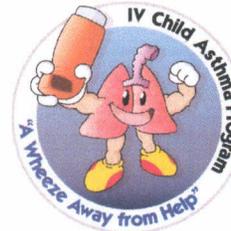


The Imperial Valley Child Asthma Program (IVCAP) is a program of El Centro Regional Medical Center in association with Pioneers Memorial Health Care District. The IVCAP is a community-based asthma program funded by Imperial County Children and Families First Commission and focuses on improving the quality of life of children 0-18 who suffer from asthma. The IVCAP seeks to prevent or reduce hospitalizations by enhancing parental asthma management skills through care coordination, case management education, home visitation, community education, and adoption of standards of care among medical providers.

March 5, 2015

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)



1470 S. Imperial, Suite A  
El Centro CA, 92243  
(760) 482-0978  
[www.IVCAP.org](http://www.IVCAP.org)

E-Mail: [Aide.Fulton@ecrmc.org](mailto:Aide.Fulton@ecrmc.org)

**Subject: Comment Letter: Salton Sea**

Dear Ms. Townsend,

The Imperial Valley Child Asthma Program (IVCAP) is the only community-based grant funded asthma program serving Imperial Valley residents since 2001. As the Program Director, I am writing to express my support for the Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) petition regarding the Salton Sea. As stated in the workshop notice, "IID has brought an issue of statewide importance to the Board's attention". This issue affects the health and welfare of every resident of Imperial County, specially our children's overall quality of life. As you know, Imperial County is known for reporting a high incidence of asthma hospitalizations and emergency room visits for young children and adults. Asthma is one of the most common illnesses in the county. "In 2012, among children ages 0-17, there were 30.6 asthma hospitalizations for every 10,000 children in Imperial County" (based on data from the California Breathing Asthma Program) by comparison, "the statewide asthma hospitalization rate among this group was 11.7 per 10,000 children". Imperial County childhood asthma hospitalization rates are nearly three times higher than the state average.

Because of our current issues with air quality and the unmet health needs of people who suffer from asthma in the region, the current condition of the Salton Sea and the accelerated decline expected post 2017 can only worsen the asthma epidemic in Imperial County. In order to help alleviate current and future health needs of asthmatics, I request that your board continue to work with IID and all stakeholders to achieve the goal of a feasible and fully funded restoration plan for the sea that includes financial consideration of sustainable community-based asthma management programs in Imperial County. I am hopeful that the Board's involvement in this critical matter will encourage participation and commitment from all stakeholders involved, while producing a path forward that we can all support.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Aide Fulton, RN, BSN, PHN  
Certified Asthma Educator  
IVCAP program Director  
Signature

cc: Stephen W. Benson, Board President, Imperial Irrigation District  
Ryan E. Kelley, Chairman of the Board, County of Imperial