

RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
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January 2, 2015

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Salton Sea Stakeholders Meeting

Dear Madam Chair:

It has come to my attention that your board has recently received a formal request to convene a series of stakeholder meetings to discuss the current status of restoration efforts at the Salton Sea. As the Representative of California's Thirty-Sixth Congressional District, where part of the Salton Sea is located and the remainder borders, I fully support the board's involvement in this important dialogue and look forward to participating within my capacity.

The Salton Sea, our state's largest lake and one of its most significant natural and environmental resources, 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 home to the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge and the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, both of which serve as recreational centers and attract thousands of visitors annually. With the delivery of mitigation water under the Quantification Settlement Agreement ceasing in 2017, the Salton Sea is facing rapid deterioration – further decline of water elevation and thousands of acres of exposed lakebed.

As a physician and Coachella Valley native, I am fully aware of the environmental and public health concerns that will emerge as a result of the deterioration of the Salton Sea. Failure to act will have devastating impacts on the region, worsening already-poor air quality and increasing incidences of asthma, heart, and lung disease. While I'm pleased to learn that there are some projects in planning, the dire situation at the Salton Sea demands immediate intervention and renewed collaboration amongst stakeholders.

Your board has demonstrated remarkable leadership in finding solutions to some our state's most pressing water related issues and I am confident that with your involvement and collaboration, we will make great strides in tackling this issue. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office at (760) 424-8888.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raul Ruiz".

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress (CA-36)

cc: Rep. Juan Vargas, 51st Congressional District
State Senator Benjamin Hueso, 40th Senate District
State Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, 56th Assembly District
Secretary John Laird, Natural Resources Agency
Mr. Kevin Kelley, Imperial Irrigation District
Mr. John Renison, Imperial County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Roger Shintaku, Salton Sea Authority
Mrs. Maureen Stapleton, San Diego County Water Authority
Mr. Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA
Mr. Jim Barrett, Coachella Valley Water District