



**Office of Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry
City of San Diego
District 1**

March 6, 2018

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

RE: Request for Information (RFI) for Salton Sea Water Importation Projects

Dear Secretary Laird,

I am writing to urge you to consider the Binational Water Group (BWG) and STANTEC's proposal in response to the California Natural Resource Agency's Request for Information, regarding the Salton Sea Water Importation Projects.

Restoration of the Salton Sea is imperative to preserve the ecological health of the region, and secure Colorado River water supplies for the state. BWG and STANTEC state their proposal sufficiently addresses all environmental, and water supplies issues confronting the Colorado River region. The group's long-term reclamation program addresses the following issues:

- 1) Stabilization of the Salton Sea,
- 2) A desalination program generating new reliable water supplies,
- 3) Extensive salt management of the Salton Trough and brine disposal, and
- 4) Reclamation of the degraded farmland in the Mexicali Valley.

BWG and STANTEC told me the program addresses the challenges of salt accumulation and over-reliance on the Colorado River. The groups also represented the program is based on a multi-faceted infrastructure program, which will create 5,000 jobs and provide an economic boost to Imperial County. Additionally, the program will be implemented through public-private partnerships with the State of Baja and the State of California.

I appreciate your consideration of BWG and STANTEC's proposal based on its merit and compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Sincerely,

Council President Pro Tem Barbara Bry