



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
SALTON SEA
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

THE SALTON SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Salton Sea Authority

Gail Sevrens, Salton Sea Program Manager
September 17, 2020

Overview – Program Priorities

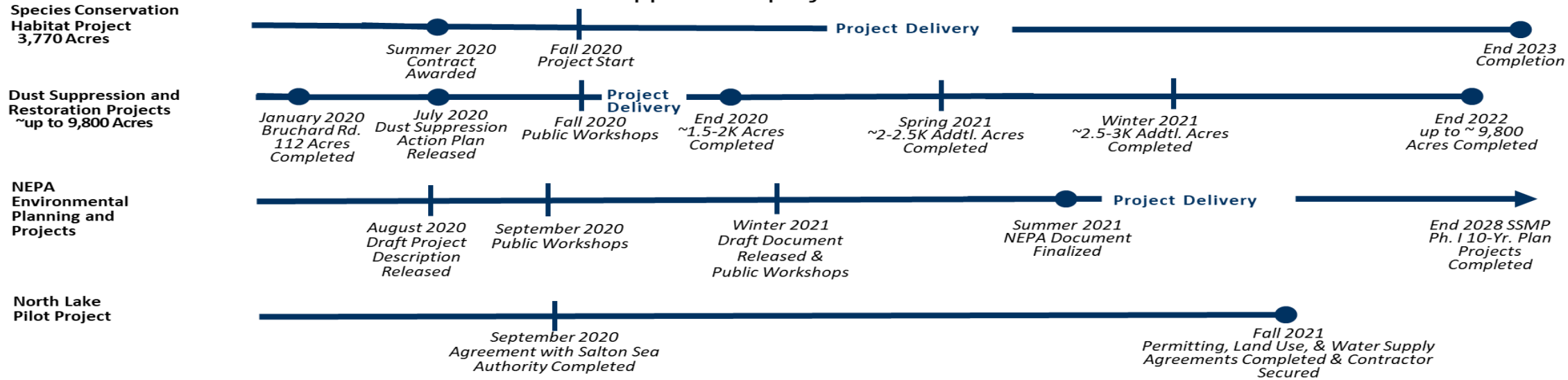
- **Making significant, visible progress on implementing the Salton Sea Management Program's Phase 1: 10-Year Plan**
- **Establishing a long-term pathway beyond 10-Year Plan**
- **Building the capacity of SSMP team**
- **Strengthening partnerships with local leaders and communities**

Salton Sea Management Program

Project Delivery Timeline



SSMP Phase I: 10-Year Plan – ~30K acres of habitat and dust suppression projects



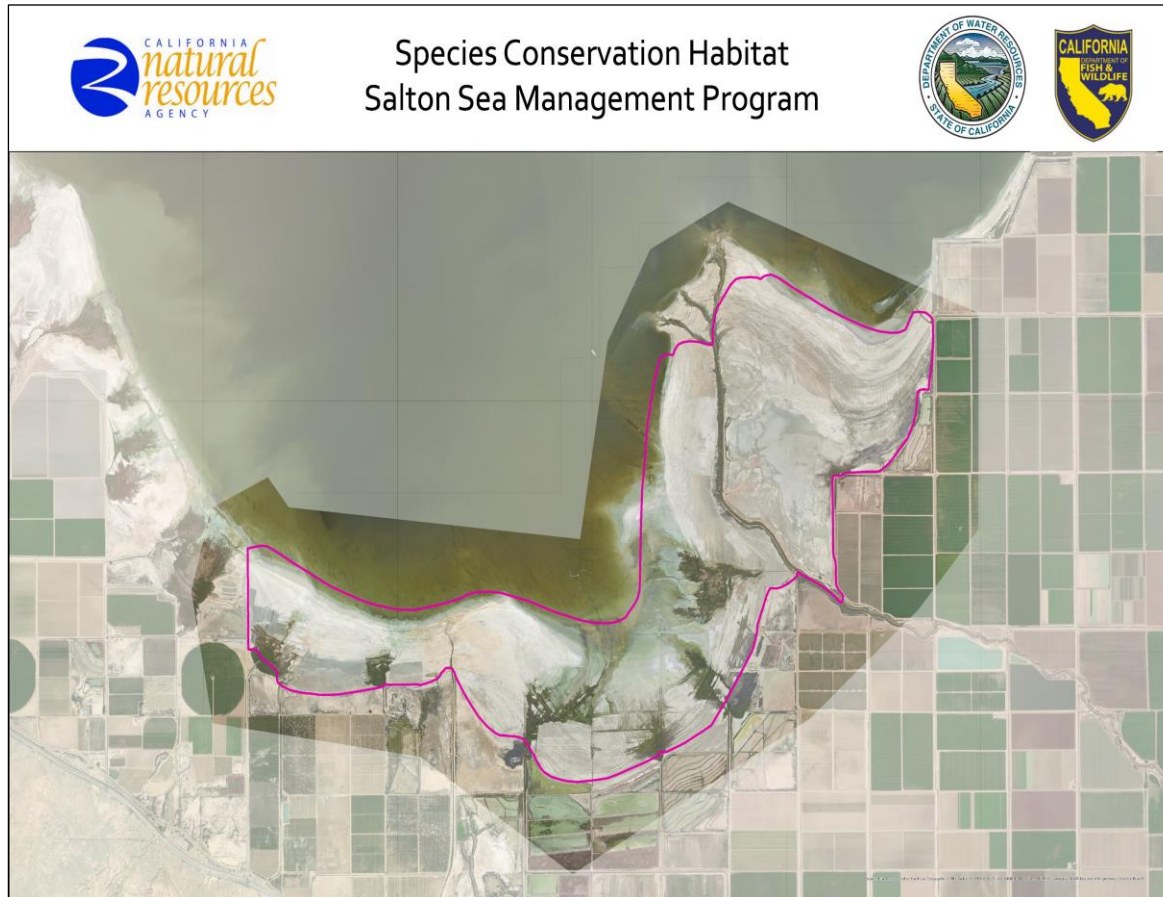
SSMP Long-Term Plan



Priority

***Making significant, visible progress on
implementing the Salton Sea Management
Program's Phase 1: 10-Year Plan***

Making Progress: *Construct Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) Project*



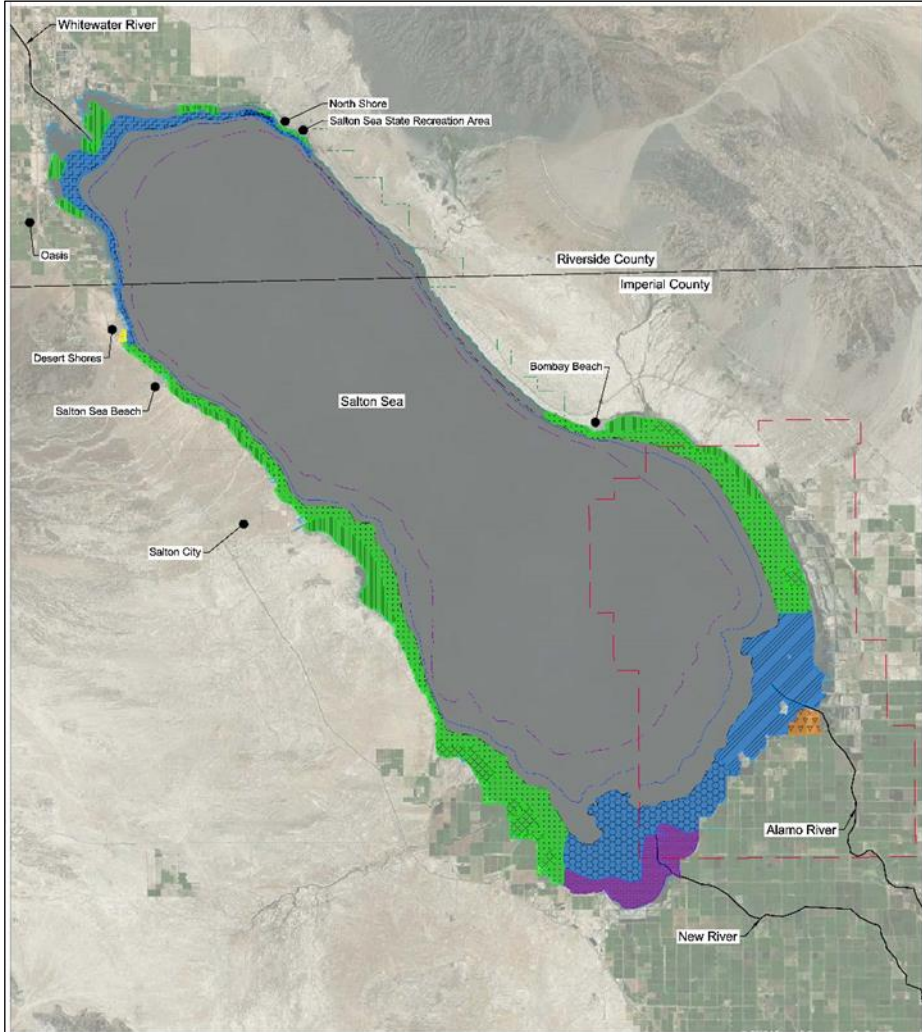
- Create habitat and suppress dust on approximately 3,770 acres of exposed lakebed.
- Kiewit Infrastructure West Co. selected in July as best-value design-build entity. Contract executed in September.
- Work to begin this fall; construction completed by 2023.

Making Progress: Complete Several Thousand Acres of Dust Suppression and Restoration Projects

- Dust Suppression Action Plan released in July
- Project delivery through end of 2021
- Today you will have a separate presentation dedicated to the DSAP



Making Progress: Complete Environmental Planning for SSMP 10-Year Plan Projects

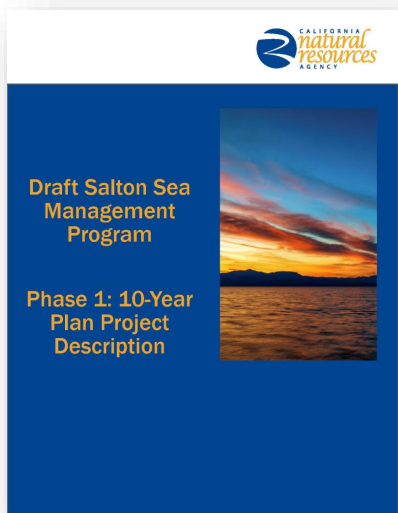


- SSMP and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completing NEPA:
 - August/September 2020: Release Draft Project Description, hold public workshops
 - Winter 2021: Release Draft Environmental Assessment, hold public workshops
 - Summer 2021: Issue Final Environmental Assessment
- Comprehensive NEPA compliance enables implementation of 10-Year Plan projects, such as:
 - **Aquatic habitat** around SCH and Alamo River
 - **North Lake Project**, including first phase 156-acre North Lake Demonstration Project
 - **Dust Suppression and Restoration Projects** on exposed lakebed around perimeter of Sea

Today's Workshop Agenda

Draft Project Description and Background materials:

<https://saltonsea.ca.gov/planning/ssmp-draft-description-project/>



Workshops

Tuesday, September 22, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Wednesday, September 23, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Thursday, September 24, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Email comments through September 30:
cnra-saltonsea@resources.ca.gov

Workshop Agenda



Draft Salton Sea
Management
Program

Phase 1: 10-Year
Plan Project
Description



- **Introduction** (Gail Sevrens, California Department of Fish and Wildlife)
- **Role of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Other Federal Agencies** (Corice Farrar/Kyle Dahl, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- **Project Description Overview** (Melinda Dorin, Department of Water Resources, Tamara Klug, Cardno)
- **Public Comment and Clarification Questions** (Gail Sevrens, facilitator)

Priority

***Establishing Long-term Pathway
Beyond 10-Year Plan***

Establishing Long-Term Pathway: *Advance Development of Long-Term Plan*



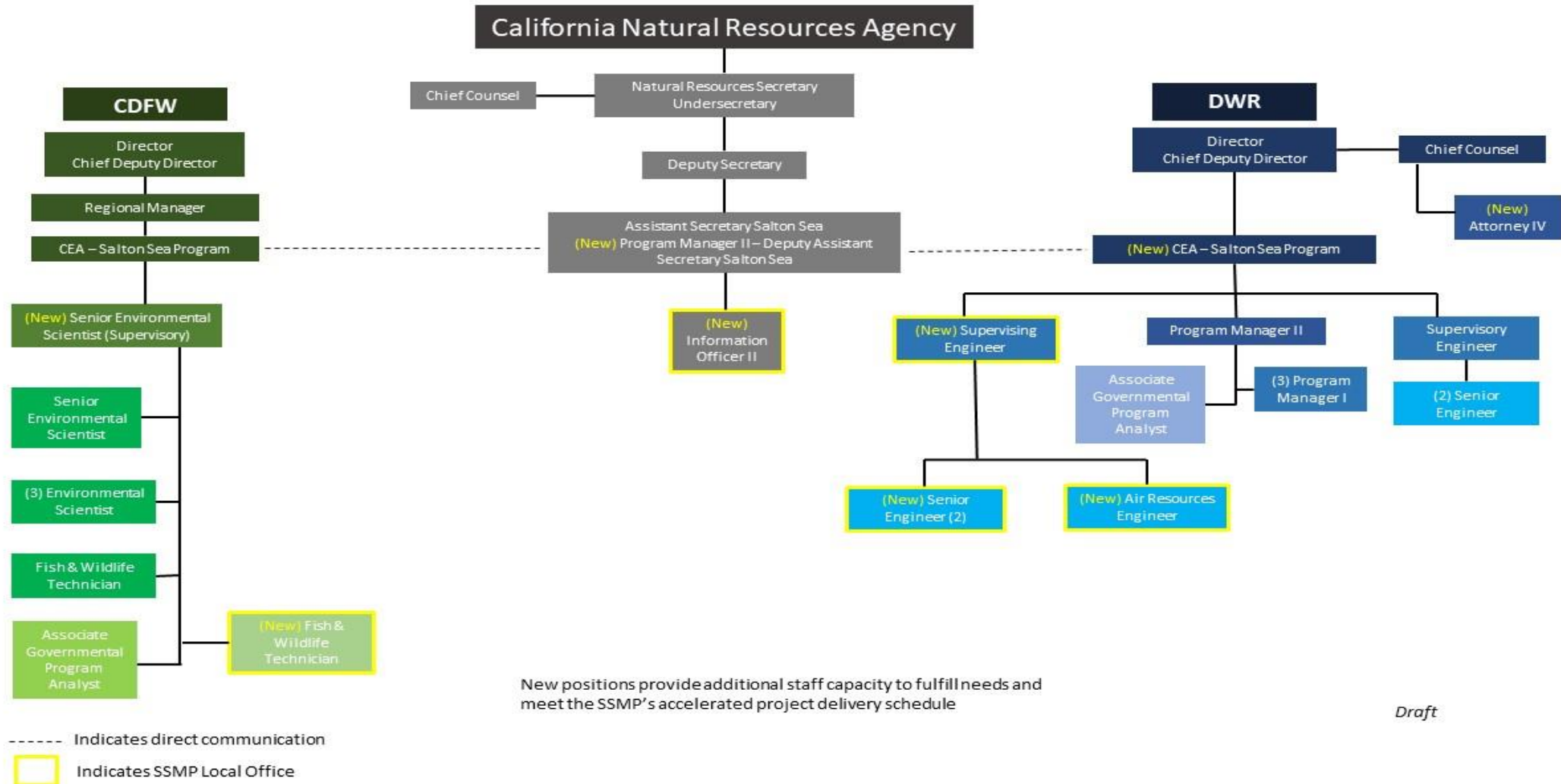
- Develop Long-Term Plan to establish a strategy for long-term restoration
- Evaluate range of feasible restoration alternatives to inform Plan, including project build-out based on projected future water inflows to a potential whole-sea alternative based on water importation, if feasible.
- Path Forward:
 - Fall 2020: Select Independent Reviewer and begin feasibility analysis of water importation.
 - Spring 2021: Launch public engagement on Long-Term Plan.
 - Winter 2021: Complete feasibility analysis of water importation.
 - End of 2022: Complete final Long-Term Plan and submit to the SWRCB.

Priority

Building the capacity of SSMP team

Building Capacity:

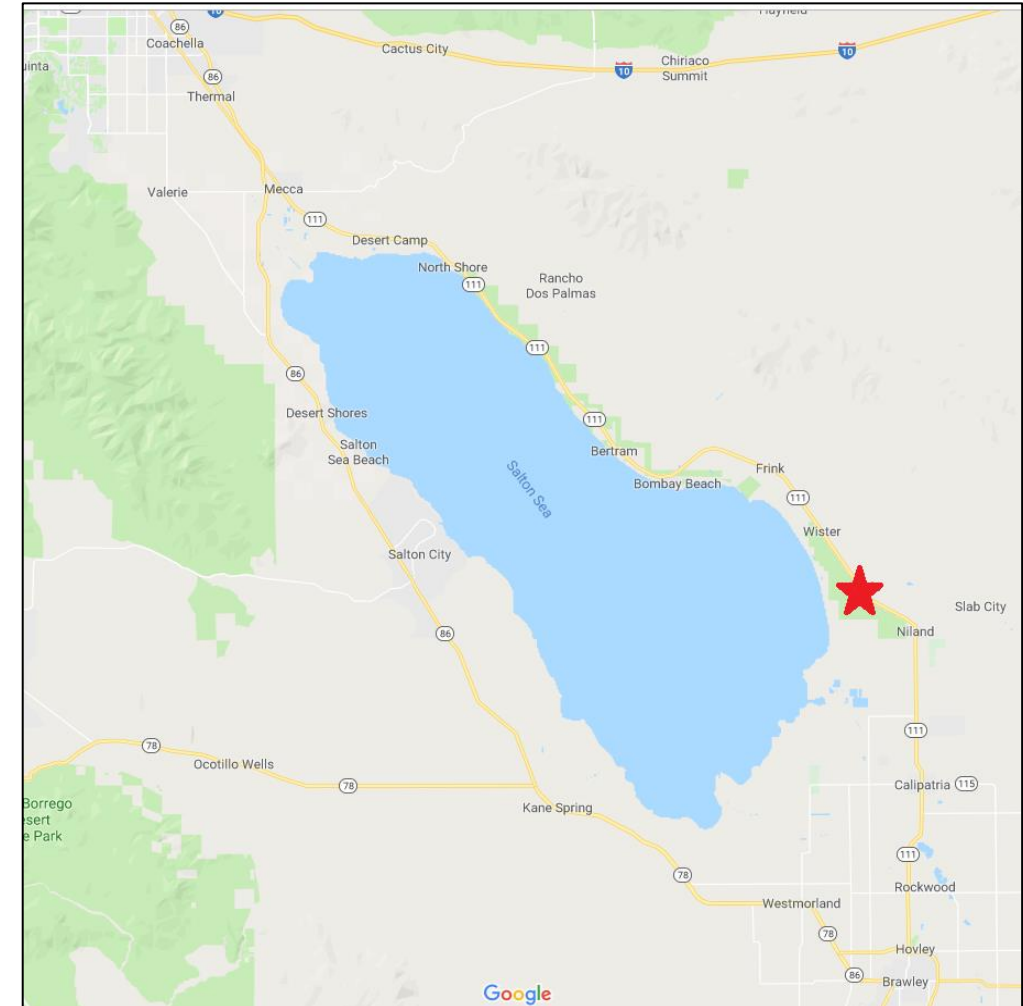
Enhance organizational capacity to increase the pace and scale of ecological restoration



Building Capacity:

Establish Temporary Local Salton Sea Office – Wister Wildlife Area

- Enhance business operations and increase SSMP local presence
- Centrally located to all current and future state-funded habitat and air quality projects
- Centralized location to key communities
- State-owned public facility
- Short lead time compared to other options



Building Capacity:

Establish Temporary Local Salton Sea Office – Wister Wildlife Area

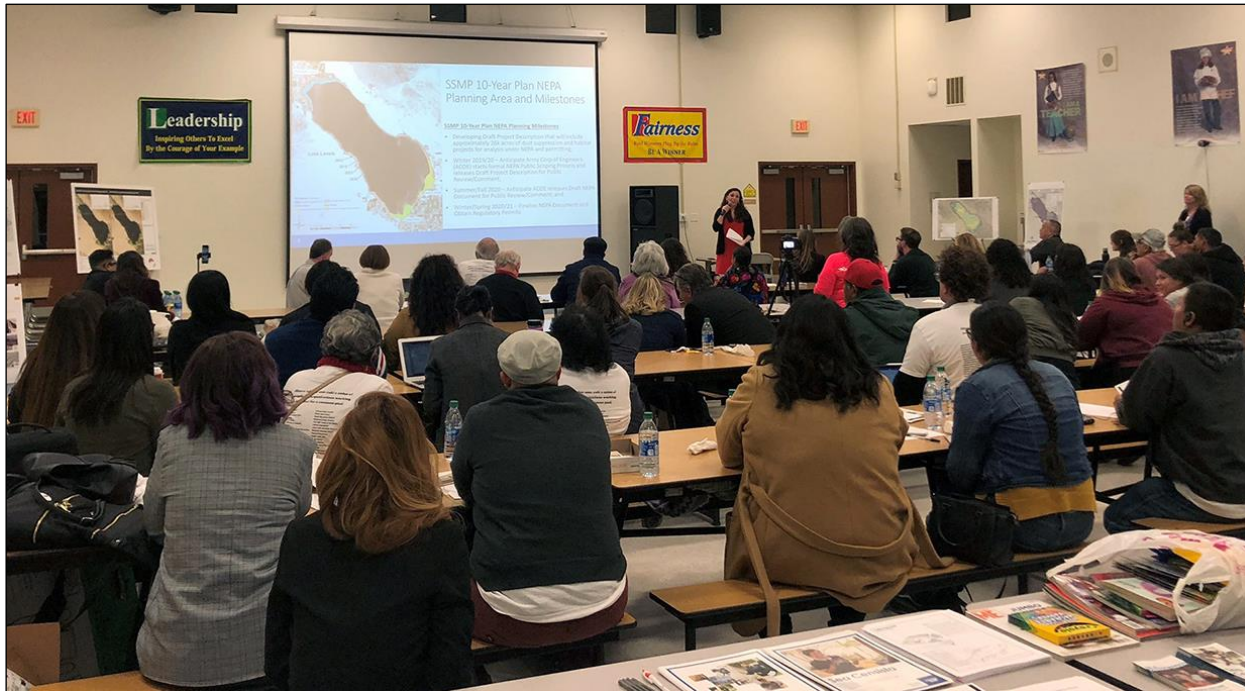
Key Locations	Distance from Wister in miles
New River (SCH)	20
SBNWR	12
Alamo River	8
California State Recreational Area	25
Whitewater River (North Lake)	35

Nearest Communities	Distance from Wister in miles
Bombay Beach	12
Brawley, CA	25
Westmorland	27
El Centro	45
Coachella Valley (Indio)	50
Palm Springs	70

Priority

***Strengthening partnerships with local leaders
and communities***

Strengthening Partnerships: Community Engagement



- Community Engagement Plan refined in collaboration with SSMP Engagement Committee, revision in September 2020
- Engagement Committee meeting September 30
- Instituting routine touchpoints with stakeholders, local leaders, governmental agencies, tribal governments
- Working with committee chairs to streamline overall SSMP advisory committee structure
- Frequent updates / transparency via comprehensive website at saltonsea.ca.gov and electronic newsletter

Strengthening Partnerships: *Engaging with Partners*



- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Salton Sea Authority – North Lake
- MOU with Imperial County Air Pollution Control District – Desert Shores

In Closing



- Ongoing challenges, including air quality issues magnified by COVID-19 pandemic, demand focused, urgent and collaborative work
- SSMP Team is laser-focused to scale up and make significant progress to deliver several thousand acres of priority projects
- Simultaneously developing path forward for long-term restoration of the Sea beyond the 10-Year Plan
- Significantly enhancing organizational and operational capacity
- Strengthening partnerships with local leaders and communities to complete projects that improve conditions for local communities and fish and wildlife dependent on Sea.