

commentletters

From: info@ecomediacompass.org
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To: commentletters
Subject: 8/16/16 BOARD MEETING - ITEM #10, SALTON SEA



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Salton Sea, California
Circa 2050

I remember the days when this obscure place in the desert called the Salton Sea was almost a ghost town. Most the thriving businesses and homes of a century ago had fallen into disrepair, along with much of the hope for the region. It was getting drier. The whole state had water issues. People and ecosystems were suffering, and we almost lost the Salton Sea.

Needed water transfers to the coast left the people of the Imperial and Coachella valleys wondering if their health, wildlife and entire way of life would dry up. Countless plans were proposed to fix the region, but the leadership was divided. This mindset only perpetuated the one-term thinking. People were planning for what they had, not what they would have with collaboration and a good long-term roadmap. You see, the people were afraid. They were acting out of fear of what might happen, and holding those fears in their mind instead of envisioning a better future.

Eventually action was taken just quick enough to save most of the incredible biodiversity at the Salton Sea. People finally came together to compliment each other's work and bet on innovation and new technologies. They acted just quick enough to not repeat the history of other failed water projects. People simply began to act in the mindset of most good, than strictly profit. They dreamed big.

A creative system of dykes and floating barriers were used to create sustainable habitat and recreation areas. A myriad of wetlands were created that were able to separate different salinities and use natural filtration systems to treat the inflows. The government, construction and engineering companies and even farmers came to the rescue with any resources they had. They showed true leadership with a shared understanding that they were paving the way for their children's futures.

While wetland construction was actively underway, representatives from Federal, State and local governments joined forces with local NGOs to create a public/private partnership with Mexico to import seawater, with inspiration from the Red to Dead Sea project in the Middle East. Once the people heard about these efforts, morale changed. The region truly began to boom. People were excited to get in on the next big thing in California.

Multi-billion dollar reinvestment came from real estate, renewable energy and ecotourism. Businesses popped up all around the valley. Renewably powered desalination created water resources for the Sea and all throughout the Southwest.

Trees were planted along the shore and throughout the valley. Wildlife were once again, driven to flourish in the newly revived ecosystems.

Leaders were remembered for their contributions to this new facet of sustainable society.

It truly became a shining example of the best of what humanity is capable of in the spirit of innovation, collaboration, multi-generational thinking and hope.

We saved the Salton Sea, and it all began with daring to dream big, together.

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