

THE RESOURCES AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES • DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Salton Sea

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM



Salton Sea Stakeholder Meeting

December 2007

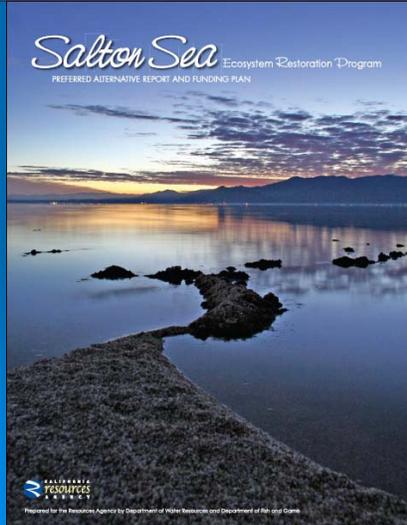
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Meeting Overview



- Overview of Alternative Presented to the Legislature (Final PEIR Preferred Alternative)
- Where we are now
- Five-Year Plan
- Next Steps



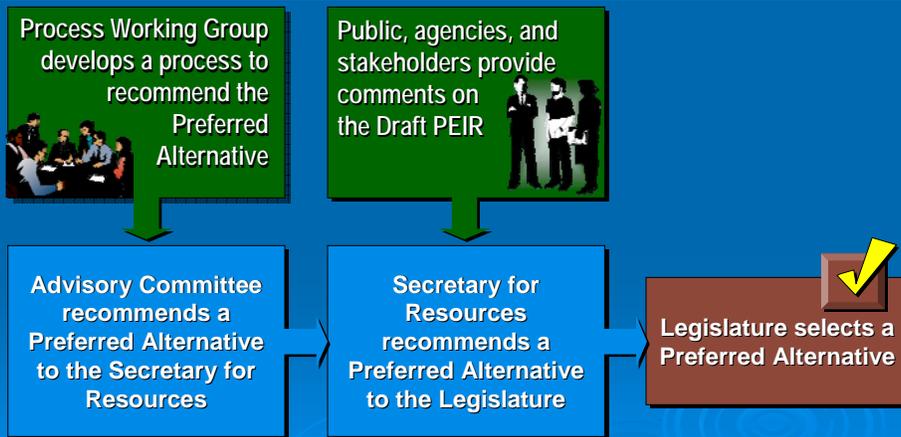
Restoration Planning Process - Legislation

- Salton Sea Restoration Act
 - Directs the Secretary for Resources to prepare:
 - Ecosystem Restoration Study (ERS)
 - Programmatic environmental document
 - Funding Plan for the preferred alternative

“It is the intent of the Legislature that the State of California undertake the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem...”



Steps to Selecting a Preferred Alternative



Salton Sea

Overall Observations of Preferred Alternative Process Working Group

- Early Start Habitat and shallow saline habitat should be included in Preferred Alternative
- Most potential impacts can be mitigated - but many will remain "significant"
- Non-legislatively mandated recreation and economic opportunities could be incorporated into any alternative
- Some details are more appropriately developed at the project level (e.g. Air Quality Management)

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Major Public Comments related to the Preferred Alternative

- Protect fish and birds that use the Salton Sea
 - Include Marine Sea plus Saline Habitat Complex
 - Saline Habitat Complex would be at least 25,000 to 50,000 ac
 - Include Early Start Habitat
 - Minimize water quality problems
- Protect air quality
 - Use the air quality tool box actions as described in the Draft PEIR
- Maintain Salton Sea as agricultural repository
- Protect agricultural microclimate and minimize salt dust



Major Public Comments related to the PEIR Preferred Alternative

- Consider design adaptability to fluctuating inflows
 - High flows during floods
 - Low annual flows due to water conservation, land use changes, and climate changes
- Maintain water near communities, State Recreation Area, and wildlife areas
- Incorporate new Torres Martinez Reservation land use plan
- Provide for recreational and economic opportunities

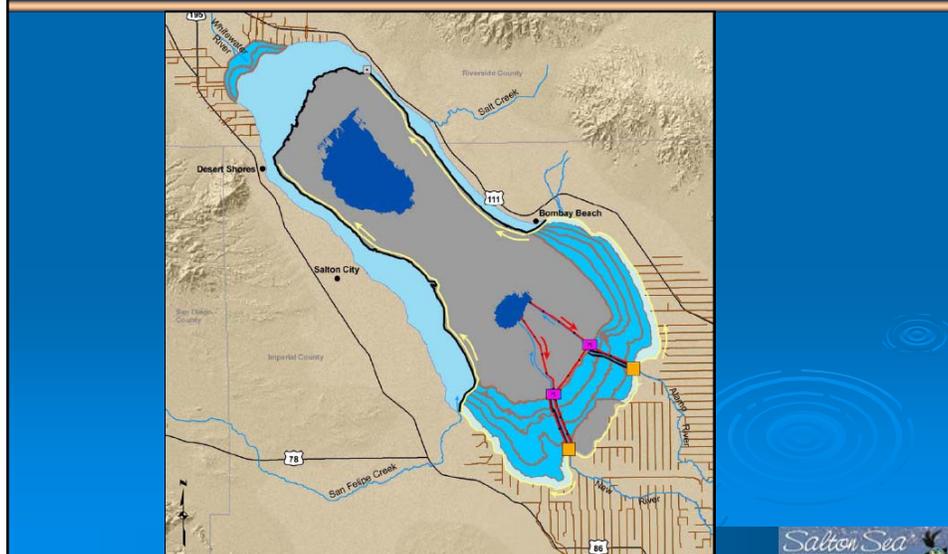


PEIR Preferred Alternative Components

- Saline Habitat Complex
 - Northern and southern Sea Bed
- Marine Sea
 - Northern Marine Sea, extending along western and eastern shorelines
 - Maintain water depth of less than 12 meters deep to reduce water quality risks
- Air Quality Management
- Brine Sink
- Early Start Habitat
- Exclusion area for geothermal development



PEIR Preferred Alternative



PEIR Preferred Alternative Details

- Saline Habitat Complex = 62,000 acres (total)
- Marine Sea = 45,000 acres
 - Formed by 2022
 - Salinity less than 40,000 mg/L by 2023
 - Surface Area more than 70 square miles
- Exposed Playa = 106,000 acres
- Brine Sink = 17,000 acres in 2078
 - Salinity less than 200,000 mg/L until 2027

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Where We are Now

- PEIR Preferred Alternative Presented to Legislature in May 2007
- Sen. Ducheny sponsored SB 187
 - Appropriates bond funds for Salton Sea restoration activities during the first five years
 - Identify governance structure
 - Bill now in Assembly Committee
- Governor's budget included \$13.3 million for planning and monitoring

Salton Sea

Purpose of Five-Year Plan

- Collect data and resolve issues that could not be fully evaluated during PEIR phase
 - Implement pilot studies
- Identify and analyze potential facility sites
- Conduct environmental analysis on site-specific facilities
- Design facilities identified in environmental and technical analyses
- Develop design and bid documents for demonstration project and early start habitat



Five-Year Plan

Five-Year Plan Activities	Year 1 2008	Year 2 2009	Year 3 2010	Year 4 2011	Year 5 2012	Year 6 2013
Demonstration Project						
Early Start Habitat						
Geotechnical Investigations	█	█				
Water and Sediment Quality Studies	█	█				
Surveys	█					
Preliminary Design & Environmental Document		█				
Final Design & Permitting			█			
Bid and Construct				█		
Biological Investigations						
Inflow Investigations						
Water and Sediment Quality Investigations	█	█	█			
Air Quality Investigations	█	█	█			
Geotechnical and Hazards Investigations	█	█	█			
Construction Methods/Materials Investigations				█		
Coordination with Torres Martinez Tribe						
Access and Utility Agreements						
Pre-Design and Environmental Documentation			█			
Final Design and Permitting				█		
Bidding Period						█

Next Steps

- Proposed Demonstration Project
 - Initial Pilot Project at Fish Hatchery and nearby pond
 - Select potential locations and review site characteristics
 - Meet with stakeholders and Focus Technical Groups
 - Develop initial goals and objectives
 - Undertake CEQA review and permitting
 - Implement approved project



Next Steps (con't)

- Proposed Early Start Habitat
 - Up to 2,000 acres of Saline Habitat Complex
 - Will provide habitat during construction and allows full-scale pilot habitat evaluation
 - Will use information learned from Demonstration Project, the USGS Shallow Water Pilot Project, and Torres Martinez Wetlands Project
 - Will involve site evaluation, environmental documentation, preliminary and final design, and permitting



Next Steps (con't)

- Monitoring and Assessment Program
 - Identify goals and objectives
 - Establish Focus Technical Groups
 - Initiate important baseline monitoring



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Visit www.saltonsea.water.ca.gov for more information



Back-Up Slides

Vision for the Future

A healthy Salton Sea ecosystem for fish and wildlife that stabilizes and improves water quality and fully mitigates air quality impacts of the Ecosystem Restoration Program.

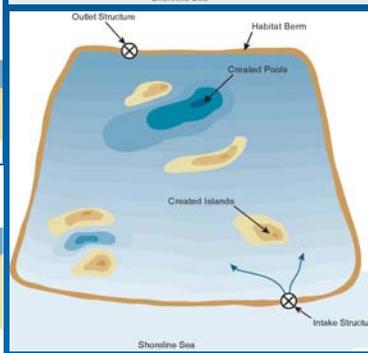
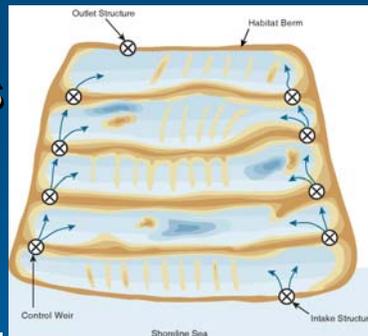
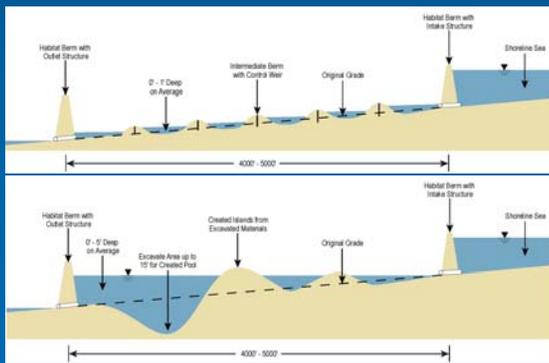
Restoration Objectives

- Habitat Management — primary purpose
 - Restore long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Sea
- Water Quality Protection
 - Protect existing water quality
- Air Quality Management
 - To the maximum extent feasible, eliminate air quality impacts from restoration activities
- Economic and Recreational Opportunities
 - Assess local economic and recreational opportunities



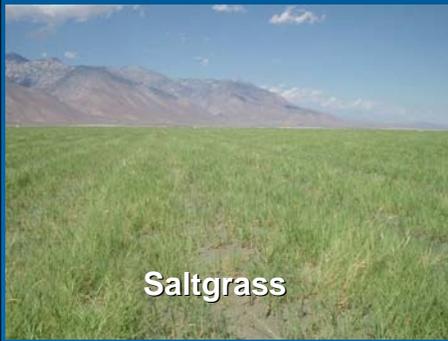
Saline Habitat Facts and Figures

- Provides wildlife habitat
- Berms would create cells with saline habitat of varying depths, salinities, and structural features
- Saltwater from the brine sink would be blended with inflows to achieve target salinity

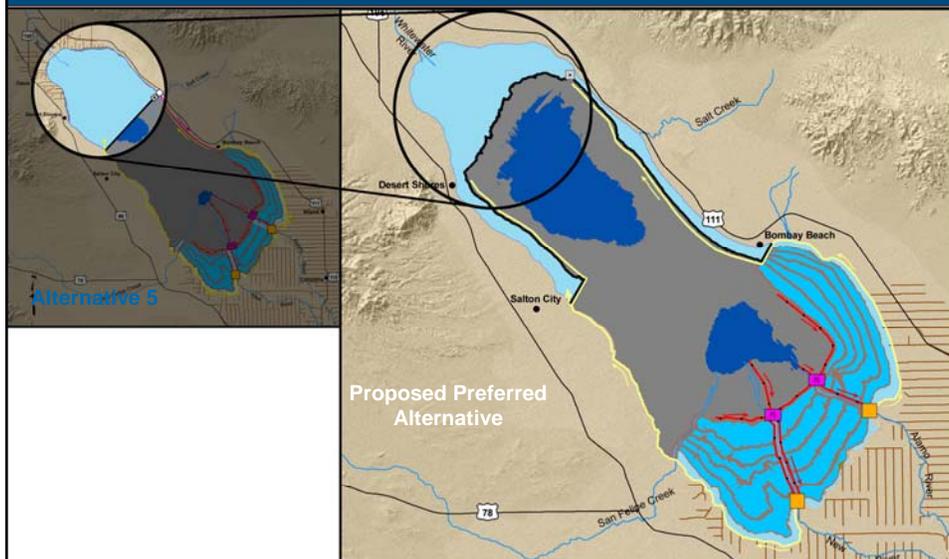


Air Quality Management Facts and Figures

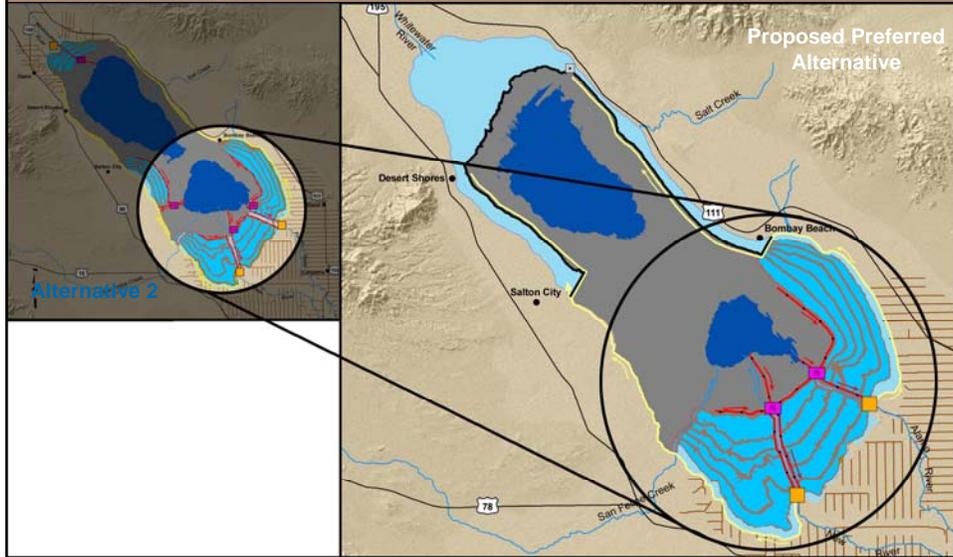
- If exposed playas are emissive, air quality mitigation would be implemented with irrigated, salt-tolerant vegetation or other dust control measures



PEIR Preferred Alternative Incorporates Marine Sea Concept from Alternative 5



PEIR Preferred Alternative Incorporates Saline Habitat Complex Concept from Alternative 2



PEIR Preferred Alternative Incorporates Concentric Ring Concept from Alternative 3

