

# Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2016  
10:00 a.m.

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



**AGENDA:** **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**DATE:** **MEETING**  
**Thursday, January 28, 2016**  
**LOCATION:** **10:00 a.m.**  
**Imperial Irrigation District**  
**Bill Condit Auditorium**  
**1285 Broadway Avenue**  
**El Centro, CA 92243**  
**(760) 482-9618**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**II. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

*This is the time set aside for any Board Member to ask questions or address any issue posed by a member of the public.*

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Any member of the public may address and ask questions of the Board relating to any matter within the Authority's jurisdiction. **This 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 December 10, 2015
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for December 2015
- C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2015 – 12/31/2015

**V. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Renewable Energy Planning -- CEC Grant Progress (Andy Horne, Cindy Thielman-Braun)  
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.

## **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 (Phil Johnson)
- 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. Salton Sea Action Committee (SSAC) (Juan DeLara)

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

### **NEXT MEETING TIME & LOCATION:**

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

*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**  
**December 10, 2015**

**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 10:05 a.m., December 10, 2015, at the Coachella Valley Water District, Steve Robbins Administration Building, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92260, (760) 398-2651.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Benoit led the Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL:**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

John J. Benoit, President  
G. Patrick O’Dowd, Treasurer  
Marion Ashley, Director  
Cástulo R. Estrada, Director  
Thomas Tortez

**AGENCY**

Riverside County  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Riverside County  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Torres Martínez Desert Cahuilla Indians

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ryan E. Kelley, Vice President  
Matt Dessert, Secretary  
James C. Hanks, Director  
John Renison, Director  
Frank Durgin, Director

**AGENCY**

Imperial County  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Imperial County  
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

*No directors attended via teleconference.*

*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, Gloria J. Sampson Accounting Services, Consultant  
Bob Hargreaves, Best Best & Krieger, Legal Counsel  
Bill Brownlie, Tetra Tech, Consultant

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT**

Alan Pace  
Dan Farris  
Ben Beal  
Linda Beal  
Holly Mayton  
Graeme Donaldson  
Chris Schoneman  
Nathan White  
Tom Sephton  
Juan De Lara  
Katie Pine  
Rick Adler  
Suzie Earp  
Juan Murillo  
Nikola Lakic  
Drew Story  
Paul Quill  
Felicia Sirchia  
Mike Sutton  
Michael Flores  
Patrick Taber  
Jennifer Henke  
Vickie Doyle  
Alberto Ramirez  
Lendal Miller  
Pat Cooper  
Kerry Morrison  
Gary Jennings

**AGENCY**

Petra Geoscience  
Coachella Valley Water District  
Salton Sea History Museum Volunteer  
Salton Sea History Museum  
Salton Sea Sense  
Imperial Irrigation District  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Agess, Inc.  
Sephton Water Technologies  
Federated Ins., Travertine Point, SSAC  
UC Irvine Salton Sea Initiative  
RSA Skimmer  
CSUSB PDC (Salton Sea Archives)  
CSUSB Water Resources Institute  
Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.  
UCR / Salton Sea Sense  
Salton Sea Action Committee  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Michael Baker Intl.  
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
CV Mosquito & Vector Control District  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Supervisor John J. Benoit  
Ecomedia Compass

**II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public comments were presented by: Mr. Nathan White, Agess, Inc., of San Diego, CA; Mr. Nikola Lakic of Indio, CA; Mr. Rick Adler, RSA Protective Technologies, LLC; Mr. Ben Beal; Ms. Linda Beal; Mr. Gary Jennings.

*(The conference call line failed during public comments; connection was not reestablished.)*

### III. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no Board member comments.

### IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Minutes of October 22, 2015
- B. Warrant Register Ratification for October 2015
- C. Internal Financial Report for: 7/01/2015- 10/31/2015
- D. Fiscal Year 2015/2016 Administrative Budget Transfers for Board's Approval
- E. 2016 Schedule of Salton Sea Authority Board Meetings
- 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.

*Director Ashley moved that the Consent Calendar be approved. Seconded by Director O'Dowd. Unanimously carried.*

### V. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Executive Director Phil Rosentrater reviewed in detail, and answered a few questions regarding, the draft Salton Sea Authority 2016 Legislative Platform, for the Board's review and approval.

*Chairman Benoit called for a motion to approve the Legislative Platform for 2016. Director Tortez so moved. Seconded by Director O'Dowd. Unanimously carried.*

### VI. REPORTS

- A. General Manager's Report

Mr. Rosentrater referred the Board to his written report, and explained that there are many exciting alignments coming up in the next year. The focus of his general manager's report is to set priorities, narrow focus, and build step by step. The Board asked no questions, but expressed appreciation for the good report that kept them abreast of his activities and the challenges the Authority faces.

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

Bill Brownlie reported on the progress at the Torres Martinez wetlands site. An existing derelict well on tribal property has been refurbished, and a new pump will be purchased and connected.

Mr. Brownlie reported that the consulting team on FFAP Benchmark 5 – IFD has completed their preliminary work plan and will begin the remainder of the work.

Benchmark 6 was the NREL report which has been completed and published.

And he reported on progress toward Benchmarks 4 (engineering report) and 7 (the final summary report) and answered questions about the blending of the perimeter lake plan with the State's management plan.

### C. Standing Report

#### 1. FEDERAL:

Ms. Val Simon, Salton Sea Program Manager for the Bureau of Land Management, reported that her attendance at an Asthma Forum at Brawley High School in Imperial County opened the door for her to mentor them to accurately present current Salton Sea facts to other schools in the area.

The Department of the Interior is working on a MOU with the State and will participate in many of the committees for the State's management plan including the outreach committee.

Department of the Interior/Bureau of Reclamation has committed to permitting community use of their lands.

Regarding the Authority's legislative platform, Ms. Simon said she is willing and able to work with Mr. Rosentrater to be sure the Authority's interests are met and to help where she can with Reclamation's Small Business Revolving Fund if/when funding is put in.

#### 2. STATE:

Mr. Rosentrater presented a report by Assistant Secretary of Resources for Salton Sea Bruce Wilcox who had to be in Sacramento and could not report in person. He reported on actions the Water Task Force for the Salton Sea at the State level is taking: they have proposed several committees to move forward on work product and deliverables and to coordinate with locals and the feds; committee guidelines and membership will be released end of this week; and a schedule of activities will be released soon.

### D. Water Resources Institute

Ms. Suzie Earp, long-time archivist for WRI Cal State San Bernardino, reported that she has just been named Director of the WRI. Boykin Witherspoon was named by the Chancellor to head up the water centers of all the campuses in the 23-campus system. She then introduced Mr. Juan Murillo, archivist for the WRI Salton Sea archive, who reported that as of December 2015 4555 documents, including digitized air quality and water quality reports, had been entered into the WRI's database. About 2/3 of the collection is out of boxes. Their goal is to upload the documents to their website, [wripdc.csusb.edu](http://wripdc.csusb.edu), as soon as they have been scanned.

Ms. Earp reported that they have entered into an agreement with UCI to build a data repository.

Ms. Earp extended an invitation to visit the archives at the CSUSB Palm Desert campus, Indian Wells Building 304, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and to contact her or Juan if more information is wanted.

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

Mr. Juan DeLara reported that Lee Osborne, SSAC's treasurer, resigned. Their new treasurer is Melanie Cox. Mr. DeLara reported on an upcoming event in March. Doug Viers is trying to put together a knowledgeable crew to complete the boat ramp project. SSAC is putting on a campaign to raise the money they committed for Benchmark 5.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Benoit invited closing comments. Director Estrada thanked Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia for inviting the next speaker to the Assembly, Anthony Rendon, to come out to hear updates regarding the Salton Sea – and thanked Phil Rosentrater for accommodating.

Chairman John J. Benoit adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

**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) 760-482-9618**

**Warrant Register**  
**November 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015**



<b>Warrant Date</b>	<b>Warrant Number</b>	<b>Vendor Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
11/02/2015	16025	OfficeMax	31.31
11/02/2015	16026	Petty Cash	82.07
11/02/2015	16027	Sampson, GJ Acct	6,133.00
11/02/2015	16028	Southwest Networks	48.55
11/02/2015	16029	Sampson, GJ Acct - 214	2,902.50
11/02/2015	16030	Sampson, GJ Acct - 215	1,215.00
11/13/2015	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	647.41
11/21/2015	EFT	Verizon Wireless	187.13
11/25/2015	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	1,700.00
11/30/2015	EFT	Rabobank	15.00
12/01/2015	EFT	Pitney Bowes	8.91
12/08/2015	16031	Best, Best & Krieger	3,277.50
12/08/2015	16032	RivCo EDA	11,838.05
12/08/2015	16033	Rosentrater, Phil	142.39
12/08/2015	16034	Sampson, GJ Acct	7,685.50
12/08/2015	16035	Void	-
12/08/2015	16036	Best, Best & Krieger	3,106.00
12/08/2015	16037	Sampson, GJ Acct - 214	1,462.50
12/08/2015	16038	Tetra Tech	8,550.00
12/08/2015	16039	Southwest Networks	475.00
12/08/2015	16040	OfficeTeam	469.65
12/08/2015	16041	Riverside County	30,000.00
12/08/2015	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	475.85
12/08/2015	16042	Best, Best & Krieger	14,870.79
12/15/2015	EFT	FedEx	24.20
12/23/2015	EFT	Verizon Wireless	195.44
12/23/2015	EFT	Rabobank Credit Card	1,050.00
12/28/2015	EFT	Pitney Bowes	87.49
12/31/2015	EFT	Rabobank	15.00
<b>Total \$</b>			<b>96,696.24</b>

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

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	215 Funding Feasibility Review	702 Fish Clean Up Trust	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>					
Current Assets					
Checking/Savings					
0001010 - Cash - Checking	118,950.22	-59,527.43	-52,446.86	0.00	6,975.93
0001011 - Cash - Money Market	363,466.05	10,712.04	0.00	20,991.43	395,169.52
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
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>514,674.49</b>	<b>-48,815.39</b>	<b>-52,446.86</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>434,403.67</b>
Accounts Receivable					
0001210 - Accounts Receivable	10,000.00	67,670.21	210,962.77	0.00	288,632.98
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>10,000.00</b>	<b>67,670.21</b>	<b>210,962.77</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>288,632.98</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>524,674.49</b>	<b>18,854.82</b>	<b>158,515.91</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>723,036.65</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>524,674.49</b>	<b>18,854.82</b>	<b>158,515.91</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>723,036.65</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>					
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Accounts Payable					
0002010 - Accounts Payable	36,886.66	47,719.50	161,871.43	0.00	246,477.59
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>36,886.66</b>	<b>47,719.50</b>	<b>161,871.43</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>246,477.59</b>
Credit Cards					
0002015 - Credit Card Payable	2,534.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,534.40
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>2,534.40</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,534.40</b>
Other Current Liabilities					
0002820 - Deferred Revenue	0.00	67,670.21	0.00	0.00	67,670.21
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>67,670.21</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>67,670.21</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>39,421.06</b>	<b>115,389.71</b>	<b>161,871.43</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>316,682.20</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>39,421.06</b>	<b>115,389.71</b>	<b>161,871.43</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>316,682.20</b>
Equity					
0003009 - Fund Balance	104,595.98	-61,707.53	-30,883.18	20,991.43	32,996.70
Net Income	380,657.45	-34,827.36	27,527.66	0.00	373,357.75
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>485,253.43</b>	<b>-96,534.89</b>	<b>-3,355.52</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>406,354.45</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>524,674.49</b>	<b>18,854.82</b>	<b>158,515.91</b>	<b>20,991.43</b>	<b>723,036.65</b>

**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Revenue & Expenditure by Fund**  
 July through December 2015

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	215 Funding Feasibility Review	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
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	381.90	0.00	0.00	381.90
<b>Total Income</b>	610,381.90	0.00	430,430.33	1,040,812.23
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>1020000 - SSA ADMINISTRATION</b>				
1025010 - Salaries				
Salaries - GM	34,261.04	0.00	0.00	34,261.04
Salaries - RivCo EDA	33,011.55	0.00	0.00	33,011.55
Salaries - Admin Support A	17,556.73	0.00	0.00	17,556.73
<b>Total 1025010 - Salaries</b>	84,829.32	0.00	0.00	84,829.32
1025500 - Employee Benefits				
Employee Benefits - RivCo EDA	9,229.26	0.00	0.00	9,229.26
Employee Benefits - SSA	13,856.54	0.00	0.00	13,856.54
<b>Total 1025500 - Employee Benefits</b>	23,085.80	0.00	0.00	23,085.80
1026050 - Contract Svc/Professional				
Contract Svc/Prof - Adm Sup C	21,600.00	0.00	0.00	21,600.00
Contract Svc/Prof - Adm Sup D	2,482.07	0.00	0.00	2,482.07
Contract Svc/Prof - Finance	22,848.00	0.00	0.00	22,848.00
<b>Total 1026050 - Contract Svc/Professional</b>	46,930.07	0.00	0.00	46,930.07
1026010 - Contract Svc/Attorney				
Contract Svcs/Attorney - Genera	9,027.38	0.00	0.00	9,027.38
<b>Total 1026010 - Contract Svc/Attorney</b>	9,027.38	0.00	0.00	9,027.38
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	9,265.77	0.00	0.00	9,265.77
1027030 - Office Exp/Operating Supplies	3,367.68	0.00	0.00	3,367.68
1027035 - Office Exp/Online Services	376.63	0.00	0.00	376.63
1026450 - Postage, Mail	535.23	0.00	0.00	535.23
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	3,251.42	0.00	0.00	3,251.42
1026370 - Travel/Meetings	18,489.80	0.00	0.00	18,489.80
1026060 - Contract Svcs/WRI,Archive Mgmt	8,333.00	0.00	0.00	8,333.00
<b>Total 1020000 - SSA ADMINISTRATION</b>	228,330.28	0.00	0.00	228,330.28

**Salton Sea Authority**  
**Revenue & Expenditure by Fund**  
 July through December 2015

	101 General	214 Wetlands Grant	215 Funding Feasibility Review	TOTAL
<b>6020000 - WETLANDS GRANT ADMINISTRATION</b>				
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
<b>Total 6020000 - WETLANDS GRANT ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>1,394.17</b>	<b>7,064.60</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>8,458.77</b>
<b>6040000 - WETLANDS GRANT TECHNICAL</b>				
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	23,582.76	0.00	23,582.76
<b>Total 6040000 - WETLANDS GRANT TECHNICAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,762.76</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,762.76</b>
<b>6050000 - FUNDING/FEASIBILITY ADMIN</b>				
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
<b>Total 6055010 - Salaries</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>27,008.41</b>	<b>27,008.41</b>
6055500 - Employee Benefits	0.00	0.00	5,410.03	5,410.03
6056010 - Contract Svcs/Attorney	0.00	0.00	16,286.40	16,286.40
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
<b>Total 6050000 - FUNDING/FEASIBILITY ADMIN</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>54,122.34</b>	<b>54,122.34</b>
<b>6060000 - FUNDING/FEASIBILITY TECHNICAL</b>				
6066016 - Contract Svcs/TetraTech \$1.7	0.00	0.00	348,780.33	348,780.33
<b>Total 6060000 - FUNDING/FEASIBILITY TECHNICAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>348,780.33</b>	<b>348,780.33</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>229,724.45</b>	<b>34,827.36</b>	<b>402,902.67</b>	<b>667,454.48</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>380,657.45</b>	<b>-34,827.36</b>	<b>27,527.66</b>	<b>373,357.75</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>380,657.45</b>	<b>-34,827.36</b>	<b>27,527.66</b>	<b>373,357.75</b>

## Memorandum

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors  
**From:** Phil Rosentrater, General Manager  
**Date:** January 28, 2016  
**Re:** Renewable Energy planning -- CEC Grant progress  
**CM No.** V.A. – 01/28/16

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### 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 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 general deliverables of the grant are similar in both counties, there are elements unique to each that have bearing on the Salton Sea Authority efforts to integrate the resources and plans related to Salton Sea revitalization. For instance, while the Imperial County effort placed special emphasis upon revising the 2006 Geothermal/Alternative Energy & Transmission Element, Riverside County offered to initiate opportunities and constraints mapping specifically for the Salton Sea Authority.

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 US Dept. 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.

*(continued)*

As the deadline approaches for completion of this CEC grant, representatives from each respective county have offered to provide an update to the Salton Sea Authority board on the CEC grants for updating renewable energy elements in the general plans for each county.

**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

# Staff Report

**To:** Salton Sea Authority Board  
**From:** Phil Johnson, Salton Sea Policy Intern, SSA  
**Date:** January 28, 2015  
**Re:** **Legislative Update**  
**CM No.** **VI.D. – 01/28/16**

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Staff members from agencies of the Salton Sea Authority are coordinating a unified response to threats and opportunities in the legislative arena at both the state and federal levels.

SSA and its member agencies jointly engaged in the following activities to drive legislative and policy initiatives supported by the Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors:

## Assembly Bill Summaries

### **AB 1095 (Garcia) – Proposition 1 appropriation: Salton Sea**

**SSA Position:** Support

**Status:** **Passed Assembly unopposed on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ordered to Senate, 1<sup>st</sup> read through with Comm. on Rules. As of Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> this bill was approved by the Governor, and has been chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 722, Statutes of 2015.**

AB 1095 is a bill set in place to secure an appropriation from Proposition 1 state water bond funding to fulfill state obligations related to the QSA. In response to request from the SSA, the bill was amended to include QSA Chapter 614 that the SSA successfully fought to insert into Prop 1 language last year. This bill has subsequently been amended to set forth the governing structure –established in AB 71 (Perez) through SSA efforts in 2013 –to guide the state/local cooperation on implementing projects around the sea. The bill now calls for the Natural Resources Agency to submit to the Legislature a list of shovel-ready Salton Sea restoration projects, including information regarding project costs and project completion timelines no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The SSA is following up with the Natural Resources Agency to ensure this deadline is met to the satisfaction of all parties involved. As of July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 an amendment of the bill defined “shovel-ready” as those projects that are in either the final planning, environmental review, or permitting phase.

Gov. Jerry Brown proposed a \$122.6 billion budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year on January 7<sup>th</sup>, which sets aside 80 million dollars from the Proposition 1 state water bond.

The SSA will continue to work with the author and Resources Agency staff to enact the intent of AB 1095 to spur appropriation of state funding required to avert disaster at the Salton Sea, and to serve as a down payment on state contractual obligations related to the regional water transfer (QSA) brokered by the state.

### **SB 317 (De León) – The Safe Neighborhood Parks, Rivers and Coastal Protection Bonds Act of 2016**

**SSA Position: Support**

**Status: Ordered to Senate Appropriations Committee. May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015 hearing: placed on APPR. suspense file. Sept. 11, 2015 ordered to inactive file on request of Senator Mitchell.**

SB 317 would require the State of California, in accordance with Section 5880 to Division 5 of the Public Resources Code, would require financing and funding of parks, rivers and coastal protection in California. The state would be obligated to fund these projects immediately.

This bill would have some potential benefits for the Salton Sea because this bill would allow for the Salton Sea Authority to receive funding from the state for protection and restoration efforts. Section 2, Article 5, subsection 5883 of SB 317 implies that funds shall be made available to agencies that provide “protection and restoration of rivers, lakes, streams, etc., protect the fish and wildlife resources of the state, and provide access to these resources to the people of California.” As mentioned, the SSA would be included in this bill and benefit because this bill applies to the mission of the SSA and the work it currently does.

Specifically, subsection 5883.8 provides authorization for \$50 million to be made available for the Salton Sea Restoration Fund.

The SSA supports this bill because funding for SSA projects coordinated with the state to benefit ecosystem and habitat protection, shoreline and sea stabilizations complies with the requirements of subsection 5883 and should thus be eligible for \$50 million from the fund.

**SCR 48 (McGuire and Hueso) – Geothermal Awareness Month and Geothermal Awareness Day.**

**SSA Position: Support**

**Status: Introduced on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Read and adopted by the Senate on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Chaptered by Secretary of State. Res. Chapter 72, Statutes of 2015.**

SCR 48 would recognize the month of May 2015, as Geothermal Awareness Month and May 21, 2015, as Geothermal Awareness Day. In this measure there are many important legislative findings supporting our cause.

California contains the largest amount of geothermal generating capacity in the United States due to its location on the Pacific “Ring of Fire” and the tectonic plate junctions. Imperial County’s Salton Sea known Geothermal Resource Area is considered to have a significant near-term growth opportunity of over 2,000 megawatts of electric generation from additional geothermal resource development. Fully developing Imperial County’s Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area could produce 5,214 construction jobs, and up to 1,093 long-term operating and maintenance jobs, substantially improving the economy of one of the most impoverished counties in the state, where over 22 percent of the population is unemployed. The preservation of California’s existing geothermal generation and the development of new geothermal generation could facilitate the achievement of the state’s post 2020 energy and environmental goals.

All of these admissions coincide with one of the main goals of the Salton Sea Authority’s platform of developing geothermal production at and around the Salton Sea.

Federal Bill Summaries

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

**SSA Position: Support**

**Status: Introduced to Senate. 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> read through, pass. Referred to Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings to be held.**

S. 1407 intends to use available lands for renewable energy efforts in addition, for other purposes. The bill is separated into two parts –first, the logistics of development. This bill hopes to utilize available land for developing solar, wind, geothermal and wind energy projects. The bill includes an “environmental review” to assess specific public lands and determine which renewable energy project would be most viable, efficient and

have the most impact in said specific area. The second portion of the bill deals with revenue and enforcement. Under this bill, the Secretary of the Treasury would be held responsible for allocating revenue and royalties to the cities and/or counties, where these projects are being developed. In addition, it would mean sharing renewable energy fees and royalties from Bureau of Land Management lands.

The SSA should support S. 1407 if amended for all the potential benefits it has, both environmentally and financially. Environmentally, this bill would benefit the SSA because the Salton Sea and neighboring areas are hotspots for untapped geothermal energy in many available public lands. S. 1407 mentions setting up “priority and variance areas” which are public lands that have untapped access to geothermal, wind and solar energy. Since the Salton Sea area has one of the largest geothermal fields, and year-round exposed to plenty of sunlight; this region is a large public land hotspot for renewable energy, which this bill favors.

Financially, this bill has benefits as well. Under Section 212, subsection 2, 25% of total revenue from these projects would be allocated to the counties where these projects are located. These renewable energy projects have the ability to generate funding with benefits to both Imperial and Riverside County.

In addition, the bill includes a “Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund.” This fund is for regions that are impacted by renewable energy development projects and provides additional funding for “protecting and restoring fish and wildlife habitat on Federal lands.” This conservation funds has potential benefits as well because money would be given to further revitalize and sustain ecosystems on public lands, which the SSA already works towards.

The SSA should support this bill. The monetary benefits would help both Riverside and Imperial County, and the SSA in carrying out additional revitalization and sustainability efforts.

#### **S.414 (Feinstein) - California Desert Conservation and Recreation Act of 2015**

**SSA Position: Support**

**Status: Introduced to the Senate Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Referred on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining. Hearings held.**

This measure amends the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to, among other things: (1) establish or designate national monuments, wilderness areas, a special management area, off-highway vehicle recreation areas, a national scenic area, and an

area of critical environmental concern; (2) release specified wilderness study areas; (3) adjust national park and preserve boundaries; and (4) specify land withdrawals, exchanges, and acquisitions.

This measure also sets forth requirements for the disposition of revenues collected as payments for the development of wind and solar energy on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Also establishes the Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund.

The specifics that affect SSA and “of note” this only applies to the development of wind or solar energy land managed by the BLM are as follows:

- 25% of the payments go to counties involved
- 35% of the payments go to “Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund” which is managed by the Sec. of the Interior.
- Areas that are eligible for such “funds” that are of note for the SSA are ones around wind or solar development areas that are in need of restoring and protecting such as: wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors, and water resources.

Lastly Rep. Paul Cook has filed a concurrent bill HR 3668, which also calls for amendments to the California Desert Protection Act of 1994. Most notably for the SSA HR 3668 does not include the “disposition of revenues” or any similar section as S.414.

The SSA should support S.414 and watch HR 3668 in the coming months to see which measures if either are garnering support and moving forward. At the moment both are in the same stage with the Natural Resources committees of the House and the Senate, with both having a lower than 15% chance of being enacted.

#### Terminology Reference

**Chaptered** - After a bill has been signed by the Governor, the Secretary of State assigns the bill a Chapter Number, for example, “Chapter 123, Statutes of 1998,” which subsequently may be used to refer to the measure.

**Held under submission** - action taken by a committee when a bill is heard in committee and there is an indication that the author and the committee members want to work on or discuss the bill further, but there is no motion for the bill to progress out of committee. This does not preclude the bill from being set for another hearing.

**Inactive file** - The portion of the Daily File containing legislation that is ready for floor consideration, but, for a variety of reasons, is dormant. An author may move a bill to the inactive file if he or she wishes to take it up at a later date. Once a bill is on the inactive file, one day’s public notice is needed to place it back on the agenda.

**Suspense File** - A bill or set of bills, with a fiscal impact, set aside in Appropriations Committee by a majority of Members present and voting. These bills may be heard at a later hearing.