



Imperial Valley Child Asthma Program (IVCAP)
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December 23, 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

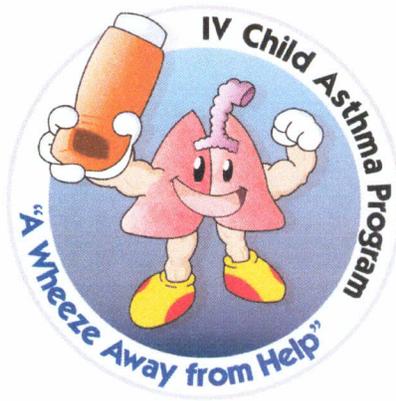
Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Board:

On behalf of Imperial Valley Child Asthma Program (IVCAP), I am writing to urge your Board's continued involvement and engagement in regards to the State's Salton Sea restoration efforts. As you recognized during the Salton Sea Public Workshop held earlier this year on March 18, the impending crisis at the Salton Sea is not only a regional issue of great urgency, it is one of statewide importance, and without a timely restoration project it will transform from California's largest lake into an economic, health and environmental hazard.

Restoration of the Salton Sea will not be easy, or cheap. Unfortunately, this is not a problem that Imperial County residents can simply ignore or dismiss. Conditions at the Sea will change rapidly in coming years, with potentially catastrophic effects on human health and more likely resulting on litigations over who is responsible for the choking clouds of dust blowing off the dried Sea bed.

As you may know, Imperial County is known for the increasing emergency room visits and hospitalizations rates related to asthma for children and adults. Increasing airborne dust will not only impact human health but worsen the current asthma epidemic in the region. Beyond those human impacts, failure to act will also cost local and state taxpayers, as well as local property owners, far more in coming years than any action taken to avoid a known hazard.

IVCAP is happy to know that at the local level, Imperial Irrigation District and Imperial County released their Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative Framework Document this summer. The restoration program outlined in this document



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provides a comprehensive vision and feasible plan that prioritizes air quality, public health, ecosystem protections, habitat restoration, and renewable energy development.

While plans and positive steps are being taken, each passing day we are closer to the December 31, 2017 deadline that will cease mitigation water deliveries to the Salton Sea, under the water transfers. For that reason, on behalf of The Imperial Valley Child Asthma Program (IVCAP), we call upon the Board to urge timely action and that it maintain an active role monitoring the progress of the State's Salton Sea Task Force Agency Actions and overall program.

Sincerely,

Aide Fulton, RN, BSN, PHN, AE-C
Imperial Valley Child Asthma Program Director