

# Local legislator considering creating new state position for Salton Sea restoration



Recommend 11

1

Share 9

(12)

By ELIZABETH VARIN  
Staff Writer

12:41 a.m. PDT, May 27, 2011

**THERMAL** — A new leadership position at a state agency may focus on Salton Sea restoration in response to actions proposed to solve the state's budget deficit.

Gov. **Jerry Brown**, as part of his May revise of the state budget, has proposed eliminating 43 boards and commissions, including the recently created Salton Sea Restoration Council. The council was created by legislation from former area Sen. Denise Moreno Ducheny and tasked with identifying a restoration plan and [funding](#) sources to fix the sea.

### Topics

- [Renovation](#)
- [Laws](#)
- [Sacramento](#)

[See more topics »](#)

Millions of dollars have already been set aside through two state propositions for restoration at the Salton Sea, said Silvia Paz, senior field representative with area Assemblyman V. Manuel Pérez's office. That funding would likely not come through with the commission's elimination if there is no other oversight structure.

Pérez, D-Coachella, is considering creating legislation that will lead to the appointment of a deputy director for the state [Department of Natural Resources](#), she said. That position

would be in charge of the Salton Sea.

On behalf of Pérez, she asked for input from the Salton Sea Authority, a joint agency with both Imperial and Riverside county and local water agency officials.

The Salton Sea Authority board supported the idea, on the condition that whoever is put in place interacts with local officials.

The way restoration efforts have been set up before never work well in this area, said Imperial County Supervisor Gary Wyatt. The decision-makers have been in [Sacramento](#), but the efforts really need to happen locally.

"It's gotten us absolutely nowhere," he said.

It could be a positive thing should the person in the deputy director position really get involved by sitting as an ad hoc member of the Salton Sea Authority and working in the Salton Sea area, Wyatt said.

The board voted to send a letter of support to Pérez.

If the legislation is written and approved, the position doesn't seem like it will replace the committee that's going away, said board President and Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley. It looks like it will make sure that something gets done.

Staff Writer Elizabeth Varin can be reached at [evarin@ivpressonline.com](mailto:evarin@ivpressonline.com) or 760-337-3441.

Copyright © 2011, Imperial Valley Press



Recommend 11

1

Share 9

(12)

« Previous Story

**More News**

Next Story »



Imperial Valley Junior Master Chorale "A Spring Concert" a hit with many

Juvenile program faces uncertainty with lack of state funding

## Local News



Whooping cough vaccination clinic held to avoid last-minute rush



NAF dedicates POW/MIA memorial, honors squadron



Students get wet while learning about water

### Group suspected in stabbing attack



Fallen soldier, veterans honored at El Centro Memorial Day Ceremony



Brawley's Sophia Carrillo off to study in the U.K. and Europe under Fulbright



### El Centro metropolitan area records highest April unemployment rate

1:36 p.m.

### Desert Oasis High School graduation tonight

### Immigration adds 1,300 beds for SoCal detainees

### Poetry club to meet in Calexico

### Border wait times

### Two vehicles sets on fire, arson suspected