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December 18, 2014

Via Electronic Mail: Tom.Howard@waterboards.ca.gov

Tom Howard, Executive Officer
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Howard:

Re: Petition by Imperial Irrigation District for the Restoration of the Salton Sea

On behalf of the Imperial Irrigation District, I would like to thank you and your staff for meeting with me and other representatives of IID on December 1, 2014, to discuss its petition to the State Water Resources Control Board. IID recognizes that its petition is extraordinary; however, we believe that the situation at the Salton Sea is equally extraordinary and calls for the SWRCB to act promptly to work with all interested parties to develop a consensus-based plan to restore the sea.

To that end, IID proposes that there be an initial workshop in mid-February to enable the SWRCB and interested parties to discuss how best to structure the proposed six-month facilitated dialogue. Scheduling the meeting for mid-February would give all interested parties at least a month to develop substantive proposals for presentation to the SWRCB.

IID believes that this dialogue should focus on four questions:

1. What goals should the state of California, acting through the SWRCB, establish for the restoration of the Salton Sea?
2. How can the SWRCB establish quantifiable targets to measure whether or not a specific plan will meet those goals?
3. How can the SWRCB facilitate the timely development and implementation of one or more plans to restore the Salton Sea?
4. How can the state of California meet its obligation to fund and implement Salton Sea restoration?

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Any realistic plan for the restoration of the Salton Sea must meet several criteria. First, it must focus on creating a smaller body of water that is sustainable over the long term. Second, it must protect public health by addressing dust emissions from the soon-to-be exposed lakebed. Third, it must protect the sea's ability to serve as one of the most important stops on the Pacific Flyway. Finally, a truly viable plan should encourage economic development and a better standard of living in our region, ideally through the development of renewable energy resources.

As I said during our meeting, IID stands willing to work with you, your staff and any interested party to craft a plan that will enable the state of California to meet its restoration obligation to the people of the Imperial and Coachella valleys. Please have the appropriate person on your staff contact Tina Shields, IID's Colorado River Resources manager, at (760) 339-9038 so that we can begin this important effort as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,



Kevin E. Kelley
General Manager

cc: Board of Directors
Tina Shields
Ross Simmons
Joanna Smith-Hoff
Caren Trgovcich, State Water Resources Control Board
Barbara Evoy, State Water Resources Control Board
Amanda Montgomery, State Water Resources Control Board