

From: [Robert Terry](#)
To: [commentletters](#)
Subject: Comment Letter: Salton Sea
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California State Water Resources Control Board

Thirty years ago I wrote to Governor Gerry Brown, suggesting that the Salton Sea could be the key to water security for Southern California. I proposed that we use the Sea of Cortez as a water source, the Salton Sea as the holding tank, and the California Aqueduct as the delivery system to 117 cities. All that was missing was desalination to create an alternative to Colorado River water, which even back then was projected to not be able to meet the needs of California's growing population.

I suggested that "existing man-made and natural entities" made this potentially the most ideal spot on the planet for integrating technologies. (In the years immediately after, geothermal energy was developed in the region, thus adding another piece to an already promising project.)

In response to my letter (in which I mentioned Gov. Brown's father's own water projects) I received a phone call, from a gentleman at Metropolitan Water District. This fellow identified himself as a "long time friend of Pat Brown" and said "First off, I need to tell you that we are not interested in your plan, but Pat Brown asked me to call you as a favor to him". He then let me outline the scope of my proposal, and again said that they were not interested, and hung up.

Now it has come to pass that the lack of fresh water has caused the Salton Sea to give up its life. It is quickly becoming California's Dead Sea. This is threatening over 400 species of birds (and thus the entire interconnected ecosystem) and humans.

The "Ten Year Plan" is not much more than a band-aid on a gaping wound. It should have been started ten years ago. Then we would at least know what will work and what will not. The outcome is way to important to just now "learn as we go" when the sea is already dying, and it's decay after January 1, 2018 is due to intensify.

We can not afford to let 100 years of farm chemicals be exposed to the winds. All agree the best way to prevent that is to keep these chemicals under water.

We believe that the best option for the Salton Sea, for the 400+ species of birds, for the thousands of residents of the region and for the economy of California, is to immediately commence with engineering of a pipeline to the Sea of Cortez. That water is about 50% less saline than the Salton Sea's water, and that buys us time.

Once water is flowing, private industry will line up for contracts. (I propose no new geothermal plants be permitted without desalination integrated into the system.)

The Red Sea-Dead Sea project is being built. If Jordan and Israel can build such a pipeline, can't the US work with Mexico?

It is not too late to save lives and the environment. But we can not wait another 30 years, or even five. Start the engineering, continue mitigation water until the Sea of Cortez water is flowing, and watch one of the largest problems become a model for the future.

No more excuses, no more wasted years. Let us move forward.

Bob Terry

People Over Pollution

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