



# News Advisory

## **Annual Salton Sea workshop will be held remotely to comply with public health recommendations**

***The sessions were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic***

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**SACRAMENTO** – To comply with public health recommendations limiting the size of gatherings and requiring social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the State Water Resources Control Board’s [workshop](#) on Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program on August 19 will be held remotely.

The twice-delayed event consists of sessions at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Members of the public can view the [agenda](#) and video participate through the [CalEPA website](#).

**Background:** Required to be [held every year by March 31](#) under normal circumstances, the workshop provides an opportunity to update board members on the progress of the initial phase of the management program and gives the public an opportunity to comment on environmental issues threatening public health and fish and wildlife, among them the millions of birds migrating along the Pacific Flyway. The Salton Sea’s primary challenges include declining water levels, increasing areas of exposed playa, rising salinity, and high levels of nutrients that generate excessive growth of toxic algal blooms.

In 2002, the board approved a large, long-term conveyance of water from the Imperial Irrigation District to San Diego and Los Angeles. The transfer was available because agricultural water conservation reduced inflows to the sea, but in turn, increased exposure of the shoreline (playa), creating air quality and public health concerns. Additionally, the water reduction increased salinity levels and heightened the threat to fish and wildlife. After Imperial sought modification of the transfer, the board amended the revised order in November 2014 and incorporated specific restoration milestones addressing health and environmental concerns. Three years later, the board assumed oversight of monitoring and efforts to fulfill the goals of the Salton Sea Management Plan, which sets annual landmarks for habitat restoration and dust-suppression projects for the next decade.

The [State Water Board’s](#) mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California’s water resources, ensuring proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations.

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