
Imperial County Building
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Construction Trades Council
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January 9, 2015

The Honorable Felicia Marcus
Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Imperial Irrigation District Petition

Dear Chairwoman Marcus:

The Imperial County Building and Construction Trades Council is writing to extend our support for the Imperial Irrigation District's petition requesting your board to convene key stakeholders and prioritize Salton Sea restoration efforts.

The Salton Sea is our state's largest lake and one of its most significant natural and environmental resources. It supports a diverse wildlife habitat for over 400 species of birds and serves as a critical link on the 5,000 mile international Pacific Flyway. The Sea is also home to the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge and the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, both serving as recreational destinations and attracting thousands of visitors annually.

Mitigation water currently delivered to the Salton Sea under the Quantification Settlement Agreement will stop in 2017. Undoubtedly this will result in further decline of current water levels and exposure of thousands of acres of highly emissive lakebed. If no immediate course of action is put in place now, the impacts to the environment, public health and the local economy will be worsened. And although the communities in closest proximity to the Sea will experience the biggest challenges, the neighboring communities in the greater Southern California region may be affected as well.

We look forward to your board's involvement in this important matter and we thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Sterling E. Mayes
Secretary / Treasurer

cc: Steve Benson, Imperial Irrigation District