

## Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Recreation & Economic Opportunities Evaluation

Presentation by Ron Enzweiler  
Executive Director



## Project Objectives

- Recreation
  - Identify recreation opportunities compatible with ecosystem restoration
  - Evaluate priorities for activities and facilities
  - Capacity for recreation
- Economics
  - Economic benefits of restoration



## Groundrules

- DWR definition used in this evaluation includes:
  - Improvement of water quality, including control and reduction of salinity
  - Stabilization of the water surface elevation
  - Reduction of odors
- Independent of alternative configurations



## Public Input

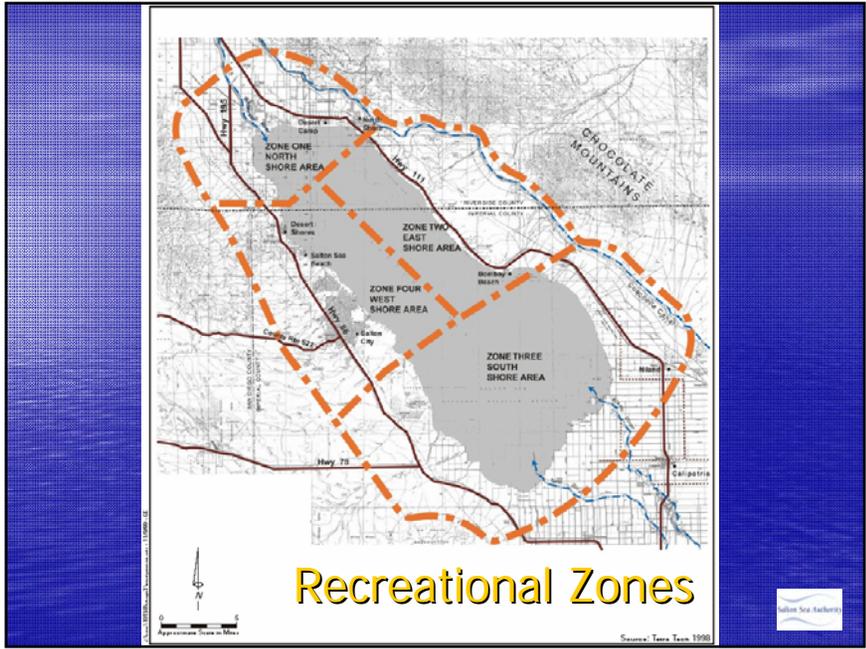
- Recreation Task Force
  - Re-formed from earlier task force
  - Approx. 30 representing diverse interests
  - Surveyed rec opportunities and facilities
- Public input at two meetings
  - Desert Shores & Calipatria
  - April 28, 2005
- Survey of DWR & Authority mailing lists



Salton Sea Authority Outdoor Recreation Committee		
AREA	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	REPRESENTATIVE
I.V.	City of Brawley	John Benson
I.V.	City of Westmorland	Victor Torres
I.V.	City of Calipatria	LeaAnne O'Malley
I.V.	Salton Community Services District	Shirley Palmer
I.V.	Bombay Beach Community Services District	Christine Harris
I.V.	Brawley Chamber of Commerce	Sue Giller
I.V.	Brawley Economic Development Commission	Bill Gates / Tim Kelley
I.V.	Niland Chamber of Commerce	Cliff Lawrence
I.V.	New River Wetlands	Leon Lesicka
I.V.	Cal - Energy	Vince Signorotti
I.V.	Farm Bureau	Wayne Olesh
I.V.	Hunting & Fishing Interest-Fred Singh	Fred Singh
I.V.	Farm Bureau	Al Kalin
I.V.	Jack Hart Insurance	Jack Hart
I.V.	State-wide Off Road Association	Harold Soens
I.V.	Ocotillo Wells State Rec Area	Kathy Donlair
I.V.	Farmer	Bill DuBois
C.V.	Duck Club	Mike Maier
C.V.	City of Desert Hot Springs	Hank Hohenstein
Other	United Anglers	Tom Raftican
Other	Torres Martinez	Jacob Ward
Other	Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge	Chris Schoneman
Other	CA Fish & Game	Jack Crayon
C.V.	C.V. Recreation & Park District	Stan Ford / Kevin Kalman
C.V.	Regional County Parks	Paul Frandsen
C.V.	Cabezon	James McKennon
C.V.	Palm Springs Citizen	Glenn Baxley
C.V.	Indio Chamber of Commerce	Sherry Johnson

## Initial Listing of Recreation Activities Considered

1. Boating (power boating, house boats, non-motorized)
2. Camping (guest rentals, recreational vehicles, tent)
3. Fishing (freshwater, marine)
4. Off-road vehicle use
5. Resort activities (gaming, golf)
6. Trail-related (biking, hiking, horseback riding)
7. Wildlife-related (birdwatching/photography, hunting)
8. Water contact (personal watercraft, swimming, windsurfing)
9. Other (photography-general, skydiving)



3. Salton Sea Recreational Facilities Survey: LOCATION OF FACILITIES

Recreational Facilities      Indicate Order of Facility Needs by Ranking Zones from 1 to 4

2. Salton Sea Recreational FACILITY Priority Survey

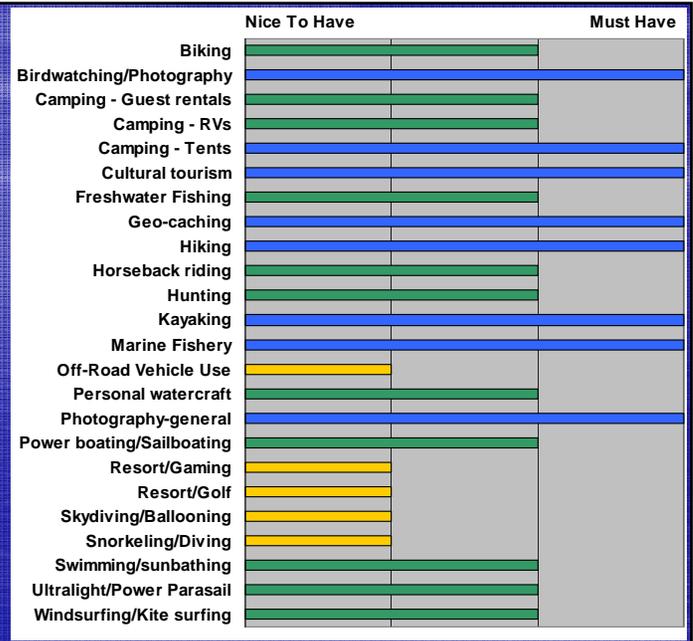
Recreational Opportunity	Highest Priority "Must Have"				Lowest Priority "Nice to Have"				0		
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4			
<b>1. Boating</b>											
-Kayaking	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-Power boating/Sailboating	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>2. Camping</b>											
-Guest rentals	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-Recreational Vehicle (RV)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-Tent	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>3. Fishing</b>											
-Freshwater	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-Marine fishery	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>4. Off-Road Vehicle Use</b>											
-Off-Road Vehicle Use	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>5. Resort activities</b>											
-Resort/Gaming	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-Resort/Golf	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>6. Trail-related</b>											
-Biking	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-Hiking	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-Horseback riding	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>7. Wildlife-related</b>											
-Birdwatching/Photography	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-Hunting	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>8. Water contact</b>											
-Personal watercraft	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-Swimming/sunbathing	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-Windsurfing	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>9. Other</b>											
-Photography-general	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
-Skydiving	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Others</b>											
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

# Recreational Survey

- Surveyed
  - Recreational Task Force
  - Salton Sea Authority mailing list
  - DWR mailing list
- 94 responses
- Results grouped by highest, middle and lowest priority



## Survey Results



### Base Case Economic Study

- Inventory of potential commercial/industrial/resort property
- Comprehensive demographic profile
- Identify locations or opportunity sites
- Property owner/broker survey & SCAG projections
- Evaluate impact of planned developments
- **Did not assume any transfer of federal lands**
- **Existing land use/development policies**
- Assumed densities and adsorption rates
- Tax-Increment Bond revenue projections



### Projected Growth in Salton Sea Region

	Estimated	Growth Rate	Projected	
	2004		2020	2040
<b>per annum</b>				
<b>Population Growth</b>				
Imperial Valley	158,000	2.8%	277,000	504,000
Coachella Valley	353,010	3.5%	610,000	870,000
<b>Region Total:</b>	<b>509,010</b>		<b>887,000</b>	<b>1,374,000</b>
<b>Households Growth</b>				
Imperial Valley	45,000	3.7%	70,000	144,768
Coachella Valley	140,000	3.9%	215,000	482,114
<b>Region Total:</b>	<b>185,000</b>		<b>285,000</b>	<b>606,883</b>

Note: Average SCAG growth rate is **1.25%** for population and **1.4%** for households

**New households = 421,883 units @ \$250,000 median cost = \$105 billion**  
 over 30-year period

Source: SCAG RTP Socio-Economic Forecast Report, 2004



## Findings from Economic Study\*

- Based on existing zoning and private land inventory, 80,000 new homes at build-out = \$42 billion in new tax base
- 35 year adsorption rate starting in 2015
- New geothermal units excluded
- Assuming 50% of 1% property tax on new development allowed to bond service
- Potential bond proceeds: \$600 million

\*updated 8/17/05 Rosenow & Spevacek study



## Local Financing Plan

- Infrastructure Finance District (IFD) passed in 2000
- SSA has formed:
  - Project Finance Committee
  - Regional Planning Committee
- Initiating Study of Land-Use Plan for 200,000 acre of "development zones" around parts of the Sea
- RFOs issued for real estate development and bond underwriting services in August 2005
- Planning started on forming Benefit Assessment or Mello Roos District around Sea



## Next Steps

- Review & incorporate any comments from DWR or Advisory Committee in Final Report
- Regional land-use planning report to be completed in early 2006
- Enter into contract negotiations with selected real estate developer & bond underwriting firms
- Pursue transfer of federally owned lands within IFD "development zones" to SSA



## Actions at 10/27 SSA Board Meeting

- Report on Salton Sea Test Base deferred to Dec
- Report on Inflow Agreement with IID
- Board Policy Statements Approved
- Letter to State Board requesting denial of time-extension on MWD water right applications on New and Alamo Rivers
- Approval to begin negotiations on both policy issues and contract terms with top-rated real estate development and bond underwriter

