

DEC 08 2006

Margaret Huffman, Chairman, Habitats
Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society
PO Box 35
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

December 5, 2006

California Department of Water Resources
345 Middlefield Road, Mail Stop 532
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for creating a Draft Environmental Impact Report describing alternative plans for restoring the Salton Sea. The largest lake in California, the Salton Sea is essential for millions of migrating birds as well as for the threatened brown pelican, snowy plover and Yuma clapper rail.

Though none of the alternative plans you describe will, alone, solve the serious problems facing this key resource, four aspects of your proposed solutions, taken together, would produce a plan that maximizes wildlife habitat, protects people from unhealthy air and water, and maintains the outstanding agricultural and recreational opportunities of the region.

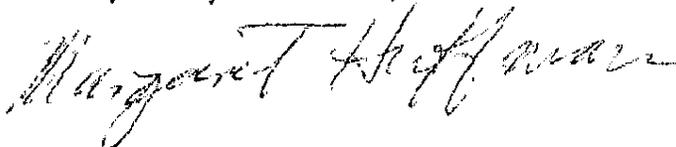
The preferred alternative should include:

- At least 30,000 acres of shallow, saline habitat to conserve wildlife
- Additional lakes around the Sea for habitat, recreation and protection of the existing shoreline
- One acre-foot of water for every two acres of exposed Sea bed to control dust
- A 10,000-acre lake at the north end of the Sea for recreation and development

This plan is smaller and less complex than any of the proposed alternatives and could be implemented sooner with less attendant cost and risk.

Because I could not attend one of the public workshops that you conducted on Monday, December 4, I'm faxing you this letter in lieu of my attendance.

Thank you for your attention,



Margaret Huffman
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