



The FAMILY TREEHOUSE

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

"Building Healthy, Hearty, Happy Families"
www.myfamilytreehouse.com
200 N. Imperial Avenue
Imperial, CA 92251
760-355-0175



March 11, 2015

LATE COMMENT

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

Dear Ms. Townsend:

Thank you for convening this workshop in the interest of our community. We are always pleased when the State sets aside time and resources to address the crisis we are facing with respect to the Salton Sea. Although much of the input you will receive as a result of your response to the IID's request, will no doubt come directly from the Imperial Irrigation District themselves through community outreach efforts, I write to you on behalf of the community who feels compelled to address the issue independently of their request. Addressing the issues of the Salton Sea should under no circumstances be unilaterally addressed by any one party. It is our strong belief that the burden, although caused by a homogenous segment of the industry, must be shared by ALL including you. We turn to you as a resource to help us despite the origination of settlements, deals, or handshakes. Specifically, your questions regarding the need to promote a plan in addressing the dwindling water supply flowing into the Salton Sea can be better addressed with an effort to extend your solicitation to a our southern portion of the State. As a community leader I can tell you that there is much confusion on the part of the community whether they are direct stakeholders or merely residents who are oblivious to the technical issues that the Salton Sea alludes to. We hope that it is reasonable for you to afford our community the opportunity of more time to provide input to your questions asked. Additionally, we request that you hold a more local forum for our community to participate. Similarly, many of the local residents are not privy to the dealings of the Imperial Irrigation District much less agreements like the Quantification Settlement Agreement. While holding a workshop is critical, it is important that our community have true access to the workshop along with technical assistance. For us to adequately respond to your questions that will be outlined in the March 18th hearing, we must be able to discuss this in a more local forum with knowledgeable people. For Imperial Valley, the Salton Sea is our front yard and prompting a disadvantaged community to travel to Sacramento for such a tumultuous and potentially volatile issue is very stressful. A wise choice might be to host a workshop locally. Perhaps future dialogue could be continued here in Imperial Valley. You would be sure to get more answers to the questions you are asking and quite possibly real solutions.

Respectfully,

Rosalinda Nava-Bermudez, CHES, MPH
Founder/Director