



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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(3/18/15) Public Workshop
Salton Sea
Deadline: 3/11/15 by 12:00 noon

March 27, 2015

LATE COMMENT



Ms. Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Imperial Irrigation District Petition (IID) to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) seeking modification of Revised Order WRO 2002-0013

Dear Ms. Townsend,

The City of Palm Desert is a thriving community within the Coachella Valley that relies in part on the supplies of Colorado River imported water by the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), and whose residents could be significantly affected by the future condition of the Salton Sea. The city fully supports the restoration of the Salton Sea. We are therefore concerned about IID's petition seeking to modify Water Rights Order 2002-0013, which approved acquisitions of conserved water by CVWD as part of the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA).

Palm Desert believes the State of California has not fulfilled its stated intent to carry out a restoration of the Salton Sea, as expressed in legislation signed into law in connection with the QSA in 2003. The state's failure to act with respect to the Salton Sea very well could be placing the health and welfare of our citizens at risk if the Salton Sea is allowed to continue to deteriorate. Air quality is a crucial concern in the Coachella Valley.

Of equal concern, however, is the continued availability of imported water from the Colorado River, which is vital to the replenishment of the Coachella Valley's aquifer and as the source of water for irrigation in lieu of groundwater. IID's petition puts the availability at risk, so Palm Desert cannot support it.

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Instead, we strongly urge the SWRCB to use its influence to bring all stakeholders together in voluntary discussions that will get the State of California back on track with respect to its Salton Sea restoration efforts. Please contact Stephen Y. Aryan, Risk Manager, if you have any questions, or would like to further discuss this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan Marie Weber
Mayor

cc: City Council
J.M. Barrett, Coachella Valley Water District
John Wohlmuth, City Manager
Rudy Acosta, Assistant City Manager
Stephen Y. Aryan, Risk Manager
Paul S. Gibson, Director of Finance/City Treasurer
Mark Greenwood, Director of Public Works