



State Water Resources Control Board

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

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) will conduct 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. Additional information is provided below.

Attend the Public Workshop

The one-day workshop will have two options for participation: a physical meeting location at the CalEPA building in Sacramento, 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. A Board Meeting agenda will be available at least 10 days before the meeting at www.waterboards.ca.gov/.

Wednesday, May 20, 2026
9:00 a.m.

Joe Serna, Jr. - CalEPA Headquarters Building
Coastal Hearing Room
1001 I Street, Second Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

- Starting **May 11**, submit an online speaker card if you wish to provide a public comment at the Board meeting in person or remotely: bit.ly/speaker-card-form. The Board Clerk will provide instructions to join Zoom in advance of the meeting. For more information about participating remotely at a Board meeting, please visit bit.ly/providingcomments. 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.
- For those who only wish to watch the meeting, the webcast remains available at either youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport or video.calepa.ca.gov (closed captioning available) and should be used UNLESS you intend to comment.

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

Submit Written Comments

Written comments on the Salton Sea Management Program must be received by **12:00 pm (noon) on Monday, May 11, 2026**. Comments received after this time and date may not be considered.

Please email your written comments in PDF format to commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov and include “**Salton Sea Management Program**” in the subject line. You may also mail, or hand deliver your written comments to the following address:

State Water Resources Control Board
Attention: Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board
P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, CA 95812-0100 (by mail)
1001 I Street, 24th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 (hand delivery)

Workshop Deadlines (more information below):

- Wednesday, May 6: Language services requests (other than Spanish)
- Wednesday, May 6: Accessibility requests (e.g. sign language, physical accommodations)

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 21, 2025. 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) Lessons Learned in 2025: Planning Beyond the 10-Year Phase Ending in 2028, and (2) Reflections from Community Members on SSMP Efforts in 2025. 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-may2025) 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 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 (saltonseaca.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 2026 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 2025 Annual Report on Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program by March 31, 2026. 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.

Language Services

This meeting will be offered in English and Spanish, and all workshop materials will be provided in English and Spanish (including presentations, agendas, informational documents, reports, and other items). To request translation of a written document, interpretation services for the meeting, or sign language services please use one of the following options at least ten (10) business days before the meeting, by **May 6, 2026**. We highly encourage contacting us as far in advance as possible about language needs.

- Submit an online request: bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm
- Call (916) 341-5254
- Email languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov

Contact us to request information in your language.

Contáctenos para solicitar información en su idioma.

Liên hệ chúng tôi để yêu cầu thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ của quý vị.

귀하의 언어로 작성된 정보를 요청하려면 저희에게 문의하십시오.

ਆਪਣੇ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika.

请联系我们，以您的语言获取相关信息。

Accessibility and Reasonable Accommodations

The CalEPA Building is accessible to people with disabilities. Users of a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 or the teletype (TTY) voice line at (800) 735-2922. Any person who requires reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should email contact@waterboards.ca.gov or call (916) 341-5254, at least ten (10) business days prior to the meeting. Learn more about accessibility within Zoom at www.zoom.com/en/accessibility.

Building and Parking Information

- Directions to the Joe Serna, Jr. (CalEPA) Building and public parking information: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/headquarters-sacramento/location/>.
- Visitors to the CalEPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a badge at the Visitor Services Center located just inside the main entrance on 10th Street.
- Please allow 5 to 10 minutes to receive security clearance.

Stay Informed

Subscribe to receive email notifications bit.ly/r7-subscribe.

Enter your email address and password, and select the submit button. If this is your first time subscribing to a Water Boards email subscription list, you will have to register and create a password.

Any person interested in receiving additional information about this subject, including any change to the date, time, or meeting location in this public notice, should subscribe to the email distribution list.

To sign up for email updates from the Salton Sea Management Program visit bit.ly/cnra-subscribe

Additional Information

- Staff contact: 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).
- For more information about the California Natural Resources Agency's involvement with the Salton Sea, visit saltonsea.ca.gov.

Date April 6, 2026



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 20, 2026, 9:00 am

Agenda is subject to change.

Speakers to be determined.

May 20th, 9:00 am	
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: Lessons Learned in 2025: Planning Beyond the 10-Year Phase Ending in 2028
3:15–4:30 pm <i>(Presentation 3:15-4:00 pm, Board Q&A 4:00-4:30 pm)</i>	Panel 2: Reflections from Community Members on SSMP Efforts in 2025
Immediately following Panel 2	Public Comment
Immediately following public comment	Board Member Discussions and Closing Comments