

commentletters



From: Robert Greenawalt <rockrain1@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 11, 2016 6:05 AM
To: commentletters
Subject: Salton Sea

Dear Members of the Board,

The Salton Sea has been an important place to me since my childhood. It's been a home and sanctuary for me. I also feel it is an essential resource for both people and animals. It pains me greatly to observe its steady decline over the last 30 years.

I'm excited about the shovel-ready projects brought about by the Salton Sea Restoration Act and AB 1095, but I feel frustrated at the lack of funding, action and progress.

The \$80.5 million is a drop in the bucket. I feel discouraged that the State will not even meet the Governor's own goals of short and mid-term projects. It troubles me that only 5% of exposed playa will be covered by 2020, as noted at the LHC meeting in April and again at the hearing of the Select Committee on Renewable Energy Development and Restoration of the Salton Sea this month.

I have both family and friends who suffer from respiratory illnesses. I personally suffer from COPD, as does my mother and we have grave concerns. People are suffering. This is an area with air quality already worse than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. We need to accelerate the process for project permits and progress on the ground. Human lives are at stake. I cannot stress this point enough.

I read a very disturbing article in the Desert Sun today. The Salton Sea may already be at its tipping point and it's not even the end of 2017 yet. Humans and wildlife are already in jeopardy. A significant health and environmental disaster is happening now.

I know we all share a sense of urgency about the situation at the Salton Sea. I encourage the Board and the State to make long-term restoration plans also a priority. Water import, such as the Sea to Sea concept, will effectively control toxic dust, improve air quality, and protect human health and vital wildlife habitat. We need to secure the future of the Salton Sea as a valuable natural resource and as a home for its communities and wildlife.

Thank you for your attention to this most critical matter

Thanks,

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"The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese" - Steven Wright