

commentletters

From: Jasmyn Phillips <tahititide@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 11:19 AM
To: commentletters
Subject: Comment Letter: Salton Sea



Dear Members of the State Water Board,

I've had the pleasure of coming to the Salton Sea for 30 years. I have lived in the Coachella Valley and I still have family that resides here. It has always been beautiful and fascinating to me and I also recognize its importance to California.

I am a wildlife photographer and my passion is the magnificent bird life around the Sea. I always think, how fortunate to have beautiful blue water in the middle of the desert! The Salton Sea has become a key resource for California. Birds that migrate from Alaska to South America rely on it as an important stopover to rest, feed and breed. Over 400 varieties of birds, including endangered species, need it to survive. California has lost over 90% of its wetlands, making the Salton Sea vital habitat.

But it is also crucial for the people and our communities. The poor air quality of the region greatly concerns me. I know that the desert is a very windy environment and we cannot afford to have more and more playa exposed. I fear for the health of my family, friends and myself. I support the short and mid term restoration goals and I firmly believe that creating a solution for the long term is the wise thing to do.

I am very interested in a successful future for the Salton Sea. If it is left to dry up it will be devastating for humans and wildlife. It breaks my heart to see it disappearing. To me the Salton Sea is a sapphire jewel in the desert, a treasure. Some people may complain about the odor, but it takes my breath away with its natural beauty.

Thank you for addressing this most important and urgent issue.

Sincerely,
J. Jasmyn Phillips