

Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, February 18, 2016
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, February 18, 2016**
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

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 time is reserved for matters not already on the Agenda. 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 January 28, 2016
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for January 2016
- C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2015 – 1/31/2016

V. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Renewable Energy Planning -- CEC Grant Progress (Jim Minnick, Imperial County)
Riverside and Imperial Counties are updating their General Plans to address renewable energy development consistent with DRECP; in addition, the CEC grant also directs Riverside County to create an Opportunities and Constraints map for Salton Sea Authority.
- B. Initiative Update: Backbone System (Graeme Donaldson, IID)

VI. REPORTS

- A. General Manager's Report on Activities (Phil Rosentrater)
- B. Update on Activities: Funding and Feasibility Action Plan Report (Bill Brownlie, Tetra Tech)
- C. Update from Contractor on FFAP Benchmark 5 - IFD
- D. Legislative Update (Antonio Ortega)
- E. Standing Report
 - 1. FEDERAL: US Bureau of Reclamation Program Manager for Salton Sea (Val Simon)
 - 2. STATE: Assistant Secretary of Resources for Salton Sea (Bruce Wilcox)
- F. Water Resources Institute (Suzie Earp)
- G. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) (Juan De Lara)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Thursday, March 24, 2016

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
January 28, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by John J. Benoit, President, at 10:04 a.m., January 28, 2016, at the Imperial Irrigation District, Bill Condit Auditorium, 1285 Broadway Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243, (760) 760-482-9618. Chairman Benoit announced that he would have to leave at 11:00 and would ask Vice President Kelley to chair the remainder of the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Estrada led the Pledge of Allegiance

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

John J. Benoit, President
Ryan E. Kelley, Vice President*
Matt Dessert, Secretary*
Cástulo R. Estrada, Director
John Renison, Director*
Thomas Tortez, Director

AGENCY

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

** These Board Members arrived at the times noted below – also noted in the text:*

** Directors Kelly and Dessert arrived at 10:09*

** Director Renison arrived at 10:14*

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.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

G. Patrick O’Dowd, Treasurer
Marion Ashley, Director
Frank Durgin, Director
James C. Hanks, Director

AGENCY

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

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

Phil Rosentrater, Executive Director/General Manager
Gloria Sampson, Gloria J. Sampson Accounting Services, Consultant
Esmeralda Soria
Bob Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel
Bill Brownlie, Tetra Tech, Consultant

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Val Simon
Bruce Wilcox
Cindy A. Thielman-Braun
Phillip Johnson
Robert Cheng
Arkie Mayes
Juan Murillo
Michael Flores
Paul Quill
Tom Anderson
Kerry F. Morrison
Graeme R. Donaldson
Brad Poiriez
Rosa Lopez
Darren Simon
Ed Schiller
Kelly Claar
Vickie Doyle
Pat Cooper
Daniel Machain
Don Lydick
John Husing
Patrick Bourne
John Shumway
Christian Lydick

AGENCY

US Bureau of Reclamation
CA Natural Resources Agency
County of Riverside
County of Riverside
CVWD
Imperial County BCTC
CSUSB WRI
CDFW
SSAC
US Fish & Wildlife
The EcoMedia Compass
IID
Imperial County APCD
County of Imperial
SDCWA
Innovative Land Concepts
CA State Parks
IID
Supervisor Benoit
IBEW 569

Economics & Politics
DPFG
Concord Group
Imperial Valley Bamboo

II. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS (revisited after Public Comments)

Chairman Benoit announced Jennie Kelly’s memorial to be held at the North Shore Yacht Club on Saturday, January 30, at 1:00 p.m. Desert Recreation District offered to take care of the cost of the building rental.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Christian Lydick of El Centro spoke, promoting the use of bamboo plants in Salton Sea mitigation.

**Chairman Benoit acknowledged the arrival of Directors Kelley and Dessert. (10:09 a.m.)*

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR – Approve, Receive and File

A. Minutes of December 10, 2015

B. Warrant Register Ratification for December 2015

C. Internal Financial Report for 7/01/2015 through 12/31/2015

Director Kelley moved that the Consent Calendar be approved as submitted. Seconded by Director Dessert. Unanimously carried.

** Chairman Benoit acknowledged Director Renison’s arrival. (10:14 a.m.)*

V. PRESENTATION ITEMS

A. Renewable Energy Planning—CEC Grant Progress

Riverside and Imperial Counties are updating their General Plans to address renewable energy development consistent with DRECP; in addition, the CEC grant also directs Riverside County to create an Opportunities and Constraints map for Salton Sea Authority.

Those scheduled to speak on behalf of Imperial County were not present, so the full presentation was put off until the February meeting. However, SSA General Manager Phil Rosentrater presented a brief summary of the Imperial County portion at Chairman Benoit’s request, and Ms. Cindy Theilman-Braun of the Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency, who is heading up this project, presented the Riverside County portion. Riverside County is developing a publicly-available GIS module through RCIT to give a broader, more detailed view of surrounding jurisdictions for long-range planning purposes.

Director Dessert expressed concern over the DRECP map’s focus on the heartland – the agricultural area – of Imperial County for use for solar energy development. He said the GIS is a great tool, and called on the directors from Imperial County and the IID staff who were present to focus on finding open ground (such as exposed playa) rather than agricultural lands for solar use. He reported that over the course of a year or more, loss of agricultural ground changes the community and the environment, so longer-range benefits-versus-consequences must be considered.

Director Kelley wished Ms. Theilman-Braun success with the project, and offered Imperial County’s assistance if there’s anything they could do to help her navigate through this. Ms. Thielman-Braun responded that she would like to see the map continue beyond the Riverside County line, not stop mid-Sea.

VI. REPORTS

A. General Manager's Report on Activities

General Manager Phil Rosentrater had previously submitted a written report to the Board; the Directors had no questions.

B. Update on Activities: Funding and Feasibility Action Plan Report

Bill Brownlie, of Tetra Tech, reported that Benchmark 4 was divided into a two-volume document:

- 1) Pipelines – ways to bring in water. This portion is ready to be distributed to the Board as a working draft. [Bruce Wilcox interjected that the State asked to have engineering and pricing worked out, as they needed some level of costing to be able to evaluate the water import proposals. The water import proposals will be judged separately from what Mr. Brownlie and the Authority are putting together.]
- 2) The smaller sea concept with perimeter lake.

C. Update from Contractor on FFAP Benchmark 5 – IFD

Patrick Bourne, of DPF (Development Planning and Finance Group), reintroduced the SSAC-selected team of four consulting firms: DPF, Economics & Politics, Forma, and Concord Group. Mr. Bourne, Dr. John Husing of Economics & Politics, and John Schumway of the Concord Group, each gave detailed progress reports on their Benchmark 5 activities.

(Chairman Benoit had to leave at 11:00 and turned the meeting over to the Vice President, Director Kelley.)

A brief period of question and answer followed.

Mr. Bourne confirmed that they are still on track to complete Benchmark 5 by May 16.

D. Legislative Update

Salton Sea Authority intern Phil Johnson gave a quick overview of the written report.

E. Standing Report

1. FEDERAL:

US Bureau of Reclamation Program Manager for the Salton Sea, Val Simon, distributed a draft consolidated list of major stakeholders and an updated Salton Sea chronology, and reported on the Salton-Sea-related committees on which she now serves.

2. STATE:

Bruce Wilcox, Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy at the California Natural Resources Agency, gave a quick update on committees:

The public outreach committee will be in charge of public meetings that will start in February and go around the Sea in different locations. The website is in process.

Long-range planning committee. Mr. Wilcox reported that, at the State's request, Tetra Tech is providing a standardized approach for looking at the engineering and pricing for pipelines, rights-of-way, and ponds that could be applied to all proposals so it would be a fair analysis. The purpose is to see which of the projects make sense to look at from a long-range-planning perspective. The State will develop a long-range plan by end of this year. It will include water-importing ideas if they pan out.

The funding committee will meet soon, and the air quality committee will wait until IID releases their air quality management report in the latter part of Feb.

F. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC)

Paul Quill commented on the great team working on Benchmark 5 and observed that the analysis they are doing is based upon the perimeter lake plan – a recreational quality lake. Additional benefits not considered in the analysis are the ecological benefits of the perimeter lake plan: fish and wildlife, air quality, habitat, etc.

SSAC reports that they have taken care of getting boats back on the water. Dredging is complete on the boat ramp and it is now in use.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Director Dessert; seconded by Director Renison. Unanimously carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

February 18, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Coachella Valley Water District

Steve Robbins Administration Building

75515 Hovley Lane East

Palm Desert, CA 92260

(760) 398-2651

Warrant Register
January 1, 2016 through January 31, 2016



Warrant Date	Warrant Number	Vendor Name	Amount
01/04/2016	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	1,300.00
01/05/2016	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	1,200.00
01/13/2016	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	177.90
01/13/2016	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	1,600.00
01/14/2016	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	600.00
01/15/2016	16043	ACWA	3,570.00
01/15/2016	16044	Best, Best & Krieger	2,218.50
01/15/2016	16045	OfficeTeam	930.00
01/15/2016	16046	RivCo EDA	9,721.21
01/15/2016	16047	Sampson, GJ Acct	5,210.50
01/15/2016	16048	Southwest Networks	142.50
01/15/2016	16049	Sampson, GJ Acct - 214	450.00
01/15/2016	16050	WRI - CSUSB	8,333.00
01/19/2016	EFT	FedEx	33.62
01/23/2016	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	900.00
01/25/2016	EFT	Verizon Wireless	188.27
01/28/2016	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	950.00
01/31/2016	EFT	Rabobank	15.00
Total \$			37,540.50

Salton Sea Authority
Balance Sheet by Fund
As of January 31, 2016

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	215 Funding Feasibility Review	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	TOTAL
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Checking/Savings					
0001010 - Cash - Checking	176,901.97	-115,019.68	-52,446.86	0.00	9,435.43
0001011 - Cash - Money Market	323,535.82	10,712.04	0.00	20,991.43	355,239.29
0001012 - Cash - RivCo Fund	32,058.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	32,058.22
0001015 - Cash - Petty Cash	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Total Checking/Savings	532,696.01	-104,307.64	-52,446.86	20,991.43	396,932.94
Accounts Receivable					
0001210 - Accounts Receivable	10,000.00	67,670.21	210,962.77	0.00	288,632.98
Total Accounts Receivable	10,000.00	67,670.21	210,962.77	0.00	288,632.98
Total Current Assets	542,696.01	-36,637.43	158,515.91	20,991.43	685,565.92
TOTAL ASSETS	542,696.01	-36,637.43	158,515.91	20,991.43	685,565.92
LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable					
0002010 - Accounts Payable	20,071.05	104,635.99	162,054.13	0.00	286,761.17
Total Accounts Payable	20,071.05	104,635.99	162,054.13	0.00	286,761.17
Credit Cards					
0002015 - Credit Card Payable	-4,050.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-4,050.00
Total Credit Cards	-4,050.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-4,050.00
Other Current Liabilities					
0002820 - Deferred Revenue	0.00	67,670.21	0.00	0.00	67,670.21
Total Other Current Liabilities	0.00	67,670.21	0.00	0.00	67,670.21
Total Current Liabilities	16,021.05	172,306.20	162,054.13	0.00	350,381.38
Total Liabilities	16,021.05	172,306.20	162,054.13	0.00	350,381.38
Equity					
0003009 - Fund Balance	170,121.79	-128,056.19	-219,932.28	20,991.43	-156,875.25
Net Income	356,553.17	-80,887.44	216,394.06	0.00	492,059.79
Total Equity	526,674.96	-208,943.63	-3,538.22	20,991.43	335,184.54
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	542,696.01	-36,637.43	158,515.91	20,991.43	685,565.92

Salton Sea Authority Revenue & Expenditure by Fund July 2015 through January 2016

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	215 Funding Feasibility Review	TOTAL
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
0004662 - Local Gov/Member Assessments	610,000.00	0.00	0.00	610,000.00
0004660 - State of California Grants	0.00	0.00	430,430.33	430,430.33
0004710 - Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	441.46	0.00	0.00	441.46
Total Income	610,441.46	0.00	430,430.33	1,040,871.79
Expense				
1020000 - SSA ADMINISTRATION				
1025010 - Salaries				
Salaries - GM	34,261.04	0.00	0.00	34,261.04
Salaries - RivCo EDA	42,263.35	0.00	0.00	42,263.35
Salaries - Admin Support A	17,556.73	0.00	0.00	17,556.73
Total 1025010 - Salaries	94,081.12	0.00	0.00	94,081.12
1025500 - Employee Benefits				
Employee Benefits - RivCo EDA	11,660.20	0.00	0.00	11,660.20
Employee Benefits - SSA	13,856.54	0.00	0.00	13,856.54
Total 1025500 - Employee Benefits	25,516.74	0.00	0.00	25,516.74
1026050 - Contract Svc/Professional				
Contract Svc/Prof - Adm Sup C	25,650.00	0.00	0.00	25,650.00
Contract Svc/Prof - Adm Sup D	3,672.47	0.00	0.00	3,672.47
Contract Svc/Prof - Finance	26,686.00	0.00	0.00	26,686.00
Total 1026050 - Contract Svc/Professional	56,008.47	0.00	0.00	56,008.47
1026010 - Contract Svc/Attorney				
Contract Svcs/Attorney - Genera	11,141.48	0.00	0.00	11,141.48
Contract Svcs/Attorney - Legisl	104.40	0.00	0.00	104.40
Total 1026010 - Contract Svc/Attorney	11,245.88	0.00	0.00	11,245.88
1026090 - Contract Svc/Technical	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
1026095 - Contract Svc/Equipment Maint	4,781.58	0.00	0.00	4,781.58
1028551 - Capital Equipment <\$5,000	9,131.34	0.00	0.00	9,131.34
1026096 - Contract Svc/Equipment Lease	174.98	0.00	0.00	174.98
1026120 - Insurance	9,255.56	0.00	0.00	9,255.56
1027030 - Office Exp/Operating Supplies	3,382.68	0.00	0.00	3,382.68
1027035 - Office Exp/Online Services	376.63	0.00	0.00	376.63
1026450 - Postage, Mail	568.85	0.00	0.00	568.85
1026470 - Printing Services	106.75	0.00	0.00	106.75
1026439 - Dues, Subscriptions	3,643.53	0.00	0.00	3,643.53
1026350 - Communications	3,439.69	0.00	0.00	3,439.69
1026370 - Travel/Meetings	19,447.32	0.00	0.00	19,447.32
1026060 - Contract Svcs/WRI,Archive Mgmt	8,333.00	0.00	0.00	8,333.00
Total 1020000 - SSA ADMINISTRATION	252,494.12	0.00	0.00	252,494.12

Salton Sea Authority
Revenue & Expenditure by Fund
 July 2015 through January 2016

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	215 Funding Feasibility Review	TOTAL
6020000 - WETLANDS GRANT ADMINISTRATION				
6025010 - Salaries	1,117.37	0.00	0.00	1,117.37
6025500 - Employee Benefits	276.80	0.00	0.00	276.80
6026010 - Contract Svcs/Attorney	0.00	809.60	0.00	809.60
6026013 - Contract Svcs/Accountant	0.00	6,255.00	0.00	6,255.00
Total 6020000 - WETLANDS GRANT ADMINISTRATION	1,394.17	7,064.60	0.00	8,458.77
6040000 - WETLANDS GRANT TECHNICAL				
6046020 - Contract Svcs/AMEC - update	0.00	1,310.00	0.00	1,310.00
6046025 - Contract Svcs - AMEC/NSYC	0.00	2,870.00	0.00	2,870.00
6046040 - Contract Svcs/Design	0.00	69,642.84	0.00	69,642.84
Total 6040000 - WETLANDS GRANT TECHNICAL	0.00	73,822.84	0.00	73,822.84
6050000 - FUNDING/FEASIBILITY ADMIN				
6055010 - Salaries				
Salaries - Admin Support 215	0.00	0.00	2,343.85	2,343.85
Salaries - GM 215	0.00	0.00	24,664.56	24,664.56
Total 6055010 - Salaries	0.00	0.00	27,008.41	27,008.41
6055500 - Employee Benefits	0.00	0.00	5,410.03	5,410.03
6056010 - Contract Svcs/Attorney	0.00	0.00	16,469.10	16,469.10
6056011 - Contract Svcs/J Schlange	0.00	0.00	962.50	962.50
6056013 - Contract Svcs/Accountant	0.00	0.00	4,455.00	4,455.00
Total 6050000 - FUNDING/FEASIBILITY ADMIN	0.00	0.00	54,305.04	54,305.04
6060000 - FUNDING/FEASIBILITY TECHNICAL				
6066016 - Contract Svcs/TetraTech \$1.7	0.00	0.00	159,731.23	159,731.23
Total 6060000 - FUNDING/FEASIBILITY TECHNICAL	0.00	0.00	159,731.23	159,731.23
Total Expense	253,888.29	80,887.44	214,036.27	548,812.00
Net Ordinary Income	356,553.17	-80,887.44	216,394.06	492,059.79
Net Income	356,553.17	-80,887.44	216,394.06	492,059.79

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: Phil Rosentrater, General Manager
Date: February 18, 2016
Re: Renewable Energy planning -- CEC Grant progress
CM No. V.A. – 02/18/16

GENERAL:

In recognition of the substantial renewable energy development potentials in Riverside and Imperial Counties, and the lack of formal guidance in local land use planning to encourage its orderly development in a manner consistent with state and federal policies, the state legislature called upon the California Energy Commission four years ago to oversee a process whereby counties with substantial renewable energy potential might update their general plan elements related to renewable energy planning and development.

The legislative action also provided funding, with no match required, to eligible counties to help expedite this planning update to be consistent with the draft federal Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP).

Riverside and Imperial Counties began working on these updates with Imperial County starting first, and Riverside County following thereafter. Both counties approached the project cautiously out of concern for the preservation of local authorities over land use planning and approval, in light of a grant eligibility criterion requiring endorsement of the draft DRECP prior to its completion.

While the grant objectives are similar in both counties, there are elements unique to each that have bearing on the Salton Sea Authority efforts to integrate resources and plans related to Salton Sea revitalization. Last month (January 2016), an update on the Riverside County version of the CEC grant was presented, focusing on creating a publicly accessible GIS-based web portal for relevant data and mapping for renewable energy development compatible with existing and future planned uses, including sensitive habitat areas.

(continued)

Today, Imperial County will provide an update to the Salton Sea Authority board on the CEC grants for updating renewable energy elements in the general plan. The Imperial County effort places special emphasis upon revising the 2006 Geothermal/Alternative Energy & Transmission Element.

These two key deliverables were recognized at the local level as important steps toward removing uncertainty in planning for sensitive habitat preservation and renewable energy development at the Sea. These activities were also consistent with the efforts at SSA to secure an MOU with the U.S. Department of Interior that would, among other provisions, encourage federal/local land swaps and transfers where feasible to accomplish mutual objectives for improvements at the Sea.

RECOMMENDATION:

These presentations are for board information only. No action by the Salton Sea Authority Board is recommended at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater
General Manager

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: Phil Rosentrater, General Manager
Date: February 18, 2016
Re: Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative (“Initiative”)
CM No. V.B. – 02/18/16

GENERAL:

The Salton Sea Restoration & Renewable Energy Initiative, launched by the Imperial Irrigation District in partnership with Imperial County, will leverage funds generated by new renewable energy projects located at the Sea to help finance activities for air quality management and habitat restoration.

Projects sited on exposed lakebed will serve a dual purpose: producing renewable energy while doubling as groundcover to mitigate air emissions. Under legislation enacted in 2013, planning and implementing projects at the Sea will be driven locally by the Salton Sea Authority, with support from the State of California.

The Initiative was endorsed in concept by the Salton Sea Authority, its member agencies, plus other stakeholders, in recognition of the need to support Imperial Irrigation District and Imperial County efforts to proactively begin preserving habitat and mitigating air quality in areas that would otherwise be the first to suffer potentially harmful impacts anticipated from the QSA water transfers.

Over the past year, the Initiative has begun taking shape with additional technical work. While subsequent phases of development of this project continue under development, the initial backbone of infrastructure to capture and distribute flows from the Alamo River has emerged as an investment pivotal to creating and sustaining manageable shallow wetlands around the southeastern portion of the Sea.

The presentation today will provide additional perspective and updated information on this vital component of the revitalization effort at the Sea.

RECOMMENDATION:

These presentations are for board information only. No action by the Salton Sea Authority Board is recommended at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater
General Manager