



**PACIFIC
INSTITUTE**

Research for People and the Planet

September 5, 2012

Mr. Andrew Schlange
Interim Executive Director
Salton Sea Authority

via email: jdawson@saltonseaca.gov

RE: Support for Torres Martinez Habitat Development Proposal

Dear Mr. Schlange:

On behalf of the Pacific Institute, I am writing to express our strong support for the Salton Sea Authority-sponsored proposal to the state's Salton Sea Financial Assistance Program, to develop and expand habitat at the Torres Martinez wetlands.

The Pacific Institute has a long-standing interest in Salton Sea restoration and conservation efforts. Since its creation, the Salton Sea has been an extremely important wetland and open water resource for millions of migratory birds dependent upon the Pacific Flyway, and for scores of species of resident birds. The Torres Martinez wetlands are one of a handful of wetlands that have been constructed at the Sea in the past decade, providing habitat for a broad variety of bird species. They are a remarkable achievement, providing a model for future habitat construction in the area. Their proposed expansion would help meet a clear need for additional wetland habitats at the north end of the Salton Sea, and would also provide valuable on-the-ground information and experience in innovative construction materials and methods.

We strongly support the disbursal of state-held funds to construct new habitat and expand and improve existing habitat. The proposed project meets these objectives.

We thank the Salton Sea Authority for sponsoring this important and worthwhile wetlands expansion project, and are pleased to lend our strong support to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Michael Cohen
Senior Associate
Pacific Institute
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