



July 9, 2014

Senator Kevin de Leon, Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: SUPPORT - AB 1096 (Nestande): Salton Sea specialty license plate

Dear Chairman de Leon:

On behalf of the Salton Sea Authority, I respectfully request your support for AB 1096 (Nestande) in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

This bipartisan bill co-authored by Assemblymembers Brian Nestande and Manuel Perez, will provide additional public awareness and financial support for the economic revitalization and environmental restoration of the Salton Sea.

Specifically, AB 1096 would create a Salton Sea Specialty License Plate with proceeds from sales of these plates contributed to a Salton Sea restoration account in the Specialized License Plate Fund to fund restoration efforts at the Salton Sea.

The Salton Sea is the largest inland body of water in California. The Sea serves as a critical link on the Pacific Flyway, providing habitat for the largest migratory waterfowl population outside of the Everglades. Although the Sea suffers from some of the worst economic and environmental decline in the nation, the region is poised for a transformation to health and prosperity through development of the largest and most diverse renewable energy resources in the world.

AB 1096 allows Californians to support this important cause, raises public awareness of the effort and provides a continuous funding stream for restoration projects. A similar program, the California Lake Tahoe license plate, has raised more than \$12 million with 96 percent of the funding going directly to projects that build, maintain and protect the trails, water quality, wildlife and forest health of the Lake Tahoe Basin.

For these reasons, we urge you to vote YES on AB 1096 when it is heard in Senate Appropriations Committee on August 4.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger A. Shintaku".

Roger Shintaku
General Manager, Salton Sea Authority

CC: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee
Assemblyman Manuel V. Perez
CA Resources Secretary
CA Fish & Wildlife Commissioners
City Councils of Coachella Valley
Coachella Valley Association of Governments

Assemblyman Brian Nestande
Inland Caucus of CA Legislators

Salton Sea Authority member agencies
City Councils of Imperial Valley