert Local Leadership”), SSA staff diligently facilitated interagency cooperation necessary to re-establish access via the North Shore Yacht Club.

In follow-up discussions with these parties, SSA staff identified a highly desirable option at the marina located at North Shore Yacht Club. The North Shore Yacht Club offers optimal access and a combination of amenities for this purpose found nowhere else around the Sea: safe and swift public access via state highway; an attractive, historically significant landmark facility offering clean restrooms, running water, air-conditioned meeting areas and ample parking. The Yacht Club and marina facilities are owned by the County of Riverside.

In addition to the existing launch ramp and marina with a short fetch to the open Sea, the yacht club grounds feature an architectural attraction with picnic areas offering unparalleled views of the vast Salton Sea.

With the assistance of the Salton Sea Authority, federal, state and local agencies have identified specific investments in maintenance and rehabilitation of infrastructure at the North Shore Yacht Club and marina facility that will restore critical access to the sea for these mandated environmental activities.

Staff from US Bureau of Reclamation have worked diligently with SSA and the Project Management Office at the Economic Development Agency of Riverside County to further develop the cost and

feasibility of dredging a channel at that location in order to meet the critical need for federal and state research vessels that are mandated to sample, monitor and report environmental conditions in the water and wildlife at the Sea. Both agencies have advanced cooperative agreements for their share of the project that are herein presented to the SSA board for ratification. Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy board has also approved funding contributions to restore research vessel access needed to monitor the habitat health that is central to their mission.

State officials have stated their firm support for this project which the SSA is promulgating in good faith to help the state fulfill its mandated responsibilities for monitoring and reporting Sea conditions. While state commitment has been promised, formal documentation to this effect remains pending.

Currently, the Yacht Club functions as an active community center but launch ramp access is compromised from accumulation of mud and silt blocking the ramp and marina area. The first phase of the proposed North Shore Yacht Club rehabilitation project will consist of cleaning debris from the ramp and clearing silt from the marina channel leading to the Salton Sea.

The North Shore Yacht Club is just two blocks from Highway 111, south of the community of Mecca in the former bustling recreational area of North Shore. This project will contribute to a restoration of mandated environmental functions of state and federal agencies while also encouraging a general revitalization of the sea and land area around the North Shore Yacht Club owned by Riverside County.

The immediate goal of the project is to restore accessible boat launching to the Salton Sea only for public agencies that must work on the Sea. There is potential, with other added investments, to improve public access to the Sea for local communities and tourists who wish to experience the Salton Sea by either boat or from safe, accessible picnic viewing areas on public land and facilities located at the historic North Shore Yacht Club.

Therefore, transmitted herewith, please find for your consideration and ratification the approved and executed documents for project participation from US Bureau of Reclamation, Riverside County, and Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy. Upon the Salton Sea Authority Board approval of these Agreements, and in all due haste, environmental and permitting work can be initiated with project implementation to follow.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board approve the attached project agreements authorizing the GM/Executive Director to expedite restoration of research vessels access to the Salton Sea via dredging project to be completed at the North Shore Yacht Club.

Respectfully,

Phil Rosentrater
GM/Executive Director

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
AND THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
REGARDING THE RESTORATION OF THE NORTH SHORE MARINA ACCESS TO
MONITOR DESERT PUFFISH AND WATER QUALITY AT THE SALTON SEA
GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Authority ("Authority also known as the Grantee") is a joint powers agency, existing pursuant to a Joint Powers Agreement ("JPA"), created to work with the State of California, the federal government and others to restore the Salton Sea, including the protection of endangered species, fisheries, water fowl and recreation; and,

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Economic Development Agency ("EDA also known as the County and in this agreement, a Subcontractor") is a County of Riverside entity that increases jobs, wages and capital investment from jobs to housing to community events that delivers social, economic and cultural benefits that enrich the quality of life in Riverside County; the County of Riverside is a member of the Authority; and,

WHEREAS, the Authority, in cooperation with the County, applied for and has been awarded by the Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region ("BOR Resources"), a grant in the amount of \$800,000.00 ("Grant Project") pursuant to a Funding Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, Agreement Number R19AP00080 ("Funding Agreement"); and

WHEREAS, the Authority and EDA desire to work together to implement the Grant Project pursuant to the Funding Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, on DATE, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved the recommendations of the Salton Sea Authority and authorized the County Executive Office to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Grantee;

NOW, THEREFORE, in the joint and mutual exercise of their powers, and in consideration of the above premises and of the mutual covenants herein contained and for other valuable consideration, the parties hereto agree as follows:

In order to effectuate the above-stated goals, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. Once a contract is signed with the Bureau or Reclamations, SSA agrees to pay for expenses incurred as of April 2019 that were performed and clarified by EDA during the proposed new agreement process. The contract is expected to be ratified within September of 2019 which infers that the contract would operate for 12 months thereafter.

2. Payments for work performed will be paid quarterly with the first quarter ending September 30, 2019. EDA shall submit their expenditures include back-up documentation to SSA and SSA will authorize the agreed upon expense(s) reimbursement by the 20th of the following month. If this methodology becomes a burden for the Subcontractor, the Subcontractor can submit their invoice early for SSA payment consideration; this would be mutually agreed upon by both the Grantee and the Subcontractor. This scenario would be exercised if the bulk of expenses occurred within one quarter and the Contractor would not want there to be any delays in scheduling or servicing.
3. EDA agrees that any expenses will be charged to the Grant as specified in their Subcontractor budget and SSA will approve said expenses based on the same.
4. Grant funds shall only be used in the manner they were proposed and approved by the Bureau of Reclamation. Any changes, alterations, etc., to the budget must be approved by the partners, (Grantee and Subcontractor) and submitted to the BOR for approval if contract stipulations require before any action can be taken on the proposed budget changes.
5. Any controversy, dispute or claim between the Authority and EDA arising under this Agreement that cannot be resolved by good faith negotiations between the parties shall be resolved by binding arbitration pursuant to Article 13.1 of the JPA.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, THE PARTIES AFFIX THEIR SIGNATURES ON THE DATE(S) INDICATED BELOW:

Dated: _____

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY

By: _____

Castulo Estrada
Salton Sea Authority President

Dated: AUG 06 2019

RIVERSIDE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

By: _____

Kevin Jeffries,
Riverside County Board of Supervisors' Chairman

ATTEST:

KEQIA R. HARPER, Clerk

By: KEQIA R. HARPER
DEPUTY

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL

BY KRISTINE BELL-VALDEZ DATE 7/16/19

77933.00032\9520788.1

DRAFT 1/19/15, 5/29/15 final



**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 19-10**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF
AN APPLICATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea region is an irreplaceable environmental resource for California – providing vital habitat sustaining over 400 resident and migratory avian species, which is particularly important as California has lost over 90% of its other wetlands; and,

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Authority is an organization established in 1993 for the purpose of developing local consensus for actions to revitalize the Salton Sea, with membership comprised of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Riverside and Imperial Counties, and Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority desires to submit a grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation Assistance Agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Reclamation administers the Financial Assistance Grant Program for the Department of Interior; and,

WHEREAS, the Financial Assistance Grant Program funds can be used for activities for the improvement of fish and wildlife habitat associated with water systems or water supplies affected by Bureau of Reclamation Projects; and,

WHEREAS, the funds will be used for the provision of restoring the North Shore Marina access to monitor Desert Pupfish and water quality at the Salton Sea; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority hereby approves the submittal of the grant application in the amount of \$800,000.01 and authorizes the GM/Executive Director to implement, administer, and sign the grant; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the grant monies will be used for the restoration, access and monitoring efforts stated in the Salton Sea Authority application.

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTENTIONS:

[illegible]

Dated this 19th day of September 2019.

SSA Resolution No. 19-10, p. 2 of 2



**SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. 19-11**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF
AN APPLICATION FOR COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT (PROPOSITION 1) PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea region is an irreplaceable environmental resource for California – providing vital habitat sustaining over 400 resident and migratory avian species, which is particularly important as California has lost over 90% of its other wetlands; and,

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Authority is an organization established in 1993 for the purpose of developing local consensus for actions to revitalize the Salton Sea, with membership comprised of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Riverside and Imperial Counties, and Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority desires to submit a grant application to the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy Local Assistance Grant (PROPOSITION 1); and,

WHEREAS, the Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy administers the Local Assistance Grant (PROPOSITION 1) for the State of California; and,

WHEREAS, the Local Assistance Grant (PROPOSITION 1) funds can be used for Restoration and Infrastructure Improvement Projects; and,

WHEREAS, the funds will be used for the provision of Restoration and Infrastructure Improvement for the North Shore Beach and Yacht Club Harbor community; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority hereby approves the submittal of the grant application in the amount of \$800,000.00 and authorizes the GM/Executive Director to implement, administer, and sign the grant; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the grant monies will be used for the revitalization efforts stated in the Salton Sea Authority application.

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTENTIONS:

[illegible]

Dated this 19th day of September 2019.

SSA Resolution No. 19-11, p. 2 of 2

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director
Date: September 19, 2019
Re: ACWA Region 9 Board representation
CM No. VLB – 09-19-2019

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Directors of the Salton Sea Authority has an opportunity to assert a leadership role beneficial to the agencies comprising the Authority as well as the neighboring regions impacted by the Sea.

The Guiding Principles for Legislative Action adopted by the SSA Board of Directors call for action to “ASSERT LOCAL LEADERSHIP” wherever feasible to advance the shared interests of the SSA and its partner agencies in revitalizing the Salton Sea. In addition, the Salton Sea is an issue that is certainly impactful on the region and the water agencies that share its watershed or rely upon Colorado River water.

California’s largest water advocacy organization, Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) is requesting its membership to select candidates to serve on the ACWA Board for Region 9, a portion of ACWA’s service area that includes water resource agencies in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties. The Region 9 Board has nominated a slate of candidates recommended for service in leading the direction of ACWA Region 9 for the 2020-2021 term.

The leadership of ACWA’s ten geographical regions is integral to the leadership of the Association as a whole. The Chair and Vice Chair of Region 9 serve on ACWA’s Statewide Board of Directors and recommend all committee appointments for Region 9. The members of the Region 9 Board determine the direction and focus of region issues and activities. Additionally, they support the fulfillment of ACWA’s goals on behalf of members.

Board action prior to Sept 30, 2019 is required in order to send an authorized ballot from SSA to ACWA. The votes tallied from responses by all the other ballots gathered from ACWA Region 9 member agencies would provide the final determination of who will serve on the Region 9 Board in the coming term.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board consider the candidates nominated to serve on the ACWA Region 9 Board and authorize staff to deliver the SSA Board response to the ballot to ACWA.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater
GM/Executive Director

OFFICIAL REGION 9 Board Ballot

2020-2021
TERM



**Please return completed
ballot by September 30, 2019**

E-mail: regionelections@acwa.com
Mail: ACWA
910 K Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

General Voting Instructions:

- 1 You may either vote for the slate recommended by the Region 9 Nominating Committee or vote for individual region board members (please note rules & regulations for specific qualifications). Mark the appropriate box to indicate your decision.
- 2 Complete your agency information. The authorized representative is determined by your agency in accordance with your agency's policies and procedures.

Region 9 Rules & Regulations:

The chair and vice chair shall be elected, one from each area, and the positions shall be rotated between the Western and Arid areas of Region 9. For the 2020-2021 term the chair shall be from the Arid area.

1

Nominating Committee's Recommended Slate

- ☐ I concur with the Region 9 Nominating Committee's recommended slate below.

CHAIR:

- **Phil Rosentrater**, GM/Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority (Arid)

VICE CHAIR:

- **Harvey R. Ryan**, Board Member, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (Western)

BOARD MEMBERS:

- **Brenda Dennstedt**, Board Member, Western Municipal Water District
- **Carol Lee Brady**, Director – Vice President, Rancho California Water District
- **G. Patrick O'Dowd**, Board Member, Coachella Valley Water District
- **Luis Cetina**, Vice President, Cucamonga Valley Water District
- **James Morales Jr.**, Governing Board Member, East Valley Water District

OR

Individual Board Candidate Nominations

(See Rules & Regulations before selecting)

- ☐ I do not concur with the Region 9 Nominating Committee's recommended slate. I will vote for individual candidates below as indicated.

CANDIDATES FOR CHAIR: (CHOOSE ONE)

- ☐ **G. Patrick O'Dowd**, Board Member, Coachella Valley Water District (Arid)
- ☐ **Phil Rosentrater**, GM/Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority (Arid)

CANDIDATES FOR VICE CHAIR: (CHOOSE ONE)

- ☐ **Luis Cetina**, Vice President, Cucamonga Valley Water District (Western)
- ☐ **Brenda Dennstedt**, Board Member, Western Municipal Water District (Western)
- ☐ **Harvey R. Ryan**, Board Member, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (Western)

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD MEMBERS: (MAX OF 5 CHOICES)

- ☐ **Carol Lee Brady**, Director – Vice President, Rancho California Water District
- ☐ **Luis Cetina**, Vice President, Cucamonga Valley Water District
- ☐ **Brenda Dennstedt**, Board Member, Western Municipal Water District
- ☐ **Joseph Kuebler**, Treasurer, Eastern Municipal Water District
- ☐ **James Morales Jr.**, Governing Board Member, East Valley Water District
- ☐ **G. Patrick O'Dowd**, Board Member, Coachella Valley Water District
- ☐ **Phil Rosentrater**, GM/Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority
- ☐ **Harvey R. Ryan**, Board Member, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

2

AGENCY NAME

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

DATE

Salton Sea Authority

General Manager/Executive Director Progress Report to the Board of Directors

September 19, 2019

PURPOSE:

- 1) Provide Salton Sea Authority (SSA) Board of Directors with an executive summary of progress toward essential objectives; and,
- 2) Provide accountability and perspective for staff performance.

MISSION-CRITICAL OBJECTIVES FOR SSA (NEXT 6 MONTHS TO 1 YEAR):

Time is extremely short, funding limited, and staff focus is finite. While the SSA GM/Executive Director is committed to seizing every opportunity, and maximizing Return on Investment (ROI) on every dollar and all time invested, we recognize we cannot do everything in this complex assignment. Accordingly, the following top priority imperatives must be accomplished within this fiscal year:

- **ASSERT LOCAL LEADERSHIP: MAINTAIN LOCAL PRIORITIES IN State/Fed PARTNERSHIPS**
- **INTEGRITY/PERFORMANCE: DEVELOP & DELIVER PROJECTS ON TIME, UNDER BUDGET**
- **SECURE SIGNIFICANT FUNDING TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN/AROUND THE SEA**
- **LAUNCH SELF-HELP REVENUE STRATEGIES: Develop projects and partnerships (local/state/federal & public/private) that will generate new investments/revenues from Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) and Renewable Energy**

LEADERSHIP

Administration

The Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and staff continue to build administrative capacity to assert a leadership role overseeing a minimum of \$20 million in state funds (directly designated to SSA in Prop 68) for implementation of SSMP projects.

At the direction of the SSA Board, SSA management released an RFP for state advocacy focused on securing additional funding for projects to be funded through the \$30 M authorized for SSA oversight in Prop 68 water bond monies as approved by California voters in June 2018. Ten firms responded and were subsequently evaluated by an ad hoc search committee appointed by President Castulo Estrada. Lowest cost proposal scoring highest on critical background, capacity, experience and performance criteria was Ollin Strategies based in Sacramento. Per SSA Board direction, management executed a contract to immediately begin working on a

junior budget and related follow-up state funding options as called for in the contract. The Consultant is helping the state define the steps and conditions required for release of funds.

In recognition of the significant workload anticipated in linking existing state funding (Prop 1 and Prop 68) with major federal funding opportunities (particularly the 2018 Farm Bill) to accomplish SSMP projects, SSA management has secured a highly competent grant manager on contract through a temp agency. This contract staff member has proven to be extremely effective in working with multiple agencies to define an equitable cost share for an interagency cooperative project needed to re-establish Sea access for research vessels. Project participation agreements in support of this forward progress are to be submitted for SSA board consideration at the September 19 board meeting as a result of these successful efforts by SSA staff with colleagues at partnering agencies US Bureau of Reclamation, California Natural Resources Agency, Riverside County, and Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy.

The SSA board authorized recruitment of additional SSA contract staff to be retained in order to manage and develop SSMP projects, subject to release to SSA of voter approved state funding in Prop 68. Budget and scope for projects are being developed in parallel to preparation for recruitment.

Internal support for project management in conjunction with partner agencies is underway in anticipation of additional workload related to bond funds and other grant sources that can drive projects at the Sea.

Meanwhile, the Salton Sea Authority continues to work with stakeholders and staff from partner agencies and counterparts at state and federal levels to ensure technical coordination is happening as the SSMP plans take shape. In addition, SSA is coordinating interagency meetings for staff at local, state, and federal levels to ensure a unified local voice is maintained in efficient and effective advocacy for funding as well as project implementation.

DEVELOP REALISTIC REVITALIZATION STRATEGY

Salton Sea Management Plan (SSMP) / 10-Year Plan / Stipulated Order

In keeping with state law (AB 71), SSA is pursuing cooperation and consultation with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), to implement the SSMP Revitalization Plan for the Salton Sea as defined in the 10-Year Plan.

State efforts are concentrated on launching Species Conservation Habitat (SCH), a 3,770-acre wetlands project located at the New River. This project is the most nearly shovel-ready of all the projects identified in the state's priority list. State budget documents reveal there is a \$110 million budget request by CNRA for this project in the coming year.

The CNRA is also recruiting staff to accelerate implementation of the SSMP 10-Year Plan. SSA Directors have requested state consideration for more staff to be recruited and placed in the Coachella and Imperial Valley areas to enhance efficiency and coordination. The SSA Board has also requested an exact accounting of the new positions to be filled and the budget for build-out of the state roster, as well as the state funds expended from Props 1 and 68 thus far.

SSA Board has authorized recruitment of additional contract support staff and consultants in order to build capacity needed to accept the \$30 M authorized for SSA oversight in Prop 68. In accord with SSA board directives, SSA management has secured additional support to help the state define the path and projects for deployment of those monies.

SSA staff continues to meet with numerous community organizations and stakeholder groups to provide updates consistent with SSA board policy. As a result, unprecedented levels of consensus have developed on the shared conceptual project of the Perimeter Lake. County member agencies of SSA are continuing to support the joint county-coordinated development of EIFD that can reinforce and accelerate public-private partnership investment at the Sea, leveraging the public infrastructure investments anticipated with the SSMP. The SSA and all its member agencies, as well as cities and tribes across the Salton basin, have also adopted Resolutions of Support for this collaborative approach.

The feasibility of EIFD is advancing toward a more public discussion as project plans become better defined. In Riverside County, portions of a Perimeter Lake that would establish deep water recreational habitat in northern areas of the lake is to be the focus of a workshop at North Shore Yacht Club on October 15.

The EIFD rules call for investment in a specific defined infrastructure that establishes a clear nexus of benefit to the community or district that funds the infrastructure. The infrastructure associated with the Perimeter Lake, to be built in a manner that complements the state priorities and investment in SSMP, is identified as the primary project to be supported by local agencies and tribes throughout the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. This is fully consistent with the letter and spirit of state law as expressed in AB 71 (Perez). The Perimeter Lake is also internally consistent with the SSMP 10-Year Plan which includes the SCH on the New River and North Lake on Whitewater, respectively as the first and second major projects that can anchor a series of additional SSMP projects. The objective is to establish a stable shoreline covering dusty playa and restoring aquatic habitat in a manner that enhances economic opportunity in recreation and renewable energy development -- keys to yielding a healthier and more prosperous Salton Sea in the long term.

These SSMP 10-Year Plan first-phase projects have been proposed by the state with the expectation that they can be constructed quickly, delivering multiple benefits of air quality improvement through playa coverage and habitat restoration, while also enhancing economic development potential that builds long-term financial sustainability into the projects across the watershed.

SSMP inclusion of the stable shoreline anticipated in a Perimeter Lake represents a significant step toward establishing viable EIFD's in the respective county jurisdictions. Properly configured, the state funding deployed in Sea projects designed to create a stable shoreline would enhance economic benefits on shore, thus stimulating an otherwise nonexistent revenue stream that can be harnessed locally in partnership with the state and federal governments to address shared concerns at the Sea.

At the federal level, SSA and its member agencies are beginning to see signs of progress in seeking federal agency investments commensurate with property ownership and public trust and tribal trust responsibilities at the Sea. The US Bureau of Reclamation has stepped up to work cooperatively with the SSA in order to help re-establish research vessel access needed for that agency to fulfill its mandated responsibilities. This effort has provided a feasible approach for other mandated state and federal activities to proceed as well as research institutions needing access to the Sea for monitoring and reporting activities.

SSA is committed to do its utmost to facilitate local, state and federal success in performance of the Stipulate Order SSMP 10-Year Plan as the first steps prerequisite to maintaining water security in California, in the southwestern US, and in Mexico.

PERFORMANCE

Making good on grants for projects at the Sea

North Shore Yacht Club Harbor Rehabilitation: Research Vessel Access for mandated activity

Harbors that once provided access to the Sea are now unable to continue that function due to lowered Sea elevations and silt drift that has blocked ingress/egress from the harbors.

In response to reports to the SSA Board by university research teams as well as federal agency reports that access points are compromised for research vessels required to fulfill state and federally mandated research on Salton Sea environmental conditions Sea, SSA staff has facilitated interagency cooperation to re-establish access via the North Shore Yacht Club.

In follow-up discussions with these parties, SSA staff identified a highly desirable option at the marina located at the North Shore Yacht Club. The North Shore Yacht Club offers optimal access and a combination of amenities for this purpose found nowhere else around the Sea: safe and swift public access via state highway; an attractive, historically significant landmark facility offering clean restrooms, running water, air-conditioned meeting areas and ample parking. In addition to the existing launch ramp and marina with a short fetch to the open Sea, the yacht club grounds feature an architectural attraction with picnic areas offering unparalleled views of the vast Salton Sea.

With the assistance of the Salton Sea Authority, federal, state and local agencies have identified specific investments in maintenance and rehabilitation of infrastructure at the North Shore Yacht Club and marina facility that will restore critical access to the sea for these mandated environmental activities.

Staff from US Bureau of Reclamation have worked diligently with SSA and the Project Management Office at the Economic Development Agency of Riverside County (property owner) to further develop the cost and feasibility of dredging a channel at that location in order to meet the critical need for federal and state research vessels that are mandated to sample, monitor and report environmental conditions in the water and wildlife at the Sea. Both agencies have advanced cooperative agreements for their share of the project that will be presented to the SSA board at the September board meeting for ratification. Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy has also contributed funding to restore research vessel access needed to monitor the habitat health that is central to their mission. Although the state has verbally committed to support this project which helps the state fulfill its mandated responsibilities for monitoring and reporting on Sea conditions, formal documentation remains a work in progress.

While the Yacht Club functions as an active community center today, launch ramp access is compromised from accumulation of mud and silt blocking the ramp and marina area. The first phase of the proposed North Shore Yacht Club rehabilitation project will consist of cleaning debris from the ramp and clearing silt from the marina channel leading to the Salton Sea.

The North Shore Yacht Club is only two blocks from Highway 111, south of the community of Mecca in the former bustling recreational area of North Shore. This project will contribute to a restoration of mandated environmental functions of state and federal agencies while also encouraging a general revitalization of the sea and land area around the North Shore Yacht Club owned by Riverside County.

The immediate goal of the project is to restore accessible boat launching to the Salton Sea for public agencies that must work on the sea. There is potential, with other added investments, to improve public access to the Sea for local communities and tourists who wish to experience the Salton Sea by either boat or safe, accessible picnic viewing areas on public land and facilities located at the historic North Shore Yacht Club.

DWR-Funded Grant -- Torres Martinez Wetlands Project (Phase 2)

SSA staff are meeting with new interim administrators at the Torres Martinez tribe to re-energize this project that has been on hiatus for the past year after an impressive completion of Phase 1 built according to spec and delivered on time and under budget. Progress to move forward on implementing the Phase 2 proposal for expansion of the TM Wetlands is pending installation of a seepage barrier requested by the TM project managers for both Phase 1 (retrofit) and Phase 2.

Staff discussion between state, SSA and Torrez Martinez partners remains focused upon resolution of operational delay in the completed Phase 1 project due to seepage concerns by tribal staff. Tribal project operators have noted that a viable seepage barrier can pay for itself over time by reducing operational costs for electricity (to run pumps) while also reducing maintenance costs by inhibiting growth of invasive plants and trees in the ponds.

SSA has identified additional grant resources to secure the seepage barrier which would otherwise exceed the scope and budget of the original Phase 2 proposal to the state. The seepage barrier, while costly up front, should reduce potential pumping burden required to offset seepage and evaporation losses.

Meanwhile, with the exception of the additional seepage barrier installation, the project at Phase 1 level has been found to be fully functional as designed and built.

As more projects and funding come online at the Salton Sea, this model for funding contracts for the SSA to implement final design and construction serves as an example of effective structure for implementing future projects at the Sea.

FUNDING

State:

- The SSA has engaged contract consultants to work with CNRA to develop guidance regarding the process for defining projects eligible for state funding (\$20 Million) designated to the SSA for direct oversight role in implementing SSMP projects, as well as the potential \$10 million additional for treatment wetlands at the New River.

Federal:

- In response to SSA Board direction to staff to raise the profile of Salton Sea issues in the context of federal roles, responsibilities and partnership opportunities, the SSA is working with its federal consultant to confirm commitments for additional hearings in Washington, DC, possibly in the Fall of 2019.
- Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) – In accord with SSA board direction, the SSA has requested ACOE cooperation in expediting permit processing for the larger series of SSMP projects based upon the existing federal permits approved as part of the state's SCH project (the first major project moving ahead in the SSMP 10-Year Plan list). Progress In addition, SSA is pursuing placement and funding for the ACOE Work Plan for upcoming budgets, and eventual access to WRDA authorization (\$30 million). The SSA is working with the TM Tribe in support of the Tribal Partnership Program that may provide Army Corps engagement in projects in the Salton Sea watershed on Torres Martinez tribal lands.

- US Department of Agriculture – Through the unified efforts among the SSA, its partner agencies and key stakeholders, existing programs in USDA have been successfully aligned to allow the federal government to work in partnership with tribes, irrigation districts and the state to deploy and expand federal match funds in projects at the Salton Sea that would help the agricultural community weather Sea changes in a manner that protects the environment. This enormous progress was achieved in part because every SSA Director along with leaders from stakeholder groups and the CNRA signed a series of joint letters to help reinforce successful passage of the Farm Bill last year. Now that funding has been secured, SSA and partner agencies are focused upon development and promotion of projects in the SSMP that will meet the eligibility requirements for this funding.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – WIFIA provides a federal loan and guarantee program that aims to accelerate investment in the nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects, including many county water infrastructure projects. Prospective borrowers seeking WIFIA credit assistance must submit a letter of interest (LOI) to EPA to initiate the process. Discussions are on-going among potential local partners in EIFD strategies for application in subsequent rounds of WIFIA.

SELF HELP STRATEGIES

IFD/EIFD

The SSA Board approved a resolution to recognize this historic level of local unity on the Perimeter Lake concept at the May 2019 board of directors meeting. The Perimeter Lake concept – which includes SCH and North Lake projects as the first and second steps (respectively) toward a series of additional projects providing the benefits of a stable shoreline – is universally supported by local governments around the Salton Sea. Both counties, all SSA member agencies, all cities in both Imperial and Coachella Valleys plus all major Tribal nations have approved letters or resolutions of support for the Perimeter Lake. As noted, the CNRA has officially included Perimeter Lake concepts of the SCH and North Lake in the SSMP 10-Year Plan. This unified action provides a major boost toward establishing viable EIFD's around the Salton Sea.

A Perimeter Lake designed to create a stable shoreline would deliver the essential state mitigations for environmental protection and habitat while enhancing economic development that can provide a more financially sustainable Sea in the future. Over time, EIFD's are expected to harness local revenues that would otherwise dissipate to the general fund of each county. A Salton Sea EIFD would instead direct a portion of these improved revenues to productive projects at the Salton Sea in potential partnership with private sector, as well as state and federal governments.

Riverside County and Imperial County are both moving ahead with strategies to generate local capital through EIFD scenarios that may jump-start infrastructure investments consistent with the SSMP. The counties, who are member agencies of the SSA, recognize the value of coordinating projects within the shared watershed that may be funded in part with locally leveraged finances.

Riverside County Board of Supervisors established an EIFD boundary to fund projects in October 2018. The District is a Riverside County portion surrounding a northern section of a Perimeter Lake extending into Imperial County. Riverside County Supervisors also appointed a finance board to oversee the funding. Approval by property owners within the EIFD is still required to fully activate the EIFD. A workshop to explain EID in the Riverside County portion of the Sea will be held Tuesday, Oct 15 at the North Shore Yacht Club.

Imperial County has commissioned a feasibility analysis with the SoCal Association of Governments. This preliminary report was unveiled for public review at a workshop held prior to the SSA Board meeting in April, in conjunction with the Energy Summit sponsored by the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. A more robust follow-up analysis by SCAG on renewable energy opportunities and land value improvement in Imperial County is anticipated.

SSA initiated preliminary action on IFD strategies by completing its contract – on time, and under budget – with the California Natural Resources Agency (as a result of AB 71) to identify potential revenue generated by improved property values and economic activity around the Sea due to stable shoreline allowing recreation and renewable energy development. This data has been shared with the two counties as partner agencies of the SSA in order to expedite progress within their respective taxing jurisdictions.

The IFD concept in the SSA Financial Feasibility Action Plan assumes the primary benefits to the property values would be derived from infrastructure built in the sea that would create a stable shoreline with water distribution for dust control and deep-water habitat in addition to restored recreational value for marina communities and renewable energy development. A subsequent report by Tourism Economics, based on far more conservative assumptions, still supports the findings that significant revenues may be generated from a project that creates deep water habitat on the north end of the Sea.

The report assumes the in-sea infrastructure would: 1) protect existing and future communities from an emissive lakebed exposed by a shrinking sea and an otherwise receding shoreline; and 2) provide a shoreline with aquatic recreation on a scale that would draw tourists, recreationists, and additional residential or commercial investment that could meet a growing demand for services and amenities related to a recreational lake.

The SSA will continue to cooperate and consult with county officials for the purpose of outlining a coordinated strategy and timeline for next steps that can accelerate local priorities in a manner consistent with state obligations and resources under the SSMP.