



**PALM SPRINGS
DESERT RESORTS**
CONVENTION AND
VISITORS AUTHORITY

*The Desert Resort Communities
of Riverside County:*

CATHEDRAL CITY

DESERT HOT SPRINGS

INDIAN WELLS

INDIO

LA QUINTA

PALM DESERT

PALM SPRINGS

RANCHO MIRAGE

June 11, 2002

Beth Jones
[Handwritten signature and initials]

Secretary Winston Hickox
Secretary for Environmental Protection Agency
CA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
555 Capitol Mall Suite 525
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Hickox:

Enclosed with this letter is a Certified Copy of Resolution #7 approved on May 21, 2002 by the Joint Powers Authority governing the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention and Visitors Authority regarding the effect of water transfers and the environmental impact on the Salton Sea.

Please retain for your records on this issue and note our concerns.

Sincerely,

TERRI MILTON

TERRI MILTON
Administrative Assistant

Enclosure

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**PALM SPRINGS DESERT RESORTS CONVENTION AND
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Joint Powers Authority Executive Committee

CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION #7

By: 
Terri Milton, Recording Secretary

This certifies that the attached copy of Resolution #7 for the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention and Visitors Authority is true and correct and was approved on May 21, 2002 by the Joint Powers Authority Executive Committee.

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**RESOLUTION NO. 7
RESOLUTION OF CONCERN OF THE PALM SPRINGS DESERT
RESORTS CONVENTION AND VISITORS AUTHORITY REGARDING
THE EFFECT OF WATER TRANSFERS ON THE SALTON SEA**

WHEREAS, the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Executive Committee governing the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention and Visitors Authority representing the cities of Cathedral City, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs Rancho Mirage and that portion of Riverside County located within the Coachella Valley, is not a member of the CVAG agency or the Salton Sea Authority, but as a common agency developed as a Joint Powers Authority, is concerned about the overall economic growth of the Coachella Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea is a valuable economic and recreational resource of the Coachella Valley receiving over 200,000 visitors per year at the State Parks alone; and

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea is among the most important bird resources in North America, with the greatest biodiversity of bird species in California and the second most in the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the JPA Executive Committee understands the need and supports the implementation of the "California 4.4 Plan," which is designed to reduce California's use of Colorado River water in normal years to 4.4 MAF, without causing major economic and social impacts to the Coachella Valley, Palo Verde Valley, Coastal Southern California and California; and

WHEREAS, the JPA Executive Committee understands that the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), which is the key element of the "California 4.4 Plan", provides the Coachella Valley with a firm water supply to resolve the overdraft of the groundwater basin and to allow for growth; and

WHEREAS, without the QSA and its water transfers to the Coachella Valley, development and water costs in the Coachella Valley will be impacted; and

WHEREAS, the JPA Executive Committee understands that the QSA is a time sensitive matter with an existing signature date of December 31, 2002 and that without the agreement the Secretary of the Interior will limit California to 4.4 MAF which will reduce the supply to coastal Southern California or create water reallocations; and

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WHEREAS, water transfers are a business arrangement between agencies to sell and buy water and are an essential component of the proposed "California 4.4 Plan" and the QSA; and

WHEREAS, the JPA Executive Committee is in support of the Salton Sea Authority's mission to protect and enhance the environmental and economic qualities of the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, a major reduction of inflows to the Sea will likely lead to a reduction in sea elevation of up to 22 feet, potentially exposing over 100 square miles of seabed and diminish the vitality of the Sea; and

WHEREAS, a major reduction of inflows greatly accelerates salinity increase in the Sea; and

WHEREAS, with or without transfers, significant changes to habitat threaten bird biodiversity and abundance at the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned physical changes in the Sea could lead to significant air quality, biological and economic impacts;

IT IS THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the JPA Executive Committee for the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention and Visitors Authority does understand the need to proceed cautiously with those parts of the "California 4.4 Plan" which have serious economic and environmental impacts while continuing to proceed expeditiously with those parts of the Plan which are essential to meeting the California Colorado River Allotment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to support stringent reviews of any State and/or Federal legislation that relax environmental laws at the detriment of economic or environmental values of the Salton Sea, Imperial or Coachella Valleys; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be sent to Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congresswoman Mary Bono and the rest of the Congressional Salton Sea Task Force, other appropriate members of Congress, the Secretary of the Interior, State Senator Jim Battin, Assemblyman Dave Kelley, State Senator Sheila Kuehl, other appropriate members of the State legislature, the California Resources Secretary, the Secretary of the Environment Protection Agency, other appropriate State and Federal agencies, and the Salton Sea Authority.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Joint Powers Authority of the Palm Springs Desert Resorts Convention and visitors Authority in the County of Riverside, State of California on this 21st day of May, 2002.

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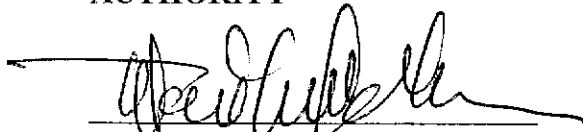


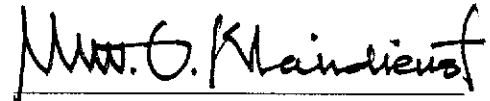
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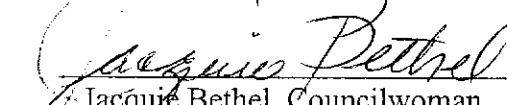
**JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE
PALM SPRINGS DESERT RESORTS CONVENTION AND VISITORS
AUTHORITY**

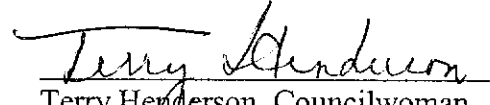

 Matthew Weyaker, Mayor
 CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS
 Chairman, JPA Executive Committee



 William G. Kleindienst, Mayor
 CITY OF PALM SPRINGS
 Vice Chairman

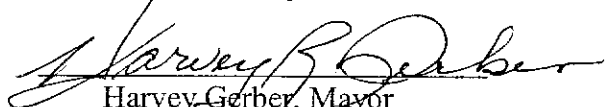

 George Stettler, Mayor
 CITY OF CATHEDRAL CITY

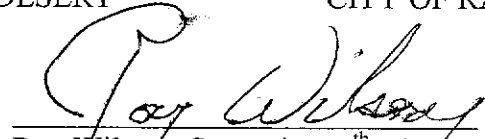

 Ed Monarch, Councilman
 CITY OF INDIAN WELLS


 Jacquie Bethel, Councilwoman
 CITY OF INDIO


 Terry Henderson, Councilwoman
 CITY OF LA QUINTA


 Jean Benson, Mayor pro tem
 CITY OF PALM DESERT


 Harvey Gerber, Mayor
 CITY OF RANCHO MIRAGE


 Roy Wilson, Supervisor 4th District
 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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