



March 29, 2018

Ms. Justine Herrig  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Herrig,

This letter is written on behalf of Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD). ICAPCD was in attendance of the public workshop that the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) held regarding the status of Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Plan (SSMP) on March 19, 2019. This letter provides our comments to the progress made at the Salton Sea.

ICAPCD appreciates the participation of California Air Resources Board giving updates and showing their engagement on the air quality issues at the Salton Sea. However, the negative air quality impacts coming from the Salton Sea shall not be dismissed. In 2018, the playa exposure increased by 8% while the emissions increased exponentially by 41%. Dust events coming from the exposed playa have been captured on the shoreline air quality network.

It is our recommendation that funds spent on the Salton Sea would be best allocated if the project footprint areas were beneficial to both air quality and habitat issues. An environmental issue of this size needs adequate funding with a punctual timetable for best performance outcomes.

To have success at the Salton Sea, it is critical for milestones to be met each year as required in the stipulated water board order. Imperial Irrigation District (IID) has shown much success implementing air quality projects using surface roughening and vegetation enhancement on the exposed playa. IID has past proven that these air quality projects can be implemented quickly and efficiently. They have successfully implemented approximately 1,200 total acres and each project has an average size of 250 acres. Therefore, the air quality milestone of 250 acres for the year 2018 should have been easily achieved, but was not.

The challenges in regards to permitting and easements is an unacceptable reason to have a lack of progress on all SSMP projects. Both the state and IID are at a standstill due to legal issues only known to themselves. Meanwhile, the playa is becoming more exposed, air quality is getting worse, and habitat value is being degraded at the Salton Sea.

150 SOUTH NINTH STREET  
EL CENTRO, CA 92243-2850

TELEPHONE: (442) 265-1800  
FAX: (442) 265-1799

**AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT**



We strongly urge SWRCB to carefully consider these comments made in this letter. We appreciate the effort your agency has put into the work at the Salton Sea. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ICAPCD at (442) 265-1800.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Dessert". The signature is stylized with a long, sweeping underline.

Matt Dessert  
Air Pollution Control Officer