



To Whom it Concerns Regarding the Salton Sea:

For the last four years, I have been operating a non-profit organization who's focus is to bring together the Salton Sea and surrounding communities through events, the arts, and scientific solutions. Countless people from all backgrounds have passionately gotten involved and worked to bring as much awareness and education about this place as they can. The consensus is: the people will help but the State needs to take a leading step in restoration of the Salton Sea.

As many of us know, California's Salton Sea is at the risk of drying up. Inaction here would create a massive Southern California Dust bowl while killing millions of animals, including members of 400 bird species, destroy the local economy, homes, food supplies, recreation and such majestic beauty and potential. If none of the available solutions to prevent the Salton Sea from drying up are begun now, this essential area would quickly dry up, and go much the way of the tragic Aral Sea. That entire region was ruined. The governing powers of that area are now scrambling to fix what they had done with irresponsible water negotiations. We've also seen Owens lake- a tremendous health concern, waste of water and money. The Salton Sea is of a much grander scale near so many people.

Today, we have a chance to make beautiful history. For them, it's too late. We have the opportunity here to set a\ example of job-providing sustainability and innovation for the world. There are many ways to fix it - some that even pay for themselves. More people simply have to hear about this beautiful place, and from my experience about 90% of people who do and come see it for themselves, passionately want to help. Private industry will step in, and the property values will skyrocket, once the State takes a real step. A lot of awareness, a little bit of money, current sustainable power generation technology, a couple dikes and a small aqueduct mostly downhill would fix it quite well for example.

We, California, MUST act now. If the State can implement restoration policies before the bulk water transfers of the QSA go through, we should keep the QSA in tacked. If the State cannot prevent this disaster before the mitigation water leaves, the agreement simply needs more time before it is wise to continue as planned. Nowhere before have I seen a group of residents so ready to take action. It is beautiful seeing them all look past differences and come together-

Property owners, business owners, politicians, farmers, teachers, kids, adults, musicians, artists, scientists- ready to help.

I feel that we have two choices;

Mar history with irresponsible and short sighted choices that will create infinite problems in the long run, or set an example for a healthy and sustainable future throughout the state and world. **The solutions are on the table, they simply need to be shared.**

People want to help.

In an issue that so drastically affects the health of many millions of people and animals, what it really comes down to; is compromise.

We need to all help each other cross the finish line of restoration, at the same time. This is not a race, but a journey, and we are all in it together. This is an issue that affects not just us, but the next 7 generations.

Victor hugo wrote: "Nothing can stop an idea whose time has come".

Now is that time.

Let us not let these minutes slip away.

Save Our Sea!

Looking forward to collaboration in Sacramento next week.

I would like to opt for a 5 minute speaking spot. Please let me know if you recommend any further means to secure that position.

Gratitude,

Kerry F. Morrison

Executive Director

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