



UNITED ASSOCIATION

of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of
the United States and Canada

Founded 1889

Letters should
be confined to
one subject

UA Local Union:

Subject:

Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union #230

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*Serving San Diego for over 110 Years
1900 - 2015*

**(3/18/15) Public Workshop
Salton Sea
Deadline: 3/11/15 by 12:00 noon**
William P. Hite
General President

Mark McManus
General Secretary-Treasurer

Michael A. Pleasant
Assistant General President



March 9, 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 1700 members of the United Association (UA) of Plumbers, Steamfitters, Refrigeration & HVAC Service Technicians Local Union 230 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.

Not only does Imperial County suffer from some of the state's harshest air pollution, it is a working class community where many families struggle to make ends meet. If the Salton Sea is left unaddressed, these challenges will get significantly worse. 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. Risk of heart disease, asthma, lung cancer, and other health problems will increase. Although the communities in closest proximity to the Sea will experience the biggest challenges, neighboring communities in Southern California may also be affected. This ripple effect will also have harmful impacts on the economy and costs could run into the tens of billions, according to a study by The Pacific Institute.

The Salton Sea is also a significant environmental resource, supporting wildlife and serving as a critical link on the Pacific Flyway. The region also has the potential to become California's hub of renewable energy with thousands of megawatts of undeveloped solar, wind, and geothermal resources that could result in thousands of good-paying middle-class jobs.

We look forward to the Board's involvement in this important 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,

Mike Hartley
Business Manager

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