
State Water Resources Control Board

May 22, 2018

California Natural Resources Agency
Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy
c/o Bruce Wilcox
Bruce.Wilcox@resources.ca.gov

RE: UPDATE ON SALTON SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM BEFORE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

Dear Assistant Secretary Wilcox:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) is committed in its oversight role in monitoring and ensuring progress towards the long-term goals of the Salton Sea Management Plan (SSMP) and the short-term goals of Phase 1 of the SSMP (10-year Plan). The State Water Board strives to provide transparency on the progress being made on the SSMP within the forum of public board meetings and appreciates the update on the SSMP provided at the March 20, 2018 board meeting. During this board meeting, I requested that additional information be included in the next update on the SSMP. To assist you in preparing for future presentations on the status of the SSMP, I request that you discuss the following topics, focusing on new information available since your last update:

- **Environmental Conditions of the Salton Sea**
 - Current status of changes in water elevation and amount of exposed playa since the end of mitigation water under Order WR 2002-0013.
 - Status of fish and bird populations at the Salton Sea and any recent notable changes.
 - Hydrologic Modeling and/or water inflow predictions to the Salton Sea.
 - Monitoring efforts of environmental conditions including water quality, air quality, and any new or proposed monitoring efforts.

- **Order WR 2017-0134**
 - The current year's acreage milestone with a breakdown, by acreage, of completed habitat and dust suppression projects.
 - A timeline of completed, in-progress, and proposed projects (indicate which projects, and how many acres for each project, will be counted towards the annual acreage milestones).
 - Indicate whether or not CNRA is on-track to meet the current year's milestone, and if CNRA is unable to meet the milestone, state what actions are being done to rectify the deficiency.

- Status of public meetings or outreach about the Quantification Settlement Agreement, SSMP, and Order WR 2017-0134.
- **Implementation of the SSMP**
 - Whether or not CNRA has implemented all agreements necessary to move forward with construction of the Species Habitat Conservation Project (640 Acres).
 - Changes to the SSMP (i.e., revisions to the 10-year Plan).
 - Indicate any performance measures developed to assess success of project implementation and future operations.
 - Any additional environmental compliance or regulatory requirements.
 - Indicate if there are any resource issues or other impediments that are occurring which are prohibiting or slowing implementation of the SSMP and any suggestions to solve such issues by CNRA.
- **Activities by parties other than CNRA that may affect the SSMP**
 - Parties such as air pollution control districts, Salton Sea Authority, and Imperial Irrigation District.
 - Any efforts on coordinating projects from other parties within the 10-year Plan and SSMP.
- **Any other relevant updates**

The State Water Board's Salton Sea lead staff, Justine Herrig, is available to discuss any questions you may have on my requested content ahead of your presentation. She is available at Justine.Herrig@waterboards.ca.gov or (916) 323-5176.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

Felicia Marcus, Board Chair
State Water Resources Control Board