

From: Nikola Lakic
To: Castaneda.Mary@Waterboards
Cc: Nunez.Adriana@Waterboards; Boyers.David@Waterboards; Geraci.Jeff@Waterboards; maria.davidova@waterboards.ca.gov; commentletters
Subject: Please include this letter in the record - FW: The Salton Sea project - Infringement
Date: Thursday, November 1, 2018 5:00:32 PM
Attachments: [SSA New\(s\) Release - Riverside County Launches Salton Sea Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District.docx](#)

November 1, 2018

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Ms. Mary Castaneda
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Colorado River Basin Region
(760) 776-8945

mary.castaneda@waterboards.ca.gov

cc: Adriana.nunez@waterboards.ca.gov; david.boyers@waterboards.ca.gov;
Jeff.geraci@waterboards.ca.gov; maria.davidova@waterboards.ca.gov;
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov;



Subject: Please include this letter in the record - The Salton Sea project - Infringement

Greetings, Ms. Castaneda;

On October 29, 2018, I sent an important letter with subject line - "The Salton Sea project – Infringement" - to Supervisor V. Manuel Perez.
I am forwarding you that letter.

This is an important matter and all decision-makers need to be informed about the situation. I included in the "cc" address a few handy emails. I don't have emails of all Water Boards members – therefore please forward this email to all members including Ms. Paula Rasmussen.

Sincerely,

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From: Nikola Lacic [mailto:nlacic@geothermalworldwide.com]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2018 3:03 PM
To: 'DISTRICT4@RIVCO.ORG'
Cc: 'prosenrater@ssajpa.org'; 'ryankelley@co.imperial.ca.us'; 'podowd@cvwd.org'; 'mashley@rcbos.org'; 'johnrenison@co.imperial.ca.us'; 'ejortega@iid.com'; 'jchanks@iid.com'; 'cestrada@cvwd.org'; 'tmrtortez@torresmartinez.org'; 'tmasantillanes@torresmartinez.org'; 'rober.hargeaves@bbklaw.com'; 'pjohnson@ssajpa.org'; 'bruce.wilcox@resources.ca.gov'; 'kenos@iplawusa.com.'
Subject: The Salton Sea project - Infringement

October 29, 2018

Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Fourth District Supervisor
73710 Fred Waring Drive, suite 222
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 863-8211
DISTRICT4@RIVCO.ORG
(760) 863-8211

Cc: prosenrater@ssajpa.org; ryankelley@co.imperial.ca.us; podowd@cvwd.org; mashley@rcbos.org; johnrenison@co.imperial.ca.us; ejortega@iid.com; jchanks@iid.com; cestrada@cvwd.org; tmrtortez@torresmartinez.org; tmasantillanes@torresmartinez.org; robert.hargeaves@bbklaw.com; pjohnson@ssajpa.org; bruce.wilcox@resources.ca.gov; kenos@iplawusa.com.

Subject: The Salton Sea project - Infringement

It came to my attention the recent official release (statement) with the title “Riverside County Launches Salton Sea Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District” - issued by Mr. Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director, Salton Sea Authority (SSA).

The statement conveys the message that the Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD), will finance a North Lake that improves the health, habitat, and economy of the Riverside County part of Salton Sea.

The statement also says that Supervisors lead by you, Manuel V. Perez, and Marion Ashley, envision a successful North Lake project that will complement similar plans in Imperial County to form a Perimeter Lake that delivers a multitude of benefits, including economic improvements that are predicted to generate revenues for the EIFD.

The statement also quotes Mr. Phil Rosentrater saying “Doing nothing is the most reckless and costly of all options”. I am sure that by now Mr. Rosentrater is aware that

there is a valid long-term solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea.

Also, on January 11, 2018, during “2018 SoCal Energy Water + Green Living Summit” in Aqua Caliente Casino Resort you made a presentation about North Lake project.

I would like to inform you, sir, that dividing lake in three section, (large central and two smaller Northern and Southern sections) is my patented concept, which I am trying to introduce last five years to the SSA. As you remember, I spoke with you several times about my concept in your office in Oasis Street in Indio, when you were Assemblymember.

The concept of the “Perimeter Lake” on which I have elaborated in several occasions is an unreasonable idea. Also, the North Lake project as presented by you cannot function properly. Also, the approach of “developing” one section of the lake first and hoping that others should take care of other sections of the lake is a selfish and unreasonable approach for supposedly saving and restoring the Salton Sea. Despite the fact that such concepts are unreasonable and would be expensive experiments with serious consequences (losing the Lake) – it conveys the concept of dividing the lake into three sections which infringe my patent. Of course, my proposal contains many other important elements besides dividing the lake into three section in order to make the Salton Sea a functional self-sustaining organism. But dividing lake into three sections - is the essence of my proposal.

As you are aware, I was informed recently by Secretary Bruce Wilcox that my proposal was not recommended for further consideration.

Therefore, it is my legal obligation to inform you officially that you don’t have my permission to proceed with dividing the Salton Sea and forming the North Lake nor South Lake which you support and promote.

I respectfully urge you to restrain from rushing with unreasonable projects before higher authorities review the situation and all available options.

Also, I respectfully urge you to read my recent response to Secretary Bruce Wilcox which I sent on October 12, 2018, in which you are included in the “cc” address.

Also, I would like to remind you that liabilities caused by such premature action will be the responsibility of all participants involved in such unlawful and unreasonable conduct, especially you and Mr. Marion Ashley, as leaders of such idea.

Sincerely,

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Riverside County Launches Salton Sea Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District

(For Immediate Release)

A healthier, more prosperous Salton Sea is the intended result an Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District (EIFD) launched today by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. The EIFD, among the first in the state of California, will finance a North Lake that improves the health, habitat and economy of the Riverside County part of the Salton Sea.

The Supervisors envision a successful North Lake project that will complement similar plans in Imperial County to form a Perimeter Lake that delivers a multitude of benefits, including economic improvements that are predicted to generate revenues for the EIFD.

The Salton Sea is the largest lake in the California, a vital stop for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway and the top tourist destination in California decades ago. While salinity levels have risen in recent years, now the sharply dropping water elevations -- due to drought and water transfers -- are now exposing dusty playa, threatening human health, ecosystem habitat and economic opportunities for communities around the Sea.

If nothing is done to address these issues, the region could suffer \$70 Billion in damages over the next 30 years, potentially impacting the water security of the entire Southwest.

The historic action to reverse this trend was led by Supervisors Manuel Perez and Marion Ashley. The Salton Sea is located in Perez' District. Both Supervisors serve on the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) where Supervisor Ashley is the longest serving member. The SSA is a joint powers authority empowered to work in consultation and cooperation with the state of California Natural Resources Agency to revitalize the Salton Sea.

“Starting with Riverside County, local leaders around the Sea are sending the message that we are taking action before it is too late,” declared Supervisor Perez. “The local citizens have waited long enough for the state and federal governments to fulfill their obligations at the Salton Sea.”

“We are not letting the State or the Feds off the hook,” observed Supervisor Ashley. “In fact, by creating this EIFD, Riverside County and our local partners at the Salton Sea

Authority are establishing a solid foundation for productive partnerships in the future.”

“The Salton Sea Authority applauds the local leadership shown by Riverside County in creating an EIFD. This is a true game changer,” stated Thomas Torte, President of the SSA and Chairman of the Torres Martinez Band of Cahuilla Indians. “

Conversely, experts analyzing the impact of a “Do Nothing scenario” report devastating destruction to health, ecosystem habitat and economic opportunity far beyond the borders of the Salton Sea.

“Doing Nothing is the most reckless and costly of all options,” commented Phil Rosentrater, SSA Executive Director. “The members of the SSA – Riverside and Imperial Counties, Imperial Irrigation District, Torres Martinez Tribe, and Coachella Valley Water District – are asserting local leadership to avert a ‘Do Nothing disaster’ at the Sea.”

The purpose of the district is to establish a funding mechanism that can facilitate the construction of infrastructure improvements benefiting the communities that will suffer greatly in the absence of investment. The establishment of the EIFD will not result in any new taxes or fees to the property owners.

The property tax increment (the amount above the property taxes collected in the base year) that the County receives would be specifically restricted to pay for the identified infrastructure projects listed in the Infrastructure Financing Plan (IFP) in the Riverside County portion of the Salton Sea area.

Bonds would be issued that would pay for these projects once new development occurs in the District. The idea is to spur private investment around the Sea through infrastructure investment that protects the environment and improves the economy, which in turn will help to pay for more of the identified projects.

The Board of Supervisors also established a separate body, the Public Financing Authority (PFA), to oversee the creation of the EIFD, specifically the issuance of future bonds needed to pay for infrastructure projects.

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For more information, please contact
Phil Rosentrater, GM/Executive Director, SSA prosentrater@ssajpa.org
