

United States Senate

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

March 11, 2015

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



Subject: Comment Letter: Salton Sea

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Board:

I write in strong support of the Board's involvement and leadership in convening all interested and regional stakeholders to discuss and address the decline of the Salton Sea, California's largest body of water. As you well know, with mitigation flows to the Sea set to end after 2017, we can no longer afford delayed action and must instead ensure definitive progress.

For too long the Salton Sea has been cast as a liability that no one wants to be held responsible for. Yet renewed efforts and collaboration on a local level have spurred active interest in the unique potentials the Sea holds. The Sea's decline cannot be addressed within its own borders and requires regional partnerships that recognize its regional significance. The Salton Sea rests at a nexus of agricultural, water, renewable energy, environmental, and recreational possibilities unmatched in its diversity. The Board's involvement as a respected institution can catalyze progress by ensuring all stakeholders are brought to a common table to discuss, debate, and bring consensus to robust short and long-term plans to facilitate the Sea's continued viability.

While some have wrongly interpreted the pending petition as hostile to the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), we must be clear, that the unchecked decline of the Sea and consequent human health, environmental, and economic impacts are the real threat to the success of the vitally important QSA. We must work together now, to avert any future risk to an agreement important not only to the State of California, but the other Colorado River Basin States, and demonstrate the leadership, collaboration, and creativity necessary to address this complex challenge.

You can count on me as an ally in this effort, and I stand ready to ensure that federal efforts are complimentary to the local, state, and regional resources brought to bear. Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Boxer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator