

Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 2015
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
DATE: MEETING
Thursday, December 10, 2015
LOCATION: 10:00 a.m.
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

Board Member Thomas Tortez will be participating via teleconference from the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians tribal headquarters, 66725 Martinez Road, Thermal, California 92276. Telephone: 760-397-0300.

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 October 22, 2015 (*see attached*)
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for October 2015 (*see attached*)
- C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2015 – 10/31/2015 (*see attached*)
- D. Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Administrative Budget Transfers for Board's Approval (*see attached*)
- E. 2016 Schedule of Salton Sea Authority Board Meetings (*see attached*)
- F. Receive and File NREL's FFAP Benchmark 6 Report (*see document at: <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy16osti/64969.pdf>*) Publication Title: *The Potential for Renewable Energy Development to Benefit Restoration of the Salton Sea: Analysis of Technical and Market Potential.*

V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval of Draft Legislative Platform (*see attached*)

VI. REPORTS

- A. General Manager's Report (Phil Rosentrater)
- B. Update on Activities: Funding and Feasibility Action Plan Report (Bill Brownlie, Tetra Tech)
- C. 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)
- D. Water Resources Institute (Suzie Earp)
- E. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) (Juan DeLara)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Thursday, January 28, 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

October 22, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Salton Sea Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was called to order by President John J. Benoit at 10:00 a.m., October 22, 2015, at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92260, (760) 398-2651.

In opening, Chairman Benoit noted that the Salton Sea had lost a long-time major supporter in Jennie Kelley (Salton Sea History Museum) who had recently passed away.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Matt Dessert led the Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL: (**occurred after public and board member comments*)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

John J. Benoit, President
Ryan E. Kelley, Vice President
Matt Dessert, Secretary
G. Patrick O’Dowd, Treasurer
Marion Ashley, Director
Cástulo R. Estrada, Director
James C. Hanks, Director
John Renison, Director
Thomas Torte, Director

AGENCY

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Frank Durgin, Director

AGENCY

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla

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.

SALTON SEA AUTHORITY STAFF PRESENT

Phil Rosentrater, Executive Director/General Manager
Linda Seroy, Board Secretary/Administrative Assistant
Gloria Sampson, Accountant Consultant
Bob Hargreaves, Legal Counsel
Bill Brownlie, Consultant

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Bruce Wilcox
Antonio Ortega
Mohammed Hasan
Ron Cameron
R. Chris Lightburne
Dan Farris
Ben Beal
Linda Beal
Val Simon
Juan Murillo
Jim Bates
Nikola Lakic
Thom Gottberg
Paul Quill
Joanna Smith
Kevin Kelley
Vickie Doyle
Joanna Hoff
Hunter Halcombe
Jim Kainz
Jessica Lovecchio
Tom Sephton
Alan Pace
Jennifer Henke
Andy Vossler
Cheryll Dahlin
Alberto Ramirez
Kelly Claar
Juan M. DeLara
Brian Nestande
Pat Cooper
Kerry Morrison

AGENCY

California Natural Resource Agency
Imperial Irrigation District
Hasan Consultants, Ventura
Hasan Consultants, Ventura
DPFG
Coachella Valley Water District
Volunteer, SS History Museum
Salton Sea History Museum
Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources Institute
Former US Congressman
Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.
TG Commercial
SSAC
Imperial Irrigation District
Imperial Irrigation District
Imperial Irrigation District
Imperial Irrigation District
Journalist
Bermuda Dunes Strategic Planning
Imperial Irrigation District
Sephton Water Technologies
Petra Geotechnical, Inc.
Coachella Valley Water District
Landmark Golf
CVAG
Torres Martinez Triber
California State Parks
SSAC/Federated
Riverside County
Supervisor John J. Benoit
Salton City, Ecomedia Compass

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were presented by: Mr. Nikola Lakic, Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.; Mr. Mohammed A. Hasan, Hasan Consultants, Ventura; Ms. Linda Beal, Salton Sea History Museum volunteer; Mr. Ben Beal, CVWD retired, Salton Sea History Museum volunteer;

Mr. Jim Kainz, Bermuda Dunes Strategic Planning; and Mr. Kerry Morrison, Ecomedia Compass, Salton City. Mr. Hasan left a copy of his book *Drought is Not a Four-Letter Word: a Citizen's Guide to New Water* with the board secretary for review by any board members who would be interested.

III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no board member comments.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Minutes of September 24, 2015

B. Warrant Register Ratification for:

1. July-August 2015 (revised)
2. September 2015

C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2015 – 9/30/2015

~~D. Receive and File FFAP Benchmark 6 (postponed until the December 10 meeting)~~

Staff requested that item D be moved to the December 10 agenda because the file is not yet available. Chairman Benoit said that, unless there were any objections, he would amend that item and accept a motion to approve the consent calendar.

(*roll call took place here)

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

V. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approve SSA Resolution No. 15-04 Labor Compliance – Proposition 84 Grant Compliance

B. Approve SSA MOU for office lease at Riverside County Law Center

Executive Director Phil Rosentrater gave a brief overview of these two items and submitted them for board approval.

Director Benoit expressed his thanks to the Public Defender's office for use of part of their office space in the new County Law Building for the Salton Sea Authority office.

*Director Dessert moved to approve the two items **Seconded** by Director Renison. **Unanimously carried.***

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. State Natural Resources Agency role in developing Salton Sea Management Concept

Mr. Bruce Wilcox, assistant secretary for Salton Sea policy with California's Natural Resources Agency, explained that, based on a meeting in Sacramento last week, the State is trying to put together a management program for the Salton Sea. Part of that program is the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative that IID and Imperial County developed. And part of that program is the Salton Sea Authority's SSWIFT plan. He described the steps the State plans to take in developing its program.

Director Benoit informed those present that the SSRREI and SSWIFT plan attachments for last month's meeting, posted on Salton Sea Authority's webpage, give a pretty good idea of what was discussed in Sacramento.

Mr. Wilcox clarified that this plan does not envision any reduction of water flow to the Salton Sea – all the water that goes in the Salton Sea now will continue to go there. Director Benoit interjected that there will not be enough water for a water transfer.

Chairman Benoit invited Bill Brownlie of Tetra Tech to make his presentation at this point. (Item VII.B - Update on Activities: Funding and Feasibility Action Plan Report)

Mr. Brownlie reported on progress toward developing a cost estimate, and progress on the Torres Martinez wetland project.

Chairman Benoit invited discussion of the first couple of points. Director Kelley brought up several matters, to which Bill Brownlie and Bruce Wilcox responded.

Chairman Benoit acknowledged Senator Jeff Stone's arrival and invited Senator Stone to speak.

Ms. Joanna Hoff from IID said that there was a call on Tuesday – a kick-off meeting, which was good – but as yet no data has been shared. IID will extend the offer of Dudek's expertise, but must wait for sufficient information for them to use.

B. Reorganization of Officers

Due to past inconsistencies with the established SSA bylaws, Chairman Benoit suggested that, if there is no objection, the current slate of officers remain, and that this be revisited to have the election in May of 2016 with change of officers in June. Director Kelley, having no objection to bringing the elections in line with SSA's fiscal year, wants to be sure that a schedule is set up and maintained to hold the officer reorganizations annually at the start of the fiscal year.

No reorganization took place at this time.

VII. REPORTS

A. General Manager's Report

Mr. Rosentrater referred the board to his written report in the agenda packet, and offered to answer any questions or concerns they might have with regard to its contents. Director Benoit expressed his appreciation of the quality of report that Mr. Rosentrater presents.

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

(See Bill Brownlie's report during item VI Discussion)

C. Update from Contractor on FFAP Benchmark 5 – IFD

Benchmark 5 handouts were distributed to the board members. Bill Brownlie reported that the consultants for Benchmark 5 are just getting started, as their selection was approved at the last meeting. Mr. Brownlie introduced R. Chris Lightburne, of Development Planning & Financial Group, Inc. (DPFG), project management for this Benchmark, who gave an overview of the interdisciplinary team and their roles, and of the scope of work.

Director Benoit commented that, although Imperial and Riverside Counties are committing a very small percentage of property tax for the IFD, they are not willing or able to fund this thing themselves, and are not absolving the state or federal government or anyone else of their responsibility. The amount to be set aside by the Counties will be subject to approval by the Boards of Supervisors. Director Benoit suggested that operations and maintenance should be the first call on this money.

Director Benoit also clarified that the area to be included in their proposals doesn't stop just south of the recreation area as shown in their initial proposal, but continues southward to include Bombay Beach.

D. Legislative Update

Mr. Rosentrater called on Antonio Ortega, Legislative Director of IID, to give the legislative update report. Mr. Ortega reported that Assembly Bill 1095 – authored by Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia – requiring the Natural Resources Agency to provide to the Legislature a list of shovel ready projects by March 31, 2016, was signed into law by the governor on October 9. The governor also released a list of Salton Sea Task Force agency actions.

E. Little Hoover Commission – Draft Response to LHC Staff Report

Chairman Benoit invited comments or concerns on the draft response; if none, the response will be forward to the Little Hoover Commission. Director Kelley commented that he agreed with the content. No concerns were expressed.

F. Standing Report

1. FEDERAL: US Bureau of Reclamation Program Manager for Salton Sea

Ms. Val Simon, Salton Sea Program Manager for the Bureau of Land Management, reported on the meeting in Sacramento – good camaraderie, all working toward the

same goal of management of the Salton Sea. She said they are working on a map of the land ownership of the central area of the Salton Sea that could be exposed under

the new plan. She is awaiting the economic feasibility report on the Orange County brine line. And she's looking forward to participating in the Red Hill Bay project groundbreaking.

2. STATE: Assistant Secretary of Resources for Salton Sea (Bruce Wilcox)
(Mr. Wilcox presented his report in VI.A Discussion.)

G. Salton Sea License Plate

Ms. Cheryll Dahlin of Coachella Valley Association of Governments reported that Assemblyman Garcia and Assemblyman Mayes said the deadline for the 7500 license plates may be extended if the deadline is not met. California Fish and Wildlife has agreed to allow credit cards, and Assemblyman Garcia and Assemblyman Mayes continue to work with Fish and Wildlife to establish an online purchasing system.

H. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) (Juan DeLara)

Mr. Juan DeLara spoke of the IFD team they put together and of SSAC's involvement in the IFD and Benchmark 5 committee. He also confirmed SSAC's commitment to supplement the funds with their own fundraising efforts to augment the study. SSAC wants to be part of SSA's education outreach strategy. They are forming a 501c3. He asked for a moment of silence for Jennie Kelley.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Benoit invited any closing comments. Director Estrada pointed out that Assemblymember's Legislative Director Manuel Martinez was present.

Chairman John J. Benoit adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:

Thursday, December 10, 2015

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
October 1, 2015 through October 31, 2015



Warrant Date	Warrant Number	Vendor Name	Amount
10/08/2015	EFT	EDD	1,082.42
10/10/2015	EFT	FedEx	50.13
10/20/2015	16018	Best, Best & Krieger	2,244.60
10/20/2015	16019	Petty Cash	133.95
10/20/2015	16020	RivCo EDA	31,421.70
10/20/2015	16021	Sampson, GJ Acct	8,113.00
10/20/2015	16022	Sampson, GJ Acct - 214	1,080.00
10/20/2015	16023	Sampson, GJ Acct - 215	900.00
10/20/2015	16024	Rosentrater, Phil	233.98
10/23/2015	EFT	Verizon Wireless	199.03
Total \$			45,458.81

Warrant Register
October 1, 2015 through October 31, 2015



Warrant	Warrant	Vendor	
Date	Number	Name	Amount

Salton Sea Authority
Balance Sheet by Fund
As of October 31, 2015

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	215 Funding Feasibility Review	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	TOTAL
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Checking/Savings					
0001010 - Cash - Checking	93,923.66	-53,630.23	-36,621.26	0.00	3,672.17
0001011 - Cash - Money Market	463,313.15	10,712.04	0.00	20,991.43	495,016.62
0001012 - Cash - RivCo Fund	13,609.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	13,609.34
0001015 - Cash - Petty Cash	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
Total Checking/Savings	571,046.15	-42,918.19	-36,621.26	20,991.43	512,498.13
Accounts Receivable					
0001210 - Accounts Receivable	10,000.00	67,670.21	0.00	0.00	77,670.21
Total Accounts Receivable	10,000.00	67,670.21	0.00	0.00	77,670.21
Total Current Assets	581,046.15	24,752.02	-36,621.26	20,991.43	590,168.34
TOTAL ASSETS	581,046.15	24,752.02	-36,621.26	20,991.43	590,168.34
LIABILITIES & EQUITY					
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable					
0002010 - Accounts Payable	26,171.50	35,024.19	15,825.60	0.00	77,021.29
Total Accounts Payable	26,171.50	35,024.19	15,825.60	0.00	77,021.29
Credit Cards					
0002015 - Credit Card Payable	515.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	515.41
Total Credit Cards	515.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	515.41
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	26,686.91	102,694.40	15,825.60	0.00	145,206.91
Total Liabilities	26,686.91	102,694.40	15,825.60	0.00	145,206.91
Equity					
0003009 - Fund Balance	104,595.98	-61,707.53	-30,883.18	20,991.43	32,996.70
Net Income	449,763.26	-16,234.85	-21,563.68	0.00	411,964.73
Total Equity	554,359.24	-77,942.38	-52,446.86	20,991.43	444,961.43
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	581,046.15	24,752.02	-36,621.26	20,991.43	590,168.34

Salton Sea Authority
Revenue & Expenditure by Fund
 July through October 2015

	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	219,467.56	219,467.56
0004710 - Pooled Cash Allocated Interest	227.46	0.00	0.00	227.46
Total Income	610,227.46	0.00	219,467.56	829,695.02
Expense				
1020000 - SSA ADMINISTRATION				
1025010 - Salaries				
Salaries - GM	34,261.04	0.00	0.00	34,261.04
Salaries - RivCo EDA	16,533.01	0.00	0.00	16,533.01
Salaries - Admin Support A	10,930.09	0.00	0.00	10,930.09
Total 1025010 - Salaries	61,724.14	0.00	0.00	61,724.14
1025500 - Employee Benefits				
Employee Benefits - RivCo EDA	4,549.11	0.00	0.00	4,549.11
Employee Benefits - SSA	10,162.28	0.00	0.00	10,162.28
Total 1025500 - Employee Benefits	14,711.39	0.00	0.00	14,711.39
1026050 - Contract Svc/Professional				
Contract Svc/Prof - Adm Sup C	14,850.00	0.00	0.00	14,850.00
Contract Svc/Prof - Adm Sup D	1,082.42	0.00	0.00	1,082.42
Contract Svc/Prof - Finance	16,702.00	0.00	0.00	16,702.00
Total 1026050 - Contract Svc/Professional	32,634.42	0.00	0.00	32,634.42
1026010 - Contract Svc/Attorney				
Contract Svcs/Attorney - Genera	5,680.19	0.00	0.00	5,680.19
Total 1026010 - Contract Svc/Attorney	5,680.19	0.00	0.00	5,680.19
1026090 - Contract Svc/Technical	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
1026095 - Contract Svc/Equipment Maint	4,686.58	0.00	0.00	4,686.58
1028551 - Capital Equipment <\$5,000	9,131.34	0.00	0.00	9,131.34
1026096 - Contract Svc/Equipment Lease	87.49	0.00	0.00	87.49
1026120 - Insurance	9,265.77	0.00	0.00	9,265.77
1027030 - Office Exp/Operating Supplies	804.81	0.00	0.00	804.81
1027035 - Office Exp/Online Services	1.91	0.00	0.00	1.91
1026450 - Postage, Mail	322.12	0.00	0.00	322.12
1026470 - Printing Services	47.35	0.00	0.00	47.35
1026439 - Dues, Subscriptions	53.53	0.00	0.00	53.53
1026350 - Communications	2,075.27	0.00	0.00	2,075.27
1026370 - Travel/Meetings	14,843.72	0.00	0.00	14,843.72
Total 1020000 - SSA ADMINISTRATION	159,070.03	0.00	0.00	159,070.03
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	489.50	0.00	489.50
6026013 - Contract Svcs/Accountant	0.00	4,342.50	0.00	4,342.50
Total 6020000 - WETLANDS GRANT ADMINISTRATION	1,394.17	4,832.00	0.00	6,226.17

Salton Sea Authority
Revenue & Expenditure by Fund
 July through October 2015

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	215 Funding Feasibility Review	TOTAL
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	7,222.85	0.00	7,222.85
Total 6040000 - WETLANDS GRANT TECHNICAL	0.00	11,402.85	0.00	11,402.85
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	14,146.20	14,146.20
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	51,982.14	51,982.14
6060000 - FUNDING/FEASIBILITY TECHNICAL				
6066016 - Contract Svcs/TetraTech \$1.7	0.00	0.00	189,049.10	189,049.10
Total 6060000 - FUNDING/FEASIBILITY TECHNICAL	0.00	0.00	189,049.10	189,049.10
Total Expense	160,464.20	16,234.85	241,031.24	417,730.29
Net Ordinary Income	449,763.26	-16,234.85	-21,563.68	411,964.73
Net Income	449,763.26	-16,234.85	-21,563.68	411,964.73

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: Gloria Sampson, Contract Accountant
Date: December 10, 2015
Re: **FY2015-2016 General Fund Budget Transfers for Board Approval**
CM No. **IV.D – 12-10-2015**

GENERAL:

When the FY2015-2016 administrative budget was finalized, the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and staff recognized there may be unknown costs during the fiscal year related to overlapping staff transitions and amplified restoration effort. The Ad Hoc Finance Committee and Salton Sea Authority staff planned to meet at mid-fiscal year to review the budget and determine if any amendments were necessary.

The Ad Hoc Finance Committee and Salton Sea Authority staff met on November 18, 2015. Year-to-date revenues and expenses were examined and discussed. It was noted that grant revenues are expected to meet budget. At this time expenses for most categories are expected to fall within budgeted limits.

Due to a contractual payment of accrued benefits to the outgoing manager, the category of General Manager’s salary will exceed budget. This is a one-time adjustment to close out the Authority’s contractual obligation toward the prior General Manager. There is no such obligation on the part of the Authority for accrued benefit compensation under the new agreement between the Authority and the current GM/Executive Director.

Staff recognizes the need for additional office administration support due to heightened activity levels as the Authority accelerates toward a final comprehensive approach for revitalization of the Salton Sea.

In addition to meeting existing obligations for overtime compensation, staff realizes the need to build a more resilient structure that can accommodate elastic demands while also equipping the Authority with reserve backup capabilities trained in the operations, policies and procedures of the Authority. Staff anticipates using a combination of current Administrative Assistant overtime and temporary help to meet this need. Task assignments will be examined to determine most efficient use of these resources.

<u>Transfer From:</u>		<u>Transfer To:</u>	
Tech Support-JAS	\$26,000	General Manager Salary	\$33,000
Tech Support-General	\$18,100	Administrative Support-A	\$10,000
		Administrative Support-D	<u>\$ 1,100</u>
Total	<u>\$44,100</u>	Total	\$44,100

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The Salton Sea Authority Staff and Ad Hoc Finance Committee recommend that the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors approve the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 General Fund budget transfers

Respectfully,

Gloria Sampson
 Contract Accountant

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: Phil Rosentrater, Executive Director/General Manager
Date: December 10, 2015
Re: **2016 Schedule of Salton Sea Authority Board Meetings**
CM No. **IV.E – 12-10-15**

BACKGROUND

Attached for your consideration is the new 2016 Schedule of Salton Sea Authority Board Meetings.

Board meetings are usually scheduled on the fourth Thursday of the month; however, some meeting dates were moved to accommodate holidays and important Board and Staff conferences. In addition, due to sequential conference conflicts in May, we are suggesting that the May meeting be moved to the first Thursday in June, and that the June meeting be moved to the last Thursday in June, which allows for a fairly even spacing of those meetings.

In recent years the Board has elected not to meet in July and August, and to combine the November and December meetings into one meeting in early-to-mid December.

The attached proposed Board meeting schedule was sent to Board members' scheduling staff to review for conflicts. No conflicts were returned.

The attached proposed Board meeting schedule incorporates all of these adjustments.

RECOMMENDATION

Salton Sea Authority staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors approve the attached proposed board meeting schedule.

Respectfully,

Phil Rosentrater
Executive Director/General Manager

The attached schedule is for basic information and may be revised as conditions require.



2016 MEETING SCHEDULE
SALTON SEA AUTHORITY
BOARD of DIRECTORS
10:00 a.m.

January 28

Imperial Irrigation District

July 28

No Meeting

February 18

Coachella Valley Water District

August 25

No Meeting

March 24

Imperial Irrigation District

September 22

Imperial Irrigation District

April 28

Coachella Valley Water District

October 27

Coachella Valley Water District

June 2

Imperial Irrigation District

November 24

No Meeting

June 30

Coachella Valley Water District

December 15

Imperial Irrigation District

Location Addresses

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

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

To be submitted for approval at the 12-10-15 SSA Board meeting, subject to amendment from time to time as needed.

Memorandum

To: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors
From: Phil Rosentrater, General Manager
Date: December 10, 2015
Re: **Approval of SSA Legislative Platform: Federal and State**
CM No. V.A – 12-10-2015

GENERAL (or BACKGROUND):

The Salton Sea Authority has effectively achieved significant results from its Board-approved legislative agenda in the past three years. The draft platform proposed for Board consideration in 2016 builds upon these advancements and remains consistent with the SSA Board-adopted Vision and Guiding Principles for Legislative Action.

The platform is intended to serve as a dynamic guide to SSA Board and staff alike in shaping favorable outcomes for the SSA in legislative policies and procurement priorities at federal and state levels.

Upon approval of this draft platform, SSA staff in coordination with member agencies will continue to advocate its position on public policy issues in a unified manner. Under the direction of the Board, staff from the member agencies will closely monitor state and federal legislative proposals, executive actions and overall public policy initiatives that may have a direct impact on Salton Sea restoration efforts.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Salton Sea Authority Staff recommends that the Salton Sea Authority Board approve the 2016 Legislative Platform and authorize staff to take prudent action as needed in order to advance a unified and well-coordinated development of state and federal policies consistent with the SSA Board-approved Vision and Guiding Principles for Legislative Action.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Rosentrater
GM/Executive Director

Salton Sea Authority 2016 Legislative Platform

The Salton Sea Authority will continue to advocate its position on public policy issues in a coordinated and unified manner. Under the direction of the Board, staff from the member agencies will closely monitor state and federal legislative proposals, executive actions and overall public policy initiatives that may have a direct impact on Salton Sea restoration efforts.

State Priorities

2014 State Water Bond (Proposition 1)

- Take leadership role in advocating for appropriation for Salton Sea projects from the \$475 million provision related to state obligations in water right settlements including the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA).
- Continue to coordinate with the appropriate state agencies to ensure that any funds appropriated under this provision include short-term, medium-term and long-term financial commitments.
- Continue to watch AB 300 (Alejo) which would enact the Safe Water and Wildlife Protection Act of 2016. This bill would create an Algal Bloom Task Force under the State Water Resources Control Board for the purpose of reviewing risks and impacts of toxic algal blooms in state waters, and making recommendations for control measures. The recommendations would also include funding strategies, possibly from Proposition 1, intended for protecting wildlife habitat. This is a two-year bill and supported by the Authority.

Salton Sea Task Force

- Closely monitor the implementation of AB 1095 (Garcia) by the California Natural Resources Agency. This bill was supported by the Authority.
- Participate in all Salton Sea Task Force stakeholder meetings to track the progress in developing and implementing the various Agency Actions outlined by the Governor's administration on October 9, 2015.
- Support policies and funding necessary to expedite regulatory compliance essential for timely preservation of habitat and reduction of health risks to humans and sensitive species at the Sea. The desired outcomes would be shorter implementation time for CEQA and state permitting along with enhanced provision of no regrets protections.

Renewable Energy Development

- Continue to support the development of all renewable energy resources at the Salton Sea in order to provide potential revenue streams to help fund revitalization projects and activities, as proposed in the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative.
- Support efforts to promote geothermal energy development in the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area. The potential development for this resource area has been identified at approximately 1,700 megawatts.
- Closely monitor the implementation of SB 350 (De León), also known as the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015, which establishes new Renewable Portfolio Standard target of 50% by 2030 for all utilities in California.

State Bonds

- Continue to support SB 317 (De León) which would enact the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2016. If approved by the voters at the November 8, 2016 general election, it authorizes the sale of general obligation bonds to benefit state and local parks in the amount of \$2.45 billion. Under the Rivers, Lakes, and Streams section of the bill it provides authorization for \$50 million to the Salton Sea Restoration Fund. This is a two-year bill and supported by the Authority.
- Closely monitor legislation that would enact new state bonds that may provide an opportunity for new Salton Sea restoration project funds.

Federal Priorities

Small Reclamations Project Act loan funds

- Continue to support federal funding and cooperation with the US Bureau of Reclamation, in particular the Small Reclamations Project Act that currently has nearly \$330 million in unspent federal funding authorized under a BOR revolving loan fund that could be applied to agriculture-related projects delivering storm drain improvements and wildlife enhancements at the Salton Sea.
- Under the Small Reclamations Project Act, Section 102, subsection C; it states that there are still revolving loan funds available for these small reclamation projects. Thus, seeking appropriations from these available revolving loan funds would be consistent with the goals of this federal program, and would help reduce liability for environmental destruction and human health impacts from the soon-to-be exposed seabed, of which nearly half is federally owned.

Federal/Local Government revenue sharing on Energy/ Mineral extraction

- Support development of local resources while protecting from predation by entities that would extract resources without compensation to the impacted communities, as called for in the Salton Sea Authority board-adopted Guiding Principles for Legislative Action.
- The Salton Sea Authority supports revenue sharing agreements that are mutually acceptable to all concerned that warrant support, along with legislation that will enable such arrangements. Cooperative ventures between the Federal Government and the mineral rich counties in the Salton Sea region may offer opportunities to equitably address federal and local priorities with new resources.

Appropriations from existing WRDA authorization

- The Salton Sea Authority supports Federal funding and cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers. \$30 million in federal funding for Salton Sea restoration was authorized in 2007 under the federal Water Resource Development Act (WRDA), but never spent. Funding is limited to \$5 million federal contribution for any individual pilot project and a non-federal cost-share of 35 percent is required. The Salton Sea provisions are:
 - The Secretary of the Army will enter into agreement with the State of California, with the consultation of the Salton Sea Authority and the USGS Salton Sea Science Office (SSSO) to carry out pilot projects for improvement of the environment in the area of the Salton Sea.
 - In addition to consulting with the SSA and SSSO, the Secretary must also take into consideration the priorities of the State and the SSA.
- While funding has been appropriated in the President's budget for annual Energy and Water Appropriations Act budget for the Army Corps, this funding has fallen away during the years when Continuing Resolutions wiped out such necessary adjustments. The \$30 million authorization thus remains available, subject to appropriations. Pilot projects could be funded through the Army Corps, if the budget is passed with provision for \$300,000 for completion.
- The Salton Sea provides a nexus of multiple Federal interests: renewable energy development, Environmental protection and endangered species recovery,

protection of human health (Clean Air Act) and water security (national and international water right agreements on Colorado River). The federal government has an interest in supporting federal/state/local partnerships that can generate positive outcomes in lieu of liabilities for deteriorating environment and deadly human health impacts. Thus the Salton Sea continues to support federal legislation to appropriate maximum funding to the Salton Sea Authority and member agency projects while also supporting federal safe harbor provisions and incentives for private investors to partner with public entities on renewable energy projects at the Sea, conditional to cooperation with local restoration efforts under auspices of the Salton Sea Authority.

Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2015 (S.1407)

- S. 1407 intends to promote the development of renewable energy on public lands while ensuring that local communities see benefits to conservation efforts. The bill calls for an environmental review process to assess public lands and determine which renewable energy projects would be most viable in those areas. Under the bill, the Bureau of Land Management would collect a royalty from developers that site their projects on these public lands. From these funds 25% would go to the state, 25% to the county, 15% to the BLM and 35% would be deposited into a fund for conservation purposes.
- Imperial and Riverside Counties are home to thousands of acres of public lands, including some of the most prominent geothermal, solar and wind development areas. If enacted, this bill may provide multiple benefits to not only the Salton Sea but the neighboring communities. The SSA will continue to watch this bill until further congressional action is taken.
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