

Date:

September 30, 2014

Applicant:

Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge
906 W. Sinclair Rd.
Calipatria, CA 92233
Contact: Mr. Chris Schoneman
(760) 348-5278

Applicant's Representative:

N/A

Project Name:

Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge - Red Hill Bay Restoration, WDID NO.
7A133139001

Receiving Water:

Salton Sea

Location:

City or area: SE shoreline Salton Sea, Imperial County, California.
Longitude/Latitude: 33. 11" 20.7"N 115. 36'11.66"W
Township/Range: T11S R13E, San Bernardino Base Meridian

Project Description:

The proposed action is the restoration of Salton Sea shoreline habitat across 420 acres of Red Hill Bay (RHB). The primary objective of the Project is twofold:

- 1) To restore the RHB area to saline shallow-water shorebird habitat and
- 2) To wet the playa in order to prevent particulate matter from being released during wind events.

Most of RHB has recently become dry playa, resulting from a three foot decline in the water surface elevation of the Salton Sea over the last eight years, a trend expected to continue and even progress at an accelerated rate in the future. Two IID drains continue to keep a small portion of the playa wet and occasionally strong wind events will push Salton Sea water across portions of the dry area. What was once a productive foraging area for migratory shorebirds now has a much reduced wildlife habitat value. The exposed playa is also highly emissive during strong wind events, adding to the human health hazard already present in the Imperial Valley. This Project will involve the construction of water impoundment berms and water conveyance channels. The Project includes two sets of water delivery systems; one from the Alamo River and another from the Salton Sea. The two water sources will be blended to create an improved water quality for wildlife with lower selenium than wildlife is subjected to in the Alamo River and lower salinity than wildlife encounter in the Salton Sea.

Proposed Schedule (Start-up, duration, and completion dates):

Start: November 2014, complete: June 2016.

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

Jay Mirpour, Water Resources Control Engineer

(760) 776-8981

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