

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
BEN HUESO

FORTIETH SENATE DISTRICT



STANDING COMMITTEES  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
CHAIR

BANKING & FINANCIAL  
INSTITUTIONS  
EDUCATION  
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CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY  
INDEPENDENCE  
CHAIR  
CALIFORNIA-MEXICO  
COOPERATION

December 22, 2014

The Honorable Felicia Marcus  
Chair  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I St.  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Re: Salton Sea Stakeholders Meeting*

Dear Madam Chair:

It has come to my attention that your board has recently received a formal request to convene a series of stakeholder meetings to discuss the current status of restoration efforts at the Salton Sea. As the State Senator representing the Salton Sea, I am fully supportive of the board's involvement in this important dialogue and ask that any dialogue to restore the Sea is done so with consensus from key stakeholders.

As you may already be aware, the Salton Sea is our state's largest lake and one of its most significant natural and environmental resources. It supports a diverse wildlife habitat for over 400 species of birds and serves as a critical link on the 5,000 mile international Pacific Flyway. The Salton Sea is also home to the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge and the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, both serving as recreational centers and attracting thousands of visitors annually. Unfortunately, the Salton Sea is also facing rapid deterioration and it is only expected to get worse with each passing day.

Mitigation water currently delivered to the Salton Sea under the Quantification Settlement Agreement will stop flowing in 2017, resulting in further decline of water elevation and thousands of acres of exposed lakebed. If no immediate action is taken now, the environmental and public health concerns that will emerge may become one of southern California's most challenging which in turn will affect the residents I represent. Just recently, I had an opportunity to tour the Salton Sea and visited two sites proposed for habitat conservation and air quality mitigation pilot projects. Although I'm pleased to learn there are some projects in planning, the current situation demands immediate intervention and renewed collaboration with all stakeholders.

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Your board has demonstrated remarkable leadership in finding solutions to some of our state's most pressing water related issues and I am confident, that with your collaboration, we will make some real progress in tackling this issue. Please contact me should you have any questions as I look forward to participating in my capacity with your board in finding real and clear cut solutions to the restoration of the Sea.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Hueso".

BEN HUESO  
State Senator, 40<sup>th</sup> District

cc: State Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, 56<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Martha Guzman-Aceves, Governor Jerry Brown  
Rep. Raul Ruiz, 36<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Rep. Juan Vargas, 51<sup>st</sup> Congressional District  
Secretary John Laird, Natural Resources Agency  
Kevin Kelley, Imperial Irrigation District  
Maureen Stapleton, San Diego County Water Authority  
Jim Barrett, Coachella Valley Water District  
Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA  
Roger Shintaku, Salton Sea Authority

