

CHAPTER 9

Individuals Comments

CHAPTER 9

INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS

This chapter contains copies of the comment letters received from local agencies, as listed in Table 9-1. Each letter and the responses are provided in a side-by-side format. Responses to comments are numbered individually in sequence, corresponding to the numbering assigned to the comments in each comment letter. The responses are prepared in answer to the full text of the original comment.

The Individual Comments include three types of comments. First, Individual Letters with unique comments are presented. These comments are grouped alphabetically by the first letter of the last name and, within each letter, alphabetically by abbreviation. Second, Comment Cards submitted at public workshops. These comments are grouped in the same manner as the Individual Letters. Third, Form Letters. Most of the comments received on the Draft PEIR were submitted based upon similar form letters. These comments were grouped into five Form Letters, which are presented at the end of this chapter. A listing of names that submitted Form Letters 1 through 5 are included in Appendix B.

Table 9-1
Individual Comments Received on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program
Draft Environmental Impact Report

INDIVIDUAL LETTERS	
Abbreviation	Name
AA	Alixandria Andrews
BA	Benny Andres
CAnderlik	Chris Anderlik
CAnderson	Carrie Anderson
GA	Gene Alfred
JA	Jeanne Austin
QA	Quanah Allen
SA	Sol Anshien
ABeckner	Azel Beckner
SBee	Solar Bee (Sandra Walker)
ABound	Aida Bound
BBurnett	Brenda Burnett
EBretz	Ed Bretz
EBurke	Elizabeth Burke
JBerlin	Janet Berlin
JBonaparte	Jessica Bonaparte
JBrinkerhoff	Judy Brinkerhoff
JBuffington	Janet Buffington
JBurris	Julie Burris
KB	Kathy Bledsoe
LBerensen	Linda Berensen
LBorunda1	Leo Borunda
LBorunda2	Leo Borunda

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INDIVIDUAL LETTERS	
Abbreviation	Name
LBojorquez	Lydia Bojorquez
MBaker	Matt Baker
MBeaudin	Mark Beaudin
MBloomfield	Masse Bloomfield
NBerezansky	Nick Berezansky
NBerry	Nancy Berry
NBrabson	Natalie Brabson
RBennett	Richard Bennett
RBishop	Rosemary Bishop
RBledsoe	Richard Bledsoe
RByerley	Rebeca Byerley
SBeneway	Sharon Beneway
SBee	Sandra Walker (represents Solar Bee, Inc.)
SBeneway	Sharon Beneway
SBilson	Steve Bilson
SBurke	Susan Burke
WB	William Bergevin
BCadam	Brendan Cadam
BCohen	Brian Cohen
DC	Damian Cola
HC	Holly Craven
JC	Jennifer Cheyne
LC	Lea Clay
MCapron	Mark Capron
MClark	Montgomery Clark
MCope	Matt Cope
MFCrandall	Maria F Crandall
MCrandall	Marjorie Crandall
PC	Pierre Catala
RC	Robert Chandler
AD	Aaron Dougherty
BDaily	Barbara Daily
BDonavan	Bill Donovan
DD	David Dobbins
HD	Harvey Dufrenne
ID	Irene Dombeck

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INDIVIDUAL LETTERS	
Abbreviation	Name
JD	Joe Doremire
LDoely	Lani Doely
LDuecker	Leonard Duecker
MDiaz	Martha Diaz
MDonaghy	Mary Donaghy
PD	Pamela Day
RD	Rossi Dudrick
SD	Stephanie Donaldson
TDavis	Therese Davis
TDowner	Tara Downer
DE	Donald Evans
JFitzrandolph	John Fitrandolph
JFlores	Jesus Flores
JFreeman	Johsua Freeman
JFrink	Joe Frink
KFaulkner	Kay Faulkner
KFisher	Kristena Fisher
KFuller	Kelsey Fuller
VFoster	Virginia Foster
BG	Brian Godfrey
CGianni	Clydel Gianni
CGraney	Colleen Graney
CGroat	Candice Groat
DGilleard	Deborah Gilleard
DGoodyear	Dustin Goodyear
GG	Gary Garrison
JGrace	Jordan Grace
JGuillen	Joann Guillen
NG	Natalie Gray
RG	Richard and Hildegard Gruwell
SG	Sue Gardner
VG	Victor Glock
AHawkins	Amy Hawkins
AHenderson	Andrea Henderson
CHammond	Carol Hammond
CHurley	Cliff Hurley
DH	Di Hard

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INDIVIDUAL LETTERS	
Abbreviation	Name
EH	Ellen Honey
GH	Gary Hoyt
HH	Hazel Holby
KHackland	Keith Hackland
KHarrison	Katherine Harrison
LHammerschmitt	Leland Hammerschmitt
LHandfelt	Leo Handfelt
MHanrahan	Margaret Hanrahan
MHodie	Mark Hodie
MHunter	Mark Hunter
RHagewood	R Hagewood
RHill	Roslyn Hill
SHunter	Salle Huntter
GI	Gary Inhofe
VI	Virginia Iser
CJ	Christina Johnson
JJ	Jean Jones
MJane	Miranda Jane
MJasper	Marilyn Jasper
SJ	Shirley Jones
TJ	Thomas Joyce
KK	Kristen Keenan
MKing	Mary Lee King
MKnight	Martin Knight
NK	Nick Karem
RKreider	Robert Kreider
RKuzins	Rebecca Kuzins
RKwestel	Rona Kwestel
TKyrzysik	Tony Krysik
TKuaimoku	Theresa Kuamoku
BL	Betsy Lyde
EL	Enrique Lozano
KL	Kathryn Lenzenby
LLeventhal	Linda Leventhal
LLozier	Lore Lozier
MLerg	Melinda Lerg

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INDIVIDUAL LETTERS	
Abbreviation	Name
MLower	Mary Ann Lower
MLopez	Monique Lopez
PL	Patricia Larson
RLozoya	Robert Lozoya
RLynn	Rodney Lynn
TLin	Tonny Lin
TLindley	Tanya Lindley
AMeyer	Allyn Meyer
AMorris	Ann Morris
BMiles	Blake Miles
BMontes	Beth Montes
CM	Claudia Mcniff
EM	Efron Morrison
GM	Gail Miller
JMcClure	James McClure
JMurphy	Judy Murphy
KMathis-Jones	Kimberly Mathis-Jones
KMclaren	Kirk McLaren
KMonahan	Kerrie Monahan
MMathis	Margaret Mathis
MMiller	Mark Miller
NMac	N.J. Mac
RMa	Richard McKay
RMb	Richard McKay
TM	Teresa Mason
YM	Yasuko Margolis
LN	Lani Nestlen
ON	Ormat Nevada (Charlene L. Wardlow)
RNicklen	Robert Nicklen
RNiswander	Ruth Niswander
JO	Jackie Otto
NO	Nevi Ozturk
CPankow	Carolyn Pankow
CPelle	Courtney Pelle
JP	Julianne Pach
KPa	Karen Porter

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INDIVIDUAL LETTERS	
Abbreviation	Name
KPb	Karen Porter
SPavia	Samantha Pavia
SPeak	Sarah Peak
FR	Faith Rosenzweig
GR	George Ray
HR	Hailee Ra
JReed	Janis Reed
JRinger	Jo Ellen Ringer
MR	Mary Sue Rose
PR	Patrick Russell
RRobinson	Robert Robinson
RRooney	R. Kathleen M. Rooney
RRubin	Ron Rubin
SRaynor	Sue Raynor
SRogers	Stephen Rogers
TR	Theresa Rohloff
BSchulman	Beth Schulman
BStevenson	Barry and Sandy Stevenson
BStreiff	Beth Streiff
CShields	Clyde Shields
CSiperstein-Cook	Courtney Siperstein-Cook
CSmith	Courtney Smith
CSwitzer	Cheryl Switzer
DShefchik	Donny Shefchik
DSpors	Denise Spors
ES	Ellen Stern
FS	Frank Schubert
GS	Gary Simon
JSpector	Judy Spector
JStovall	James Stovall
JSullivan	Jason Sullivan
KSM	Kathleen Smith-Myler
MSebour	Margaret Sebour
MSwartz	Monica Swartz
NS	Nancy Smith
PS	Patti Shanks

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INDIVIDUAL LETTERS	
Abbreviation	Name
RSchilling	R.S. Schilling
RSeverin	Rick Severin
RSpeed	Richard Speed
SSage	Sybil Sage
SSchedell	Scott Schedell
SStation	Stephen Station
BTR	Brian Tait-Russell
CThistle	Carrie Thistle
CTrinkaus	Carmela Trinkaus
FT	Felicia Tascon
JTaylor	Jennifer Taylor
JThompson	John and Elena Thompson
LT	Leonard Thomas
PT	Peter Tigler
RT	Richard Thanner
VT	Vera Taylor
RU	Robert and Renna Ulvang
DV	Donald Van Wieren
WV	Wayne Vernon
AW	Anna Wagemann
CWansley	Candy Wansley
CWebb	Carol Webb
DWelles	Damaris Welles
DWellman	David Wellman
DWickerd	Donna Wickerd
EW	Ed Wagner
HW	Harmut Walter
JW	Jennifer Wyatt
LWead	Lucinda Wead
LWinslow	Lynda Winslow
OW	Olive Wilson
PW	Phoenicia Fontaine Welch
RW	R.H. Woolston
SWeinbert-Harter	Susan Weinberg-Harter
Swickliffe	Steve Wickliffe
DY	Duane Lee Young

Table 9-1
Individual Comments Received on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program
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INDIVIDUAL LETTERS	
Abbreviation	Name
KY	Kimberly Yang
JZ	Joe Zuback
VZ	Valerie Zachary
S&F	Susan and Frank (name not legible)
COMMENT CARDS	
Abbreviation	Name
RChandler	Robert Chandler
DCharpied	Donna Charpied
LCharpied	Larry Charpied
MClancy	Myron Clancy
TDeckers	Ted Deckers
LDriggers	Loyd and Karen Driggers
SHerbert	Sonia Herbert
MHulls	Mary Hulls
JJohnson	June Johnson
JKariotis	John Kariotis
TMcKiney	Thomas McKiney
CNess	Carlene Ness
LNess	Loren Ness
SNuyen	Sherrie Nuyen
POberg	Pat Oberg
SPalmer	Shirley Palmer
SPetroff	Steven Petroff
PQuill	Paul Quill
CRound	Chuck Round
KRyan	Ken and Maureen Ryan
RSchall	Richard Schall
RScott	Robert Scott
RSpears	Ronald Spears
SSymington	Sandy Symington
JTrout	Jerry Trout
RValentine	Ronald and Lynda Valentine
BWilson	Benjamin and Dolores Wilson
Anonymous 1	Anonymous 1
Anonymous 2	Anonymous 2
Anonymous 3	Anonymous 3

Table 9-1
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Draft Environmental Impact Report

FORM LETTERS
Form Letter 1
Form Letter 2
Form Letter 3
Form Letter 4
Form Letter 5

Jan 8, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please do what you can to help keep Salton Sea a viable stopover for migratory birds.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Alixandria Andrews
316 Dry St
Alton, IL 62002-6016

Alixandria Andrews (AA)

AA-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

AA-1

From: [Benny Andres](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#)
CC:
Subject: Salton Sea PEIR comments
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 8:46:13 PM
Attachments:

Comments to Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR, 2007

By Benny Andres, Jr. Ph.D.
Imperial Valley College
History Professor
January 16, 2007

My comments address the PEIR's analysis of air quality and mitigation thereof. I looked at the data and analyses in chapters 3 and 10, Appendix E and Appendix H3. The PEIR sets out to identify three restoration project objectives:

*Restoration of long term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;

*Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and

*Protection of water quality

Question: Where and how does the PEIR define restoration?

Question: Is "restoration" to the period pre-1905 to 1907 flood, or is it the 1950s ecosystem, or the current ecosystem?

Comment: None of the plans—the 2 No-Action Alternatives or the 8 Alternatives come close to accomplishing the 3 PEIR restoration objectives.

Benny Andres (BA)

BA-1

The Salton Sea is a dynamic ecosystem and changes over time. Therefore, using a specific year or static timeframe to define and shape the restoration of the Salton Sea would be challenging as even a restored Salton Sea will continue to change over time. Therefore, the Draft PEIR does not seek to define restoration by selecting a specific historical timeframe. Rather the Draft PEIR follows the legislative directive and alternatives seek to provide the maximum feasible attainment of the restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea.

BA-2

The Salton Sea Restoration Act (Fish and Game Code 2931(c)(1-3)) states that "the preferred alternative shall provide the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives: (1) Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea. (2) Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration projects. (3) Protection of water quality." All of the alternatives meet the legislative objectives to varying degrees. The No Action Alternative is a requirement of CEQA and is not intended to meet the legislative objectives.

BA-1

BA-2

My overall impression is not enough research has been done to scientifically determine the amount or frequency of carcinogens released from the existing playa and surrounding areas. Not enough research has been done to demonstrate that playa can be effectively covered to reduce or even maintain current air quality, which exceed the EPA standard for air quality.

It is mind boggling that the state set a hard deadline that did not allow the Salton Sea Authority's revised plan (or other plans) to be considered when the state did not even meet its own PEIR release deadline; and the state has failed to conduct any FINAL air quality studies (only preliminary studies) because it did not have enough time.

The state took \$20 million away from the Salton Sea Authority, which hamstrung its efforts to conduct air and water quality studies. This entity is the best agency to conduct studies. The state took the money and didn't even conduct a multitude of air quality studies. The residents of Imperial County and Riverside County are primarily concerned with diminished air quality from a shrinking Salton Sea. For the state not to fund a multitude of air quality studies shows a total disregard for residents and the magnitude of the air quality problem in the Salton Sea air shed.

I recently attended a Salton Sea/Imperial Valley air quality workshop at the Farm Bureau in El Centro. Reputable scientists on the panel told the audience they had submitted grant proposals to study air quality impacts, but the state did not fund them. This strongly suggest that the state agencies did not want scientific studies conducted that showed the impacts on air quality caused by the receding Salton Sea and its environs.

I recommend a minimum of two more years of research is needed to determine the air quality conditions and impacts as they exist today. Then it will take another year to model the data. This would form the basis for a scientifically determined range of impacts associated with all the proposed alternatives. This would also give the proponents of each plan time to modify and update their plan.

BA (cont.)

BA-3

BA-3

Much of the Salton Sea "playa" that may result in dust emissions and potentially exacerbate particulate matter and air quality problems in Imperial and Riverside counties is currently under water. As a result, it has been difficult to perform necessary scientific investigations to directly study and assess the potential emissivity of sea bottom sediments. Instead, the Draft PEIR estimates potential emissions and describes and compares the potential air quality impacts of several restoration alternatives, based on conservative assumptions of playa emissivity, available data on site-specific meteorology and ambient air quality, results of sampling and analysis of soil and sediment composition, expert knowledge of salt chemistry and crust formation, observations of dust events reported by area residents and scientists, and results of wind tunnel measurements and other tests conducted by the Desert Research Institute on recently exposed playa areas adjacent to the Salton Sea. The Draft PEIR then identifies a "toolbox" of possible dust control measures and their relative effectiveness, based on proven performance in other playa-like areas, informed opinions from regulatory agencies, and input from technical experts, including the Salton Sea Authority. The data and information available at the time of the preparation of the Draft PEIR were used, including the available results from the studies listed above. More detailed studies of playa emissivity, potential human health effects, and pilot projects of control measure effectiveness could be conducted during project-specific analysis.

BA-4

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, a variety of actions have been identified that could be implementing within the five year timeframe after the Legislature provides direction to mover forward with a restoration program and identifies an implementing agency. These actions include measures targeted to address air quality uncertainties.

BA-4

BA (cont.)

Comment: In Appendix H-3 the discussion of playa emissions relies on Owens Lake data since there is no data for the Salton Sea.

Question: How can the DWR possibly analyze and make recommendations of exposed playa omissions when it knows virtually nothing of air quality in the Salton Sea air basin (see Appendix E3-2)?

Comment: In different sections the report alludes to a scarcity of water having a role in determining which air quality mitigation strategies are utilized, because of competing interests for the state's Colorado River allocation. It seems that the PEIR is creating limitations to water as a strategy of dust prevention. The 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement, the Imperial Irrigation District-San Diego Water Authority water transfer, and two IID-Metropolitan Water District water conservation/transfers currently state how much water is being transferred out of the IID's hydrologic area. Data also exists for historic rainfall, as well as river inflows.

Question: Why does the report suggest that the demand for water from outside the Salton Sea air basin should play a role in selecting a preferred restoration plan or for dust mitigation?

Comment: Appendix H-3 states clearly that not enough research has been done on current dust patterns and it only speculates on how soil will respond once water recedes.

Comment: Again, the PEIR makes assumptions about how much water would be needed (1.2 acre feet or less) for ground cover vegetation (H3-2).

Question: How can the PEIR speak with authority on the effectiveness of plant cover when there have not been any studies conducted for the Salton Sea environ?

Question: What evidence does the PEIR have that proves that 1.2 acre feet would be required for vegetation ground cover?

Question: What studies of chemical stabilization have been examined?

BA-5

BA-5

Current conditions do not allow for direct studies of playa emissions or control measures at the Salton Sea, because most of the future playa is covered by water. Much of the currently available information on playa emissions and dust control measures has been developed during detailed studies at Owens Lake, under both controlled and uncontrolled conditions. Playa stabilization information and suitable examples of successful dry lake bed dust control projects are limited. As a result, the Owens Lake playa was used as an example in Appendix H-3 discussions of emissions rates and potential dust control measures for the future Exposed Playa.

BA-6

With regard to the emissions estimation in Appendix E3 of the Draft PEIR, the comparison to Owens Lake was a comparison of wind and meteorological data, wind tunnel studies, and observations of playa crusts. The emissions analysis presented in the Draft PEIR was not based on the Owens Lake data, but rather was based on available complete, quality assured, meteorological and ambient air quality data sets from both ends of the Salton Sea, and available results of wind tunnel measurements and other tests conducted by the Desert Research Institute on recently exposed playa areas adjacent to the Salton Sea.

BA-6

BA-7

The Draft PEIR does not suggest that water demand from outside the Salton Sea Air Basin should, in any way, play a role in selecting a preferred alternative or a viable dust mitigation plan. Rather, the Draft PEIR explains that implementation of the Quantification Settlement Agreement, the Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project, plus other foreseeable actions both within and outside of the watershed, would result in the Salton Sea receiving substantially less inflow from its main tributaries and from direct farm runoff in the future. As compared to its long-term historic average annual inflow of about 1.3 million acre-feet, the Draft PEIR estimates that the by the end of the 75-year study period, the average annual inflow to the Salton Sea would be about 717,000 acre-feet. This represents an inflow reduction of nearly 600,000 acre-feet per year. The predicted lower inflow levels would shrink the size of the Salton Sea and expose tens of thousands of acres of previous inundated seabed or "playa". Results from modeling of the water resources available under each alternative were used to predict the amount of Exposed Playa under the various alternatives studied.

BA-8

BA-9

BA-10

BA (cont.)

At the Salton Sea Air Quality Working Group meeting on March 14, 2006, and at the Salton Sea Advisory Committee meeting on March 16, 2006, playa stabilization and dust mitigation approaches, as well as the potential extent of the Exposed Playa, were discussed. It was the consensus of the Salton Sea Advisory Committee that, for planning future dust control measures, it would be prudent to assume that up to 70 percent of the Exposed Playa would become emissive. It was assumed that 50 percent of the Exposed Playa would use Air Quality Management, such as water efficient vegetation, and 20 percent would use other Air Quality Management measures (see Table 10-14, page 10-36, in the Draft PEIR).

The consensus at both meetings regarding these Air Quality Management technologies was as follows:

the dust control “toolbox” will remain open, with active research and development and an adaptive management approach taken to control playa emissions as needed. The group also indicated the need to allocate 1 foot of water per acre over 50 percent of the exposed area for dust control, and to retain vegetation as one of the water-using measures in the toolbox, without specification of irrigation technology. Water efficient vegetation, as described in the PEIR, was selected as a reasonable “placeholder” approach for planning purposes, due to its proven effectiveness for stabilizing large playa areas, while making efficient use of water. Regulatory agencies currently consider water efficient vegetation to represent a Best Available Control Measure (BACM) for dust from open, disturbed land areas.

A complete description of the methodology used in determining the Air Quality Management approaches and analyzing the estimated air emissions for each alternative is presented in Chapter 10 of the Draft PEIR, pages 10-25 to 10-31.

BA-7

See response to comments BA-3 and BA-4. Additional air quality research would be appropriate to conducted during project-level analysis.

BA-8

Irrigated, water efficient vegetation is considered a placeholder dust control technology in the Draft PEIR. This proven approach is considered Best Available Control Measure (BACM) for Exposed Playa, as required by state and local air quality agencies, and control efficiencies achieved in practice are used in agency planning processes. The use of water efficient vegetation as one of a possible number of dust control measures that can be used to stabilize Exposed Playa at the Salton Sea is based on ongoing work at Owens Lake and on expert opinion from air quality scientists and regulatory agencies.

BA (cont.)

The control efficiency estimates used in the Draft PEIR for water efficient vegetation are based on a conservative application of data from the observed performance of vegetation at Owens Lake. At that site, which is subjected to a wide range of wind speeds and climatic conditions, 10 percent ground cover by vegetation was shown to practically halt sand motion and resultant playa emissions (see page H3-17 and H3-19 of the Draft PEIR). Therefore, assuming that 95 percent control efficiency would be achieved by 20 percent vegetative cover on the Salton playa has been deemed to be reasonable. Emissions mechanisms and control efficiency estimates for various dust control approaches could be refined during project-level analysis.

BA-9

Information on the water demands for water efficient vegetation were based on reference evapotranspiration (ET_0) data from around the Salton Sea and consumptive use calculations for the Air Quality Management shrub species, Atriplex (saltbush). These calculations were based on crop coefficient curves developed by Steinwand et al. (2001), and ET_0 data from Brawley, California. The information supporting the estimation of 1.2 acre-feet per year needed for long-term maintenance of water efficient vegetation is documented in Appendix H-3, Attachment 3, Unit-area Water Demands.

BA-10

Several studies have been conducted by industry groups, air regulators, and others on the suitability and effectiveness of chemical stabilizers. Generally, chemical stabilizers have been shown effective, to varying degrees, primarily on roads, parking lots, and locally disturbed areas. The application of chemical surface treatments to saline playas has not been proven for extensive land areas. A discussion of the use of chemical stabilizers was presented by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at the March 14, 2006 Salton Sea Air Quality Workgroup meeting, the notes for which can be found at <http://www.saltonsea.water.ca.gov>. Information on chemical treatment and stabilization products is presented in the Draft PEIR in Appendix H-3, pages H3-24 and H3-25.

BA (cont.)

Comment: In chapter 3 it states one option to offset air quality impacts is to “create or purchase offsetting emissions reductions” (H3-1). This is a nice idea but it is without substance.

Questions: What does the state have in mind with this comment? Where will the money come from and where will the offsetting emissions come from?

Comment: Appendix E is a devastating look at how the state failed to adequately monitor and study air quality for this report. Since the QSA was signed in October 2003, the state has conducted few air quality studies. For instance, although the PEIR states that in December, January, February and March the salt cover softens and releases particles into the air during wind disturbances, the state failed to conduct any study to measure the amount of particles which are released and from what points.

Question: How can the PEIR criticize the Salton Sea Authority’s recommendation of salt crust as cover when it has done no studies of salt crust formation and disturbance?

Question: Why didn’t the DWA do any scientific tests to see how much dust and carcinogens are released from a salt crust cover?

Comment: A random quote (and there are dozens of equally devastating ones) from the PEIR is illustrative of the failure by DWR to conduct studies:

“It was decided to not consider individual precipitation events or humidity as factors in the MacDougall Method at this time, due to the lack of reliable precipitation data, the limited number of annual precipitation events that might reduce emissivity, the lack of consistency of rain events over the entire Salton Sea, and the limited available information on the relationships of precipitation and humidity to potential emissivity of Exposed Playa at the Salton Sea.” (E3-7)

Question: How can the impacts from exposed playa be determined without

BA-11

BA-11

The purchase or creation of offsetting emission reduction credits discussed in the Draft PEIR was in reference to the four-step air quality mitigation strategy proposed by Imperial Irrigation District as part of its Water Conservation and Transfer Project Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Program (IID, 2003), and required pursuant to the State Water Resources Control Board Order 2002-0013 (SWRCB, 2002). This mitigation measure would require negotiations with local air pollution control districts to develop a long term program for creating or purchasing offsetting PM10 emission reduction credits. In practice, when facilities or operations that emit air pollutants reduce emissions beyond what the law requires, they create emission credits, which may be used by facilities and projects in the same geographic area that are seeking to increase emissions. This type of emission reduction strategy was not proposed for offsetting air emissions from the program-level alternatives studied in the Draft PEIR. Offsets and other mitigation measures could be considered as part of project-level analysis.

BA-12

BA-12

See response to comments BA-3 and BA-4. The State did perform several air quality studies on the potential for exposed playa-like areas adjacent to the seashore to become emissive (See <http://www.saltonsea.water.ca.gov/documents/#> under Reference Documents and Program Documents). Many of these studies provide the basis for the air quality analysis in the Draft PEIR.

BA-13

BA-14

The creation of a salt crust, as described in Alternative 7, remains a viable mitigation approach for some areas of the Exposed Playa. Additional studies on salt chemistry, mineralization, and overall control efficiencies for salt crusts would be appropriate to conduct during project-level analysis. Any proposed mitigation measures must be as least as efficient as measures currently recognized by the air regulatory agencies as Best Available Control Measures (BACM). The air quality impacts for Alternative 7 were estimated to be higher than those of other alternatives, because this alternative did not identify air quality management methods for about 40,000 acres of Exposed Playa not covered by the proposed Protective Salt Flat.

BA (cont.)

BA-13

See response to comments BA-3, BA-4, and BA-12. Several studies of playa-like areas adjacent to the seashore, including areas with salt crust formations, were conducted by the Desert Research Institute. Results of these and other air quality studies, as well as results from Salton Sea soil and sediment sampling and analytical studies, were used to estimate the potential uncontrolled and controlled dust emissions associated with the alternatives. Several of these studies are discussed in Appendix E of the Draft PEIR. Appendix E, Attachment E4, "Constituents of Potential Concern in Sediments and Soils, and their Potential to Affect Human Health", specifically addresses the potential health effects that might be associated with human exposure to fugitive dust and constituents of potential concern in near-shore soils and sediments, including existing salt crusts.

BA-14

The Draft PEIR acknowledges that the tool (MacDougall Method) for playa emissions estimation was developed to provide a comparison of the alternatives (one of the overall objectives of the PEIR), and was not supported by sufficient information to provide precise estimates of emission rates. The relationship between precipitation and humidity is only one of many factors that may affect emissivity and the results of emissions modeling. Other factors that influence emissivity include meteorological conditions (e.g., average and peak wind speeds, threshold wind velocities, high wind events, ambient temperatures, wind fetch distance, etc.), land type reservoirs (e.g., stable vs. unstable crust conditions, disturbed vs. undisturbed land, etc.), and the area or size of Exposed Playa. The emissions estimates presented in the Draft PEIR (as explained in Appendix E, Attachment E3) were developed through review of available, complete, and quality assured meteorological data, assumptions about land types, estimates of exposed areas, and results of wind tunnel measurements and other tests conducted at the Salton Sea by the Desert Research Institute. Results obtained from the modeling are preliminary, but have proven useful in comparing the alternatives to one another. Emissions estimates and air quality impacts could be further refined and analyzed as part of project-level analysis.

data to factor into the model?

Question: How can the PEIR make a determination on the environmentally superior alternative when it does not have the evidence to support its recommendation?

Comment: In Appendix 3, the PEIR makes unsubstantiated comparisons with Owens Lake and Salton Sea, such as: "Preliminary information based on Salton Sea area wind speed and temperature-humidity regimes indicates that the Salton Sea playa are expected to be less emissive than the Owens Lake Playa." (H3-7).

Comment: It is obvious that the DWR and CH2M Hill want to downplay the Salton Sea Authority plan. It is clear that Alternative 7 is the only one that is often singled out for criticism, while the others are treated more objectively, although with scant evidence to support analysis and recommendations.

Please send an e-mail reply that these comments have been received.

Respectfully,

Benny Andres, Jr.

BA (cont.)

**BA-14
cont.
BA-15**

BA-15

Identification of the environmentally superior alternative is required pursuant to Sections 15120 and 15126.6(e)(2) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. To identify the environmentally superior alternative, each of the action alternatives was evaluated based on the significance thresholds in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines for each resource category. The alternative with the fewest adverse impacts for each resource category was identified as the environmentally superior alternative. According to information in the Draft PEIR, Alternative 3 had the fewest adverse impacts and was therefore named the environmentally superior alternative.

BA-16

BA-16

Considerable information exists on air quality conditions of the Owens Lake playa, as presented in reference documents found on the program website, <http://www.salttonsea.water.ca.gov>. Comparisons between the Salton Sea and Owens Lake are not unsubstantiated. As discussed in response to comment BA-5, the comparisons between the two areas help to explain important processes and mechanisms, and have helped guide the initial planning process for air quality management and impact assessments for alternatives studied at the Salton Sea.

BA-17

BA-17

The Resources Agency, DWR, DFG, and their consultant, CH2M HILL, have conducted an objective analysis of all of the alternatives. This analysis has included extensive input from the legislatively-mandated Salton Sea Advisory Committee, the various Working Groups formed by the Committee, and interested organizations, agencies, and individuals. Great care was taken during the preparation of the Draft PEIR to analyze all of the alternatives with common assumptions and an equal level of detail to allow for an equal comparison among the alternatives and to not single out any of the alternatives. Alternative 7 was in no way singled out for criticism or downplayed.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

WETLANDS MATTER!

Man is destroying our planet and it appears that wetlands are some of our most vulnerable areas. What makes humans want to fill in every bit of soggy ground to make lifeless parched areas where he can build his temporary "castles"?

If humand don't take responsibility for salvaging these special lakes and wet places our government must. Otherwise our water birds will quickly disappear from the face of the earth.

SAVE THE SALTON SEA

Sincerely,

Chris Anderlik
23602 E 1st Ave
Liberty Lake, WA 99019-9606

Chris Anderlik (CAnderlik)

CAnderlik-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

CAnderlik-1

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
CA Department of Water Resources, Colorado River & Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I know you understand this issue. PLEASE do the right thing!

I am very interested in wildlife conservation and concerned about protecting wildlife habitat at the Salton Sea, which is an Important Bird Area and a national treasure.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
Carrie Anderson
CS Anderson
626 W 20th, WA 99203

Carrie Anderson (CAnderson)

CAnderson-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

CAnderson-1

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: GeneTore@aol.com
To: [SaltonSeaComments:](#)
CC:
Subject: my comments on the Salton Sea
Date: Thursday, December 14, 2006 7:04:29 PM
Attachments:

I have never known a project that has been consultant studied as much as the Salton Sea.
I honestly expect to see a study to see if another study is necessary. Here is the way to do the Salton Sea. Divide the sea (but don't use the Corps of Engineers). Build a desalinization plant at the division to pump saline water and deposit the salt into that portion of the sea less feasible for recreational and development use. Over a reasonable time, the salt would be taken from the user side and deposited on the bad side. You can't take this much salt and deposit it on land. But it is feasible to dump the salt in the other portion of the sea. In time, you would have a reasonable fresh water lake next to a mountain of salt. (Which would be a tourist attraction in itself.)
Gene Alfred e mail genetore@aol.com

Gene Alfred (GA)

GA-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

GA-1

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please preserve the Salton Sea. When it is replenished you will be saving the Earth, our majestic backyard and the environment on a whole. At this time with all the problems the Earth's atmosphere and the condition of global warming, all living creatures are at risk. I don't

know why State's and Federal Government has to be pleaded with to do their job !

It's only to preserve and sustain the natural balance and beauty of our Earth.....Don't we want to sustain its existence ??? Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Austin
322 Black Barren Rd
Peach Bottom, PA 17563-9799

Jeanne Austin (JA)

JA-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

JA-1

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

PLEASE TAKE SOME PRIDE AND BE A GOOD CITIZEN, PROTECT THE SALTON SEA
MANY BIRDS STOP THERE, MAKE IT SAFE FOR THEM. YOU CLEAN WATER FOR THE
ANIMALS THAT CAN TALK SO WHY NOT THE ANIMALS THAT CAN'T, THOSE ANIMALS
CAN'T SPEAK SO THAT IS WHERE THE DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE COME IN, THE
BIRDS CAN'T ASK FOR CLEANER WATER SO WE DO AND BY WE I MEAN EVERYBODY
WHO SIGHNS THIS OR WILL AND ALL THE DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE. THESE BIRDS
ARE BEAUTIFUL SO LIKE THE GSMNP PROTECT THEM FOR THE FUTURE
GENERATIONS TO SEE...

Sincerely,

Quanah Allen
PO Box 68
Gatlinburg, TN 37738-0068

Quanah Allen (QA)

QA-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

QA-1

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Sol Anshien (SA)

SA-1

Jan 6, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Hi,

I'm writing today to plead to those that can, to save the Salton Sea. The state of California must take action to prevent its disappearance. A shrinking Salton Sea will not only harm the health of communities in the surrounding Imperial and Coachella Valleys by affecting air and water quality, but it will also harm an important migratory bird stopover in the Pacific Flyway. Please don't let this happen.

It is imperative to maximize habitat, air quality and water quality, while also providing substantial recreation and development opportunities in the Salton Sea area.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Sol Anshien
7212 Idylwood Ct
Falls Church, VA 22043-1529

SA-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
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- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

The 62,000-acre Saline Habitat Complex included in the Preferred Alternative would be located in the southern and northern portion of the Salton Sea and would provide habitat for a variety of avian species such as shorebirds, waterfowl, and potentially for fish-eating birds, including sensitive species currently found at the Salton Sea. It is expected that the Saline Habitat Complex would also provide limited habitat for some fish species, such as tilapia, and thus, provide foraging habitat for fish-eating birds. The Saline Habitat Complex is expected to provide the microclimate benefits that currently exist at the Salton Sea, and could be constructed using a variety of construction methods including Geotubes®.

The 45,000-acre Marine Sea included in the Preferred Alternative would be located primarily in the northern portion of the Sea, but would extend down the majority of the eastern and western shorelines. It is intended to support a marine fishery and fish-eating birds (such as pelicans, double-crested cormorants, and black skimmers). The Marine Sea would stabilize at a water surface elevation of -230 feet msl with a salinity between 30,000 mg/L and 40,000 mg/L. The water depth would be less than 10 to 12 meters (39 feet) to reduce hydrogen sulfide generation and potential fish kills due to long-term temperature stratification (temperature variations from top to bottom of the sea).

SA (cont.)

The Preferred Alternative incorporates the air quality “tool box” measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project. These measures include the allocation of 0.5 acre-foot per acre of water to manage emissive areas of the Exposed Playa. The Preferred Alternative also includes actions and mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts that could result from construction and operations and maintenance activities.

Although not a legislatively mandated objective, the Saline Habitat Complex is expected to allow for passive recreational opportunities, such as bird watching. Additionally, the Marine Sea would provide for water-based recreational opportunities that have historically occurred at the Salton Sea. This would include boating and fishing opportunities and allow for the ongoing operation of the majority of the existing harbors at the Salton Sea.

The Preferred Alternative also includes a variety of actions that could be implemented within the 5-year timeframe after the Legislature provides direction on implementing of a restoration program and identifies a future implementing agency. These actions include activities such as Early Start Habitat and measures targeted to address air quality uncertainties.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Thursday, January 04, 2007

Dale K. Hoffman-Floerke
Salton Sea PEIR Comments

Colorado River and Salton Sea Office
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email: SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov <mailto:SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov>

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

I write regarding the air quality impacts discussed in the Resources Agency's Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (DEIR). As you know, air quality is already very poor in the communities around the Salton Sea. Far too many children in the area suffer from asthma, at a much higher rate than anywhere else in California.

The tremendous amount of dust that will blow off of the exposed lakebed of the shrinking Salton Sea poses a real threat to public health, a threat that California must make every effort to contain. Protecting public health should be the highest priority of the project, and the most important criterion for choosing any restoration plan. Minimizing dust emissions must rely on proven methods – we can not afford the risk that some new method will fail, allowing hundreds of additional tons of dust to blow through local communities. Minimizing the amount of construction traffic should also be a key consideration, since more truck traffic means more diesel emissions.

The DEIR makes several poor assumptions. It assumes that no dust blows or will blow from the northern part of the Salton Sea, despite data in the DEIR itself (and direct observations) which show that this assumption is wrong. It also assumes that the location of water and structures in the various plans has no impact on blowing dust, making it difficult to determine which plan would have the best chance of reducing or eliminating blowing dust. Clearly, plans that would break up the exposed land with lakes or large structures or shallow bodies of water would block the wind or intercept blowing dust, and would better protect public health.

None of the plans in the DEIR really satisfy the need to protect the public from both more blowing dust and greatly increased diesel emissions. But a hybrid approach, combining the relatively low construction impacts of Alternative #4 with the greater land cover and dust protection offered by the habitat complexes of Alts. #1 & 4, makes much more sense. Adding a large, 10,000 acre lake at the north end of the Sea would provide protection from blowing dust for the Coachella Valley, and could provide a reservoir for additional dust management in the northern half of the Sea.

This hybrid approach makes the most sense from a public health perspective, and should be the state's preferred approach.

Thank you for considering my comments. I look forward to a Salton Sea restoration plan that protects public health by minimizing dust and diesel emissions.

Sincerely,

Azel Beckner
312 GRAHAM DR
apt. C
Bowling Green, KY

Azel Beckner (ABeckner)

ABeckner-1

The protection of public health would be an important component of any restoration alternative for the Salton Sea. As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project. These measures include the allocation of 0.5 acre-foot per acre of water to manage emissive areas of the Exposed Playa. The Preferred Alternative also includes actions and mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts that could result from construction and operations and maintenance activities.

ABeckner-2

While the Preferred Alternative utilizes proven methods to minimize dust emissions, the Preferred Alternative also recognizes that there may be changes in technology in the future and/or innovate technologies that could be used to minimize dust emissions. It would be appropriate for the implementing agency to thoroughly test any new technology at the Salton Sea prior to use of the technology on a large scale.

ABeckner-3

The Draft PEIR indicates that, based on available data, windspeeds in the vicinity of the northern end of the Salton Sea seldom exceed threshold windspeeds, resulting in no predicted emissions in the model used to evaluate alternatives. However, the evaluation tool was designed to provide a relative comparison of air quality among alternatives, and not to produce an exact absolute level of emissions. This level of analysis is considered appropriate for evaluation of alternatives at the programmatic level.

More detailed meteorological data being collected. Greater detail regarding the layout and exact form of structures and surfaces in specific projects would be available for future emissions source mapping and windfield analyses. It is anticipated that project-level analysis could employ these more precise tools. These tools may indicate that local windspeeds periodically exceed threshold windspeeds for surfaces in the northern Salton Sea, and produce more exact absolute dust emission results.

ABeckner-1
ABeckner-2

ABeckner-3

ABeckner-4

ABeckner (cont.)

Should this be the case, appropriate monitoring and mitigation is foreseen in the Draft PEIR. Where dust emissions are predicted or observed by the extensive proposed monitoring network, short-term and long-term dust control is planned for deployment. See Appendix H-3 of the Draft PEIR for discussions of emissions monitoring and development and deployment of dust control onto the playa surface.

ABeckner-4

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife and the Salton Sea -- one of North America's largest stopovers for migratory birds -- I am writing to ask you to protect the Salton Sea.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Aida Bound
1311 Westwood Ave Apt 41
Wenatchee, WA 98801-6806

ABound-1

Aida Bound (ABound)

ABound-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Dale Hoffman-Floerke, CA Dept. of Water Resources
Colorado River & Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dale Hoffman-Floerke, CA Dept. of Water Resources,

I am a member of the board of directors of the Kerncrest Audubon Society, a native southern Californian, and a long-time user of the Salton Sea as a place of recreation.

I am writing to offer my comments on the Salton Sea Restoration Program DPEIR. Both the California Audubon Society and the Center for Biological Diversity have provided me with possible wording for such a message. I am sure you have read them before.

I simply want to stress the importance to me that the selected plan of action follow the legal requirement to provide adequate habitat for wildlife. As an observer of the nightmarish situation that has developed at Owens Lake, I am skeptical that any alternative can be developed that maximizes benefit to wildlife and still allows the transfer of water to San Diego that has been agreed to. (I have been opposed to that transfer, both because of its likely impact on the Salton Sea, and because more water for coastal cities will just allow more development, ultimately resulting in additional pressures on future water supplies.)

I understand none of the proposed alternatives offers adequate wildlife habitat protection. Please combine alternatives to maximize protection of habitat for wildlife.

Sincerely,
Brenda Burnett
735 w Sonja Ave
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Brenda Burnett (BBurnett)

BBurnett-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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BBurnett-1

BBurnett (cont.)

The Preferred Alternative incorporates the air quality “tool box” measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project. These measures include the allocation of 0.5 acre-foot per acre of water to manage emissive areas of the Exposed Playa. The Preferred Alternative also includes actions and mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts that could result from construction and operations and maintenance activities.

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The Preferred Alternative also includes a variety of actions that could be implemented within the 5-year timeframe after the Legislature provides direction on implementing of a restoration program and identifies a future implementing agency. These actions include activities such as Early Start Habitat and measures targeted to address air quality uncertainties.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: ebretz@surfside.net
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC:
Subject: On the waterfront
Date: Friday, January 05, 2007 11:23:35 AM
Attachments:

I agree with the LA Times subject editorial of January 2, 2007 and encourage the state to stick to the least expensive plan that will take care of environmental needs.

Ed Bretz, Placentia, CA

Ed Bretz (EBretz)

EBretz-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the most cost-effective, technically feasible alternatives are Alternative 2 and 5. However, the selection criteria for the Preferred Alternative included additional criteria identified by the Salton Sea Advisory Committee along with input from the public. Refer to Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for additional information.

EBretz-1

Elizabeth Burke (EBurke)

From: e-burke@cox.net
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#)
CC:
Subject: Comments on Salton Sea Restoration
Date: Tuesday, January 09, 2007 9:36:44 AM
Attachments:

EBurke-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
CA Department of Water Resources, Colorado River & Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

You'll be getting plenty of the boilerplate responses regarding the Salton Sea Restoration. I won't reiterate that language.

I do hope that you'll choose to restore this amazing habitat.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A Burke Certified Environmental Educator

Sincerely,
elizabeth burke
9504 percussion way
vienna, VA 22182-3330

EBurke-1

Jan 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please consider the many alternatives available to restore the Salton Sea. This country can ill afford to lose yet another natural resource. Our actions must lean toward saving as opposed to destroying every unique environment in our path.

Sincerely,

Jan Berlin
PO Box 104
Bullville, NY 10915-0104

JBerlin-1

Janet Berlin (JBerlin)

JBerlin-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I ask of you to stop and think what the impact will have on the birds and the land itself. When will we as a people stop destroying what something greater than us as built and made with such perfect balance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jessica Bonaparte
206 Gifford St
Syracuse, NY 13202-2343

JBonaparte-1

Jessica Bonaparte (JBonaparte)

JBonaparte-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
CA Department of Water Resources, Colorado River & Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I am writing to comment on the Draft PEIR on Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration. I am very concerned about the wildlife that depends on the water and ecosystems at the Salton Sea. Please make sure that you examine all sides of the issue and ensure that you put maximum effort into saving wildlife in the area.

Thank you very much,

Judy Brinkerhoff 8587 Vila Road Forestville, CA 95436

Sincerely,
Judy Brinkerhoff

Judy Brinkerhoff (JBrinkerhoff)

JBrinkerhoff-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

JBrinkerhoff-1

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 7, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please do whatever you can to preserve the Salton Sea to insure the quality of life for the migratory birds. So many of our species depend on us to insure their survival. It is imperative for us to do our part.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Janet Buffington
PO Box 833
Barnstable, MA 02630-0833

JBuffington-1

Janet Buffington (JBuffington)

JBuffington-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I am writing to offer my comments on the California Department of Water Resources Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

The state must take action to prevent the disappearance of such a glorious natural resource as the Salton Sea. This is important to protect the health of neighboring communities by maintaining air and water quality, and also because the Salton Sea is an important stopover for migratory birds. With over 90 percent of the wetlands in California gone, the 400 bird species that depend on the Salton Sea have no other place to go.

Most proposed alternatives in the PEIR fail to adequately protect fish, wildlife and air and water quality in the Salton Sea area. But, the PEIR does contain the components and information necessary to formulate a successful plan.

Please consider not only the debt we owe to the natural world on which we ourselves depend, but also our responsibility to passing on a beautiful, as well as healthy, planet to our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Julie Burris
401 Bretton Pl
Baltimore, MD 21218-2507

Julie Burris (JBurris)

JBurris-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

The 62,000-acre Saline Habitat Complex included in the Preferred Alternative would be located in the southern and northern portion of the Salton Sea and would provide habitat for a variety of avian species such as shorebirds, waterfowl, and potentially for fish-eating birds, including sensitive species currently found at the Salton Sea. It is expected that the Saline Habitat Complex would also provide limited habitat for some fish species, such as tilapia, and thus, provide foraging habitat for fish-eating birds. The Saline Habitat Complex is expected to provide the microclimate benefits that currently exist at the Salton Sea, and could be constructed using a variety of construction methods including Geotubes®.

The 45,000-acre Marine Sea included in the Preferred Alternative would be located primarily in the northern portion of the Sea, but would extend down the majority of the eastern and western shorelines. It is intended to support a marine fishery and fish-eating birds (such as pelicans, double-crested cormorants, and black skimmers). The Marine Sea would stabilize at a water surface elevation of -230 feet msl with a salinity between 30,000 mg/L and 40,000 mg/L. The water depth would be less than 10 to 12 meters (39 feet) to reduce hydrogen sulfide generation and potential fish kills due to long-term temperature stratification (temperature variations from top to bottom of the sea).

JBurris-1

JBurris (cont.)

The Preferred Alternative incorporates the air quality “tool box” measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project. These measures include the allocation of 0.5 acre-foot per acre of water to manage emissive areas of the Exposed Playa. The Preferred Alternative also includes actions and mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts that could result from construction and operations and maintenance activities.

Although not a legislatively mandated objective, the Saline Habitat Complex is expected to allow for passive recreational opportunities, such as bird watching. Additionally, the Marine Sea would provide for water-based recreational opportunities that have historically occurred at the Salton Sea. This would include boating and fishing opportunities and allow for the ongoing operation of the majority of the existing harbors at the Salton Sea.

The Preferred Alternative also includes a variety of actions that could be implemented within the 5-year timeframe after the Legislature provides direction on implementing of a restoration program and identifies a future implementing agency. These actions include activities such as Early Start Habitat and measures targeted to address air quality uncertainties.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife and the Salton Sea -- one of North America's largest stopovers for migratory birds -- I am writing to offer my comments to the California Department of Water Resources Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

The Salton Sea is a national treasure, and the state must take action to prevent its disappearance. A shrinking Salton Sea will not only harm the health of communities in the surrounding Imperial and Coachella Valleys by affecting air and water quality, but it will also harm an important migratory bird stopover in the Pacific Flyway.

With over 90 percent of the wetlands in California gone, the 400 bird species that depend on the Salton Sea will have no other place to go, leading to catastrophic losses for migratory bird populations.

Have you ever been to the Salton Sea? Have you ever been to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park? If you allow the Salton Sea to disappear, you will be killing, too, the amazing places that surround it and support an array of wildlife.

Why would you believe that any of God's creatures or beautiful places are worth the lack of human wisdom to not take care of the Salton Sea? You will be creating and committing a very huge mistake to allow all of that area to be further tampered with, let alone destroyed by human greed and stupidity.

As much human stupidity as our government willingness to say that global warming isn't a threat to our very species, or that the Kyoto Agreement is not our concern.

Why on earth would you be willing to allow the further destruction of the area of and around the Salton Sea? I just don't get it. You call yourself the Department of Water Resources?

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kathy Bledsoe
12210 Cactus Dr
Fort Myers, FL 33908-2483

Kathy Bledsoe (KB)

KB-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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KB-1

KB (cont.)

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I've been visiting the Salton Sea since the 60's. There is nowhere else like it.

The Salton Sea is a valuable asset to our country, and for our wildlife. Please do everything in your power to preserve the integrity of this wonderful place.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Berensen
8667 Mariners Dr
Number 39
Stockton, CA 95219-4509

LBerensen-1

Linda Berensen (LBerensen)

LBerensen-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

DEC 11 2008

Leo Borunda1 (LBorunda1)

LBorunda1-1

November 27, 2006

Department of Water Resources
Colorado River and Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Re: Restoration Program for the Salton Sea

To Whom It May Concern:

I live at the Salton Sea. I own 152 acres of land, with 5 blocks of water front and one mile into the water. I have lived here for the last 15 years. The Salton Sea is a beautiful asset to the State of California; it's just that no one has cared for it. A restored Sea would become a recreational paradise and would bring housing and jobs to this area. Please do not spoil the beautiful Sea! Keep the birds happy, as we have them all around the sea. Spend the 2 to 5 billion dollars they talk about to divide and destroy the Sea, and use the money to restore the whole Sea.

If half the Sea can be made good, why not the whole Sea? If you cut the Sea in half, restore one part and leave bad water in the other half, you will not have solved the problem.

Save the Sea!

Yours truly,



Leo Borunda
3600 Highway 86
West Shores Salton Sea, CA 92274
760-395-0255

LBorunda1-1

Alternatives that maintain the whole Salton Sea, including the importation of water from the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean were described in Chapter 2 of the Draft PEIR. As discussed in Chapter 2, these alternatives were considered but were not carried forward as alternatives in the Draft. The importation of water from the Gulf of California was not carried forward because the alternative does not meet the CEQA requirement for feasibility as the State would not legally be able to control or have access to the portion of the project that would be located in the Republic of Mexico. The importation of water from the Pacific Ocean was not carried forward because the alternative has the potential to have substantial biological and water quality impacts in the Pacific Ocean and thus, did not appear to be feasible to obtain the necessary permits and approvals.

The PEIR is a culmination of an extensive public involvement process that included many comments from residents expressing their views and visions for the Salton Sea. A desire to maintain a whole Sea was expressed strongly during the public process and whole Sea alternatives were considered in the Draft PEIR.

DEC 1 2008

Leo Borunda1 (cont.)

COLLECTION OF MYTHS AND KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE SEA

Restoration of the Salton Sea is a unique opportunity to improve the environment and enjoy economic benefits of a major natural resource. We should be committed to maintaining the Sea as a critical link along the Pacific Flyway, stimulating recreational use and providing an environment for economic development, and maintaining the Sea as an agricultural drainage reservoir.

As we begin to realize these goals, everyone involved in this effort can also assist by helping to dispel the numerous myths about the Sea that have spread throughout the country. These myths have made it more difficult to define the Sea's problems, explore and understand the Sea's possibilities and take the steps necessary to travel from understanding the problems to creating possibilities.

MYTH # 1

"Given its man-made origin, the Sea should simply dry up and revert to its dusty and dry natural beginnings. Dust to Dust."

THE FACTS

This myth begins with the factual history of the Sea. Massive flooding in 1905 caused the Colorado River to break through an irrigation canal head works and flow freely into the Salton Basin for a year and a half. Man's "intervention" may have been to stop, in 1907, what had been a natural process for thousands of years.

Myth # 1 assumes that a static, dry, natural state exists in the basin. It does not. There have been numerous occurrences of flooding of the Salton Trough by the Colorado River since the mid-1800's. There have been at least 4 previous Salton Seas of greater magnitude during historic times. The last Lake Cahiaulla disappeared around 300-500 years ago. Indians made use of a massive Sea's bounty during the 1500's, leaving behind artifacts recording their practices. Each time and countless times before, the Colorado River has meandered west and filled the Salton Basin with fresh water.

Drainage from 500,000 acres of farms in the two Valleys now sustains the Sea. The Sea is a designated Federal repository of agricultural run-off and agriculture is billion dollar mainstay of the Valleys' economies. Agricultural use will continue into the future.

MYTH # 2

"The Salton Sea is a Marginal Ecological Resource."

THE FACTS

The Sea is increasingly important to the Pacific Flyway because over 92% of the wetlands that provided habitat value to birds along the Pacific Flyway in California have disappeared. Several million birds migrate and inhabit the area every year. The Sea provides wintering habitat for over 450,000 ducks and up to 30,000 Snow and Ross geese. In fact, over 400 species of birds have been spotted at and around the Sea; more than any other place in the U.S. other than the Gulf Coast of Texas. Endangered species also make the Sea their home, including the Brown Pelican and the Yuma Clapper Rail.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was prepared to delist the Brown Pelican until 1400 died at the Salton Sea in 1996, decimating approximately 1/3 of the California population. This and other bird die-offs is a significant issue but must be put into perspective with the safe, healthy refuge the Sea provides to millions of other birds every year.

DEC 11 2008

Leo Borunda1 (cont.)

MYTH # 3

"The Salton Sea is a Marginal Economic Resource."

THE FACTS

Before 1985, the Sea's State Park had more visitor days per year than did Yosemite National Park and press reports from the 1960's highlight the popularity of the Sea as a recreational destination. Complaints about overcrowding and conflict between boats and swimmers on the 350+ square -mile lade were common.

A 1985 California Fish and Game study found that the Sea was more productive (fish caught per angler hour) than any California marine fishery and equal to the most productive freshwater fisheries. A study now underway indicates that the fishery may be the most productive in the world.

Business and academic interests have suggested that a restored Sea could drive the regional economy for years to come.

MYTH # 4

"Mexicali Pollution is causing all the problems of the Salton Sea."

THE FACTS

While much publicized, water carried by the New River from Mexico is not a major contributor to the Sea's problems. In fact, only about 12% of the Sea's inflow originates in Mexico.

By the time water containing human and industrial waste crossed the border and traverses the 60 miles to its delta at the Sea, the New River's water quality is nearly equivalent to that of the nearby Alamo River's. Waste from Mexico undergoes natural treatment in the River and is diluted by agricultural drain water from the Imperial Valley. Additionally a wastewater treatment plant is being constructed in Mexicali to improve water quality in the New River.

MYTH # 5

"The Sea is a Toxic Dump Created by Agriculture"

THE FACTS

Pesticides are not found at any significant level in the Sea. Pesticide levels are periodically found to be high at some drains, but the Sea's shear volume and most pesticides ability to biodegrade seems to limit their impact.

This was further validated with two independent studies conducted by the Salton Sea Science Subcommittee. This research indicated there were no pesticides detected in the sediment and water quality of the Salton Sea. A third study found extremely low levels of contaminants in the Sea's barnacles, a finding which surprised the researchers because the levels were much lower than those found in the waters of San Diego.

Selenium is another concern. Selenium is a naturally occurring element in Colorado River water, the source of the vast majority of the Sea's water, not in the soils of the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. The infamous culprit at Kesterson reservoir in central California is found at about 1 microgram per liter in the Sea water, with some localized areas with higher concentrations. For comparison, the federal standard is 5 micrograms per liter and at Kesterson, the level was about 80 micrograms per liter.

DEC 11 2008

Leo Borunda1 (cont.)

THE FACTS

One is its immensity and complexity. It is California's largest inland body of water and supports an ecosystem of introduced and endemic biota. Another is its location. Far from urban centers and usually vigilant eye of environmental interest, the Sea has been largely ignored. With the recent massive bird die-offs, the environmental community is waking to the Sea's problems and possibilities (the Audubon Society has made the Sea a # 1 priority).

We do not know all that there is to know about the Sea. But we do know its problems include bird disease outbreaks, fluctuating surface levels, nutrient-rich water, algal blooms and fish kills. We are also certain of at least one factor that has and continues to contribute to the Sea's downward spiral of ecological and economic health: salinity. The Sea's salinity has steadily increased over the years. Now at 44 parts per thousand, or 25% greater than the ocean, the hyper-saline environment is jeopardizing the survival of fish and will ultimately jeopardize the survival of much of the Sea's biological bounty.

And that is why we must act while there is still time to develop short term and ultimately long term solutions to restoring the Sea. We must not cave in to the myths that have contributed to public confusion for so many years now. The Sea's immensity, complexity and remoteness may in the past have combined to create the Sea's greatest threat: Uncertainty leading to unease resulting in inaction.

JAN 16 2007

January 11, 2007

Salton Sea Advisory Committee
Attn: Dale Hoffman Floerke, Chairperson
Dept. Of Water Resources
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Sir/Madame:

I am at a loss as to what to think at this point. I want the Salton Sea to be saved, just as it is now. Just cleaning the Sea and the areas around it would stop the shameful talk that goes on about the Sea. Most of the talk is not correct or truthful. The water does not stink. The areas of swampy water around the Sea is what stinks. Imperial Irrigation District just cleaned up some old, half torn down buildings next to my waterfront. Other areas like this must be cleaned up.

I have been living here approximately 15 years. I own 4 to 5 city blocks of waterfront property that extends 1 mile into the Sea. I know the look and smell of the Sea and it is beautiful. It can and must be improved, but not by cutting the beautiful Sea in half. Don't let the water fall deep into the center, as to cause an ugly, dry or wet swampy area. Spend the monies that can be had (it is said 2 to 5 million) get water for the Sea and clean what has to be cleaned. Add vegetation where needed, and the birds and other forms of wildlife will survive happily together with the people like myself who live around the Sea.

Additionally, we in this area are not going to stop living, and thousands more people are coming to live around the Sea. We need your help!

Yours truly,



Leo Borunda
3600 Highway 86
West Shores, CA 92274
760-395-0255

LBorunda2-1

Leo Borunda2 (LBorunda2)

LBorunda2-1

Alternatives that maintain the whole Salton Sea, including the importation of water from the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean were described in Chapter 2 of the Draft PEIR. As discussed in Chapter 2, these alternatives were considered but were not carried forward as alternatives in the Draft. The importation of water from the Gulf of California was not carried forward because the alternative does not meet the CEQA requirement for feasibility as the State would not legally be able to control or have access to the portion of the project that would be located in the Republic of Mexico. The importation of water from the Pacific Ocean was not carried forward because the alternative has the potential to have substantial biological and water quality impacts in the Pacific Ocean and thus, did not appear to be feasible to obtain the necessary permits and approvals.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

One of the many reasons why I love United States is because many persons help the enviroment and wildlifel you could be in the park and see many rabbits, birds, etc.. and nobody would hurt them. Why stop protecting this birds now! Please don't let the Millions of migratory brids dissapearl is an honor for this Country to take care of these animals and to have a place where they migrate and reproduce! We are United States the most powerful counry in the World we cannot let this happened.

Please protect our wildlifel

thanks

Lydia Bojorquez.

Sincerely,

Lydia Bojorquez
88 Via Athena
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-1609

LBojorquez-1

Lydia Bojorquez (LBojorquez)

LBojorquez-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

January 4, 2007

[via email: SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov]

Attn: Dale Hoffman-Floerke
Salton Sea PEIR comments
CA Department of Water Resources
Colorado River & Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on Draft PEIR for Salton Sea

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

I am writing today as a private San Diego County (Encinitas) citizen to express my concerns about the Salton Sea. Thank you for the opportunity to make my thoughts known.

The reason for this letter is not to waste your time with facts you already know, offer up yet another different solution idea, or persuade you to see things my way. I'd simply like to lend my voice in support of your objective because of its importance to our region's present and future residents. I hope we can reject a focus on obstacles like expense or difficulty, and instead be focused on the best solution for our future: A restoration plan that provides a healthy, functional Salton Sea for generations to come.

Above all, I realize that you and your team are faced with a momentously difficult task. Every facet of a project like this, whether budgetary, environmental, logistical, or political, stirs extreme and passionate response from what must seem like every angle. In our modern American society, where instant information and access creates a maelstrom of doubt and controversy, and short sightedness, entitlement, and consumption seemingly rule public opinion, you run the very real risk of failure by succumbing to sheer overwhelming chaos.

Fortunately, we have the benefit of lessons from experience to bolster us in pursuit of our goal. Both the tremendous accomplishments and ignorant mistakes of the past are valuable to consider.

The Golden Gate Bridge stands as a testament to perseverance and engineering today, but it didn't just grow out of rock to span the bay. Before its completion in 1937, the bridge was considered impossible to build, due to persistently foggy weather, 60-mile-per-hour winds, and strong ocean currents, which whipped through a deep canyon below. In fact, the bridge is commonly known as the "Bridge that couldn't be built." Despite these unforgiving natural elements, the bridge was constructed in a little more than four years.¹

Hoover Dam is a testimony to a country's ability to construct monolithic projects in the midst of adverse conditions. Built during the Depression, thousands of men and their families came to Black Canyon to tame the Colorado River. It took less than five years, in a harsh and barren land, to build the largest dam of its time. Now, years later, Hoover Dam still stands as a world-renowned structure. The Dam is a National Historic

Matt Baker (MBaker)

MBaker-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

MBaker-1

Landmark and has been rated by the American Society of Civil Engineers as one of America's Seven Modern Civil Engineering Wonders.²

These are two engineering marvels built for the benefit of Californians by a generation of workers, innovators, and pioneers who showed us how determination, focus and will can create a lasting legacy of success. Will the Salton Sea's restoration be one of our generation's great accomplishments? I believe it will, thanks to the inspiration we get from the wonders around us, and also to the dedication of people like you and the thousands of others who work to restore the Sea.

Our past also illustrates what can happen when we fail to harbor a vision of environmental stewardship in our best intended actions. The Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge and Owens Lake environmental disasters, with their common threads to the Salton Sea's current path, remind us that our Earth can no longer be plundered or our lasting impacts ignored. In my heart, I believe a well-intentioned and informed public would not let such blights happen again.

In the very short time that I've been reading about and visiting the Salton Sea, I've already had several stark realizations. One, the Sea is worth saving. Its beauty and spirit should not be lost if we can help it. Two, the Sea and its decay is a harbinger of larger, serious regional and global environmental decay. Three, I am part of the problem, as my residence in San Diego county contributes to a shortage of Southern California's most precious resource, clean water.

I'd like to be part of the solution. I'm willing to sacrifice, say, a greener lawn for a healthier Salton Sea. I feel like Southern Californians should try to conserve water before grabbing at more. The Salton Sea helped me recognize that the life I learned and currently enjoy is not sustainable. I write to you as an example of someone who went from total ignorance of this issue to willing participant in a very short time. I believe there are other Californians who can awaken like I did, and who can care enough to try and achieve the right solution.

The time is now. The impetus exists. The Sea is dying. We can save it.

Thank you for your efforts and time.

Respectfully,

Matt Baker
763 Teaberry St
Encinitas, CA 92024
760-633-1733
grimafox@yahoo.com

¹ "Golden Gate Bridge History and Information," no author, published by PageWise, Inc. at http://utut.essortment.com/historygoldeng_refh.htm

² "The Story of Hoover Dam," no author, published by the US Bureau of Reclamation at <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/hooverdam/History/storymain.html>

**MBaker-1
cont.**

Jan 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife and the Salton Sea -- one of North America's largest stopovers for migratory birds -- I am writing to offer my comments of the California Department of Water Resources Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

I try to save up some money for my kids, much like my folks helped me get started. But all the money in the world will not bring back animals that have gone extinct. Please help by protecting the Salton Sea and all other critical habitat.

Have a good year.

Sincerely,

Mark Beaudin
6880 Burlwood Dr
Anchorage, AK 99507-2421

MBeaudin-1

Mark Beaudin (MBeaudin)

MBeaudin-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [Masse Bloomfield](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC:
Subject: Salton Sea Ideas
Date: Monday, October 23, 2006 7:13:37 PM
Attachments:

I wrote the following letter in 2002 and received a negative answer. It seems to be repeated in your recent report as described in the LA Times of October 23, 2006.

If getting sea water from the Gulf of California is prohibited, then use water from the coast of California and send it over the mountains. Most of the power needed to pump the sea water uphill can be recaptured when it flows down to the Salton Sea. Building a pipe line is no technological achievement. There are pipelines all over the country. There are pipes that bring Colorado River water to Los Angeles. Why not parallel pipes to bring Pacific Coast water to the Salton Sea?

I can't understand why some arrangement can't be made with Mexico. But if it is impossible, then coastal water from off of California.

Here is my letter:

20733 Stephanie Drive
Canoga Park, CA 91306
(818) 347-5452
April 24, 2002

Mr. Tom Kirk
Director
Salton Sea Authority
La Quinta, CA 92253

Dear Mr. Kirk,

The New York Times of April 2, 2002 carried a story about the Salton Sea in their Science Section mentioning your name. Then the Los Angeles Time did a story on April 14, 2002 about the Salton Sea followed by Letters to the Editor on April 20, 2002. I did not write a Letter to the Times because I didn't think a letter would

Masse Bloomfield (MBloomfield)

MBloomfield-1

Alternatives that maintain the whole Salton Sea, including the importation of water from the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean were described in Chapter 2 of the Draft PEIR. As discussed in Chapter 2, these alternatives were considered but were not carried forward as alternatives in the Draft. The importation of water from the Gulf of California was not carried forward because the alternative does not meet the CEQA requirement for feasibility as the State would not legally be able to control or have access to the portion of the project that would be located in the Republic of Mexico. The importation of water from the Pacific Ocean was not carried forward because the alternative has the potential to have substantial biological and water quality impacts in the Pacific Ocean and thus, did not appear to be feasible to obtain the necessary permits and approvals.

MBloomfield-1

have any effect on the vested forces involved in trying to save the Sea. I am enclosing these items with this letter.

I did not find a systems approach in any of the newspaper items. I think most of what I found in the newspaper items seemed to be negative thoughts. Two of the letters did suggest ways to help the Sea which I am including in my approach to saving the Sea.

There was nothing about cleaning pollution entering the Sea nor keeping the level of the Sea constant.

The first part of my plan is to bring Gulf of California sea water to a point close to Niland. I thought about starting off with a five foot pipe - however the size and number of pipes has to be determined by trying to figure out how much water flows into the Sea from the Alamo, Whitewater and New Rivers, how much evaporates and try to determine how much additional sea water is needed.

The route to bring sea water to the area probably would be cheaper and easier to run the 125 miles from the Gulf of California, rather than the 75 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The route from the Pacific would mean going over mountains and near populated areas. Again the Gulf of California route would be close to sea level all the way. If the pipe did not rise 32 feet over sea level, then there would be no pumping charge. Going over the mountains means the water has to be pumped.

The sea water from the Gulf of California would drop about 200 feet from Niland to the Sea. This drop can be used to generate electrical power as was mentioned in one of the Letters to the Editor. The more water run through the generators, the more power would be produced.

In order to reduce pollution and algae in the Sea, you may want to think about using an Algal Turf Scrubber (ATS) to remove nutrients and pollutants from the three rivers flowing into the Sea. The Algal Turf Scrubber is a product of the Hydromentia Co. in Ocala, Florida. The telephone number is (352) 237-6145 and the contact is Mr. Mark Zivojnavich. The ATS system is operating at a fish farm near San Antonio, Texas and the telephone there is (830) 254-3319. The ATS system is used to remove pollutants from the fish pond water. The fish pond in Texas grows tilapia. Using the ATS system on the three rivers that flow into the Sea, could remove both the nutrients and pollutants. You may want to replace the nutrients going into the Sea with the algae, either dead or alive, grown by the ATS

system. The effluent from the three rivers after being funneled through the ATS system, would be clean and fresh.. You might consider building a fresh water fish pond from the three river effluents. Keep in mind that the water flowing into the fish ponds would later be released into the Sea.

Not only could you have fresh water fish ponds, you could have salt water fish ponds. The sea water from the Gulf of California could be channeled through fish ponds. These ponds would also have the ATS system to recycle the algae back into the ponds or be used to augment food in the Sea. Both the fresh water and salt water fish ponds could generate income. You would have to see the Texas fish pond in operation before proceeding with fish ponds for the Salton Sea total system.

As part of reducing the salt content of the Sea and keeping the Sea level constant, solar ponds are needed to evaporate water leaving salt behind which can be sold. One of the Letters to the Editor supports the use of solar ponds to reduce the salt content of the Sea, but he also writes that it would take \$300 million to do it. I cannot believe that figure. The solar ponds are a way to make some money by selling the salt. All it takes to construct the solar ponds, are level areas with barriers and the brine piped to other ponds as the salt content increases. Pumps and gravity are needed to move the water. Also scrapers are needed to collect the salt. There are, or were Leslie salt flats around the San Francisco Bay and I believe along the Mexican Pacific Coast.

The whole system is designed to reduce the salt content of the Sea, feed the fish in the Sea, and stabilize the level of the Sea. When the fresh water flow is more than normal, then the sea water flow can be stopped, and Sea water can be diverted to reserve solar ponds. The salt water from the Gulf of California needs to be such that if the Sea level falls, more water from the ocean can be siphoned into the Sea.

Also a study is needed to estimate the capital costs for the pipe, the generating plant, the ATS systems, the solar ponds, the fish ponds and the supporting infrastructure such as pipes and pumps. Then estimates have to be made for the operation and maintenance of the total system. My feeling is that the capital investment should be less than \$100 million. The expense for operation and maintenance should just about equal the income from salt, power and fish.

Again, I think I have outlined a total system to restore and maintain the health of the Salton Sea. It will take several months to do the study, the analysis and

MBloomfield (cont.)

computations. The construction portion shouldn't take much more than a year to build all the parts.

According to the newspaper items, no one has suggested a total look at restoring the Sea. I think my approach will do just that. If you have any questions you think I can answer, let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Masse Bloomfield

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please take action to prevent the disappearance of the Salton Sea. A shrinking Salton Sea will not only harm the health of communities in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys, but it will also harm an important migratory bird stopover in the Pacific Flyway.
Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Nick Berezansky
123 Washington Pl
Ridgewood, NJ 07450-3727

NBerezansky-1

Nick Berezansky (NBerezansky)

NBerezansky-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality “tool box” measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

To Whom It May Concern:

I firmly believe that the Salton Sea is worth saving. In fact for the sake of all of the birds that migrate through the area, it is extremely important that it be saved.

I do not, however, feel that the state should bear the cost of turning it into a deep water lake by building a dam or huge berm. This is not necessary for the birds. If those who live there would like this to happen, then it is up to them to bear the cost.

The problem with the Salton Sea has gone on for years and needs to be addressed now. The problem will not go away and the sooner that it is addressed the better.

Please give this your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

Nancy Berry

Thousand Oaks, CA

NBerry-1

Nancy Berry (NBerry)

NBerry-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Natalie Brabson (NBrabson)

NBrabson-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

Jan 6, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Because of continuously growing cities, factories, and population, birds are being driven farther and farther back into "wild" areas. The Salton Sea is a place for them to be safe. Please protect the Salton Sea from human destruction- it is necessary that these birds do not become extinct. If they do, our world could change yet again for the worst.

NBrabson-1

Sincerely,

Natalie Brabson
57 Park St
Buffalo, NY 14201-2020

NOV 00 2008
NOV 00 2008
NOV 30 2008

November 28, 2006

Mr. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
Department of Water Resources
Colorado River and Salton Sea Office
P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, California 94236-0001

RE: Comments on Salton Sea Draft PEIR

Mr. Hoffman-Floerke:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft PEIR for the Salton Sea Restoration Project.

After reviewing the draft Salton Sea restoration PEIR, it is easy to conclude that the proposed alternatives involve significant short and long-term costs. One reason the costs are so high is due to the sea's location; in the middle of a desert with the associated low rainfall, high evaporation rates, and high concentrations of salt. Significantly, the alternatives propose to treat and maintain an accidental body of water in a region not supported by nature. A fair question for taxpayers to ask is "Is it worth billions of dollars (up to nearly 6 billion) to maintain this mistake, to buck nature, to support fish that were imported, to provide birds with a body of water in the middle of a desert that was absent 100 years ago, and to spend up to \$150 million annually to maintain?" Why not just improve water use efficiency in the region to reduce evaporative losses from the sea, allow the saved water to be put to better use, and let nature take its course?

One reason large lawns are discouraged in California by water suppliers and conservationist is that they are not natural to the climate of the region and therefore have high maintenance requirements which include a high demand for water. The same point can be made for the Salton Sea. It is located in an area not supported by nature and thus will have high long-term maintenance costs to maintain its quality. Thus, it is fair to question the basic premise of the draft PEIR-that the Salton Sea even has to be restored.

Although not required as part of the CEQA process, it is also important to note that no monetary values were assigned to the perceived environmental and other benefits making it impossible to assess the merits of the restoration alternatives. Without that analysis, there is no perspective presented to make an informed decision. This "opens the door" to criticism and allows this project to be challenged as just another boondoggle.

The environmental impacts need much closer scrutiny, because as now presented, they appear to pale in comparison to the various project costs. Why throw huge sums of money chasing a mistake and fighting nature? Why maintain a body of water in an area that has the highest evaporation rates in the country? Is not CALFED working on

Richard Bennett (RBennett)

RBennett-1

The Resources Agency has a statutory mandate to prepare a programmatic environmental document and a restoration study and to determine a preferred alternative for the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the protection of wildlife dependent on that ecosystem (see Fish and Game Code Section 2081.7). The Salton Sea Restoration Act (Fish and Game Code 2931(c)(1-3)) states that "the preferred alternative shall provide the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives: (1) Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea. (2) Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration projects. (3) Protection of water quality."

RBennett-1

RBennett-2

Refer to response to comment RBennett-1 above.

RBennett-3

As identified by the commenter, determining monetary values and conducting a cost-benefits analysis is not a requirement of CEQA. Such an analysis could be conducted in the future.

RBennett-2

RBennett-4

Refer to response to comment RBennett-1 above.

RBennett-3

RBennett-4

NOV 30 2006

Comments on draft Salton Sea PEIR
November 28, 2006
Page 2

developing wetlands in more suitable areas? Why save *imported* fish? Do birds *absolutely need* the Salton Sea or do they use it because they can (they didn't need it for thousands of years)? As their food supply ebbs, so will the bird population as they adapt to the changes. There are no values for benefits presented: it appears there are just a lot of darts tossed at a board hoping something will stick with public opinion. The point here is that a monetary valuation of the environmental and other potential benefits is needed to truly understand the merits of these proposals before proceeding to any decisions. It is reasonable to request this when asking taxpayers to spend such huge sums of money initially and for an indefinite period of time.

Water in California needs to be used as efficiently as possible and this is not the case in this region. Evaporative losses from the Salton Sea need to be dramatically reduced or eliminated. The way water is currently managed and used (planting crops not suited to the soil of the region) leads to the annual evaporation of 1.3 million acre-feet of water (425 billion gallons) from the Salton Sea into thin air and out of California. This is enough water to supply the residential needs of over 12 million people and represents over 12% of all the water used in the urban sector in California. Does this represent the most prudent use of California's limited fresh water supply and of the over-tapped Colorado River? Is it really prudent to use the Salton Sea as a wetland in an area that has the highest net annual evaporation rates in the U.S.? Do taxpayers really need to pay up to 6 billion dollars to maintain a body of water in the middle of a desert? The Salton Sea simply represents a large evaporative pond and a desert mirage: a temporary illusion that was formed by an accident, maintained by waste, and not supported by nature. This is not how our precious water supplies should be managed and this lost water could be put to much better use.

As a taxpayer, environmentalist, and a native Californian, best wishes in trying to determine the best course of action in this complex issue, not for just this region but for all of California and its natural environment.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Bennett
225 Grover Lane
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

cc. Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher ✓

RBennett (cont.)

RBennett-5

The importance of the Salton Sea ecosystem for birds is described in Chapter 1 (starting on page 1-3) and throughout Chapter 8 of the Draft PEIR. It is not possible to determine whether or not birds absolutely need the Salton Sea ecosystem or if they use it because they can. However, as described in Chapter 1 of the Draft PEIR, there is scientific evidence that indicates that the Salton Sea is an important resource along the Pacific Flyway.

RBennett-6

Refer to response to comment RBennett-3 above.

RBennett-7

Water use in the southern California area, including the Imperial and Coachella valleys is outside of the scope of this project.

RBennett-4
cont.

RBennett-5

RBennett-6

RBennett-7

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

To the decision makers:

I would like to see the Salton Sea protected for the large number of migratory birds who depend upon these natural wetlands. It would be a catastrophe to destroy them. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Bishop

Sincerely,

Rosemary Bishop
3590 Molaree Dr
Pensacola, FL 32503-3143

RBishop-1

Rosemary Bishop (RBishop)

RBishop-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
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Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality “tool box” measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [richard bledsoe](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments;](#)
[SaltonSeaComments;](#)
CC:
Subject: Salton Sea comments
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2006 8:06:16 AM
Attachments:

Dept. of Water Quality
Dale Hoffman-Floerke
Dear sir,

As you are accepting public comments at this time I would like to express support for the Saline Habitat Complex II proposal. I note that 90 percent of california's critical wetlands are gone and migratating birds will be adversely impacted by all of the proposals.

I am concerned about the five endangered species the Sea supports at present and the possibility of more species becoming endangered or extinct.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard L Bledsoe

RBledsoe-1

Richard Bledsoe (RBledsoe)

RBledsoe-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
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The 62,000-acre Saline Habitat Complex including in the Preferred Alternative would be located in the southern and northern portion of the Salton Sea and would provide habitat for a variety of avian species, including shorebirds, waterfowl, and potentially for fish-eating birds, including sensitive species currently found at the Salton Sea. It is expected that the Saline Habitat Complex would also provide limited habitat for some fish species, such as tilapia, and thus, provide foraging habitat for fish-eating birds. The Saline Habitat Complex is expected to provide the microclimate benefits that currently exist at the Salton Sea, and could be constructed using a variety of construction methods including Geotubes®.

The Preferred Alternative would provide a similar amount of Saline Habitat Complex as would have been provided under Alternative 2. See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [rebeca byerley](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments:](#)
CC:
Subject: Salton Sea in big trouble
Date: Thursday, December 07, 2006 11:03:17 AM
Attachments:

December 7, 2006

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

I am writing regarding the Resources Agency's Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR). While I agree that the State of California must take action in order to prevent health problems from dust and to save the Sea, the current proposals are not acceptable because each one would in turn cause massive health problems and/or environmental degradation. I would ask that instead the State implement the "evolved alternative" that combines the best of the proposals. This alternative has been outlined in letters from the Salton Sea Coalition, Audubon California and other environmental groups, and I support it as well.

As someone who loves birds and visits the Salton Sea regularly, I urge you to do the same. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Rebeca Byerley
Rbyerley4@yahoo.com

Rebeca Byerley (RByerley)

RByerley-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000 acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

The 62,000-acre Saline Habitat Complex including in the Preferred Alternative would be located in the southern and northern portion of the Salton Sea and would provide habitat for a variety of avian species, including shorebirds, waterfowl, and potentially for fish-eating birds, including sensitive species currently found at the Salton Sea. It is expected that the Saline Habitat Complex would also provide limited habitat for some fish species, such as tilapia, and thus, provide foraging habitat for fish-eating birds. The Saline Habitat Complex is expected to provide the microclimate benefits that currently exist at the Salton Sea, and could be constructed using a variety of construction methods including Geotubes®.

The 45,000-acre Marine Sea included in the Preferred Alternative would be located primarily in the northern portion of the Sea, but would extend down the majority of the eastern and western shorelines. It is intended to support a marine fishery and fish-eating birds (such as pelicans, double-crested cormorants, and black skimmers). The Marine Sea would stabilize at a water surface elevation of -230 feet msl with a salinity between 30,000 mg/L and 40,000 mg/L. The water depth would be less than 10 to 12 meters (39 feet) to reduce hydrogen sulfide generation and potential fish kills due to long term temperature stratification (temperature variations from top to bottom of the sea).

RByerley-1

RByerley (cont.)

RByerley-1 (cont.)

The Preferred Alternative incorporates the air quality “tool box” measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project. These measures include the allocation of 0.5 acre-foot per acre of water to manage emissive areas of the Exposed Playa. The Preferred Alternative also includes actions and mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts that could result from construction and operations and maintenance activities.

Although not a legislatively mandated objective, the Saline Habitat Complex is expected to allow for passive recreational opportunities, such as bird watching. Additionally, the Marine Sea would provide for water-based recreational opportunities that have historically occurred at the Salton Sea. This would include boating and fishing opportunities and allow for the on-going operation of the majority of the existing harbors at the Salton Sea.

The Preferred Alternative also includes a variety of actions that could be implemented within the 5-year timeframe after the Legislature provides direction on implementing of a restoration program and identifies a future implementing agency. These actions include activities such as Early Start Habitat and measures targeted to address air quality uncertainties.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [Sandy Walker](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#)
CC:
Subject: SolarBee Comments on DPEIR for Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Plan
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 2:48:42 PM
Attachments: [SolarBeeCommentsonPEIRSaltonSea011607.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

We are respectfully submitting the attached document presenting our comments on the Draft PEIR for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact us.

Regards,

Sandy Walker

Sandra Walker
CA Regional Manager
SolarBee, Inc.
8336 Senn Lane Wilton, CA 95693
TF 800-653-0212 T: 916-687-8548
F: 916-687-6929 CELL: 916-847-8811
sandy@solarbee.com www.solarbee.com

Solar Bee, Inc (SBee)

SB-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

Attachments to this comment are included in Appendix A of this Final PEIR.

SBee-1

Sharon Beneway (SBeneway)

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

The Earth cannot afford to continue losing species of any kind.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sharon Beneway
12039 Washington St
Wolcott, NY 14590-1120

SBeneway-1

SBeneway-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

From: [Steve Bilson](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC:
Subject: Comments
Date: Thursday, January 11, 2007 12:03:51 PM
Attachments:

The current and future environmental and financial burdens of the state for maintaining or fixing the Salton Sea should not include any burden added by water transfers from the Imperial Valley to the coast or other places. To place those burdens on the state, or the federal government, or even other communities, is nothing more than social engineering reminiscent of the failed soviet empire.

California has a long history of promoting water conservation laws, rules, and agreements that have been essentially summarily dismissed by the myopic folks building Southern California. Here in San Diego alone, those laws, rules, and agreements include but are not limited to Article X, Section Two of the California Constitution, California Water Code Sections 100, 275, and 461, the State Water Resources Control Board's Decisional Order #1630, the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board Order #90-32, California Water Code Section 13142.5, 13577, 13550, 13551, 13553, 13555.2, and 13555.3, City of San Diego Ordinance #17327, codified in the City of San Diego Municipal Code as Section 64.081, the entire premise for the California Urban Water Conservation Council's Memorandum of Understanding on Urban Water Use, and the federal Ocean Pollution Reduction Act (33 USC 1311 et seq).

A plethora of increasingly more detailed planning laws enacted over the years have also attempted to guide urban development and its water use, also to no avail. A very powerful force is keeping those laws, rules, and agreements from taking hold and effecting change. It is obvious to those of us who watch these things closely that none of these laws, rules, and agreements have the ability to stop the

Steve Bilson (SBilson)

SBilson-1

While the responsibility for the future environmental and financial costs of the IID Water Conservation and Transfer Project is outside of the scope of the Draft PEIR, the State has entered into an agreement regarding the allocation of these costs. As described in the Quantification Settlement Agreement Joint Powers Authority Agreement, under the IID Water Conservation and Transfer Project and Quantification Settlement Agreement, the State would be responsible for the costs for environmental mitigation requirements in excess of \$133 million. Section 9.2 of the Quantification Settlement Agreement Joint Powers Authority Agreement, however, provides that the amount of such costs shall be determined by the affirmative vote of three of the Quantification Settlement Agreement Joint Powers Authority Agreement commissioners, including the commissioner representing the state, which determination shall be reasonably made. The Quantification Settlement Agreement Joint Powers Authority Agreement was executed in October 2003, and changes to this agreement are outside of the scope of the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program.

SBilson-1

atmosphere of collective subrogation of the legislature's intent that highly profitable water transfers create.

Water transfers would not be so highly profitable if every upstream and downstream consequence of every transfer had to be fully mitigated before any water transfer took place. If all those consequences had to be fully mitigated, with the recipient of the water having to pay for every bit of it, then urban water conservation would finally have a competitive chance. Urban water conservation has been proven to be a highly effective way to not only conserve water, but to reduce wastewater and run-off pollution, and to decrease energy use and its consequential pollution.

American industry has invested billions of dollars creating urban water conservation technologies, but implementation of those technologies has been severely crippled by local, state, and federal bureaucrats' preference for social engineering projects/experiments.

This is principally caused by the fact that those bureaucrats get to administer the funding for, and some times operation of, their preferred social engineering projects/experiments. Until those bureaucrats are pushed aside to allow ingenuity to solve these problems, those bureaucrats will only create more and more environmental problems for everyone else to try to solve.

Because virtually everyone else already has their hands full with their own jobs, the tendency is to simply turn to the bureaucrats for more solutions, who in turn create more poorly thought-out, extremely expensive social engineering projects. It is a stupidity cycle that must be broken. The way to break that cycle is to immediately demand that maintaining or fixing the Salton Sea should not include any burden added by water transfers from the Imperial Valley to the coast or other places. Take the prerogative away from the bureaucrats by placing the complete onus of any water transfer on the beneficiary of the proposed water transfer.

A serious reading of the statutes in the California Environmental

SBilson (cont.)

SBilson-2

Refer to response to comment SBilson-1 above.

SBilson-2

Quality Act (CEQA) and the case law surrounding those statutes already requires placing the complete onus of any water transfer on the beneficiary of the proposed water transfer. But the Salton Sea restoration plan and Imperial Valley water transfers are already the poster child for how to bypass every one of those laws, rules, and agreements and CEQA, as they began on the false assumption that most of the consequences could be sougheed off onto the Salton Sea restoration plan, thereby allowing the supposedly wonderful water transfers to begin.

Placing the consequences from the transfer on the Salton Sea restoration project was just a bureaucratic sleight of hand trick, made ostensibly to help expedite the infamous Quantitative Settlement Agreement whereby California could meet its legal obligation of only taking 4.4 MAF from the Colorado River. But the whole Salton-Sea-restoration-project-water-transfer-and-conservation deal is nothing but a legal circuitous argument, a subterfuge and rationalization for transferring water without following CEQA.

Anything less than making the bureaucrats start at the beginning of the process, where they must combine all of the water transfer and conservation project's consequences with the Salton Sea restoration project and mitigate all of them before they transfer water, would just be another pathetic excuse for maintaining the status quo that has led and will continue to lead to ever worsening water and air quality and fewer and degraded recreational opportunities in the great outdoors.

Stephen Wm. Bilson
PO Box 210171
Chula Vista, CA 91921

SBilson-3

SBilson (cont.)

SBilson-3

Refer to response to comment SBilson-1 above

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
CA Department of Water Resources, Colorado River & Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Regarding the draft PEIR on Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration, I know you are receiving arguments from Audubon and other sources that list the advantages of restoring this area. I echo their remarks, and just want to say one thing:

Whatever we can do to make this land more beautiful, more diverse, and healthier can only serve all of us, people, birds, animals, total ecosystem, the earth. Please make this a priority in your decision.

Sincerely,
Susan Burke
2537 Morgan Ford Road
Front Royal, VA 22630-7451

SBurke-1

Susan Burke (SBurke)

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality “tool box” measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

JAN 18 2007

January 14, 2007

Dale K. Hoffman-Floerke
Salton Sea PEIR Comments
Colorado River and Salton Sea Office
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email: SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

I write regarding the air quality impacts discussed in the Resources Agency's Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (DEIR). As you know, air quality is already very poor in the communities around the Salton Sea. Far too many children in the area suffer from asthma, at a much higher rate than anywhere else in California.

The tremendous amount of dust that will blow off of the exposed lakebed of the shrinking Salton Sea poses a real threat to public health, a threat that California must make every effort to contain. Protecting public health should be the highest priority of the project, and the most important criterion for choosing any restoration plan. Minimizing dust emissions must rely on proven methods – we can not afford the risk that some new method will fail, allowing hundreds of additional tons of dust to blow through local communities. Minimizing the amount of construction traffic should also be a key consideration, since more truck traffic means more diesel emissions.

The DEIR makes several poor assumptions. It assumes that no dust blows or will blow from the northern part of the Salton Sea, despite data in the DEIR itself (and direct observations) which show that this assumption is wrong. It also assumes that the location of water and structures in the various plans has no impact on blowing dust, making it difficult to determine which plan would have the best chance of reducing or eliminating blowing dust. Clearly, plans that would break up the exposed land with lakes or large structures or shallow bodies of water would block the wind or intercept blowing dust, and would better protect public health.

None of the plans in the DEIR really satisfy the need to protect the public from both more blowing dust and greatly increased diesel emissions. But a hybrid approach, combining the relatively low construction impacts of Alternative #4 with the greater land cover and dust protection offered by the habitat complexes of Alts. #1 & 4, makes much more sense. Adding a large, 10,000 acre lake at the north end of the Sea would provide protection from blowing dust for the Coachella Valley, and could provide a reservoir for additional dust management in the northern half of the Sea.

This hybrid approach makes the most sense from a public health perspective, and should be the state's preferred approach.

William Bergevin (WB)

WB-1

The protection of public health would be an important component of any restoration alternative for the Salton Sea. As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project. These measures include the allocation of 0.5 acre-foot per acre of water to manage emissive areas of the Exposed Playa. The Preferred Alternative also includes actions and mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts that could result from construction and operations and maintenance activities.

WB-2

While the Preferred Alternative utilizes proven methods to minimize dust emissions, the Preferred Alternative also recognizes that there may be changes in technology in the future and/or innovate technologies that could be used to minimize dust emissions. It would be appropriate for the implementing agency to thoroughly test any new technology at the Salton Sea prior to use of the technology on a large scale.

WB-3

The Draft PEIR indicates that, based on available data, windspeeds in the vicinity of the northern end of the Salton Sea seldom exceed threshold windspeeds, resulting in no predicted emissions in the model used to evaluate alternatives. However, the evaluation tool was designed to provide a relative comparison of air quality among alternatives, and not to produce an exact absolute level of emissions. This level of analysis is considered appropriate for evaluation of alternatives at the programmatic level.

More detailed meteorological data being collected. Greater detail regarding the layout and exact form of structures and surfaces in specific projects would be available for future emissions source mapping and windfield analyses. It is anticipated that project-level analysis could employ these more precise tools. These tools may indicate that local windspeeds periodically exceed threshold windspeeds for surfaces in the northern Salton Sea, and produce more exact absolute dust emission results.

Should this be the case, appropriate monitoring and mitigation is foreseen in the Draft PEIR. Where dust emissions are predicted or observed by the extensive proposed monitoring network, short-term and long-term dust control is planned for deployment. See Appendix H-3 of the Draft PEIR for discussions of emissions monitoring and development and deployment of dust control onto the playa surface.

WB-1

WB-2

WB-3

WB-4

JAN 18 2007

Thank you for considering my comments. I look forward to a Salton Sea restoration plan that protects public health by minimizing dust and diesel emissions.

Sincerely,



William L. Bergevin
5820 New Crossings Point
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

WB (cont.)

WB-4

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As a supporter of America's wildlife and the Salton Sea, one of North America's largest stopovers for migratory birds, I, Brendan Cadam am writing to offer my comments of the California Department of Water Resources Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

I would like you to consider the preservation of Salton Sea. I am only 22 years old and I would like to take my children and grandchildren to such national treasures like Salton Sea. If destroyed or contaminated the health of the nearby population will be compromised as the water and air may become polluted. I urge you to consider preserving America's national wildlife, by thinking about the health and wellbeing of all stakeholders. This includes the animal inhabitants of Salton Sea as well as the future generations of our people.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brendan Cadam
920 Mission St
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3504

BCadam-1

Brendan Cadam (BCadam)

BCadam-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Brian Cohen (BCohen)

From: [BC](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC:
Subject: Comments on Draft PEIR for Salton Sea
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 11:51:58 AM
Attachments:

January 16, 2007

Attn: Dale Hoffman-Floerke
Salton Sea PEIR comments
Department of Water Resources
Colorado River & Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

via email: SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov

Re: Comments on Draft PEIR for Salton Sea

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

Background

The Salton Sea is an internationally significant resource. Extending between the Coachella and Imperial valleys in southeastern California, the Sea is the state's largest lake, covering some 350 square miles and providing an invaluable source of food and habitat for millions of birds migrating through the harsh desert. This restoration program offers the best – and perhaps the last – hope for this imperiled ecosystem. Faced with ever-worsening water quality and the certainty that inflows will diminish by more than 30% in the next 20 years, the Sea will shrink dramatically in coming years, threatening public health with larger and more destructive dust storms and quickly degrading the value of this critical stopover on the Pacific Flyway.

Restoration of the Salton Sea is essential to wildlife, the protection of public health and the quality of life in the surrounding communities. The Sea is considered a globally important bird area because of its astounding diversity of bird species – more than 400, the second-highest count in the nation – and the very large populations of some species that rely on it for habitat. Its restoration is also essential to protect public health and agriculture from dangerous levels of dust pollution that would otherwise result from exposed seabed. It offers important opportunities for recreation, hunting, fishing and economic development. Finally, restoration is an essential element of the Quantification Settlement Agreement and the associated water transfer from the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to urban Southern California.

There is no question that we must act to protect and rehabilitate the Salton Sea ecosystem. The question is simply, how best to act.

The PEIR (posted at www.saltonsea.water.ca.gov/PEIR) describes eight ways we might act, but it does not identify a preferred alternative. Citing Fish and Game Code §2930, the PEIR notes that, “The preferred alternative, when determined, is to provide the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

-  Restoration of long term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
-  Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
-  Protection of water quality.”

Legal Requirements

The legal requirements listed above identify habitat, air quality, and water quality as the key criteria for the selection of a preferred alternative. The alternatives vary in their ability to achieve these

requirements; none of the eight action alternatives analyzed in the PEIR satisfies all of the requirements. I believe that the preferred alternative should combine the best elements of the alternatives into a refined plan, as described in the following.

Habitat

Shallow and shoreline habitats are critical to maintain the diversity and level of wildlife that depend on the Sea. The PEIR projects that the habitats in Alternatives 2, 4, & 5 would support, in decreasing order, the greatest abundance of birds (see Ch. 8 p.74), primarily due to the abundance of shallow and shoreline habitats.

If we were to ignore water quality problems such as anoxia, then the deeper marine lakes of Alts. 5-8 would provide the greatest diversity and abundance of fish habitat. However, as is stated in Table 6-5 and on p. 8-60, water quality would be worse in the marine lakes than under existing conditions (when millions of fish die periodically due to wind-generated mixing events that degrade water quality) and than under no action conditions. The deep marine lakes will not provide reliable fish habitat. Shallower water bodies, such as those found in Alts. 1-4, will provide some fish habitat, though probably less than mandated diversity and abundance.

To provide resources for birds during the long permitting and construction process required for any preferred alternative, I strongly urge the immediate implementation of 'early start habitat.'

As for desert pupfish, while their requirements are arguable addressed in each of the alternatives due to the pre-existing requirements for connectivity under the IID transfer, the preferred alternative should maximize connectivity between pupfish populations. This is consistent with the 1993 Desert Pupfish Recovery Plan. Alts. 3 & 4 provide the greatest

BCohen-1

BCohen (cont.)

BCohen-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000 acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

The 62,000-acre Saline Habitat Complex including in the Preferred Alternative would be located in the southern and northern portion of the Salton Sea and would provide habitat for a variety of avian species, including shorebirds, waterfowl, and potentially for fish-eating birds, including sensitive species currently found at the Salton Sea. It is expected that the Saline Habitat Complex would also provide limited habitat for some fish species, such as tilapia, and thus, provide foraging habitat for fish-eating birds. The Saline Habitat Complex is expected to provide the microclimate benefits that currently exist at the Salton Sea, and could be constructed using a variety of construction methods including Geotubes®.

BCohen (cont.)

The 45,000-acre Marine Sea included in the Preferred Alternative would be located primarily in the northern portion of the Sea, but would extend down the majority of the eastern and western shorelines. It is intended to support a marine fishery and fish-eating birds (such as pelicans, double-crested cormorants, and black skimmers). The Marine Sea would stabilize at a water surface elevation of -230 feet msl with a salinity between 30,000 mg/L and 40,000 mg/L. The water depth would be less than 10 to 12 meters (39 feet) to reduce hydrogen sulfide generation and potential fish kills due to long term temperature stratification (temperature variations from top to bottom of the sea).

The Preferred Alternative incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project. These measures include the allocation of 0.5 acre-foot per acre of water to manage emissive areas of the Exposed Playa. The Preferred Alternative also includes actions and mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts that could result from construction and operations and maintenance activities.

Although not a legislatively mandated objective, the Saline Habitat Complex is expected to allow for passive recreational opportunities, such as bird watching. Additionally, the Marine Sea would provide for water-based recreational opportunities that have historically occurred at the Salton Sea. This would include boating and fishing opportunities and allow for the on-going operation of the majority of the existing harbors at the Salton Sea.

The Preferred Alternative also includes a variety of actions that could be implemented within the 5-year timeframe after the Legislature provides direction on implementing of a restoration program and identifies a future implementing agency. These actions include activities such as Early Start Habitat and measures targeted to address air quality uncertainties.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

amount of pupfish connectivity due to the establishment of a concentric body of water that links key drains and creeks.

BCohen-1
cont.

Air Quality

Given the extremely poor air quality, that already characterizes the Coachella and Imperial valleys, the protection of air quality – and public health – must be a top priority. In the versions analyzed by the PEIR, Alts. 4 & 7 would not eliminate air quality impacts. These alternatives' failure to protect public health precludes them from selection as the preferred alternative. Each of the other alternatives includes methods to attain the air quality requirement.

Water Quality

The complex biological and chemical processes that determine the Salton Sea's water quality do not lend themselves to simple analysis. However, they directly and indirectly affect the value of habitat for birds and fish. Unfortunately, the PEIR simply assesses water quality impacts other than salinity, rather than developing a strategy to manage them. Yet, as shown by the PEIR, the Sea's water quality problems will not be solved just by managing salinity. Fed by the fertilizers running off agricultural fields and the organic detritus accumulated over a century's prolific biological activity, the Sea is too productive. This excessive productivity leads to high turbidity, noxious odors, very low concentrations of dissolved oxygen, periodic population explosions of algae that further depress oxygen concentrations at night and when the algae die, and the production of toxic gases, such as hydrogen sulfide and ammonia, by anaerobic organisms. All of these factors stress fish and invertebrates, decreasing their survival and reproductive rates and increasing the prevalence of disease, in turn reducing the value of the Sea for birds and people.

These water quality problems will get worse under each

of the alternatives. (See pp. 6-32, 8-60, D-69, H1-53.) Alt. 7 is the only alternative that attempts to address these water quality problems; though the scale and cost of its two proposed water treatment plants (in excess of a billion dollars) make it wholly unrealistic. Instead, the PEIR must develop and analyze small-scale, low-tech methods to improve and protect water quality. Such methods may prove effective, at least in the smaller water bodies. The scale of the large marine lakes suggests that no realistic method exists to improve their water quality to the extent that they could provide reliable fish habitat.

Other Considerations

Several other factors must be considered in the selection of the preferred alternative. These include:

-  flexibility and adaptability;
-  reliability;
-  time until initial benefits are realized;
-  direct & indirect impacts of construction;
-  environmental justice;
-  recreation and economic development; and
-  cost.

Flexibility and Adaptability

Under any alternative, the Salton Sea ecosystem will undergo enormous changes over the 75-year project period. Adaptable, flexible alternatives are much more likely to achieve the project objectives than those alternatives that, once built, cannot feasibly or reasonably be altered.

The alternatives with a mid-Sea barrier (5-8) will require quarrying, transporting, and placing scores of millions of cubic yards of large-diameter rock. These massive structures will not be adaptable to changing circumstances. Construction of Alts. 1-4, on the other hand, can be built in phases, allowing for changes in design and management in response to changing conditions. Alts. 1 & 2 best lend themselves

BCohen-2

BCohen-3

BCohen (cont.)

BCohen-2

The CRBRWQCB has a draft Numeric Target for phosphorus in the Salton Sea of 35 ug/L. Model results presented in Appendix D of the Draft PEIR for the current level of phosphorus input (considered a worst case scenario) show the draft objective for phosphorus would not be met in any of the alternatives. The scenario for 50 percent phosphorus concentration reduction indicates that the Marine Sea of Alternatives 5 through 7 would achieve the numeric target of 35 ug/L for total phosphorus, while the Marine Sea in Alternative 8 would be close. However, the shallow water habitats would still be phosphorus rich and highly productive. With a 90 percent reduction in phosphorus concentration, it appears possible to achieve the eutrophication goals. While such an aggressive reduction in phosphorus concentration may not be achievable, various mitigation actions can be implemented to reduce phosphorus concentrations that may approach this level.

The CRBRWQCB indicates in their comments that the Mexicali II Wastewater Treatment Plant is expected to reduce total phosphorus loads into the Salton Sea by about 10 percent. In addition, the CRBRWQCB indicates that successful implementation of the draft Nutrient TMDL would reduce phosphorus loads from agricultural activities into the Salton Sea by an additional 30 percent. The concentration of phosphorus in inflows to the Salton Sea from these load reductions has not been determined for the restoration project. Project level analysis should obtain additional nutrient data, refine model efforts, determine inflow phosphorus concentration reductions from the load reductions, and evaluate additional potential mechanisms for reducing phosphorus loads to the Salton Sea.

BCohen-3

See response to comment BCohen-1. This Preferred Alternative, as required by legislation, provides a vision for the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem. The 75-year life of the project makes it unlikely that the Preferred Alternative will be constructed exactly as described in Chapter 3. Rather, the Preferred Alternative represents a starting point for a Salton Sea restoration plan that is adaptable, flexible, sustainable, and functions under a wide variety of conditions that may arise over the course of the next 75 years.

to adaptive management, since the individual cells could be managed somewhat independently, and, if needed, could be temporarily shut down (in response to a disease outbreak, for example) without jeopardizing the performance of the project as a whole.

Reliability

Construction at the Salton Sea will face a host of challenges, including frequent earthquakes, unstable sediments, high groundwater levels, very high temperatures (often exceeding 115°F), biological and chemical fouling, corrosion, and persistent strong winds. These hostile conditions imply that low-tech, low-maintenance designs that incorporate redundancy and resilience, and that can be readily repaired, will enjoy the greatest chance of success over the long term. Alts. 1 & 4 rely on gravity-fed systems, with the least amount of infrastructure and lowest pumping requirements, and enjoy the greatest degree of reliability of the action alternatives.

The proposed air quality management common to most of the alternatives should rely on low-tech methods of irrigation, rather than drip and subsurface systems, which will need pre-treatment, filtration, pumping, and regular maintenance.

Time Until Initial Benefits Are Realized

The Sea is in decline; the longer it takes to select, permit, and construct a restoration project, the greater the potential that some species may become imperiled due to the lack of suitable habitat. Realistically, due to extensive design, site assessment, permitting, and land and easement acquisition requirements, the construction of any preferred alternative will not begin for at least a decade. Construction of some of the alternatives could take another decade or more. It would then take months or years (especially for Alts. 5-8) after construction for conditions to stabilize. For the larger, more complex alternatives, it could take a quarter of a century or more before the project

**BCohen-3
cont.**

BCohen (cont.)

functions as designed. Scalable components that do not require construction of the project as a whole, such as those in Alts. 1 & 4, would provide initial habitat and air quality benefits much more quickly. The construction of early start habitat would also provide interim benefits during this long transition period.

Direct & Indirect Impacts of Construction

The massive scale of each of the alternatives affects their feasibility and the impacts – especially on air quality and the demand for materials and energy – associated with their construction. The mid-Sea barriers would require as much as 100 million cubic yards of material. The Draft PEIR contains the assumption that a source for the rock and/or gravel would be located within 10 miles of the Salton Sea. This assumption – indeed, the entire Draft PEIR -- fails to recognize that the two potential locations for rock source, identified in Appendix H5, have significant biological resource issues. Both sites have endangered species issues, particularly Coolidge Mountain, which is entirely within critical habitat for the endangered Peninsular bighorn sheep. Not only will extracting this much rock significantly degrade designated critical habitats of listed species, but transporting and placing this material will generate massive diesel and dust emissions.

The PEIR assumes that construction will occur on an aggressive 24-hour per day, 365 day per year schedule (p. H6-70), and that construction-related impacts can be mitigated. However, DWR staff have noted, “the feasibility of implementing air quality mitigation to reduce construction-phase emission impacts is speculative at present.” The magnitude of construction-related emissions (as much 4,220 tons of PM10 per year) suggests that such construction might not be permitted if mitigation is not feasible. The PEIR’s assumptions here directly affects cost, construction schedules and the time required to achieve benefits, underscoring the relative benefits

**BCohen-3
cont.**

of simpler, less resource-intensive alternatives such as 1 & 4.

Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible use of the land and renewable resources to produce a sustainable ecosystem. The Resources Agency Environmental Justice Policy requires that minorities and low-income populations be provided opportunities to participate in the development of the program. Yet the Restoration Program's Spanish-language outreach efforts to date have been extremely limited, despite the significant impacts the project will have on public health and employment in the region. The public, including Spanish-speaking communities, must be meaningfully engaged in any decisions regarding the Salton Sea and the surrounding areas.

Recreation and Economic Development

Local communities have highlighted the importance of recreation and economic development associated with a larger marine lake (in Alts. 5-8). Congress, in P.L. 105-372, names restoration of recreational uses, maintenance of a viable sport fishery, and identification of opportunities for economic development around the Sea as several of the goals of Salton Sea Reclamation. If water quality problems could be solved, marine lakes – especially in conjunction with the abundant bird-watching opportunities offered by the saline habitat complexes – would provide the greatest recreational and economic development opportunities. A lake smaller and shallower than those identified by Alts. 5-8, fed exclusively by better-quality Whitewater River, could flush out accumulated nutrients and selenium, improving water quality to the extent that a viable sport fishery could be maintained. This in turn would attract economic development.

Cost

The initial capital costs of all of the alternatives

BCohen-4

BCohen-5

BCohen (cont.)

BCohen-4

Very early on in the State's process, a number of documents, including the Notice of Preparation were translated in Spanish. The Resources Agency provided these documents at public outreach meetings in the Salton Sea watershed, and made these documents available on the State's Salton Sea website. After public release of the document, Spanish language versions of both a Frequently Asked Questions Sheet and Fact Sheet were made available and a contact phone number of a State Team member that would be able to answer question in Spanish was provided for those interested.

BCohen-5

The Salton Sea Restoration Act (Fish and Game Code 2931(c)(1-3)) states that "the preferred alternative shall provide the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives: (1) Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea. (2) Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration projects. (3) Protection of water quality." The state is not required to provide recreation and economic opportunities. Further, the Salton Sea restoration legislation, Fish and Game Code Section 2081.8, provides:

"[t]he Resources Agency shall undertake the necessary activities to assess the protection of recreational opportunities, including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, boating, and birdwatching, and the creation of opportunities for improved local economic conditions, surrounding the Salton Sea. The Resources Agency **shall not undertake any of those activities** if the agency determines they would constitute a project purpose for environmental documentation that is prepared pursuant to Section 2081.7" (emphasis added).

are extremely high. Operations and maintenance costs would add another \$20 million (Alt. 4) to more than \$130 million (Alts. 3, 5, 6, and 8) to this cost, each year. The alternatives that can be built in phases (Alts. 1-4) will require much lower initial investments than the alternatives requiring a mid-Sea structure (5-8), increasing the likelihood that they will enjoy legislative support. Federal support could be attracted by a plan that preserves the value of the Sea for the Pacific Flyway. Including recreational amenities could attract local support, potentially sufficient to fund construction of a smaller, functional recreational lake. Spreading out the costs by phasing construction and by attracting a broader funding base will increase the prospects for a successful project.

Summary

None of the eight alternatives analyzed in the PEIR meets all three legal requirements. A combination of elements from several of these alternatives, however, would offer the best means of meeting the legal requirements, as well as the other considerations described above. Alts. 2, 4, & 5 would support the greatest abundance of birds. Alts. 1-4 would offer the most reliable fish habitat. A smaller lake fed exclusively by the higher-quality Whitewater River would diminish the water quality problems associated with the larger marine lakes, providing more reliable fish habitat, as well as recreational and development opportunities.

Alts. 1-4, and especially 1 & 2, offer the greatest flexibility and adaptability, invaluable in a 75-year project facing great uncertainty in future conditions.

Alts. 1 & 4 offer the most reliable designs and are also the least resource- and maintenance-intensive.

Alts. 1 & 4 also offer clear benefits in terms of phasing and the amount of time required to provide initial benefits. Alt. 4 has the lowest annual costs.

Recommendations

BCohen-6

BCohen-7

BCohen-8

BCohen (cont.)

BCohen-6

Project funding is outside of the scope of the Draft PEIR. However, as required by the project's legislative mandates, a Funding Plan has been prepared for the Preferred Alternative. This Funding Plan identifies a variety of potential sources of funding for restoration actions at the Salton Sea. The Funding Plan and potential funding sources would be more appropriately considered by the Legislature when it provides direction on implementing of a restoration program and identifies a future implementing agency.

BCohen-7

The language in the Salton Sea Restoration Act (Fish and Game Code 2931(c)(1-3)) states that "the preferred alternative shall provide the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives: (1) Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea. (2) Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration projects. (3) Protection of water quality." All of the alternatives meet the legislative objectives to varying degrees.

BCohen-8

Refer to response to comment BCohen-1 and BCohen-3 above.

I urge DWR and the Secretary of the Resources to combine the following features from Alternatives 1, 4 and 5 into a final, preferred alternative that would meet the legal requirements for restoration and provide opportunities for recreation and development in Imperial and Coachella Valleys:

- 25,000-50,000 acres of Shallow Saline Habitat Complex (depending on the amount of other shallow saline habitat provided), as described in Alts. 1 & 2, to provide habitat for shoreline species;
- Concentric rings using Geotubes or other dirt-filled barriers, as described in Alt. 4, to provide additional shallow habitat, pupfish connectivity, deeper marine habitat, shoreline and view protection, air-quality protections, and recreation;
- A large lake (roughly 8-10,000 acres – which would be the largest recreational lake in Southern California) fed solely by the Whitewater River, to provide recreation and development opportunities and water quality improvements;
- Monitoring and management of all exposed playa, to eliminate air quality impacts; and
- Immediate implementation of the 'early start habitat', to provide resources for birds during the long permitting and construction process.

Additionally, DWR should develop and analyze the potential for multiple small-scale, low-tech methods to improve water quality.

An alternative that contains all of these components, each of which is present and analyzed in one or more of the draft alternatives, would best meet the legal requirements to maximize habitat and protect air and water quality, while also providing recreation and development opportunities. I urge the Secretary to identify a Preferred Alternative with the components and features outlined above. This alternative would best meet the needs of local communities, fish and wildlife, the people of California, and the people of the United States.

**BCohen-8
cont.**

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Brian Cohen
5050 Santa Monica #11
San Diego, CA 92107
619 838-2587

From: [Damian Cola](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC:
Subject: Alternative 1 Looks best
Date: Friday, October 20, 2006 6:27:40 PM
Attachments:

I would love to see the Salton Sea remain as large as it is now but considering the many issues affecting its health and viability as such, I would like to see it be as large as it could possibly be while taking into consideration its needs to sustain itself as an ecosystem. The only alternative that seems to fit the bill is Alternative 1.

DC-1

Damian Cola (DC)

DC-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality “tool box” measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

While the Salton Sea (the Marine Sea) would be smaller than its current size, as noted above, the project’s legislative mandate requires consideration of a variety of components beyond just the size of the Salton Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife and the Salton Sea -- one of North America's largest stopovers for migratory birds -- I am writing to offer my comments of the California Department of Water Resources Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

Please establish enough acres to do the job- 50,000 would be good. This is VERY important to the migrating birds and surrounding areas. We need to keep these places safe and secure for wildlife. We are in enough of a mess with what has gone on already.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Holly Craven
34 Fini Dr
Carmel, NY 10512-4061

HC-1

Holly Craven (HC)

HC-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
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- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jennifer Cheyne (JC)

JC-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I am sure there are reasons for this plan that I cannot possibly understand, but as our world becomes compromised more and more for "good reasons" I am coming to realize that no reason is good enough.

PLEASE draw a line in favor of the greater system we live in. We are not alone here - but we have all the control - and we owe it to the creatures surrounding us - for their sakes and ultimately ours.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cheyne
8415 Lookout Mountain Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90046-1550

JC-1

From: [Clay, Lea](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments:](#)
CC:
Subject: Salton Sea
Date: Tuesday, January 09, 2007 10:40:40 AM
Attachments:

My name is Lea Clay Park and as a longtime resident of the Inland Empire, I writing to emphatically express my view that the Salton Sea must be perpetuated as an important habitat for thousands of migratory birds. This type of wildlife is a resource important to all Californians and with the loss of other seasonal lakes to development in the rest of the state, habitat of this type is simply not available anywhere else. Thank you

LC-1

Lea Clay (LC)

LC-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality “tool box” measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: ConversantCars@aol.com
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#)
CC:
Subject: Revised Algae Farming Comment on Salton Sea
Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2006 4:55:34 PM
Attachments:

Dear Mr. Hoffman-Floerke,

I notice you and the PEIR are getting some attention from local environmentalists, the press, and perhaps Senator Boxer. Any chance you could pass this comment on to other commenting individuals and agencies in advance of the next draft release?

Please replace my October 28th Salton Sea PEIR comment with this better explanation of the issues.

Please adjust the 9 Salton Sea alternatives for significant and symbiotic algae farming. Algae-biodiesel-food is an important component of each alternative (and creates new alternatives) because algae production is an air quality, nutrient, and salinity management action while generating revenue. Corn has a powerful lobby. Soybeans have a lobby. Algae farming lacks a lobby. Corn produces on the order of 400 gallons ethanol per acre per year. Algae has the potential for 15,000 gallons of biodiesel per acre per year. See http://www.unh.edu/p2/biodiesel/article_algae.html.

The corn required to fill a 25-gallon tank with ethanol is no longer available to feed a person for a year. A person could eat high protein algae AND fill a 25-gallon tank with biodiesel. Corn, soybeans, biomass, all use water with less than 2,000 ppm salts. Algae grows in water with 0 to 60,000 ppm salts, and saltier water algae is more oily. (The ocean is 30,000 ppm salts).

Pessimists will point out that algae farming is not living up to its potential on a large scale. Algae in open ponds need a lot of water because of evaporation. And it is difficult to mix necessary nutrients in shallow ponds. These issues suggest algae farming is ripe for American innovation. Algae farming is only recently a serious endeavor. Humans have been improving corn farming for millennia. Equally important, a biofuel should grow symbiotically with its natural environment.

Mark Capron (MCapron)

MCapron-1

Comments submitted on the Draft PEIR are used for the purposes of the project's CEQA compliance. These comments are not distributed to other agencies, individuals, or organizations prior to distribution of the Final PEIR.

Consistent with the process for preparation of Environmental Impact Reports, another or second Draft PEIR is not being prepared for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. Rather, comments received on the Draft PEIR are responded to in the Final PEIR.

MCapron-2

The Preferred Alternative is described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR. Although it does not include algae farming, such farming could be considered during future project-level analysis if it is related to restoration actions at the Salton Sea. Algae production at the Salton Sea could also be considered as a separate project by other individuals, corporations, or agencies.

MCapron-1

MCapron-2

Further, federal funding should be much easier to obtain for Salton Sea alternatives demonstrating national solutions to foreign oil, global climate change, and habitat preservation in addition to local air quality and property values. Biofuel should grow symbiotically with its political environment.

Each acre of algae farm will produce about 10,000 gallons of biodiesel and a similar volume of food annually. Initial capital costs are on the order of \$40,000 per acre. A \$1 billion grant may convert 25,000 acres. Operation and maintenance expenses are on the order of \$5,000 per acre annually. 25,000 acres would produce a surplus on order of \$125 million annually for use in maintaining other alternative components.

Algae farms can be in open ponds, or in plastic covered ditches, or in clear tubes. Yields range from 5,000 gallons per acre for the open ponds up to 15,000 gallons per acre with climate control and higher CO₂ concentration clear tubes.

The most radical application of algae farming to the Salton Sea alternatives would replace some existing farming with a combination greenhouse and solar still as a means to remove nutrients and salt. For example: replacing 25,000 acres of current agriculture with solar still algae farming would eliminate evapotranspiration losses from that 25,000 acres. The 25,000 acres would output freshwater, a low nutrient brine, biodiesel, and food. Less water use for agriculture would leave more water for the Salton Sea and for resolving disputes with Mexico.

Other ways of apply algae farming within the existing alternatives include:

- Converting otherwise exposed playa to open, wind screened, or plastic covered algae-biodiesel-food farms.
- Incorporating solar stills into the exposed playa cover and using the stills for salinity control.
- Design the Pupfish connecting waterways to double for algae circulation and harvesting.
- Include a fleet of mobile barges to farm algae in the saline and marine habitats.
- Use floating clear pipe or covers as Pupfish connectors, algae farms, and solar stills.
- Use floating clear pipe or clear inflated floating covers to produce artificially "deep" water, algae farm, nutrient removal, and solar still.

**MCapron-2
cont.**

The Draft Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (and California's agencies in general) lack a global perspective. Global doesn't refer only to geography. Global refers to disciplines of science, responsibilities, issues, and technologies. The combination of water and energy issues via algae is one example of the opportunities for win-win alternatives. And this particular synergy is not limited to the Salton Sea. California has several other areas with very similar issues – Westlands Water District, Owens Lake, and Mono Lake.

Feel free to e-mail or call, if you need some assistance.

Sincerely,
Mark Capron, Professional Civil Engineer
3129 Lassen Street
Oxnard, California 93033
Day: 805-658-4606

**MCapron-2
cont.**

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I have visited the Salton Sea and found that is an incredible area full of life and diversity. It is one of the most diverse and beautiful areas for bird and animal watching. It is a jewel and resource not only to Californians but the millions of birds and animals that use the area for survival.

Please do everything possible to save and maintain this sanctuary for thousands of visitors and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Montgomery Clark
136 19th Ave
Kirkland, WA 98033-4929

MClark-1

Montgomery Clark (MClark)

MClark-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [Matt Cope](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments:](#)
CC: golson@audubon.org; [Ambrose Smith; L.A. Times:](#)
Subject: the great resource, 235 ft below sea level
Date: Friday, January 12, 2007 1:34:28 PM
Attachments:

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke

I have been a property owner in the Salton sea area for 15 years. This is a great resource for California. I have watched many plans including when Sonny Bono died (a great supporter) Newt Gringie & many other politicals viewed the area with \$250 million dollar pledge to help the sea. Nothing done. Also, I have watched & read about numerous study groups. Nothing has been done except the study groups got paid ...with no results.

This is for many reasons an important resource to save: Birds ,fish, beauty, important real estate as California grows south. The issue of dust is a clear reason that if the sea is not maintained it will be a health danger for the whole area & a lost for thousands of people who would use the area for housing . Including Palm Springs with hundreds of millions of dollars of real estate. This area at one time got more visitors than Yosemite (one million a year). The fact that it is 235 ft. below sea level makes this fixable. Much like Mullholland did in 1913 bring water from Kern County. I'm not an engineer but one of two methods

1. Drilling thru the Santa Rosa mountains bring sea water in...its down hill & could easily run from in & a pumping station could return thru the same tunnel send back the salton sea water. This is certainly doable ...it would be expensive yes. But with the return in tax revenue from the housing that would be built it would pay for it. It would solve all the issues.
2. The Sea of Cortez to the south in Mexico is the other resource that could feed the salton Sea in high tide. The American river which starts in Mexico already sends water & many toxic liquids in the sea . This would correct that problem at the same time. This would give Mexico a great opportunity to provide thousands of jobs for many on both sides of the border. The dollar amount to save this is huge, of course. But the return & the saving of this amazing area is a must. Unfortunately , because the area is so under populated today no one cares. Your job & many other political stewards are responsible to see this.

Matt Cope (MCope)

MCope-1

Alternatives that maintain the whole Salton Sea, including the importation of water from the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean were described in Chapter 2 of the Draft PEIR. As discussed in Chapter 2, these alternatives were considered but were not carried forward as alternatives in the Draft. The importation of water from the Gulf of California was not carried forward because the alternative does not meet the CEQA requirement for feasibility as the State would not legally be able to control or have access to the portion of the project that would be located in the Republic of Mexico. The importation of water from the Pacific Ocean was not carried forward because the alternative has the potential to have substantial biological and water quality impacts in the Pacific Ocean and thus, did not appear to be feasible to obtain the necessary permits and approvals

MCope-1

MCope (cont.)

**MCope-1
cont.**

So who's going to be first to step up & save the day??? Its up to those in charge to be brave look at this for its value. See the future & preserve it. It is your / are responsibility to preserve this for our children and future generations. A great opportunity to do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Matt Cope
818 888 5586

From: [Fel Crandall](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC:
Subject: Salton Sea
Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2006 10:56:12 AM
Attachments:

[November 29, 2006](#)

Dale K. Hoffman-Floerke
Salton Sea PEIR Comments
Colorado River and Salton Sea Office
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email: SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

I write regarding the air quality impacts discussed in the Resources Agency's Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (DEIR). As you know, air quality is already very poor in the communities around the Salton Sea. Far too many children in the area suffer from asthma, at a much higher rate than anywhere else in California.

The tremendous amount of dust that will blow off of the exposed lakebed of the shrinking Salton Sea poses a real threat to public health, a threat that California must make every effort to contain. Protecting public health should be the highest priority of the project, and the most important criterion for choosing any restoration plan. Minimizing dust emissions must rely on proven methods – we can not afford the risk that some new method will fail, allowing hundreds of additional tons of dust to blow through local communities. Minimizing the amount of construction traffic should also be a

Maria F Crandall (MFCrandall)

MFCrandall-1

The protection of public health would be an important component of any restoration alternative for the Salton Sea. As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project. These measures include the allocation of 0.5 acre-foot per acre of water to manage emissive areas of the Exposed Playa. The Preferred Alternative also includes actions and mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts that could result from construction and operations and maintenance activities.

MFCrandall-2

While the Preferred Alternative utilizes proven methods to minimize dust emissions, the Preferred Alternative also recognizes that there may be changes in technology in the future and/or innovate technologies that could be used to minimize dust emissions. It would be appropriate for the implementing agency to thoroughly test any new technology at the Salton Sea prior to use of the technology on a large scale.

MFCrandall-1

MFCrandall-2

key consideration, since more truck traffic means more diesel emissions.

The DEIR makes several poor assumptions. It assumes that no dust blows or will blow from the northern part of the Salton Sea, despite data in the DEIR itself (and direct observations) which show that this assumption is wrong. It also assumes that the location of water and structures in the various plans has no impact on blowing dust, making it difficult to determine which plan would have the best chance of reducing or eliminating blowing dust. Clearly, plans that would break up the exposed land with lakes or large structures or shallow bodies of water would block the wind or intercept blowing dust, and would better protect public health.

None of the plans in the DEIR really satisfy the need to protect the public from both more blowing dust and greatly increased diesel emissions. But a hybrid approach, combining the relatively low construction impacts of Alternative #4 with the greater land cover and dust protection offered by the habitat complexes of Alts. #1 & 4, makes much more sense. Adding a large, 10,000 acre lake at the north end of the Sea would provide protection from blowing dust for the Coachella Valley, and could provide a reservoir for additional dust management in the northern half of the Sea.

This hybrid approach makes the most sense from a public health perspective, and should be the state's preferred approach. After all, what could be more important than the public health perspective? We are all part of public health and without our own good health little else matters.

Thank you for considering my comments. I look forward to a Salton Sea restoration plan that protects public health by minimizing dust and diesel emissions.

Sincerely,

[Maria F. Crandall](#)

**MFCrandall-2
cont.
MFCrandall-3**

MFCrandall-4

MFCrandall (cont.)

MFCrandall-3

The Draft PEIR indicates that, based on available data, windspeeds in the vicinity of the northern end of the Salton Sea seldom exceed threshold windspeeds, resulting in no predicted emissions in the model used to evaluate alternatives. However, the evaluation tool was designed to provide a relative comparison of air quality among alternatives, and not to produce an exact absolute level of emissions. This level of analysis is considered appropriate for evaluation of alternatives at the programmatic level.

More detailed meteorological data being collected. Greater detail regarding the layout and exact form of structures and surfaces in specific projects would be available for future emissions source mapping and windfield analyses. It is anticipated that project-level analysis could employ these more precise tools. These tools may indicate that local windspeeds periodically exceed threshold windspeeds for surfaces in the northern Salton Sea, and produce more exact absolute dust emission results.

Should this be the case, appropriate monitoring and mitigation is foreseen in the Draft PEIR. Where dust emissions are predicted or observed by the extensive proposed monitoring network, short-term and long-term dust control is planned for deployment. See Appendix H-3 of the Draft PEIR for discussions of emissions monitoring and development and deployment of dust control onto the playa surface.

MFCrandall-4

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Marjorie Crandall (MCrandall)

From: DrCrandall@aol.com
To: [SaltonSeaComments:](#)
CC: [Kie, Marti; deborah@theabf.org:](#)
Subject: Comments on Salton Sea Habitat Restoration
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 9:27:24 AM
Attachments:

Department of Water Resources
Colorado River and Salton Sea Office
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento CA 94236-0001

The purpose of this letter is to express my opinion about the various proposals for the restoration of the Salton Sea. At this time, I favor Alternatives 1, 2, 3 or 4 as described in your Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

I am a Ph.D. microbiologist and have been interested in this environmental problem for many years. My opinion is based solely on a scientific point of view. I have no conflicts of interest such as real estate ownership near the Salton Sea (SS) or wanting to obtain engineering contracts for the restoration project.

From the first time I saw the SS from above while flying in a commercial airplane, I have been interested in the geological forces that formed it and the wildlife resources it supports. When I started attending events and volunteering at the Imperial Valley College Desert Museum, in Ocotillo and Imperial, California, I learned about the fresh water Lake Cahuilla that had formed in the Salton Trough where the hypersaline SS now sits. Lake Cahuilla provided sustenance for Native American Indians who have lived for centuries around its shores, as evidenced by the many fish traps and other archaeological sites around the ancient shorelines.

I have been following the Salton Sea restoration proposals closely for years, and my letter to the editor "Billion for Salton Sea proposal would better fund other solutions; Four treatments proposed for 'sick' sea" was published in the Viewpoint section of the *Borrego Sun* on May 20, 2004. Since then, I have learned a lot more about the SS and my opinion about how to proceed with restoration is now somewhat changed.

My information about the SS restoration projects has come from the following sources. I have attended three habitat restoration meetings held by the California

Department of Water Resources; read Michael Cohen's 60-page report "Hazard" which was excellent; read "Salt Dreams" which is now dated. I was looking forward to hearing presentations by both of these authors in November, 2006, at the Salton Sea Symposium that was organized by Deborah Knapp, Education Coordinator, Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute, deborah@theabf.org. Unfortunately, not enough people signed up and the symposium was canceled. I went out to the SS anyway since I already had hotel reservations and had signed up for some tours.

One of the SS tours that I took was led by Paul Remeika, a geologist and retired ranger from the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. He is, in my opinion, the leading expert on the geology of this area. During this tour "Fossil Watermarks of Lakes Long Gone," he described the earthquake faults, stratigraphy and climate changes in the area. I suggest that you contact Paul Remeika; he can provide more insight into how geological forces may impact any restoration project at the SS. You can contact Paul Remeika through Deborah Knapp at the ABFI: deborah@theabf.org, 760-767-4063.

Recently, I have been working my way through the Executive Summary of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and I just noticed that the deadline for written comments is January 16. While I have not had time to read the complete PEIR on the CD, I thought I should at least submit something to you now before the deadline. Later on, I will submit more of my ideas.

My conclusions about the draft PEIR:

1. One of the most important issues to consider for any construction project is the geology of the region. I have not heard much discussion about geology during the meetings of the Salton Sea Habitat Working Group that I have attended. Maybe that topic is the purview of another committee. Yet the southeastern region of California is one of the most seismically active areas in the U.S. In fact, the Salton Trough, in which the SS sits, is still subsiding as a result of geological activity. For this reason, I am against constructing a dam or dike across the middle of the SS dividing it into North and/or South seas and/or brine sinks. Not only would a dam mar the natural scenery, it would create a catastrophic flood if it broke during an earthquake and the money spent on constructing the dam would be wasted.

2. The second most important issue is to preserve what little "fresh" or "sweet" water is available to support wildlife. While water coming into the SS from agricultural runoff and the various tributaries is somewhat saline and/or contaminated with chemicals and sewage, it is all we have for rescuing wildlife.

MCrandall (cont.)

MCrandall-1

The geology of the region was address in Chapter 9 and Appendix H-4 of the Draft PEIR. The Draft PEIR recognizes and discusses the regional soils, geology, and seismicity, and includes a discussion of design criteria and considerations for the various project facilities. Appendix H-4 includes detailed information on design criteria and considerations for the proposed rock-filled Barrier.

As described in the Draft PEIR, all facilities should be designed and constructed to comply with applicable laws and engineering design standards to minimize the risk of failure. Additionally, the risk of failure of different facilities due to seismic events could be addressed in more detail during project-level analysis.

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea. Any water not needed for these three areas would be delivered to the Brine Sink. The Air Quality Management area has the highest priority because emissions may pose a human health risk and exceedance of specific emissions levels are prohibited by federal and state regulations.

MCrandall-1

Hence, incoming fresh water should not be allowed to flow into the main body of the hypersaline SS. Instead, incoming water should be captured and sequestered in areas that will allow fish survival and, hence, support birds. If any construction is done, it should be to build low berms to trap incoming water and create wetlands, saline habitat complex, and/or concentric lakes or rings. Then the worst that could happen from an earthquake is that berms would be damaged and some fresh water would be lost by flowing down into the brine sink.

In general, I am against development of wilderness areas. I think they should be left alone as they occur in nature. However, since the SS exists today as the result of human activity, it does seem reasonable to make some effort to preserve wildlife that has become dependent on the SS and to support human populations that have grown up in the surrounding area. How to accomplish that goal is the question. It will take a lot more discussion to reach a compromise solution based on scientific input. Issues surrounding the restoration of the SS are fascinating as well as important.

Best wishes,

Marjorie Crandall, Ph.D.

Founder and Owner
Yeast Consulting Services
23930 Los Codona Ave Unit 115
PO Box 11157
Torrance CA 90510-1157
310-375-1073
Call to fax
www.yeastconsulting.com

**MCrandall-1
cont.**

MCrandall-2

MCrandall (cont.)

MCrandall-2

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

A shrinking Salton Sea will not only harm the health of communities in the surrounding Valleys by affecting air and water quality, but it will also harm an important migratory bird stopover.

400 bird species depend on the Salton Sea and will have no other place to go, leading to catastrophic losses for migratory bird populations.

Please incorporate features into a final preferred alternative for the restoration of the Salton Sea.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Pierre Catala
1603 Todd Trl
College Station, TX 77845-5310

PC-1

Pierre Catala (PC)

PC-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [Rob](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments:](#)
CC:
Subject: Salton Sea Restoration Comment Form
Date: Wednesday, January 03, 2007 11:12:29 PM
Attachments:

Hi, my name is Robert Chandler and I attended your Public Forum for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program that you held on December 6, 2006 in San Diego, CA.

I believe that the ideal plan for saving the Salton Sea must include involvement from, and benefits to, both the State and the Salton Sea's surrounding Communities. That said the ideal plan must be equally beneficial to both local "environmental" and "economic" interests. This will, not only, help guarantee the initial successful implementation of a plan but will also help guarantee the continuous future maintenance of said plan.

For example, State support and involvement helps secure initial funds for the successful implementation of a plan but only local community and business support and involvement helps guarantee the necessary continuous financial backing and hence successful future maintenance of a plan (i.e., a future economic tax base). In short the ideal plan would help guarantee both the future environmental health and the healthy economic outlook of the Salton Sea and its surrounding communities.

For the above reasons, I believe that the ideal plan for saving the Salton Sea is the Salton Sea Authority's option since it includes both environmental and economic benefits for the Salton Sea and its surrounding communities for generations to come.

Here's to the future health and prosperity of the Salton Sea and its surrounding communities!

Thanks for your time,

Robert Chandler
(619) 690-1382
rec3@cox.net

Robert Chandler (RC)

RC-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

Although not a legislatively mandated objective, the Saline Habitat Complex is expected to allow for passive recreational opportunities, such as bird watching. Additionally, the Marine Sea would provide for water-based recreational opportunities that have historically occurred at the Salton Sea. This would include boating and fishing opportunities and allow for the on-going operation of the majority of the existing harbors at the Salton Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

RC-1

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

The Salton Sea is critical to the populations of migratory birds that stopover at it. There are so very few places left for them to go, they may just go away. And what a tedious, joyless place this world would be if they did.

Please do whatever is necessary to protect it.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aaron Dougherty
4415 Campbell St
Kansas City, MO 64110-1623

AD-1

Aaron Dougherty (AD)

AD-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 7, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I urge you to protect the Salton Sea from shrinking and destroying vital wildlife habitat plus increasing the amount of dust and salt that blows through the surrounding communities. The loss of wetlands has made the Salton Sea a major stopping point for over 400 species of birds migrating up and down the Pacific Coast. It is part of our natural legacy that we must pass on to future generations.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Barbara Daily
1400 Geary Blvd Apt 2204
San Francisco, CA 94109-9314

BDaily-1

Barbara Daily (BDaily)

BDaily-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please protect the Salton Seal I support as much environmental protection as possible on all fronts. Migratory birds are essential to water sheds, seed dispersal and native grasses. Please protect this for my children.

Sincerely,

Bill Donovan
10403 W Cherokee Dr
Salida, CO 81201-9017

BDonovan-1

Bill Donovan (BDonovan)

BDonovan-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [David Dobbins](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC: dtdobbins@earthlink.net;
Subject: SALTON SEA PROJECT
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2006 11:54:29 AM
Attachments:

Gentlemen: December 16, 2006

I have spoken with the Salton Sea Authority, Rick Daniels , and described my solution to this Salton Sea pollution problem. He listened politely and did nothing! YOU might see the common sense of my solution and do the ONLY permanent, natural way to cure this problem. This is to connect the Salton Sea with the Sea of Cortez by either canals or by pipes. Canals can carry shipping, freight, boating & tourists. Both will flush out the Salton Sea with clean sea water (without touching the limited supply of water from the Colorado River). Both will greatly improve the real estate values around the Salton Sea, and the economy of the area, as well as help the bird and fish life there. I doubt that the cost of this will be greater than what the Salton Sea Authority is proposing. They are afraid to deal with Mexico, who I believe would be very cooperative, since they also could gain from the added commerce and jobs.&nbs! p; Yes, this will obviously will require their cooperation, since the route from the Sea of Cortez to the Salton Sea covers part of Mexico; but the Pacific Ocean has all the water anyone could want!

Sincerely; David T. Dobbins (760)772-0782 Postal: 78779 Canyon Vista,
Palm Desert, CA 92211

David Dobbins
dtdobbins@earthlink.net
Why Wait? Move to EarthLink.

David Dobbins (DD)

DD-1

Alternatives that maintain the whole Salton Sea, including the importation of water from the Gulf of California were described in Chapter 2 of the Draft PEIR. As discussed in Chapter 2, these alternatives were considered but were not carried forward as alternatives in the Draft. The importation of water from the Gulf of California was not carried forward because the alternative does not meet the CEQA requirement for feasibility as the State would not legally be able to control or have access to the portion of the project that would be located in the Republic of Mexico.

DD-1

To Whom It May Concern:

It is imperative that a solution be conceived that will protect the viability of the Salton Sea. This inland body of water once was the biggest fishery in the state and was utilized numerous times by myself and my family for fishing and recreational purposes. The lack of timely action on behalf of the state and the typical foot dragging have now reduced the fishery in the Salton Sea to Tilapia, a rather small African member of the perch family which is very adaptable to environments unfit for other species. Unfortunately, the mainstay of the fishery, the orange mouth corvina, is all but extinct. Too bad, as I have caught them up to 20 lbs. and know of others caught which weighed nearly 50 lbs. Gone also are the sargo, croaker and mullet.

Meanwhile, our misguided state has spent literally millions of tax payer's dollars on an absolutely worthless body of water called MONO LAKE. Why? To keep a few coyotes from eating seagull eggs. There are no fish in Mono Lake and unless you like Billions upon Billions of Brine Flies, not much reason for you to go there.

In the 70' and early 80's the Salton Sea had more visitors per year than Yosemite!

Our dear Governor Brown had an opportunity to stabilize the sea back in the 60's but would not authorize the \$250,000 necessary for the study to utilize the slag byproduct from the Kaiser Steel mills in Fontana to create a dike system and utilize the counterclockwise current in the sea to isolate the high salinity water and evaporate these waters to reduce the salt content. It was so simple too. Iron ore from Eagle Mine came to the rail head on the east side of the sea and was shipped north to Fontana, then the train cars came back empty for another load. It was proposed to fill them with the slag from the steel processing and use this material to construct the necessary dikes. Hopefully, all of those shallow thinkers are gone now and people with vision and forethought have replaced them.

With more and more folks joining the ranks of the retired who are looking for a place with marvelous weather to spend their "Golden Years", the area around the Salton Sea would be the ideal spot. The property around Palm Springs is only for the "well to do" while property values around the sea are still relatively reasonable. Obviously a great influx of residents buying property and building houses, condos and apartments, along with the associated businesses that would come to the area would more than provide a tax base capable of supporting such a necessary venture as saving the Salton Sea.

Please consider these thoughts as you ponder the fate of the Salton Sea. Some people refer to the sea as a mistake of man, not realizing that the area was once the location of a much, much larger body of salt water cut off from the Sea of Cortez by the delta deposition of the Colorado River. That huge sea eventually dried up but in 1905 a "mistake" of man, more like an accident, allowed the area to once again fulfill its destiny. People with forethought planted fish which thrived and he area blossomed into one of the worlds wonders embellished by man. Now it's your turn to see that this "wonder" is preserved for everyone forever.

Respectfully submitted,

Harvey L. Dufrenne
20513 Summertown St.
Walnut, California 91789

HD-1

HD-2

Harvey Dufrenne (HD)

HD-1

The Salton Sea Restoration Act (Fish and Game Code 2931(c)(1-3)) states that "the preferred alternative shall provide the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives: (1) Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea. (2) Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration projects. (3) Protection of water quality."

HD-2

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please take steps to preserve the Salton Sea. Migratory birds are so dependent on the few water ways they have left and cannot adapt quickly enough to changes in their waterways to prevent extinction. With all the damage to the environment, it is emensely sad for the earth to be losing so many species so rapidly. The future of our children will be devoid of variety and beauty in nature.

Sincerely,

Irene Dombeck
7 Hollyvale Dr
Rochester, NY 14618-2807

ID-1

Irene Dombeck (ID)

ID-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [surfer-joe](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#)
CC:
Subject: RE: saltonseacomments@water.ca.gov
Date: Tuesday, January 02, 2007 3:27:21 PM
Attachments:

The Salton Sea is a human accident, and despite calls to save it for migrating birds and such, there is simply no real good reason to spend a dime trying to keep it around. The birds will go elsewhere, they are not that stupid, and the Pupfish can be introduced elsewhere where it might live quite happily. As for supposed dust storms, well, they happen other places in our deserts and people either put up with them, or like the birds, move on somewhere else.

However, if the blooming thing simply has to be saved, then build a pipeline to import salt water from the Pacific. That won't hurt whatever is living in the Salton now, and it won't waste fresh water that really isn't available from anywhere. A large solar array could power the pumps for the pipeline.

As the Times suggests, a local bond issue could get all this built soon, and when one thinks about it, using saltwater will help lower sea levels, however imperceptibly. A win-win situation.

Joe Doremire
17403 East Tejon Drive
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Tel: 480 393 3108

Joe Doremire (JD)

JD-1

Alternatives that maintain the whole Salton Sea, including the importation of water from the Pacific Ocean were described in Chapter 2 of the Draft PEIR. As discussed in Chapter 2, these alternatives were considered but were not carried forward as alternatives in the Draft. The importation of water from the Pacific Ocean was not carried forward because the alternative has the potential to have substantial biological and water quality impacts in the Pacific Ocean and thus, did not appear to be feasible to obtain the necessary permits and approvals.

JD-1

From: [Lani Doely](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments:](#)
CC:
Subject: Please save the Salton Sea
Date: Tuesday, January 09, 2007 8:43:31 AM
Attachments:

LDoely-1

Lani Doely (LDoely)

LDoely-1

The concerns identified by the commenter, including water use, long-term water supply considerations, and population growth, are outside of the scope of the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

Jan 9, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Stop diverting water that is vital habitat. There are too many people. What happened to "0" population growth, especially with the catholics? IF you're in an area that doesn't have water stop the building and use a desalt plant and get the water out of the ocean.

Sincerely,

Lani Doely
PO Box 9064
Seattle, WA 98109-0064

From: Leonard Dueker [lduekerdci@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2006 3:58 PM
To: dalehf@water.ca.gov
Cc: saltonseacomment@water.ca.gov
Subject: Control TDS and Other Elements
Attachments: hpsc145.jpg; hpsc1451.jpg; hpsc1452.jpg; hpsc1453.jpg; hpsc1454.jpg; hpsc1455.jpg; hpsc1456.jpg

Dale

As an introduction, I am Leonard Dueker, formerly General manager of the Water Resources Department of the City of Scottsdale. I developed the concept of installing RO Units to remove the salts from the WWTP effluent for recharge into the potable water aquifers and the later recovery and use as potable water.

The golf courses in the Phoenix Valley have been using WWTP effluent for golf course irrigation. As the years have gone by more and more water softeners have been added increasing the TDS, Na & Cl until it is now impacting the ability to grow turf.

Several years ago I developed the concept of using cascading membranes to concentrate the salts removed to a very high level.

We constructed a 2 gpm pilot using 3 RO membranes in series and this proved the concept.

Yesterday I received the Winter - 2006 - 2007 issue of the COLORADO RIVER PROJECT *River REPORT and the Article "CONTROLLING THE SALT: Crafting a Restoration Plan for the Salton Sea"*.

Reading it today the thought that entered my mind is that our process may be of use in implementation of the Water Quality Portion of the Plan.

Up to now we have been doing calculations using water with TDS levels of 1,000 to 2,600 ppm. I read about 4,500,000 tons of salt entering the Sea each year and that the TDS in the SEA was about 48,000 ppm. I wondered what we could do with this number of tons per year at 48,000 ppm TDS.

I did calculations using a 250,000 gpd unit which would remove 49 tons of salt per year and produce 214,000 gpd of product water at 1,700 ppm TDS.

The opinion of probable capital & operating costs for a 250,000 gpd unit was \$1,125,000 and \$70,000 per year respectively.

We can develop scenarios for different TDS and flow levels.

RO units can remove many constituents as the TDS is reduced. I have attached two tables that show the removal rates for different constituents. Two mentioned in the article were Phosphorus and Selenium, both removed with RO.

At the higher levels of TDS fed to the units, the lower the final reject/brine percent of removal. In the lower ranges we experience about 2% water lost. At the 48,000 ppm level we are looking at about a 15% loss of water.

Our process may be of use in controlling the constituent levels in particular ponds. Different ponds could be controlled to different TDS and constituent levels. By using blending, smaller C-MEM's units can be used.

As you move forward please feel free to contact us to let us show what we can do.

THANKS

Leonard Dueker, PE, President
DCI, INC.
815 S ROCHESTER
MESA, AZ 85206
Phone - 480-218-5405
FAX - 480-699-1978

Leonard Duecker (LDuecker)

LDuecker-1

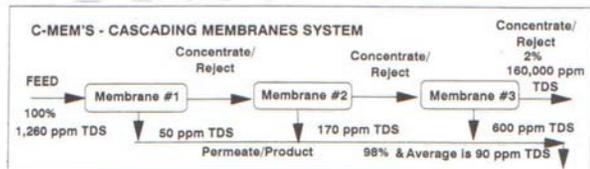
A variety of options, including desalination using reverse osmosis, to remove salts from Salton Sea inflows sources (such as the New, Alamo, and Whitewater rivers and the Imperial and Coachella valley drains) were considered in the State's Draft PEIR (see Chapter 2 of the Draft PEIR). These methods have also been considered in prior Salton Sea studies (see Chapter 4 of the Draft PEIR). However, due to the large amount of water that would need to be treated, large scale salt removal was not considered in detail in the Draft PEIR. However, future project-level analyses could further consider salt removal options and possible treatment of water using reverse osmosis on a smaller scale.

LDuecker-1

SOUTHWEST SALT SOLUTION'S
C-MEM'S SYSTEM

C-MEM'S - CASCADING MEMBRANES SYSTEM - a propriety system

The concentration of minerals and other pollutants removed from a water source to a very high level of concentration by passing the liquid through several membranes in a cascading sequence.



Each membrane increases the mineral and pollutant content of the discharge (reject/concentrate) water leaving each membrane into a smaller volume of water (concentration) when it is fed into the next membrane and subsequent membrane(s).

The permeate (product) of each membrane has a reduced quantity of minerals and pollutants.

The permeates are combined and are ready to use as the finished product.

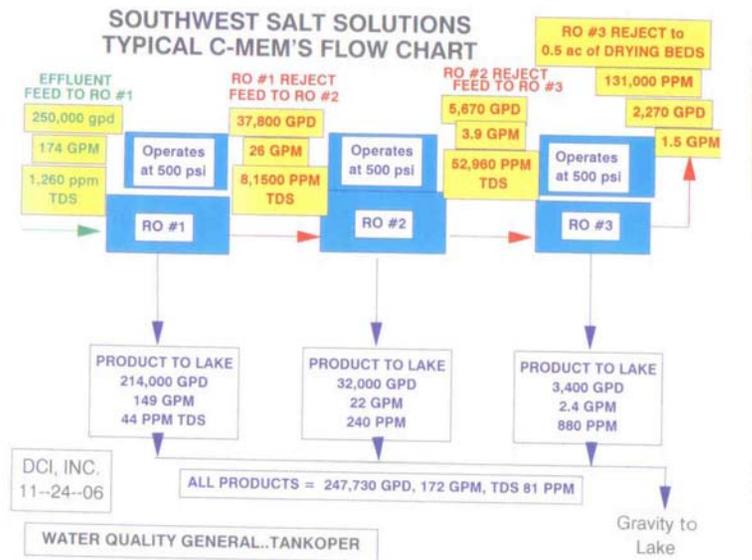
The concentrate can be removed from the site for disposal by tank truck or further concentrated to salt crystals by the use of evaporation beds or other crystallizing equipment.

**SOUTHWEST SALT SOLUTION'S
C-MEM'S SYSTEM**

A single pass Reverse Osmosis (RO) unit produces a concentrate of approximately 15% of the quantity of water fed to the unit. Some units produces 20% to 25% of concentrate. **All of this concentrate is "lost"**, and not available for use.

Southwest Salt Solutions Concept (C-MEM'S) produces a concentrate of approximately 2% of the quantity of water fed to the unit.
THE WATER SAVED IS 98% OF THE QUANTITY FED.

LDuecker (cont.)



SOUTHWEST SALT SOLUTIONS
OPINION OF PROBABLE CAPITAL AND OPERATING COSTS
SALTON SEA

CAPITAL--FOR A 250,000 GPD UNIT - 280 ACRE FEET PER YEAR

CAPITAL--	\$1,000,000
LICENSE FEE FOR C-MEM'S	\$125,000
TOTAL	\$1,125,000

CAPITAL COST PER GALLON PROCESSED PER YEAR	\$0.0123
CAPITAL COST PER GALLON/DAY	\$4.50

FINAL REJECT/BRINE - FEED RATE OF 250,000 gpd AND TDS FEED AT 48,000 PPM TO C-MEM'S UNIT	
POUNDS PER DAY OF SALTS	98,000
TONS PER DAY OF SALTS	49
TONS PER YEAR OF SALTS	17,885
# OF 25 TON TRUCK LOADS/YEAR	715

FINAL PRODUCT - FEED RATE OF 250,000 gpd AND TDS FEED AT 48,000 PPM TO C-MEM'S UNIT	
214,000 GPD AT TDS OF 1,700 ppm	
240 ACRE FEET PER YEAR AT TDS OF 1,700 ppm	

OPINION OF PROBABLE OPERATING COSTS PER YEAR

\$70,000
\$0.77 PER KGAL

INCLUDES

- Electroly
- Replace RO membranes every 4 years,
- VSEP Labor & Travel to replace membranes
- Cleaning Costs
- Dispose of spent cleaning material in Reject/ Brine (Acidic, Alkaline, & Caustic Cleaning Materials)
- Crystallization of Salts

SOUTHWEST SALT SOLUTIONS
OPINION OF PROBABLE CAPITAL AND OPERATING COSTS
SALTON SEA

4.5 million tons of salt are dissolved in 1.3 million
acre feet of inflow that enters the sea each year

Tons of Salt per year	4,500,000
# OF 25 TON TRUCK LOADS/YEAR	180,000
# OF 25 TON TRUCK LOADS/DAY	493

MAYBE SELL SALT

Tons of salt removed a year by ONE 250,000 gpd C-MEM'S Unit	17,885
--	--------

Number of C-MEM'S units required to remove the 4,500,000 tons per year added to the SEA	252
---	-----

One time Capital Cost for 252 C-MEM's Un	\$283,058,429
--	---------------

Operating Cost for 252 C-MEM'S Units per year	\$17,640,000
--	--------------

ACRE FEET OF WATER PROCESSED THROUGH 252 C-MEM'S PER YEAR	70,560
--	--------

ACRE FEET OF PRODUCT WATER FROM 252 C-MEM'S PER YEAR	60,480
---	--------

CONTAINING 1,700 PPM TDS ACRE FEET OF SLURRY PRODUCED AND CRYSTALIZED PER YEAR	10,080
--	--------

Typical Rejection Characteristics of Thin Film Composite (TFC) Reverse Osmosis Membranes.

from
Pure Water Products, LLC

Box 2783, Denton, TX 76202 | pwp@pwgazette.com | (940) 382-3814

Below are the typical rejection (removal) percentages of a standard thin film (TFC) reverse osmosis membrane. These are averages based on experience and are generally accepted within the industry. They are not a guarantee of performance. Actual rejection can vary according to the chemistry of the water, temperature, pressure, pH and other factors.

Estimated Reverse Osmosis Rejection Percentages			
The reverse osmosis process uses a semi-permeable membrane to reject a wide variety of impurities. Here is a partial list.			
Aluminum	97-98%	Nickel	97-99%
Ammonium	85-95%	Nitrate	93-96%
Arsenic	94-96%	Phosphate	99+% ←
Bacteria	99+%	Polyphosphate	98-99%
Bicarbonate	95-96%	Potassium	92%
Boron	50-70%	Pyrogen	99+%
Bromide	93-96%	Radioactivity	95-98%
Cadmium	96-98%	Radium	97%
Calcium	96-98%	Selenium	97% ←
Chloride	94-95%	Silica	85-90%
Chromate	90-98%	Silicate	95-97%
Chromium	96-98%	Silver	95-97%
Copper	97-99%	Sodium	92-98%
Cyanide	90-95%	Sulphate	99+%
Ferrocyanide	98-99%	Sulphite	96-98%
Fluoride	94-96%	Zinc	98-99%
Iron	98-99%		
Lead	96-98%	Insecticides	97%
Magnesium	96-98%	Detergents	97%
Manganese	96-98%	Herbicides	97%
Mercury	96-98%	Virus	99+%
TDS (Total Dissolved Solids)	95-99%	Hardness	93-97%

[Back to Top](#)



What does a typical R.O. take out of water?

CHEMICALS	REDUCES BY	OTHER CONTAMINANTS	REDUCES BY
THMs (chloroform)	95%	barium	97%
benzene	83%	bicarbonate	94%
carbon tetrachloride	87%	cadmium	97%
p-dichlorobenzene	93%	calcium	97%
TCE (trichloroethylene)	98%	chromate	92%
1, 1-dichloroethylene	86%	copper	97%
1, 1, 1-trichloroethane	93%	detergents	97%
1, 2-dichloropropane	95%	fluoride	90%
cis-1,3-dichloropropene	95%	lead	97%
chlorobenzene	95%	magnesium	97%
ethylbenzene	95%	nickel	97%
hexachlorobutadiene	95%	nitrate	80%
ortho-xylene	95%	total dissolved solids	95%

Water FAQ

Page 4 of 4

PCE (tetrachloroethylene)	95%	potassium	92%
toluene	95%	radium	97%
trans-1, 2-dichloroethene	95%	selenium	97%
1, 1, 2, 2-tetrachloroethane	95%	silicate	96%
1, 2-dichlorobenzene	95%	silver	85%
1, 2-dichloropropane	95%	sodium	92%
1, 1-dichloroethane	95%	strontium	97%
chlorine	99%	sulfate	97%
EDB	99%	PCB's	97%
DBCP	99%	insecticides	97%
Atrazine	97%	herbicides	97%

[Back to Top](#)

Contact your Culligan Man



Tap into the resources of your Jackson Culligan Man. Our water professionals will be happy to help you find the right product, at the right price. [▶ more...](#)

Jan 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I SHOULD NOT NEED TO REITERATE THE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF OUR WILDLIFE
AT THE SALTON SEA. THEY SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY HERE AND YOU DO KNOW
WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.....IT IS TIME TO TAKE ACTION AND DO IT.

Sincerely,

Martha Diaz
640 Camino Real ENCANTO
Redondo Beach, CA 90277-3801

MDiaz-1

Martha Diaz (MDiaz)

MDiaz-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife and the Salton Sea -- one of North America's largest stopovers for migratory birds -- I am writing to offer my comments of the California Department of Water Resources Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

It will help our planet and its atmosphere to begin treating everything as one; do not deplete or destroy anything which is natural; and for this reason, I'm asking you to please consider doing anything necessary to protect the Salton Sea.

Sincerely,

Mary Donaghy
148 W 67th St Apt 15
New York, NY 10023-5975

MDonaghy-1

Mary Donaghy (MDonaghy)

MDonaghy-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

JAN 05 2007

November 15, 2006
Dear Mrs. Hoggan - Shurbe
Re: Resources Agency's Draft Proj.
Environmental Impact Report -
Salton Sea
While I agree that the State of Calif.
must take action - the current
proposals are not acceptable.
I suggest the state examine
the "evolved alternative" plan.
As ~~not~~ outlined in letters from
The Salton Sea Coalition, Ambition
Cobby and other environmental
groups -
Thank you
Pamela Day

PD-1

Pamela Day (PD)

PD-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [Rossi Dudrick](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments:](#)
CC:
Subject: Salton Sea Restoration
Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2006 5:37:07 PM
Attachments:

It's very important that we work to maintain the imperiled Salton Sea. Our environment and our wildlife cannot sustain these continuous assaults and irresponsible management of these natural treasures.

We need to adopt a healthier way of living and respect our surroundings and the creatures that inhabit it. To not do so is simply mindless and will bring about our own peril. It is unthinkable to know that future generation will be deprived of appreciating and having a relationship with their natural world. We must stop robbing future generations of their birthright. To do so would be very Bush-like and we must end Bush Blight now. There is no time to waste.

Thank you,

A Noisy Constituent,

Roseann Dudrick
211 Shoreview Dr.
San Ramon, Ca 94583

Rossi Dudrick (RD)

RD-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

RD-1

Jan 6, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please save the Salton Seal

With over 90 percent of the wetlands in California gone, the 400 bird species that depend on the Salton Sea will have no other place to go, leading to catastrophic losses for migratory bird populations.

I don't know what to say that hasn't already been said better than I can say. I just want to tell you that saving our wildlife by saving its habitat is very important. Please protect our precious wildlife from extinction.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Donaldson
33 Maltby Ln
Wallingford, CT 06492-5510

SD-1

Stephanie Donaldson (SD)

SD-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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Therese Davis (TDavis)

TDavis-1

Jan 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Remember, if the Creator put it there, it is in the right place.
-Minquass, 1876

Sincerely,

Therese Davis
30W260 Bedford Ln
Warrenville, IL 60555-1102

TDavis-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

Tara Downer (TDowner)

From: [Tara Downer](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#)
CC:
Subject: PEIR
Date: Friday, January 05, 2007 11:01:41 AM
Attachments:

TDowner-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

Jan 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I realize that you might find it very odd that someone from the highly polluted state of Texas would be writing on this matter. However, it is because of Texas' horrors that I am calling you to recall "that those who do not remember the past are doomed to repeat it". Your state is known as an environmentalist's haven, so I don't understand why you would do something to the Salton Sea to destroy the lives of so many animals. Surely you know that by sealing the fate of wildlife, you are also sealing the fate of humans. I beg of you for the sake of my children and grandchildren and yours that you protect other forms of life that are now dependant on us.

TDowner-1

Sincerely,

Tara Downer
1012 Bluebird Dr
Manchaca, TX 78652-4156

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As someone who lives out West, I understand the importance of water. However, one of the main reasons people live in the Western United States is the beauty of our natural resources. Destroying a treasure like the Salton Sea to allow the continued development downstream is VERY short-sighted. A better idea might be to conserve now. It might be a little more costly in the short-run, but in the long run it will be best for EVERYONE involved.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Donald Evans
3308 W 127th Ave
Broomfield, CO 80020-5800

DE-1

Donald Evans (DE)

DE-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Everyone I know cares about the wildlife and natural world around us in California. It should be a no-brainer that we would come up with a solid plan to save the Salton Sea, so much has already been taken away from us by mindless pillaging of our world -- 90 percent of the wetlands gone from California? That's unconscionable.

Please help us with this, and do the right thing. The estuaries and wetlands of all kinds are being paved over, and we need to provide habitat for the birds that thrive along the coastal migratory trails.

Thank you for caring, and for helping us preserve what's left of the planet.
John FitzRandolph
Cambria, CA 93428

Sincerely,

John Fitzrandolph
2010 Skye St
Cambria, CA 93428-3802

JFitzrandolph-1

John Fitzrandolph (JFitzrandolph)

JFitzrandolph-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: Jesus Flores [chuypradis@cccapply.org]
Sent: Monday, January 15, 2007 8:45 PM
To: saltonseacomments@water.ca.gov
Cc: michelle.stevens@imperial.edu
Subject: Salton Sea Restoration

I have recently attended one of your Salton Sea Restoration meetings in El Centro and found out that this subject involves me and my family in many ways. I reviewed the information that was given to me at the meeting and found that some of the alternatives given were very interesting and others made very little sense to me. The alternative that I felt I would feel more comfortable with would be alternative #7. It seems like the water still covers a very large portion of the area, and although the cost might be a little higher than other alternatives, it looks like it is a lot more organized. It is separated into two lakes and also has a fresh water reservoir. A big concern for me though would be the exposed land which can still be blown by the wind and worsen the air quality here in the Imperial Valley.

Jesus Flores

JFlores-1

Jesus Flores (JFlores)

JFlores-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 6, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

The environment should not be sacrificed for the essential needs of our population. Not should the essential needs of our population be sacrificed for the environment.

Please think creatively to find solutions that both protect our precious wild places, such as the Salton Sea, and provide for the essential needs of our population, water.

I'm sure that American ingenuity can do both of these.

For example, in many parts of India, there have faced severe water shortages for years. Only recently have they rediscovered their ancient tradition of rain-water capturing and storage. This has enabled villages that used to be without water for 6 months of the year to have water year round.

In many ways, we will have to think about distributed solutions, rather than large scale solutions. We may not be able to take large amounts of water from the Salton Sea any longer, but we can save a lot of water through the rooftops of many houses collectively.

Sincerely,

Joshua Freeman
150 E Dartmouth St
Gladstone, OR 97027-2436

JFreeman

Joshua Freeman (JFreeman)

JFreeman-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [JF](#)
To: SaltonSeaComments:jf62v1@hotmail.com
CC:
Subject:
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 11:50:56 AM
Attachments:

First of I would like to commend you for the great presentation,informative and colorful brochures. I am sure they cost several thousands of dollars and many man hours to complete.

I was at the Palm Desert Public Meeting on January 10, 2007. I do not believe that you took some senior Salton Sea resident very seriously. Their the ones that live there and have probably studied the sea more then anyone and have some of the best solution. The canal to the Gulf of Mexico. Why not make it a large pipeline like the Alaskan Pipeline and with a few pumps move the water continuously. Desalination plants like Saudi Arabia has. I don't think either of these would cost exuberant amounts of money to maintain, especially if the private sector was involved

My choice of the alternatives that were presented that day would be "Alternative 7: Combined North and South Lakes". I believe that this would be the best for the revival of the sea both economically,environmently. And may eventually be self-supporting, by development to recreation in and around the sea. Not to mention the many thousands of jobs it could create.

But on the other hand I don't believe any of these alternatives will happen. No source of funding for construction and O&M are in place. The Governor wants 40 billion dollars in bonds for other priorities, schools, roads, health care,etc. And the restoration of the Salton Sea is just to low on the priority list for anyone to really care.

Over the past several decades I understand about 70 to 80 million dollars has been spend on studies concerning the Sea. And how there is another 26 million

Joe Frink (JFrink)

JFrink-1

Alternatives that maintain the whole Salton Sea, including the importation of water from the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean, including the use of desalination, were described in Chapter 2 of the Draft PEIR. As discussed in Chapter 2, these alternatives were considered but were not carried forward as alternatives in the Draft. The importation of water from the Gulf of California was not carried forward because the alternative does not meet the CEQA requirement for feasibility as the State would not legally be able to control or have access to the portion of the project that would be located in the Republic of Mexico. The importation of water from the Pacific Ocean was not carried forward because the alternative has the potential to have substantial biological and water quality impacts in the Pacific Ocean and thus, did not appear to be feasible to obtain the necessary permits and approvals.

JFrink-2

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

JFrink-1

JFrink-2

JFrink-3

JFrink (cont.)

JFrink-3

Project funding is outside of the scope of the Draft PEIR. However, as required by the project's legislative mandates, a Funding Plan has been prepared for the Preferred Alternative. This Funding Plan identifies a variety of potential sources of funding for restoration actions at the Salton Sea. The Funding Plan and potential funding sources would be more appropriately considered by the Legislature provides direction on implementing of a restoration program and identifies a future implementing agency.

JFrink (cont.)

available for some feasibility study. When do studies stop and the work begin,
NEVER.

The problems with the Sea will never be solved until private development takes over and realizes a potential for growth and profit. And that wouldn't happen until economic growth and affordable housing is generated.

Something needs to be done ASAP. Before it becomes a giant dust bowl and creates major health and environmental problems for the area.

Sincerely,
Joe Frink
606 Iris St.
Redlands, Ca. 92373

(Salton Sea Property Owner)

[Dave vs. Carl: The Insignificant Championship Series. Who will win?](#)

Jan 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Upon hearing of what could happen due to the shrinking of the Salton Sea and how it could effect hundreds of migratory birds that depend on this habitat, this could be devastating to the bird population.

The state must take action to help preserve this California Salton Sea. There is a growing disappearance of over 90% of wetlands and these birds have no place to go. Must we only remember them by way of photos in a book?

The alternative steps introduced really serve no purpose but with some revisions of more shallow wetlands and deeper habitat by way of concrete rings and use of dirt would be of better use.

Also provide a larger 10,000 acre North Lake by means and use of water ways and provide a water habitat and quality air supply in case of future shortages or malfunction of systems.

Please consider these measures and take seriously for the hundreds of various species of birds that depend on this.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kay Faulkner
5740 Gordon Ln
Fort Smith, AR 72903-2542

KFaulkner-1

Kay Faulkner (KFaulkner)

KFaulkner-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [KRISTENA FISHER](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments;](#)
CC:
Subject:
Date: Wednesday, October 25, 2006 10:11:24 PM
Attachments:

I was reading the report and didnt see any mention of waterfowl, or increased habitat for waterfowl.

Also, some consideration should be given to increasing the hunting areas of Wister and the other hunting units as well as putting a hunting refuge at the north end of the sea. The hunters would help pay for the enhanced waterfowl and other bird habitat.

KFisher-1

KFisher-2

Kristena Fisher (KFisher)

KFisher-1

Waterfowl were discussed in Chapter 8 of the Draft PEIR. Waterfowl species can utilize fresh or salt water habitat or both, depending on the species. As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, much of the aquatic habitat that would be created or restored under the Preferred Alternative would range in salinity from 20,000 to 200,000 mg/L, and thus would support waterfowl species such as ruddy duck, northern pintail, scaup, and northern shoveler.

The freshwater habitat which is also important to waterfowl in the Salton Basin lies outside the area addressed by the Ecosystem Restoration Study and Draft PEIR. However, implementation of the Preferred Alternative is not expected to impact this area, and thus, is not expected to impact the amount or quality of this existing waterfowl habitat.

KFisher-2

The potential for increased recreational opportunities was addressed in Chapter 13 of the Draft PEIR and is addressed in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR with respect to the Preferred Alternative. As shown in Table 13-4 of the Draft PEIR, many of the components that comprise all of the alternatives (including the Preferred Alternative) could allow for additional hunting opportunities. The potential for hunting in these areas should be considered further during project-level analysis.

Jan 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife and the Salton Sea -- one of many, I feel as though it is my duty to protect the areas that not only these birds call home, but everywhere wildlife has the right to live (which is everywhere). I'm sure you've read the statistics at least a million times, but what about the philosophy of the judgement. What you say today could influence tomorrow, and as an official member and a 13 year old looking into a bright future as an environmental lawyer, I'm willing to try everything to make that future a clean, happy, safe time and place for creatures of all types.

Thank you for considering these opinions. However irrelevant these may seem to some, I hope you can see the meaning in the statement I am trying to make.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Fuller
PO Box 39
282 Brooklyn Tpke
Scotland, CT 06264-0039

KFuller-1

Kelsey Fuller (KFuller)

KFuller-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please focus on efforts and funding to save the sea. We need action. This treasure is just miles down the road from me and it would be a shame to take it away from us.

Thank you for saving the Salton Sea for our children and grandchildren!

Sincerely,

Virginia Foster
54685 Avenida Ramirez
La Quinta, CA 92253-3754

VFoster-1

Virginia Foster (VFoster)

VFoster-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Hi,
This is important:

"With over 90 percent of the wetlands in California gone, the 400 bird species that depend on the Salton Sea will have no other place to go, leading to catastrophic losses for migratory bird populations."

Think of the Salton Sea as a large, unofficial mitigation project for our past sins against wetlands. One which already exists. We don't have to pay money for a new one, it is already there. Just leave it alone and keep it full and healthy. The birds need it desperately.

Sincerely,

Brian Godfrey
1276 Via Sendero
Escondido, CA 92029-7240

BG-1

Brian Godfrey (BG)

BG-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [Clydel Giannini](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC:
Subject:
Date: Friday, October 20, 2006 5:03:36 PM
Attachments:

throats plan to restore Salton Sea. IT has a balanced approach to recreation , and wildlife conservation, and will for economic development in the surrounding areas around the sea. Thank You, Sincerely, Ronald Giannini.

Clydel 

CGianni-1

Clydel Gianni (CGianni)

CGianni-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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Although not a legislatively mandated objective, the Saline Habitat Complex is expected to allow for passive recreational opportunities, such as bird watching. Additionally, the Marine Sea would provide for water-based recreational opportunities that have historically occurred at the Salton Sea. This would include boating and fishing opportunities and allow for the on-going operation of the majority of the existing harbors at the Salton Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please do everything you can to protect the migratory habitat of the Salton Sea area. Action of this kind is of the utmost importance especially during these tragic times of huge habitat loss to migratory populations.

I am writing to offer my comments of the California Department of Water Resources Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Colleen Graney
1831 Elliott Ave NW
Olympia, WA 98502-4252

CGraney-1

Colleen Graney (CGraney)

CGraney-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: GROAT99@aol.com
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC:
Subject: Salton Sea
Date: Friday, January 12, 2007 8:06:01 AM
Attachments:

Please combine the best features from the proposed alternatives into an alternative that would effectively restore habitat and protect local and regional air and water quality.

Candice Groat

CGroat-1

Candice Groat (CGroat)

CGroat-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

- Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea;
- Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration project; and
- Protection of water quality.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [Deborah Gilleard](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC:
Subject: Preserving the wildlife
Date: Friday, December 08, 2006 11:41:03 AM
Attachments:

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As an avid bird watcher and lover of wildlife (and of maintaining habit for it), I have been reading up on the situation in the Salton Sea and the proposed solutions.

It appears that none of the plans sufficiently protect wildlife, or public health, but that a plan blending elements of different alternatives would work: a 10,000-acre recreational lake, with a series of concentric lakes giving maximum shoreline and shallow habitat.

Apparently this plan will also be less costly and faster to complete.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Deborah Gilleard

DGilleard-1

Deborah Gilleard (DGilleard)

DGilleard-1

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- Protection of water quality.

The 62,000-acre Saline Habitat Complex including in the Preferred Alternative would be located in the southern and northern portion of the Salton Sea and would provide habitat for a variety of avian species, including shorebirds, waterfowl, and potentially for fish-eating birds, including sensitive species currently found at the Salton Sea. It is expected that the Saline Habitat Complex would also provide limited habitat for some fish species, such as tilapia, and thus, provide foraging habitat for fish-eating birds. The Saline Habitat Complex is expected to provide the microclimate benefits that currently exist at the Salton Sea, and could be constructed using a variety of construction methods including Geotubes®.

Specifically, the Preferred Alternative includes 62,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex, a 45,000-acre Marine Sea, incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project, and includes other measures and design considerations that would work to protect water quality. Under the Preferred Alternative, Air Quality Management and the Saline Habitat Complex would have the highest priority for inflows, followed by inflows into the Marine Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [Dustin Goodyear](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC:
Subject: Opinion on Circumstances
Date: Tuesday, January 09, 2007 11:13:58 AM
Attachments:

Jan 9, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I think we should do our best to save and protect the Salton Sea because California is a very developed place. The cities are big and there are a lot of people. Therefore, there is not much wildlife habitat which means there is not a lot of wildlife. If we don't protect this place and others like it, the land will keep getting developed and the Salton Sea will disappear. All places need beautiful land and wildlife to keep the beauty of this country. We should contribute and pass on the word so we can save and protect this place.

Sincerely,

Dustin Goodyear
2219 E Olive St
Deming, NM 88030-7060

DGoodyear-1

Dustin Goodyear (DGoodyear)

DGoodyear-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [Gary Garrison](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC: [jbowles](#);
Subject: Fix Salton Sea
Date: Friday, October 20, 2006 7:26:39 PM
Attachments:

Dear Salton Sea Committee:

I get mad everytime I read about how much money has been wasted on studies to solve the salinity problem of the Salton Sea.

How many birds have died: how many fish have died; and it is worse now than it has ever been before.

For over 30 years, I have tried to get people to listen to my proposal. I have never even received an acknowledgment of my letter. I would be satisfied if even I received a reply saying, " We have studied your proposal and it won't work because". All I have seen in the papers is that, " we will keep on studying it as long as the money keeps coming."

My suggestion is: Because Salton Sea is something like 165 feet below sea level. that a huge pipeline be run from the Sea of Cortez in Mexico, bring water by gravity, into the Salton Sea which will bring in water with the same salinity as the ocean. Then from a different location in Salton Sea, run another pipeline along side of the first but to another different location in the Sea of Cortez to pump the extra salty water into the Sea,

Gary Garrison (GG)

GG-1

Alternatives that maintain the whole Salton Sea, including the importation of water from the Gulf of California were described in Chapter 2 of the Draft PEIR. As discussed in Chapter 2, these alternatives were considered but were not carried forward as alternatives in the Draft. The importation of water from the Gulf of California was not carried forward because the alternative does not meet the CEQA requirement for feasibility as the State would not legally be able to control or have access to the portion of the project that would be located in the Republic of Mexico.

Additionally, importation of water from the Gulf of California would require construction of multiple pipelines and/or canals and pump stations to convey water from the Salton Sea to the Gulf. The route to the Gulf would require between 400 to over 1,500 feet of lift, depending on the route selected and the conveyance system chosen. This option would require a substantial amount of electricity to pump the water; however, some power recovery is possible.

GG-1

eventually, into the Pacific Ocean. This line would require pumps. Some smart engineer might even figure how the water flowing by gravity into Salton Sea could turn generators into creating part of the electrical power needed for the pumps.

I realize that this would take an Easement Agreement with the Country of Mexico, but even if we had to pay them for it, if we could re-enliven Salton Sea, Save the Birds, & Fish and create a Resort of expensive homes & Recreation Area around the Sea, the taxes created would more than pay for it and maybe even put back into the treasury part of the Billions of Dollars already spent for STUDIES.

Please quit studying and start doing something.

Burgus C. "Gary" Garrison
26181 Allentown Drive
Sun City, CA 92586-2164
GarynRuthG@verizon.net
Retired Supt. of Public Works,
Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego.

**GG-1
cont.**

From: [Jordan Grace D.](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments.](#)
CC:
Subject: PLEASE consider the past when it comes to the Salton Sea
Date: Wednesday, January 03, 2007 11:38:07 PM
Attachments:

Taking care of the Salton Sea is WAY over due. My grandparents purchased property at Bombay Beach (family still owns) as a vacation spot. I grew up in and around the Sea and I am HEARTBROKEN to see it get to where it is at. My grandmother worked with Sonny Bono to clean up the Sea and both of them passed away some time ago.

PLEASE consider recreation when deciding what to do with the Sea, and PLEASE contact me with ANYTHING I can do to protect its history and bring back people to recreate in and around the Sea.

Thank you

JGrace-1

Jordan Grace (JGrace)

JGrace-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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Although not a legislatively mandated objective, the Saline Habitat Complex is expected to allow for passive recreational opportunities, such as bird watching. Additionally, the Marine Sea would provide for water-based recreational opportunities that have historically occurred at the Salton Sea. This would include boating and fishing opportunities and allow for the on-going operation of the majority of the existing harbors at the Salton Sea.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

From: [Joann Guillen](#)
To: [SaltonSeaComments](#);
CC: michelle.stevens@imperial.edu;
Subject: Joann Guillen (Salton Sea)
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 5:26:30 PM
Attachments:

In my opinion I think that the what the Salton Sea is going to do is wrong in a way because for one reason they don't have a back up plan if things go wrong and they are guessing of how things might work. There going to spend a lot of money in doing this. Also they are not thinking about the farm workers or people who own farms of how they can be affected by it? what about the birds but most of all the pollution? If you ask me this is all about power and money. Maybe they could take their time and actually do more research on this to see if it would benefit and hopefully succeed.

JGuillen-1

JGuillen-2

JGuillen-3

Joann Guillen (JGuillen)

JGuillen-1

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

JGuillen-2

Potential impacts to agricultural resources and socioeconomics were described in Chapter 11 and 22 of the Draft PEIR, respectively.

JGuillen-3

Benefits and impacts to avian species were address in Chapter 8 of the Draft PEIR.

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

If you haven't noticed lately, we seem to be seeing fewer and fewer migratory birds (for example Townsend Warblers), than we used to. We actually had an article in our hometown newspaper about the large amount of crows we have in lieu of other birds.

That said, it is important to save and preserve the Salton Sea as an important migratory point for our birds. It is a safe place and one that is mandatory for their survival.

Should we compromise our ideals of dealing with wildlife fairly in order to accommodate the wishes of some "snowbirds" from other climes? No. Please consider my comments and help save migratory birds.

Thank you, Natalie Gray

Sincerely,

Natalie Gray
515 13th St
Pacific Grove, CA 93950-4408

NG-1

Natalie Gray (NG)

NG-1

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

01/04/07

Dale K. Hoffman-Floerke
Salton Sea PEIR Comments
Colorado River and Salton Sea Office
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email: SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

We are writing regarding the air quality impacts discussed in the Resources Agency's Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (DEIR). As you know, air quality is already very poor in the communities around the Salton Sea. Far too many children in the area suffer from asthma, at a much higher rate than anywhere else in California.

The tremendous amount of dust that will blow off of the exposed lakebed of the shrinking Salton Sea poses a real threat to public health, a threat that California must make every effort to contain. Protecting public health should be the highest priority of the project, and the most important criterion for choosing any restoration plan. Minimizing dust emissions must rely on proven methods – we can not afford the risk that some new method will fail, allowing hundreds of additional tons of dust to blow through local communities. Minimizing the amount of construction traffic should also be a key consideration, since more truck traffic means more diesel emissions.

The DEIR makes several poor assumptions. It assumes that no dust blows or will blow from the northern part of the Salton Sea, despite data in the DEIR itself (and direct observations) which show that this assumption is wrong. It also assumes that the location of water and structures in the various plans has no impact on blowing dust, making it difficult to determine which plan would have the best chance of reducing or eliminating blowing dust. Clearly, plans that would break up the exposed land with lakes or large structures or shallow bodies of water would block the wind or intercept blowing dust, and would better protect public health.

None of the plans in the DEIR really satisfy the need to protect the public from both more blowing dust and greatly increased diesel emissions. But a hybrid approach, combining the relatively low construction impacts of Alternative #4 with the greater land cover and dust protection offered by the habitat complexes of Alts. #1 & 4, makes much more sense. Adding a large, 10,000 acre lake at the north end of the Sea would provide protection from blowing dust for the Coachella Valley, and could provide a reservoir for additional dust management in the northern half of the Sea.

This hybrid approach makes the most sense from a public health perspective, and should be the state's preferred approach.

Richard & Hildegard Gruwell (RG)

RG-1

The protection of public health would be an important component of any restoration alternative for the Salton Sea. As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources incorporates the air quality "tool box" measures to eliminate, to the extent feasible, air quality impacts from the restoration project. These measures include the allocation of 0.5 acre-foot per acre of water to manage emissive areas of the Exposed Playa. The Preferred Alternative also includes actions and mitigation measures to reduce air quality impacts that could result from construction and operations and maintenance activities.

RG-2

While the Preferred Alternative utilizes proven methods to minimize dust emissions, the Preferred Alternative also recognizes that there may be changes in technology in the future and/or innovate technologies that could be used to minimize dust emissions. It would be appropriate for the implementing agency to thoroughly test any new technology at the Salton Sea prior to use of the technology on a large scale.

RG-3

The Draft PEIR indicates that, based on available data, windspeeds in the vicinity of the northern end of the Salton Sea seldom exceed threshold windspeeds, resulting in no predicted emissions in the model used to evaluate alternatives. However, the evaluation tool was designed to provide a relative comparison of air quality among alternatives, and not to produce an exact absolute level of emissions. This level of analysis is considered appropriate for evaluation of alternatives at the programmatic level.

More detailed meteorological data being collected. Greater detail regarding the layout and exact form of structures and surfaces in specific projects would be available for future emissions source mapping and windfield analyses. It is anticipated that project-level analysis could employ these more precise tools. These tools may indicate that local windspeeds periodically exceed threshold windspeeds for surfaces in the northern Salton Sea, and produce more exact absolute dust emission results.

RG-1

RG-2

RG-3

RG-4

Thank you for considering my comments. We look forward to a Salton Sea restoration plan that protects public health by minimizing dust and diesel emissions.

Sincerely,

Richard G & Hildegard Gruwell
3705 River Rd
Hopewell, VA 23860

RG (cont.)

Should this be the case, appropriate monitoring and mitigation is foreseen in the Draft PEIR. Where dust emissions are predicted or observed by the extensive proposed monitoring network, short-term and long-term dust control is planned for deployment. See Appendix H-3 of the Draft PEIR for discussions of emissions monitoring and development and deployment of dust control onto the playa surface.

RG-4

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative recommended by the Secretary for Resources includes a variety of components that are intended to meet the legislative mandates of providing the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Sue Gardner (SG)

From: Geerevsue@aol.com
To: [SaltonSeaComments;](#)
CC:
Subject: Vanishing wetlands and migrating birds.
Date: Thursday, January 04, 2007 8:22:38 PM
Attachments:

SG-1

Thank you for your letter and interest in the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. However, your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

Dear Sir:

Please read Rachel Carson's Silent Spring before making any decision about changes to the Salton Sea.

SG-1

Sincerely,
Sue Gardner

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

PLEASE PROTECT THE SALTON SEA!!!!!! It would be so sad if those migrating birds had no where to have a stopover during their migration.

Sincerely,

Victor Glock
2412 Judson St
San Diego, CA 92111-6214

VG-1

Victor Glock (VG)

VG-1

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Jan 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife and the Salton Sea -- one of North America's largest stopovers for migratory birds -- I am writing to offer my comments of the California Department of Water Resources Draft Environmental Impact Report on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

I live in Oregon, and I am a wetland biologist. I understand the importance of large wetlands to migratory birds, and urge you to take action that will protect this important resource.

We have lost too many wetlands in the last century, and now is the time to make a statement that we will not lose the remaining quality wetlands we have left.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Amy Hawkins

Sincerely,

Amy Hawkins
3524 SW Caldew St
Portland, OR 97219-1646

AHawkins-1

Amy Hawkins (AHawkins)

AHawkins-1

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