

State Water Resources Control Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO PROVIDE UPDATE ON THE SALTON SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM'S PHASE 1 PLAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board, Board) will hold a public workshop at their regularly scheduled Board Meeting to receive information and solicit public input regarding the status of the California Natural Resources Agency's Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program, including development of the Long-Range Plan. This workshop is for informational purposes. While a quorum of the State Water Board may be present, the State Water Board will not take formal action at the workshop. There will be no sworn testimony or cross-examination of interested persons, but the State Water Board and its staff may ask clarifying questions.

The meeting will take place over two days. Both meeting days will offer three simultaneous options for participation: a physical meeting location, a remote viewing location, and a virtual participation option through Zoom. There will also be a watch-only webcast option. Each day's agenda will include time for public comments, and all formats will offer live Spanish interpretation.

Day 1: Tuesday, May 16, 2023

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Day 2: Wednesday, May 17, 2023

5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

IN-PERSON OPTION: IMPERIAL VALLEY

Imperial Valley Community College Main Lecture Hall (Room 2734)
380 E. Aten Rd, Imperial, CA 92251

REMOTE VIEWING OPTION: COACHELLA VALLEY

North Shore Beach and Yacht Club
99155 Sea View Dr, Mecca, CA 92254

Attendees will be able to watch the meeting and provide comments. Staff will be available onsite to assist.

TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT REMOTELY DURING THE MEETING:

Starting **May 5**, fill out a virtual speaker card in advance at bit.ly/speaker-card-form. The Board clerk will respond with Zoom login information in advance of the meeting.

TO WATCH ONLY & NOT PROVIDE COMMENT:

English and Spanish webcast with closed captioning: video.calepa.ca.gov
English video with closed captioning: youtube.com/user/BoardWebSupport

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AT WORKSHOP

The State Water Board will receive an update on the Salton Sea Management Program update from the California Natural Resources Agency and is seeking information and feedback on progress or actions since the last State Water Board Salton Sea Workshop on April 20, 2022. The workshop is also an opportunity for participants to provide input to the State Water Board regarding the status of the Salton Sea Management Program. Input can be provided by submitting written comments or providing oral comments during the workshop as described below.

A draft agenda is under development and will be posted on the Board's Salton Sea website prior to the workshop. The draft agenda will be posted on the Board's calendar page (bit.ly/wbcal-may2023) at least 10 days before the workshop, and it will also be released via the Salton Sea email subscription service (sign up at bit.ly/cnra-subscribe).

BACKGROUND

The **May 16-17, 2023** workshop will be held for the State Water Board to receive information related to the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA). Board members will hear from California Natural Resources Agency about the progress of the Salton Sea Management Plan, and they will receive written and oral comments from the public. The Salton Sea Management Plan also includes a Long-Range Plan, which may also be discussed at the workshop.

Water Rights [Order \(WRO\) 2017-0134](#) was adopted by the Board in November 2017. It amended a previous order ([WRO 2002-0013](#)), which approved the long-term transfer of water from Imperial Irrigation District to urban users. The amended Order included additional restoration milestones to address public health and environmental concerns and requires that the Board hold a public meeting no later than March 31 of each year during Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program, through 2028, to receive oral and written comments on the status of Salton Sea restoration. The State Water Board is holding the workshop in May to allow more time for public and staff review of the annual report, as well as to allow for more public engagement and participation, including ensuring meeting materials are translated into Spanish (and other languages if requested).

Water Rights Order 2017-0134 requires the California Natural Resources Agency to complete a report in the first quarter of each year to identify: (i) completed projects and milestones achieved in the prior year; (ii) amount of acreage of completed projects that provide dust suppression and habitat restoration, broken down by habitat type; (iii) upcoming projects to be completed and milestones to be achieved prior to the next annual progress report; (iv) the status of financial resources and permits that have not been secured for future projects; (v) any anticipated departures from the dates and acreage numbers identified in condition 24 of the order, and; (vi) progress toward development of a long-range plan for ongoing management of the Sea. The Order also requires the California Natural Resources Agency to develop subsequent 10-year phases of the Salton Sea Management Program based upon available information, with the development of each phase commencing no later than midway through each current phase. The first phase of the Salton Sea Management Program (Phase 1) runs from

2018 through 2028, and the next 10-year phase will commence no later than 2024. In early 2023, the California Natural Resources Agency will release the 2022 Annual Report on Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program. It will be available in both English and Spanish on their website, saltonsea.ca.gov.

California Natural Resources Agency released the Draft Long-Range Plan on December 15, 2022, in compliance with a previous Water Rights Order and the Salton Sea Restoration Act. The Long-Range Plan will follow Phase 1 (10-year plan) projects and will establish approximately 30,000 acres of aquatic and vegetated habitat by 2028 to suppress dust emissions and improve ecological conditions. The goal of the Long-Range Plan is to protect and/or improve air quality, water quality, and wildlife habitat to prevent or reduce health and environmental impacts anticipated from the recession of the Salton Sea. The Draft Long-Range Plan is available in English (bit.ly/LRP-eng) and Spanish (bit.ly/LRP-esp), and California Natural Resources Agency is accepting public comments until March 17, 2023 (see more information under “Additional Information”). After comments are received, the Long-Range Plan will become part of a feasibility study led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING REMOTE COMMENTS DURING THE MEETING

If you are participating in the workshop remotely and would like to make a public comment, you must fill out a virtual speaker card at bit.ly/speaker-card-form. The form will become available starting **May 5, 2023**.

Staff will respond to your form submission with the Zoom meeting login information. Both workshop days will have time devoted to public comment, and speaking times may be limited based on the number of participants. Additional information about remote participation is available here: waterboards.ca.gov/board_info/remote_meeting/

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

The State Water Board will accept written comments on the Salton Sea Management Plan until **5:00 pm on Monday, May 2, 2023**. Written comments may be submitted by:

1. **Email:** commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov with subject line “Comment Letter: Salton Sea”
2. **Fax:** (916) 341-5620
3. **Mail:** Clerk to the Board, Ms. Courtney Tyler, State Water Resources Control Board, P.O. Box 997377, MS 7400, Sacramento, CA 95899-7377
4. **Hand-delivery:** Clerk to the Board, Ms. Courtney Tyler, State Water Resources Control Board, 1001 I Street, 24th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. Couriers delivering comments must check in with lobby security and have them contact Ms. Tyler at (916) 341-5600.

LANGUAGE SERVICES

All workshop materials will be provided in English and Spanish, and live Spanish interpretation services will be available. If you require interpretation or translation in another language, or would like to request sign language services, please contact us at (916) 322-4265, or languageservices@waterboards.ca.gov, before **May 6, 2023**. We highly encourage contacting us as far in advance as possible about language needs.

ACCESSIBILITY

Imperial Valley College and the North Shore Beach and Yacht Club are both accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to call (916) 341-5261 on or before **May 9, 2023**. Persons with hearing or speech impairments may contact us using the California Relay Service Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (800) 735-2929 or voice line at (800) 735-2922.

PARKING

- **Imperial Valley College:** Parking is free, and no permit is needed. Several spots will be reserved for the event and will be designated by signage.
- **North Shore Beach and Yacht Club:** Parking is free, and no permit is needed. If the main parking lot is full, additional vehicles may park along Sea View Drive, close to the club.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- For questions about this notice or the workshop, please email Stephanie.Holstege@waterboards.ca.gov.
- For more information about the background and history of the State Water Board's involvement with the Salton Sea, visit waterboards.ca.gov/saltonsea.
- To receive notifications about Salton Sea program activities by the State Water Board and the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Board, subscribe at bit.ly/r7-subscribe.
- For more information about the California Natural Resources Agency's involvement with the Salton Sea, visit saltonsea.ca.gov.
 - To sign up for email updates from the Salton Sea Management Program from California Natural Resources Agency, visit bit.ly/cnra-subscribe
- On December 15, 2022, California Natural Resources Agency's released their Draft Long-Range Plan for the Salton Sea.
 - Access the report in English: bit.ly/LRP-eng
 - Access the report in Spanish: bit.ly/LRP-esp
 - Comments on the Long-Range Plan will be accepted by California Natural Resources Agency until March 17, 2023 at 11:59pm PST and can be emailed to SaltonSeaLRP@resources.ca.gov or sent via regular mail to:
California Natural Resources Agency
Attn: Salton Sea Long-Range Plan Review
715 P Street, 20th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 20, 2023

Date



Courtney Tyler
Clerk to the Board