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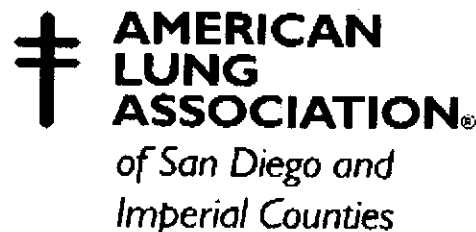
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Chair

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President/CEO

**AMERICAN LUNG
ASSOCIATION®**
*of San Diego and
Imperial Counties*

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October 9, 2002

Ms. Victoria Whitney
Program Manager
Hearings and Special Projects Section
Division of Water Rights
Water Resources Control Board
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Dear Ms. Whitney:

The American Lung Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties has serious concerns that the dust impacts of the projects can be fully mitigated. Most importantly, since the State Board has allowed the project to move forward, it is essential that mitigation take place in order to protect the lung health of Imperial County residents.

Mitigation of the Salton Sea and related dust impacts is a priority concern of the American Lung Association because of the large extent of PM10 pollution and toxic air impacts that could occur from this source. Imperial County already does not meet Federal and State clean air standards for particulate matter and has the highest asthma hospitalization discharge rates in California.

Additionally, due to the water transfer, farmland fallowing could also result in the generation of more airborne dust and increase particulate matter pollution.

Since the State is ordering that the water transfer take place, the American Lung Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties believes it is imperative for an air-quality plan to be implemented within six months after the transfer begins to occur, which will result in no net increase of air quality emissions due to the water transfer.

Thank you for your consideration of the American Lung Association's comments. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (760)353-5864.

Sincerely,

Karla I. Matus
Branch Manager

**When You Can't
Breathe,
Nothing Else
Matters®**