



*Southern California Pipe Trades  
District Council 16*

**MIKE LAYTON**  
Business Manager  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer

March 9, 2018

Mr. John Laird  
Secretary for Natural Resources  
California Natural Resources Agency  
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311  
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Request for Information (RPI) for Salton Sea importation Projects

Dear Secretary Laird,

The Southern California Pipe Trades, District Council No.16, and its affiliated Local Unions which includes the United Association of Plumbers, Steamfitters, and HVACR Service Techs Local Union #230 of San Diego and Imperial Counties, commend you, Governor Jerry Brown, and the Natural Resources Agency on their decision to issue a Request for Ideas, regarding the problems related to the Salton Sea.

With over 7,500 members covering 12 counties, the Southern California Pipe Trades has taken a vested interest in addressing the environmental and economic impact of a comprehensive Salton Sea restoration. The impact on our members well-being with severe air pollution, increase in toxic dust, and high Asthma rates for our members children; we would like to see a comprehensive restoration. We believe the Binational Water Groups (BWG) and STANTEC have developed the prerequisite components in their proposal to "meet the public and ecological health issues at the Salton Sea, while securing Colorado River water supplies for the state." This reclamation program addresses environmental and water supplies issues confronting the Colorado River Region:

- Stabilization of the Salton Sea
- Desalination program generating new reliable water supplies
- Extensive Salt Management of the Salton Trough and Brine disposal
- Reclamation of degraded farmlands in the Mexicali Valley
- Surface water quality improvements

It will produce 1,200,000 Acre Feet per year of ground water that is extracted from a network of well fields in the Mexicali Valley to the United States for direct delivery to the Salton Sea and feedstock for desalination in the United States. It will develop a brine disposal pipeline for waste

streams and accumulated salts and the Waste Water Treatment plants address the water quality issues in the New and Alamo Rivers. It also addresses the reclamation of impaired ground water and ground water storage and banking projects for Drought Relief. According to Binational Water Group/ Stantec estimates, these multifaceted Infrastructure projects will create over 5,000 jobs and provide a tremendous boost to the economy of Imperial County.

We appreciate your consideration of Binational Water Group and STANTEC's proposal based on its merit and compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (213) 487-4262.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Layton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Michael Layton  
Business Manager  
Financial Secretary/Treasurer  
Southern California Pipe Trades  
District Council No. 16

ML:ab  
Opeiu#537/af-cio