



San Diego County Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

March 9, 2015

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



Subject: Comment Letter: Salton Sea

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Board:

On behalf of over 30,000 working families and 22 affiliated labor groups of the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, I am writing to express our support for the Imperial Irrigation District's request to convene stakeholders to find a definitive, funded solution to prevent the impending public health, economic and environmental crisis of a shrinking Salton Sea.

Many of our members have families in neighboring Imperial County and we are concerned that if the Salton Sea is left unaddressed, our communities will suffer. As water levels decrease and shoreline is exposed, dangerous dust particles will become airborne, posing a severe risk of increased heart disease, asthma, lung cancer, and other health problems to families in Imperial and San Diego Counties, and other neighboring communities in Southern California. According to a study by The Pacific Institute, costs to human and economic health could run into the tens of billions.

Solving the Salton Sea impeding crisis must be addressed now, and California should no longer punt this problem down the road.

There is also a great deal of economic opportunity that can be achieved once a restoration plan is selected and implemented. The region has the potential to become California's hub of renewable energy with thousands of megawatts of undeveloped solar, wind, and geothermal resources that could result in thousands of good-paying middle-class jobs.

We look forward to the Board's involvement in this important matter and we call upon the Board to use its power to bring all necessary parties together and convene a collaborative process to identify a specific restoration plan that can be implemented and funded in time to avert this looming disaster threatening our region and the entire State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tom Lemmon".

Tom Lemmon
Business Manager

cc: Stephen W. Benson, Board President, Imperial Irrigation District
Ryan E. Kelley, Chairman of the Board, County of Imperial