

Salton Sea Long-Range Plan Summary – Draft Evaluation Criteria

The Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) is currently evaluating concepts for a long-range solution at the Salton Sea, to prevent or reduce health and environmental consequences anticipated as the Salton Sea recedes. At this time, the SSMP is evaluating in-basin (within the Sea) concepts. On a separate track, an Independent Review Panel is evaluating water importation concepts. A report that evaluates all in-basin and feasible water importation concepts, called the Salton Sea Long-Range Plan, is required by the State Water Resources Control Board to be completed by the end of 2022.

The SSMP follows the California Natural Resources Agency's Tribal Consultation Policy and Environmental Justice Policy and commits to embedding equity in all program efforts. The Criteria are designed to advance and be shaped by three core commitments: (1) advancing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion; (2) strengthening tribal partnerships; and (3) sustaining economic prosperity.

The goal of the Long-Range Plan is to protect or improve air quality, water quality, and wildlife habitat to prevent or reduce health and environmental consequences anticipated from the long-term recession of the Salton Sea.

To achieve this goal, the following core objectives must be met:

- Protect or improve air quality to reduce public health consequences.
- Protect or improve water quality to provide opportunities for beneficial uses and reduce environmental consequences.
- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea (F&GC 2931).

The evaluation criteria are standards that provide a framework for analyzing the restoration concepts proposed for the Salton Sea Long-Range Plan and determining which concept would be expected to perform the best.

The Salton Sea Long-Range Plan will consider the following four evaluation criteria. Each includes several metrics to evaluate expected performance.

1. **Effectiveness:** measures a concept's performance in achieving individual objectives.
 - The following are measures of effectiveness:
 - Reduces Exposed Lakebed Area
 - Reduces Dust Emissions
 - Protects or Improves Air Quality
 - Creates Shallow Aquatic Habitat
 - Creates Medium-Depth Aquatic Habitat
 - Creates Deep Aquatic Habitat

- Achieves Target Salinity
 - Creates Pupfish Habitat and Connectivity
 - Meets Selenium Standards
 - Improves Water Quality
2. **Acceptability:** measures a concept's compatibility with State law and policies, and locally led values and goals, including those of underserved populations experiencing environmental injustice in the region.
- The following are measures of acceptability:
 - Tribal Access to Natural and Cultural Resources
 - Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources
 - Do No Harm
 - Incorporation of Tribal Expertise
 - Equitable Outdoor Access
 - Minimize Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions
 - Workforce Development
 - Sustainable Economic Development
 - Environmental Justice and Equity
3. **Completeness:** measures if a restoration concept satisfies all objectives.
4. **Efficiency:** measures a concept's relative costs, benefits, and risks.
- The following are measures of efficiency:
 - Timeframe for Complete Solution
 - Capital Cost
 - Operation, Maintenance, Energy and Replacement (OMER) Cost
 - Provides Incremental Benefits with Incremental Funding
 - Proven Technology/Reduced Risk
 - Water Supply Risk
 - Earthquake Risk
 - Climate Change Related to Extreme Weather

Please visit the SSMP website to review the metrics identified for each criterion, and to read more about the Salton Sea Long-Range Plan Evaluation Criteria. www.saltionsea.ca.gov/.