



# Species Conservation Habitat Habitat / Dust Suppression

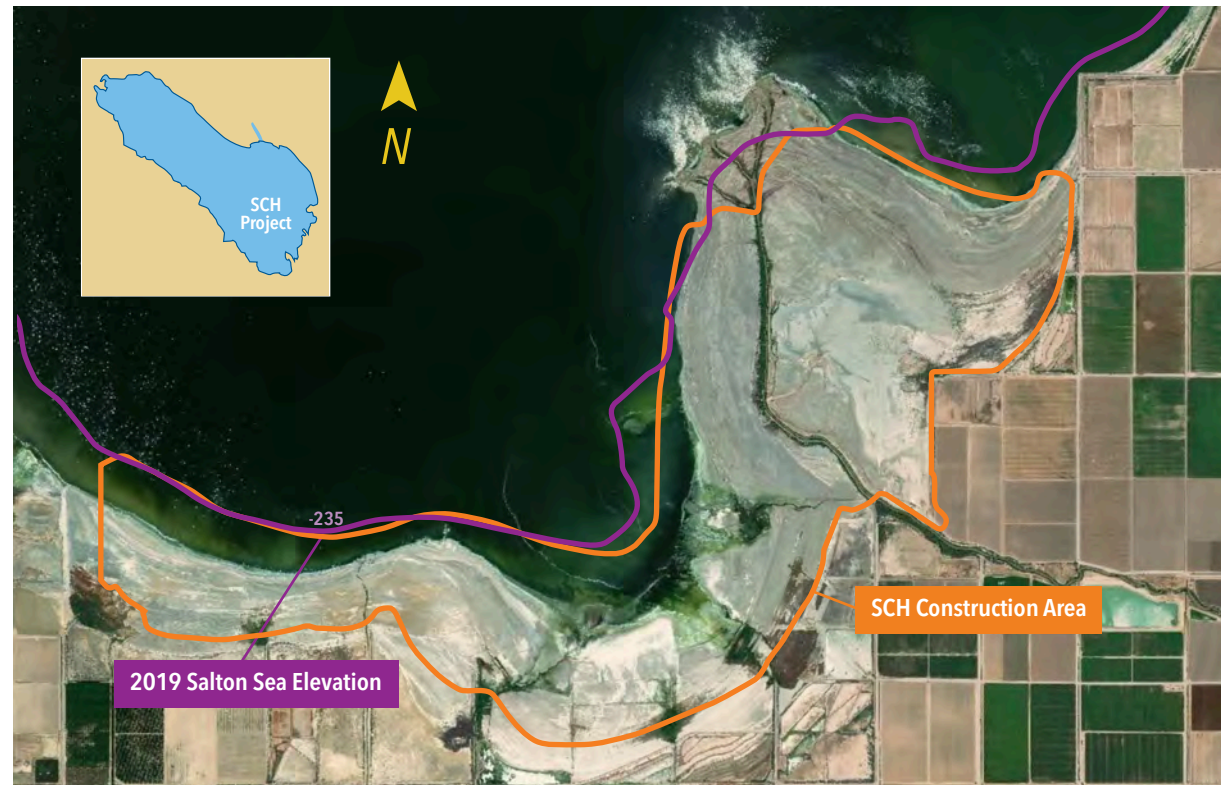
**The Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) Project** will break ground in 2020 as the first major habitat project of the state's 10-year plan to improve air quality and provide critical habitat for birds and fish at the Salton Sea. The SCH will construct fish and bird habitat by creating shallow and deep ponds with lower salinity levels than the greater Salton Sea. The deep ponds will include islands to protect nesting birds from predators. The SCH also reduces dust emissions by covering exposed lakebed with water.

### Goals

- **New Habitat:** Approximately 3,770 acres of both shallow and deep habitat for birds and fish
- **Community Benefit:** Habitat viewing area with new parking
- **Air Quality Improvement:** Reduced dust in a highly emissive location

### Funding

- **Total Project Cost:** \$212.6 million



The SCH is located along the southwest side of the Salton Sea adjacent to the New River.

**October 2019**  
State opens construction contract

**Summer 2020**  
State anticipates awarding construction contract

**Fall 2020**  
Anticipated project launch

**Winter 2023**  
Anticipated completion date