



Regional Governmental Affairs Committee  
Brawley Chamber of Commerce  
El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau



January 8, 2015

The Honorable Felicia Marcus  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I St.  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Imperial Irrigation District Petition

Dear Chairwoman Marcus:

On behalf of the hundreds of businesses who make up the membership of the El Centro and Brawley Chambers of Commerce, we submit this letter to express our strong support for the Imperial Irrigation District's petition requesting your board to convene key stakeholders and discuss Salton Sea restoration efforts.

The Salton Sea is our state's largest lake and one of its most significant natural and environmental resources. It supports a diverse wildlife habitat for over 400 species of birds and serves as a critical link on the 5,000 mile international Pacific Flyway. The Sea is also home to the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge and the Salton Sea State Recreation Area. These recreational destinations attract thousands of visitors annually.

Environmental mitigation water currently delivered to the Salton Sea under the Quantification Settlement Agreement will stop in just two years. Undoubtedly, this will result in further decline of current water levels and will further expose thousands of acres of highly emissive lakebed. If no immediate course of action is put in place now, the impacts to the environment, public health and the local economy will be exacerbated. And although the communities in closest proximity to the Sea will experience the biggest challenges, the neighboring communities in the greater Southern California region may be affected as well.

We look forward to your board's involvement in this important matter and we thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Irigoyen".

Anne Irigoyen  
Regional Governmental Affairs Committee

cc: Thomas Howard, State Water Resources Control Board  
Kevin Kelley, Imperial Irrigation District  
Ralph Cordova, Imperial County

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