

## Updated Request for Information

**Date:** August 13, 2021

**To:** All Interested Parties, and Participants in the 12/08/17 Request for Information for Salton Sea Water Importation Projects

**From:** Chair, Independent Review Panel Evaluating Water Import Options for Long-Term Restoration of the Salton Sea

**Re:** **Independent Review Panel's Follow-up to the 2017 Request for Information**

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On December 8, 2017, the California Natural Resources Agency issued a Request for Information (RFI) to assist the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) in identifying approaches to water importation to meet the long-range goals of the SSMP. An Independent Review Panel (Panel) has been tasked to review the eleven submissions to the RFI and solicit additional ideas for water importation. The chair of the Independent Review Panel, Dr. Rominder Suri, is issuing an updated RFI with the following purposes:

1. To invite parties that did not participate in the 2017 RFI to make a submission now,
2. To invite the eleven original participants to update their submissions if they so wish, and
3. To invite both new and original submitters to make a presentation to the Panel on their submission.

### 1. New Submissions

The original RFI is attached to this follow-up for Information. The Panel asks that all new submissions follow the original Request format with the following exceptions:

**Section 4 of the original RFI, Cost projection:** In order to facilitate the Panel's comparison of proposals, the Panel requests that new submissions complete the attached spreadsheet to present an Engineer's Opinion of Probable Costs at a concept-level.

**Providing maps** in GIS-compatible formats (e.g., .kml), would also be welcome.

**Deadline:** Responses to this RFI should be sent to Azucena Beltran at [azrbeltr@ucsc.edu](mailto:azrbeltr@ucsc.edu) by October 12, 2021. If you intend to submit materials, please email Ms. Beltran by September 10.

### 2. Updates to Original Submissions

It is not mandatory for original submissions to be updated. However, in order to facilitate the Panel's comparison of proposals, the Panel requests the original eleven participants to complete the attached spreadsheet to present an updated Engineer's Opinion of Probable Costs at a concept-level. If the original submission had more than one alternative, please provide a separate spreadsheet for each alternative.

The Panel will also accept an addendum with any new or updated material for the eleven original submissions. Providing additional information, including maps in GIS-compatible formats (e.g., .kml), would be welcome. The addendum does not have to follow the original RFI format.

**Deadline:** Responses to this RFI should be sent to Azucena Beltran at [azrbeltr@ucsc.edu](mailto:azrbeltr@ucsc.edu) by October 12, 2021. If you intend to submit updated materials, please email Ms. Beltran by September 10.

### **3. Invitation to Present to Independent Review Panel**

Each new submission and original submission participant is invited to present to the Independent Review Panel. A 30-minute virtual time slot will be identified with presentations occurring during October 20-22, 2021. The participants can use this time as they wish to present and clarify their submissions. Up to 15 minutes for Q&A will follow each presentation.

**Questions:** Questions or requests for clarification on the content of this follow-up should be directed to Azucena Beltran at [azrbeltr@ucsc.edu](mailto:azrbeltr@ucsc.edu). The question period closes on **September 10**; questions received will be posted with answers on the Independent Review Panel's web page located at: <https://saltonsea.ca.gov/planning/water-importation-independent-review-panel/>.



**Date:** 12/8/17

**To:** All interested Parties

**Re:** Request for Information for Salton Sea Water Importation Projects

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Under the leadership of Governor Edmund G Brown Jr., the 2014 California Water Action Plan set forth a vision for California water management that balances statewide water supply security with the protection of public, economic and ecological health. The California's Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP), led by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) is designed to address public and ecological health issues at the Salton Sea while securing Colorado River water supplies for the state.

The SSMP is a long-range program that concentrates on the immediate need for habitat and air quality protections and includes the development of a long-range plan as part of the first Phase I Ten Year Plan. The SSMP takes a phased, incremental approach of habitat and other dust suppression projects to protect air quality and ecosystem values at a smaller and sustainable Salton Sea. The Phase I Ten-Year Plan concentrates on the development of constructed projects at the north and south end of the lake where the playa exposure is the greatest and water inflows are most available.

This Request for information (RFI) outlines the information requested by CNRA to evaluate proposals for a water import project to meet long-range goals of the SSMP. The intent of the RFI process is to gather information on the proposed water import projects. The information received will be reviewed and may be included in the long-range plan for the Salton Sea.

### **Submission Requirements**

**Submission Deadline:** Responses to this RFI should be sent to Bruce Wilcox at [Bruce.Wilcox@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Bruce.Wilcox@resources.ca.gov) by **March 9, 2018**.

**Questions:** Questions or requests for clarification on the content of the RFI should be directed to Bruce Wilcox at [Bruce.Wilcox@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Bruce.Wilcox@resources.ca.gov). The question period closes on **January 31<sup>st</sup>**; questions received will be answered and posted on the CNRA web page after that date. All questions will be answered through the process noted above, no answers will be provided to individual emails.

**Required Information:** The following information is required as part of the submittal. The information should be presented in the format noted (i.e. Section 1 Project Team, Section 2 Narrative Description...). If requested information is not available, the proposal should include as much detail as available and steps needed to gather the required information. The respondent should note if any portion of their response should be considered proprietary and not be shared publicly.

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1. **Identification of Project Team**

Members of the project team, and their roles on the project should be identified.

2. **Narrative description of project concept and how/when it will benefit the lake.**

A brief description of the proposed project is required that includes a general discussion of the project concept, the business plan and the implementation of the project. The project concept discussion should include a description of the project and how it will improve conditions at the lake. The business plan should include a discussion of the ownership of the proposed project and the plan for generating revenue from the project.

3. **Planning and design process of project**

Describe the planning process completed to date and detail how the planning process will be completed. The description should include the following:

- **Project Feasibility** -- Documentation of the engineering feasibility of the project. Documentation should include at a minimum: system capacity; pumping requirements; channel and pipe size; water quality; other associated infrastructure such as desalinization, fish or trash screens, etc.; and expected energy use.
- **Water Source Identification** – Either provide documentation from the water rights holder that establish the willingness of the water rights holder to allow use of their water right or provide detailed description of process to establish those rights.
- **Land Use** – provide project route alignment and status of land use permission for the conveyance route both in the United States and in Mexico.
- **Environmental Impact** – provide information on any anticipated environmental impacts from the project in both Mexico and the US and how those will be generally mitigated. This should include a discussion of any anticipated impacts to existing surface water use, groundwater basins, and wildlife resulting from the introduction of ocean water to existing, or new, river channels or canals. If the project is proposed within the Alto Golfo de California Biosphere Reserve, please identify any anticipated impacts to that area and expected mitigation measures.
- **Salton Sea Salinity** – how does the project plan to deal with increased salinity at the Salton Sea from the imported ocean water? If the proposed project includes a desalinization system where will the resulting brine be deposited?
- **Water Use** – Describe the projected water balance including consumptive use, system loss, evaporation etc. and ability of the proposed project to operate successfully with decreased flows.
- **Cross Border Governmental Coordination and Permitting** -- provide details of conducted or needed coordination and permitting from governmental agencies from both Mexico and the United States that deal specifically with cross border project development. Agencies include but are not limited to the International Boundary Water, Commission, Mexico federal agencies, tribal governments, and necessary United States agencies.
- **Project Development Schedule** -- Schedule for project development from current stages through implementation.
- **Operation Schedule** -- Provide an estimate of the length of time necessary for the proposed project to raise the water levels at the lake to recover potentially emissive playa.

4. **Cost projection**

- Provide a cost projection for the proposed project. The projection should be documented to the extent that the reviewers can review the cost projection process and determine the validity of the projections

**5. Plan for funding of proposed project**

- Describe how the planning, design and construction implementation of the project will be funded.
- Identify the responsible parties for the operation and maintenance for the project and estimate annual cost.