

International Association of

Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers

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March 6, 2015

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



Subject: Comment Letter: Salton Sea

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Board:

On behalf of over 1435 members of Ironworkers Local 229 representing San Diego and Imperial Counties, I am writing to express our support for the Imperial Irrigation District's request to convene stakeholders to find a definitive, funded solution to prevent the impending public health, economic and environmental crisis of a shrinking Salton Sea.

Mitigation water currently delivered to the Sea under the Quantification Settlement Agreement will stop in 2017. As water levels decrease and shoreline is exposed, dangerous dust particles will become airborne increasing risk of heart disease, asthma, lung cancer, and other health problems. Residents in and around Imperial County as well as neighboring communities in Southern California will be affected and according to a study by The Pacific Institute, public health and economic costs from these harmful impacts could run into the tens of billions. The damage would be a terrible setback for thousands of families already struggling to make ends meet and living with terrible air pollution on a daily basis.

The Salton Sea is also a significant environmental resource, supporting wildlife and serving as a critical link on the Pacific Flyway as well as a potential hub for renewable energy that could result in thousands of good-paying, middle-class jobs.

We look forward to the Board's involvement in this urgent matter and we call upon the Board to use its power to bring all necessary parties together and convene a collaborative process to identify a specific restoration plan that can be implemented and funded in time to avert this looming disaster threatening our region and the entire State.

Sincerely,

Juan "Johnny" M. Galvan
Business Manager/
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Stephen W. Benson, Board President, Imperial Irrigation District
Ryan E. Kelley, Chairman of the Board, County of Imperial