

30 Dec 2015



Sephton Water Technology

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To: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Tom Sephton
226 West Street
Brawley, CA 92227

Re: January 5th 2015 State Water Board Public Workshop on the Salton Sea

Dear State Water Resources Control Board members,

I've had the pleasure of working at the Salton Sea since 2004 on a few State and Federally funded R&D projects aimed at developing methods to clean up and desalt Salton Sea water to sustain the local ecosystem. These projects make direct use of local geothermal and solar energy resources to restore saltwater to useable quality and put what would normally be waste products to beneficial use. There are a range of viable and cost effective strategies available to prevent collapse of the Salton Sea ecosystem and public health damage from windblown dust off the dry lakebed. These are the two most critical issues that need to be addressed and they both will be urgent within a few years.

I've been encouraged by renewed action and focus at the State level in the past year to address the challenges at the Salton Sea. At the same time I've seen ongoing efforts to address these challenges delayed by very limited funding, disparate interests and priorities, and the always complex process of getting any project through contracting and permitting.

It is very important to the health and welfare of the thousands of California citizens that live near the Salton Sea and to the preservation of the valuable water, wildlife, recreation, and renewable energy resources in the region that the State continue to work diligently to craft viable solutions to the challenges at the Salton Sea. Even more important, the State should step up quickly to fund on the ground proof of concept projects and move to implement solutions that prove to be technically and financially feasible without further delay.

Sincerely,

Tom Sephton
President, Sephton Water Technology

