



San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council

UnionYes

(1/5/16) Board Meeting
Salton Sea
Deadline: 12/30/15 by 12:00 noon

December 30, 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 125,000 members of the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, I am writing to express our strong support for continued action and oversight by the State Water Resources Control Board in addressing the looming public health, economic and environmental crisis of a shrinking Salton Sea.

As one of our state's most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, Imperial County has long struggled with high unemployment, high asthma rates and poor air quality. Left unaddressed, a shrinking Sea would be a serious setback to working families who already face significant challenges on a daily basis to provide for themselves and their loved ones. Simply put, we need action at the highest level of the State of California to avert a catastrophe.

We are thankful for the Board's actions to date as well as the Governor's leadership on this issue. Creating the Salton Sea Task Force is an encouraging, meaningful step. As the Task Force continues its work, it is critical to have a defined action plan with measurable milestones, accountability and resources.

Similar to climate change, the Salton Sea crisis presents difficult challenges but if we get it right, there is hope and opportunity for a better future. We can improve air quality, protect fragile species and create high-quality renewable energy jobs. The San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council supports accelerated action and urges the Board to continue your oversight role in moving us to a safe, healthy, sustainable Sea.

Sincerely,

Richard Barrera
Secretary-Treasurer

cc: Congressman Juan Vargas, 51st District
Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, 56th District
Stephen W. Benson, Board President, Imperial Irrigation District
Ryan E. Kelley, Chairman of the Board, County of Imperial