



State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON THE STATUS OF PHASE 1 OF THE SALTON SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will hold a public workshop at their regularly scheduled Board Meeting to receive information and solicit public input regarding the status of Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP). This workshop is for informational purposes and the State Water Board will not take formal action at the workshop. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of interested persons, but the State Water Board and staff may ask clarifying questions.

The one-day workshop will have two options for participation: a physical meeting location at the Coachella Valley Unified School District in Thermal, and a virtual participation option through Zoom. There will also be a watch-only webcast option for those who do not intend to provide public comment. All formats will offer live Spanish interpretation, and workshop materials will be provided in English and Spanish.

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025
9:00 am – ~6:00 pm**

**IN-PERSON LOCATION:
COACHELLA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
87-225 Church Street
Thermal, CA 92274**

TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT REMOTELY DURING THE MEETING:

Starting **May 12**, fill out a virtual speaker card in advance at bit.ly/speaker-card-form. The Board clerk will respond with Zoom login information in advance of the meeting. You can also submit a speaker card once the workshop has begun. Live Spanish interpretation will be available, and all workshop materials will be provided in English and Spanish.

TO WATCH ONLY AND NOT PROVIDE COMMENT:

English and Spanish webcasts (both with closed captioning): video.calepa.ca.gov
English video only (English captioning): youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WORKSHOP DEADLINES (more information below):

- Wednesday, May 7: Language services requests (other than Spanish)
- Wednesday, May 7: Accessibility requests (e.g. sign language, physical accommodations)
- Monday, May 12: Written comments due

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AT WORKSHOP

The State Water Board will receive an update on the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and is seeking information and feedback on progress or actions since the last State Water Board Salton Sea Workshop on May 22nd, 2024. The workshop is an opportunity for participants to provide input to the State Water Board regarding the status of the Salton Sea Management Program. The Salton Sea Management Program Team is led by the California Natural Resources Agency, in collaboration with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Input can be provided by submitting written comments or providing oral comments during the workshop, as described below.

In addition to the SSMP Team’s status update presentation and public comment, the workshop is anticipated to include two separate panels relating to the Salton Sea Management Program focused on the following topics: (1) Salton Sea Management Program Data Collection and Management, and (2) The 10 Year Plan, 6 Years In: Adapting to Challenges and Accelerating the Work Ahead. A draft agenda is available below, and the finalized agenda will be available on the State Water Board’s Salton Sea website (waterboards.ca.gov/saltonsea) and on the State Water Board’s calendar page (bit.ly/wbcal-may2024) at least 10 days before the workshop. The final agenda will also be released via the Salton Sea email subscription service (bit.ly/r7-subscribe). The workshop is estimated to end at 6:00 pm, however, the actual end time will be dependent on the number of public comments received.

The California Natural Resources Agency also intends to host their own public meeting ahead of the State Water Board workshop to share an in-depth overview of their annual report and solicit feedback from interested parties. The date for this meeting is still being determined, and information can be found on their Salton Sea webpage (saltonsea.ca.gov) as it becomes available. To sign up for email updates on the Salton Sea Management Program from California Natural Resources Agency, visit bit.ly/cnra-subscribe.

BACKGROUND

[Water Rights Order \(WRO, Order\) 2017-0134](#) was adopted by the State Water Board in November 2017. The Order amended a previous order ([WRO 2002-0013](#)), which approved the long-term transfer of water from Imperial Irrigation District to urban users. The amended Order includes restoration milestones to address public health and environmental concerns at the Salton Sea. The Order also requires that the Board hold a public meeting no later than March 31 of each year during Phase 1 of the Salton Sea

Management Program (through 2028) to receive comments on the status of Salton Sea restoration. As in previous years, the Board will hold the 2025 workshop in May to allow more time for the public and staff to review the annual report and translate all materials into Spanish (and other languages if requested, as explained in the “Language Services” section below).

Water Rights Order 2017-0134 requires the California Natural Resources Agency to complete a report in the first quarter of each year to identify:

- (i) completed projects and milestones achieved in the prior year;
- (ii) amount of acreage of completed projects that provide dust suppression and habitat restoration, broken down by habitat type;
- (iii) upcoming projects to be completed and milestones to be achieved prior to the next annual progress report;
- (iv) the status of financial resources and permits that have not been secured for future projects;
- (v) any anticipated departures from the dates and acreage numbers identified in condition 24 of the order and;
- (vi) progress toward development of a long-range plan for ongoing management of the Sea.

The Order also requires the California Natural Resources Agency to develop subsequent 10-year phases of the Salton Sea Management Program based upon available information, with the development of each phase commencing no later than midway through each current phase. Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program runs from 2018 through 2028. The California Natural Resources Agency will release the 2024 Annual Report on Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program by March 31, 2025. It will be available in both English and Spanish on their website, saltonseaca.gov.

California Natural Resources Agency released a Draft Long-Range Plan on December 15, 2022, and a final Long-Range Plan in March 2024 for managing the Sea beyond the conclusion of the Phase 1: 10-Year Plan in 2028. The Long-Range Plan is required by Water Rights Order 2017-0134 and aims to protect and/or improve air quality, water quality, and wildlife habitat to prevent or reduce health and environmental impacts anticipated from the recession of the Salton Sea. The Final Long-Range Plan, including the comments submitted on the Draft Long-Range Plan, is a focus of a Salton Sea restoration feasibility study that is being led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING REMOTE COMMENTS DURING THE MEETING

If you are participating remotely and would like to make a public comment during the workshop, you must fill out a virtual speaker card at bit.ly/speaker-card-form starting on **May 12, 2025**. State Water Board staff will respond to your form submission with the Zoom meeting login information. Speaking times during public comment periods may be limited based on the number of participants. Live Spanish interpretation will be available, and all workshop materials will be provided in English and Spanish. Additional information is available in the “Language Services” section below. More information

about remote participation is available at waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the Salton Sea Management Program until 12:00 pm on **Monday, May 12, 2025**. Written comments may be submitted by:

1. **Email:** commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov with subject line **“Comment Letter: Salton Sea”**
2. **Fax:** (916) 341-5620
3. **Mail:** Clerk to the Board, Ms. Courtney Tyler, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812
4. **Hand-delivery:** Clerk to the Board, Ms. Courtney Tyler, State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. Couriers delivering comments must check in with lobby security and contact Ms. Tyler at (916) 341-5611.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

Live Spanish interpretation will be available, and all workshop materials will be provided in English and Spanish (including presentations, agendas, informational documents, reports, signage, fliers, and other items). If you require interpretation or translation in another language, or would like to request sign language services, please contact us at (916) 322-4265 or languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov on or before **May 7, 2025**. We highly encourage contacting us as far in advance as possible about language needs.

ACCESSIBILITY

Coachella Valley Unified School District is accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5261 on or before **May 7, 2025**. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may contact us using the California Relay Service Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

PARKING

Parking at Coachella Valley Unified School District is free, and no permit is needed.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For questions about this notice or the workshop, please email Stephanie Holstege, Senior Environmental Scientist at Stephanie.Holstege@waterboards.ca.gov.
- For more information about the background and history of the State Water Board’s involvement with the Salton Sea, visit waterboards.ca.gov/saltonsea (English), or waterboards.ca.gov/saltonsea/es (Spanish).
- Subscribe to notifications about Salton Sea program activities by the State Water Board and the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board at bit.ly/r7-subscribe.

- For more information about the California Natural Resources Agency's involvement with the Salton Sea, visit saltonsea.ca.gov.
- To sign up for email updates from the Salton Sea Management Program visit bit.ly/cnra-subscribe

April 16, 2025

Date



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board

Draft Public Agenda: State Water Resources Control Board Workshop on the Status of Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program

May 21, 2025, 9:00 am- ~6:00 pm

Agenda is subject to change.

Speakers to be determined.

May 21st, 9:00 am- ~6:00 pm	
9:00 – 9:10 am	Introduction of Item by Board Chair
9:10 – 9:30 am	Opening Remarks
9:30 – 9:35 am	Elected officials or their designated representative
9:35 – 9:45 am	State Water Board Staff Presentation
9:45- 11:30 am <i>(Presentation 9:45- 10:45, Board Q&A 10:45-11:30)</i>	Salton Sea Management Program Phase 1 Update
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Public Comment
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Break (may be shortened, dependent on schedule)
2:00 – 3:15 pm <i>(Presentation 2:00 - 2:45 pm, Board Q&A 2:45-3:15 pm)</i>	Panel 1: Salton Sea Management Program Data Collection and Management
3:15 - 4:30 pm <i>(Presentation 3:15-4:00 pm, Board Q&A 4:00- 4:30 pm)</i>	Panel 2: The 10 Year Plan, 6 Years In: Adapting to Challenges and Accelerating the Work Ahead
Immediately following Panel 2	Public Comment
Immediately following public comment	Board Member Discussions and Closing Comments