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

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Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Final PEIR

9-1 2007
Table 9-1
Individual Comments Received on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program
Draft Environmental Impact Report

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

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Table 9-1

Individual Comments Received on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program
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<td>DY</td>
<td>Duane Lee Young</td>
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### Table 9-1

**Individual Comments Received on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program**

**Draft Environmental Impact Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>KY</td>
<td>Kimberly Yang</td>
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<tr>
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<td>VZ</td>
<td>Valerie Zachary</td>
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<td>S&amp;F</td>
<td>Susan and Frank (name not legible)</td>
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<td>BWilson</td>
<td>Benjamin and Dolores Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anonymous 1</td>
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Individual Comments Received on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program
Draft Environmental Impact Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORM LETTERS</th>
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<td>Form Letter 5</td>
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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 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
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.

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.

**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.
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 hasstrung 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.

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 move forward with a restoration program and identifies an implementing agency. These actions include measures targeted to address air quality uncertainties.
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 emissions 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

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.

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

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 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.
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.

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

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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

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 (ET₀) 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 ET₀ 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.
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

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

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.saltensea.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

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.
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.

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.
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.

Considerable information exists on air quality conditions of the Owens Lake playa, as presented in reference documents found on the program website, http://www.saltonsea.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.

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.

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

Respectfully,

Benny Andres, Jr.
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 humans 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

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.
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.

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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 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
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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

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

Sol Anshien (SA)

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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 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.

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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.

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 innovative 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.

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.

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

Ed Bretz (EBretz)

EBretz-1

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
Elizabeth Burke (EBurke)

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 114B-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

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
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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

Jessica Bonaparte (JBonaparte)

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Flores,

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 Via Road Forestville, CA 95436

Sincerely,

Judy Brinkerhoff
Janet Buffington (JBuffington)  

JBuffington-1

Jan 7, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke  
1416 9th Street, Room 1146-6  
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 8333  
Barnstable, MA 02630-0833

Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR
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Chapter 9
Individual Comments

November 27, 2006

Department of Water Resources
Colorado River and Salton Sea Office
1416 5th 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

Leo Borunda
3600 Highway 86
West Shores Salton Sea, CA 92274
760-393-0255

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.
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-1860’s. There have been at least 4 previous Salton Seas of greater magnitude during historic times. The last Lake Cahuilla 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 Yunna 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, declining approximately 1/5 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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

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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 Yosemite National Park and press reports from the 1960's highlighted the popularity of the Sea as a recreational destination. Complaints about overcrowding and conflict between boats and swimmers on the 350+ square-mile lake 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.

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**MYTH #4**
"Mexican 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 traversed 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 drainage water from the Imperial Valley. Additionally, a wastewater treatment plant is being constructed in Mexico to improve water quality in the New River.

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**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 sheer volume and most pesticides' ability to biodegrade work 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 surface water, a finding which surprised the researchers because the levels were much lower than those found in the waters of San Diego.

Seelenium 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 90 micrograms per liter.
THE FACTS

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

We do not know all there is to know about the Sea. But we do know its problems include bird disease outbreaks, fluctuating saline 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 23% 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 inaction.
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.

Leo Borunda
5600 Highway 86
West Shores, CA 92274
760-395-0355

January 11, 2007

Salted Sea Advisory Committee
Attn: Dale Hoffman Florerke, Chairperson
Dept. Of Water Resources
PO Box 942856
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

Dear Sir/Madam:

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 shamefull talk that goes on about the Sea. Most of the talk is not correct or truthful. The water does not stink. The areas of swammy water around the Sea is what stinks. Imperial Irrigation Districts just cleaned up some old, half torn down buildings next to any 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

Salted Sea Ecosystem
Restoration PEIR
Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Roerke
5416 9th Street, Room 148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Roerke,

One of the many reasons why I love United States is because many persons help the environment and wildlife; 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 this Millions of migratory birds disappear it 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 country in the World we cannot let this happen.

Please protect our wildlife.

thanks

Lydia Bojorquez.

Sincerely,

Lydia Bojorquez
86 Via Athena
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-1629

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.
Matt Baker (MBaker)

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.
Landmark and has been rated by the American Society of Civil Engineers as one of America's Seven Modern Civil Engineering Wonders.¹²

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 threats 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
gilhamok@yahoo.com

¹¹“Golden Gate Bridge History and Information,” no author, published by PageWise, Inc. at http://www.gatebridges.com/history/gate_legp.html
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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- 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: Masse Bloomfield
To: SaltonSeaCommunity
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 recuperated 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:

20735 Stephanie Drive
Canoga Park, CA 91306
(818) 747-5472
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 Times 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...
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 Zivojnovich. 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
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
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,

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.

Sincerely,

Natalie Brabson
57 Park St
Buffalo, NY 14201-2020

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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

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-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-4
Refer to response to comment RBennett-1 above.
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.

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

As a taxpayer, environmentalist, and a native Californian, best wishes in trying to determine the best course of action in this complex issue, not just for 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
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.

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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.
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 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 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.
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.
Jan 4, 2007
Ms. Dale Hoffman-Ploerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Ploerke,

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

Sincerely,
Sharon Beneway
12039 Washington St
Wolcott, NY 14590-1120

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.
Steve Bilson (SBilson)

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.
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
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 soughed 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 (cont.)
Refer to response to comment SBilson-1 above
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.

Sincerely,
Susan Burke
2537 Morgan Ford Road
Rosenberg, TX 77461-1615

Susan Burke (SBurke)
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.

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.

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.
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.

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 J. Bergerin
SE20 New Crossing Point
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
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.
From: BC
To: SaltonSeaComments
Subject: Comments on Draft PEIR for Salton Sea
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 11:51:58 AM

January 16, 2007
Attn: Dale Hoffman-Floerke
Salton Sea PEIR comments
Department of Water Resources
Colorado River & Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street, Room 1416-6
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 sediments. 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.saltensea.water.ca.gov/PEIR) describes eight ways we might act, but it does not identify a preferred alternative. Citing Fish and Game Code §2950, 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
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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- Protection of water quality.

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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 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 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.

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
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
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
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

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.

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).
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 a restoration program and identifies a future implementing agency.

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.

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.
Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Brian Cohen
5050 Santa Monica #11
San Diego, CA 92107
619 838-2397
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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.

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Jan 4, 2007
Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1436 9th Street, Room 1486
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 90046-1313

Jennifer Cheyne (JC)

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.
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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.

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.
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 tube.

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.
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
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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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.

From: Matt Cope
To: SaltonSeaComments.
CC: nelson@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-Flores

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) Nevil Gringe & many other politicians 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 get 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 loss 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 Mulholland 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.
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 5556
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.

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 innovative 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.
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.

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
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
The geology of the region was addressed 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 is prohibited by federal and state regulations.
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.

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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: Robert Chandler (RC)
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
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

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Aaron Dougherty (AD)

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Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Bill Donavan (BDonavan)

BDonavan-1

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

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Irene Dombeck (ID)

ID-1

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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.
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.
A variety of options, including desalination using reverse osmosis, to remove salts from Salton Sea inflows sources (such as the New, Alamo, and Whitlewater 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.
C-MEMS - CASCADING MEMBRANES 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.
A single pass Reverse Osmosis (RO) unit produces a concentrate of approximately 15% of the quantity of water fed to the unit. Some units produce 20% to 25% of concentrate. All of this concentrate is "toxic" and not available for use.

Southwest Salt Solutions Concept (C-MEMS) produces a concentrate of approximately 3% of the quantity of water fed to the unit.

THE WATER SAVED IS 98% OF THE QUANTITY FED.
**SOUTHWEST SALT SOLUTIONS**

**OPINION OF PROBABLE CAPITAL AND OPERATING COSTS**

**SALTON SEA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.6 million tons of salt are dissolved in 1.3 million acre feet of inflow that enters the sea each year.</td>
<td>4,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pounds of salt removed per year by one 200,000 gallon C-MED's Unit.</td>
<td>17,885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of C-MED's units required to remove the 4,500,000 tons per year added to the sea.</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Time Capital Cost for 252 C-MED's Units 250,256,429</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Cost for 252 C-MED's Units 81,540,094</td>
<td>81,540,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRE FEET OF WATER PROCESSED THROUGH 252 C-MED'S PER YEAR</td>
<td>75,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACRE FEET OF INEFFECTIVE WATER FROM 252 C-MED'S PER YEAR</td>
<td>30,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTAINS 1,500 ppm 106</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORE FEET OF SCUM PRODUCED AND CRYSTALIZED PER YEAR</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MDuecker (cont.)**
## 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impurity</th>
<th>Percent Rejection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aluminum</td>
<td>97-98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ammonium</td>
<td>85-95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arsenic</td>
<td>94-99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacteria</td>
<td>99-99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boron</td>
<td>55-70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bromide</td>
<td>93-95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium</td>
<td>96-98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbonate</td>
<td>96-98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloride</td>
<td>94-95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromate</td>
<td>90-98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chromium</td>
<td>96-98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copper</td>
<td>97-99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyanide</td>
<td>90-95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrous</td>
<td>98-99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluoride</td>
<td>94-96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>98-99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>96-98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnesium</td>
<td>96-98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manganese</td>
<td>96-98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>96-98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Dissolved</td>
<td>94-96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDS (Total Dissolved)</td>
<td>94-96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What does a typical R.O. take out of water?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHEMICALS</th>
<th>REDUCES BY</th>
<th>OTHER CONTAMINANTS</th>
<th>REDUCES BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tetra (chloride)</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>carbonate</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>benzene</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>cadmium</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carbon tetrachloride</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>calcium</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p-chlorobenzene</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>chloride</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCE (trichloroethene)</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>chloride</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,1,1-trichloroethane</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>chloride</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,2-dichloropropane</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>fluoride</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cis-1,3-dichloropropene</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>iron</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chlorobenzene</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>nickel</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hexachlorobutadiene</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>nitrates</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ortho-xylene</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>nitrate</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water FAQ</td>
<td></td>
<td>Page 4 of 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chemical</th>
<th>Reduction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCP</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>benzene</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>toluene</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trans-1,2-dichloroethane</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,2-dichlorobenzene</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,2-dichloropropane</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,1-dichloroethene</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chlorine</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDT</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBCP</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atrazine</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact your Culligan Men

Tap into the resources of your Jackson Culligan Men. Our water professionals will be happy to help you find the right product, at the right price. More...
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Martha Diaz (MDiaz)

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Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 5th 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 am asking you to please consider doing anything necessary to protect the Salton Sea.

Sincerely,

Mary Donaghy
145 W 67th St Apt 15
New York, NY 10023-5675

Mary Donaghy (MDonaghy)

MDonaghy-1
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
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.
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Stephanie Donaldson (SD)

SD-1

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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.
Jan 6, 2007
Ms. Dale Hoffman-Frochte
1416 6th Street, Room 1108
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Frochte,

Remember, if the Creator put it there, it’s in the right place.
-Megaphone, 1074

Therese Davis
30702 Bristow Ln.
Whittier, CA 90605-1102

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.
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. Dole 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 to your attention.

“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 dependent on us.

Sincerely,

Tara Downer
1012 Bluebird Dr
Murchaca, TX 78553-4156
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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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.

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
Joshua Freeman (JFreeman)

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

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

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.

Kristena Fisher (KFisher)

KFisher-1

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KFisher-2

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

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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 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 Pike
Scotland, CT 06264-0039
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.
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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®.

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.

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Deborah Gillear (DGilleard)

As an avid bird watcher and lover of wildlife (and of maintaining habitat 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 Gillear
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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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.

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.
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
GaryRuthG@verizon.net
Retired Supt. of Public Works,
Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego.
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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Joann Guillen (JGuillen)

JGuillen-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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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.

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.
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Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Richard & Hildegard Gruwell (RG)

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-1

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-2

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.

RG-3

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-4
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

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

Amy Hawkins

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

Amy Hawkins

3524 SW CalDev St
Portland, OR 97219-1646
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).
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.
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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.

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 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. The Preferred Alternative includes many of the components suggested by the commenter.
6. The perimeter waterway to all act as:  
   a. A canal and reservoir for the other conveyance systems  
   b. The desert pupfish connection  
6. Marine elements can be added to and become one with the perimeter waterway  
7. Rubber tires are recognized as being inert and environmentally acceptable.  
 And it is the design in the use of tires to the end that the structure will be  
   viable that is at issue. Therefore, design models shall be developed. And  
   based on those models and cost effectiveness consideration, rubber tires  
   shall be used extensively as a major component in the construction of the  
   dikes and outflow, check and spill structures  
8. The cover area shall be:  
   a. Used for hiking, camping and other passive uses  
   b. Converted to other uses, e.g.  
      (1) Geothermal development  
9. The primary goal of the cover area is to provide dust protection. And the  
   allowed uses within the cover will be subject to maintaining dust protection.  
10. The linchpin design matters include:  
    a. Effective and economical conveyance systems to and between the:  
       (1) Wetlands/cover element  
       (2) Saline habitat and brine sink elements  
    b. Well within irrigation design for the wetlands, e.g.  
       (1) Pan system on the contour  
       (2) Furrows level to one tenth fall on the existing terrain (obliquely contoured)  
11. There shall be enhanced habitat development within the inflow areas of the  
    perimeter waterway  
12. The perimeter waterway will obviously achieve salinity standards. And  
    marine elements which may be added to and become part of the waterway  
    system need to achieve the salinity standards  

Conclusion  
A basic and expandable no project alternative begins with the establishment of a  
perimeter waterway.  

The opportunity to use tires as a major structural component will not exist until effective  
models are developed and the cost effectiveness of using tires is determined.  

Nothing in this basic and minimum plan should preclude the addition and assimilation of  
other elements (i.e. it should establish an effective foundation).  

CLIFF HURLEY
Jan 4, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Comments on Draft PEIR for Salton Sea

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY WATER LEFT TO DIVERT.

Sincerely,

Di Hard
Bismark Road
Cocoa, FL 32027

Di Hard (DH)

DH-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
1418 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).

WHAT WE ALL NEED TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT AS WE SLOWLY KILL OFF OUR WILDLIFE, WE ARE ALSO KILLING OUR OWN SPECIES. MAN WILL GO THE WAY OF THE OTHER CREATURES.

WE DO NOT NEED TO PAVE, DRILL, POLLUTE, DRAIN AND DESECRATE EVERY BIT OF OUR COUNTRY.
DO THE RIGHT THING!!!

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Ellen Honey
1170 Bayview Via
Annapolis, MD 21409-4909
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." Improving the water quality of the New River is not one of the project's legislative goals. However, the CRBRWQCB and the SWRCB have been working collaboratively with the Republic of Mexico to improve the water quality of the New River.

I drive over the New River (new?) once every week, smelling and observing 100's of gallons of raw sewage that come out of Mexicali, Mexico.

WHY HAS THIS ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD BEEN ALLOWED FOR SO MANY YEARS?

Also, I have flown over the Salton Sea numerous times and have seen the visual effects of the sewage where it empties into the Salton Sea at the Southern end.

Mexico needs to be more responsible and should take care of its own sewage problems. The United States should not take that burden for them.

Sincerely,

Gary Hoyt/Boulevard, CA.
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.
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 run an inn for birders here in South Texas. Bird watching tourism is a valuable economic resource to us, and it should be of increasing value to the Salton Sea area, especially if services for birders are improved. Nature tourism is an important industry that may alone justify the retention of the Salton Sea as an economic generator for the region.  

Thank you for your consideration of my views.  

Sincerely,  
Keith Hackland  
801 Main Street  
Alamo, TX 78516-2560  

All of the alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative, have the potential for increasing bird watching and other ecotourism activities at the Salton Sea. This potential increase in tourism could provide additional economic opportunities for communities surrounding the Salton Sea.
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 letters editor,
and
For public comment:

Since the Salton Sea is 200 feet below sea level, why not revert to the earliest, simplest and I'll put forth, the wisest choice of an original pipeline suggestion. Let's pipe in low-salinity sea water to support the migratory birds and that's it. Otherwise this is becoming Southern California's equivalent joke on the level of the infamous Oakland Bay Bridge rebuild. Taxpayer money isn't infinite and like businesses

Sincerely,
Leland P. Hammerschmitt
383 Longhorn Lane
Ojai, Ca. 93023
805-640-1184

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.
The Resources Agency agrees that R1300/R1390 record has a non-realistic character which was recognized during the original record. The suite of records was intended to serve as preliminary information only. This record has been removed from further consideration. The Draft PEIR has been revised to reflect records attributed to Paul Somerville and other researchers as being developed by non-DWR personnel.
I will call you later to discuss.

Regards,

Leo D. Handfelt, P.E.
Principal Geotechnical Engineer
URS Corporation
1615 Murray Canyon Road, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92108
Direct: 619-683-6144
Main: 619-294-9400
Mobile: 619-384-7492
Fax: 619-293-7920
leo_handfelt@urscorp.com
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Sincerely,

Mark Hodie
1440 Melbrook Dr
Munster, IN 46321-3117
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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 8, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please save the Salton Sea for our migrating birds. They need our help.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roslyn Hill
11459 Waterford St
Los Angeles, CA 90049-3438
Jan 4, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

We live on this planet; let's stop killing it. Someone wants more money so another irreparable part of our only world needs to die. We need to rethink this. Short term personal gain or a home for our children? Can't have both.

Salle Hunter

Tucson AZ

Sincerely,

Salle Hunter
331 E Blacklidge Dr
Tucson, AZ 85705-4613
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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Virginia Iser (VI)

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

Dear Mr. Hoffman-Fletcher,

I am writing regarding the Resources Agency’s Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Salton Sea Restoration Program.

The current proposals are not acceptable because of massive health problems and environmental problems.

The alternatives from the Salton Sea Restoration Authority California. I support it.

Please help us do the right thing for all the birds.

Sincerely,

Virginia Iser
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Christina Johnson (CJ)

CJ-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.” All of the alternatives meet the legislative objectives to varying degrees.

CJ-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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Dear Dale Hoffman-Roerke:

I am a very concerned citizen residing in the Coachella Valley and I am formally endorsing Alternative 2 – Saline Habitat Complex II for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. Thank you.

Jean Jones
565 S. Farnel #100
Palm Springs, CA 92264
(760) 322-ARTS

Jean Jones (JJ)

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 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1418 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

you need to help the animals in nature, we all need each other to survive.

Sincerely,

Miranda Jane
5705 Cheyenne Cir
Virginia Bch, VA 23462-3901

Miranda Jane (MJane)

Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration PEIR

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.
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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®.

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

SHIRLEY A JONES
1536 DESERT AIR AVE
VISTA DEL MAR ESTATES
THERMAL, CA 92274
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.

Protection of wildlife and avian species is a major component of the project; however, such protection must be conducted in light of the two other project purposes (to the extent feasible, elimination of air quality impacts and protection of water quality).
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
Martin Knight (MKnight)

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.

MKnight-1

Please consider some of the alternatives that have been proposed. Despite the fact that the Sea’s creation was an accident, it provides critical habitat for migratory birds. The loss of Thule Lake in the forties has created a vital need for replacement of habitat servicing the fly ways in our great state. Personally I would support a bond issue. Perhaps the private sector in exchange for limited development could help foot the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

Martin Knight
martinste@pacbell.net
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." While human concerns, such as human health and economic and recreational opportunities, are important factors that have been considered in the development an analysis of the alternatives, the alternatives are intended to meet the legislative mandates outline in the Salton Sea Restoration Act.
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.

Rebecca Kuzins (RKuzins)

RKuzins-1

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
From: Tony Krzysik
To: SaltonSeaComments
Subject: Salton Sea PEIR Comments
Date: Friday, November 17, 2006 3:58:31 PM

Date Hoffman-Floerke
SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov

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

17 November 2006

SUBJECT: Comments on Draft PEIR for Salton Sea

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

This e-mail provides my input on the Resources Agency’s Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

The state of California must take all appropriate action to save the biological and physical integrity of the Salton Sea ecosystem. The “no action” scenarios described in the PEIR and in the Pacific Institute’s Hazard (see http://www.pacinst.org/reports/saltonsea/index.htm) clearly demonstrate that human health is at serious risk in Imperial and Coachella Valleys, because of predicted hundreds of additional tons of annual fugitive dust that would blow off the land exposed by the shrinking Salton Sea. The winds in this region are unusually intense and persistent. The actual measured wind transport of dust and sand just north of Palm Springs has been recorded as the highest on the planet!!

A reduced and more saline Salton Sea would severely impact the more than 400 species of birds that migrate through, over-winter, breed, or are permanent...
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. The Salton Sea Restoration Act does not specify a timeframe for meeting these objectives.

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.
I urge that DWR combine the following six optimizing features from the currently proposed alternatives into a final evolved PREFERRED alternative. This meets the legal requirements for restoration, and provides opportunities for recreation and development in Imperial and Coachella Valleys.

1) Provide between 25,000 - 50,000 acres of Shallow Saline Habitat Complex, as described in Alternatives 1 and 2, at the southern and northern ends of the Salton Sea to provide habitat for shoreline species.

2) Create concentric rings using pectubes or other dirt-filled barriers, as described in Alternative 4, to provide additional shallow habitat, deeper marine habitat, shoreline and view protection, air-quality protections, and recreation.

3) Develop a significant North Lake, approximately 10,000 acre, fed by the Whitewater River to provide recreation and development opportunities without the costs and risks associated with a major mid-Sea barrier or the costs of pumping water from the southern end of the Salton Sea. This is similar to the lakes found in Alternatives 5-7, and would provide the largest recreational lake in Southern California.

4) Provide at least one-half acre-foot of water per acre of exposed Seabed, as stipulated by the Salton Sea Advisory Committee, to prevent dust pollution caused by exposed playa. This is described in Alternatives 1-3, 5-6 and 8.

5) Immediately construct shallow saline habitat (known as "early start habitat") to provide resource requirements for birds during the long permitting and construction process. This was addressed in all of the proposed alternatives.

6) Develop and implement a plan that provides water for habitat and air quality mitigation first, in case of possible shortages or system malfunctions. This was described in Alternatives 1-3.

A "Final Preferred Alternative" that contains all of these six 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, air quality, and water quality; while concurrently providing substantial recreation and economic opportunities. I strongly urge the State to select this Preferred Alternative with the components and features outlined above. Such an evolved alternative would best meet the needs of local communities and economics, fish and wildlife (especially all the migratory birds of the Pacific Flyway), the people of California, and the worldwide community of birdwatchers that visits this globally significant ecosystem.
Thank you for your attention and careful consideration of these constructive comments.

Sincerely,
Tony Krzyzak

Anthony J. Krzyzak, Ph.D.
Research and Consultant Ecologist
Prescott Audubon Society, Conservation Chair & Board of Directors

11 Highland Terrace
Prescott, AZ 86305
928-777-2106
krzyzak@cableone.net
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.
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-Florrie
1410 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Florrie,

There are many more people out here than you might think who are concerned about the environment, the migratory birds, and their places of habitat.

Please protect the Salton Seal. Please. We'll never be able to get it back once it's gone.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Betsy Lyde
520 N McKown Ave
Sherman, TX 75092-5578
To:  
The Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program committee.

Issue:  
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR)

From:  
Enrique Lozano
(Concerned citizen living on the on the Imperial Valley.)

January 15, 2007

I attended the Salton Sea Public Hearing at El Centro, California on January 11, 2007. As a citizen of the Imperial Valley I am concerned about the AIR QUALITY on the Imperial Valley and most of all about the ALTERNATIVES that you are proposing neither one of them address the NEW RIVER as part of the project.

A background on the NEW RIVER:

The New River was artificially created in 1905 (along with the Salton Sea) when the US Army Corps of Engineers inadvertently flooded The Imperial Valley basin in its attempts to divert the Colorado River. It flows a new, northward flow (instead of its original Gulf of California bound southern trajectory). It originates approximately 20 miles south of the border and flows past Calexico, California and around the Imperial Valley (Calexico, El Centro, Brawley, Imperial and Westmorland) for approximately 65 miles before emptying into the Salton Sea.

It is mainly sourced by Colorado River water run off from the Mexicali Valley additionally injected with approximately 14 to 16 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated, partially treated and raw sewage from the city of Mexicali, Mexico. In recent years, thanks in large part to Mexicali’s population growth, inferior industrial waste control, toxic agricultural runoff (DDT, a pesticide which almost led the Bald eagle to extinction, banned in the US since the 1970s, is still used in Mexico), and inadequate sewer system, the New River has earned the unwelcome title of most polluted river in North America.

As it winds across the US / Mexico border near Calexico, its most obvious features are its stench and foam. It stinks like a sewer (the stench easily penetrates even completely sealed vehicles) and it produces toxic foam, which the desert wind frequently blows into shopping center parking lots near its entry point at the border. The water alternates between an unnatural shade of green and Coca Cola black, occasionally surfacing noxious gases and vapors (evident in its occasional bubble patches) and is somewhat visous its consistency.
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.”

Water quality in the New River and in agricultural runoff is outside of the scope of the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program.

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The river is a true witches stew of pathogens (capable of producing Polio, Typhoid, Cholera, Tuberculosis), carcinogens, heavy metals (lead, arsenic, cadmium, Thallium, antimony, boron, manganese) pesticides (aldrin, chlor dane, DDD, DDE, DDT, heptachlor Oxide), PCBs, and over 65 volatile organic substances (VOCs). Many of these substances are present in concentrations that violate US EPA and CalEPA standards by several hundred-fold.

Numerous studies have been conducted on the exact composition. Fecal coliform (which leads to E-colli) and streptococci are the most evident, especially as it crosses the border. Mosquito colonies that can spring up along the more stagnant portions of the river are known carriers of an Arbovirus cause Encephalitis.

While overall assessment of this river can be summed up as true Ecological disaster zone. A new partially US-funded wastewater plant in an area known as “Las Armas” (33 km south of the border) is tentatively schedule to become operational in September 2006, however this plant as of January 15, 2007 is not functional to its full capacity. Despite the new treatment plant, the New River will remain hazardous long after the sewage stops.

It is absolutely imperative that the New River is included into the ALTERNATIVES for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program. It is pathetic that Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact team will depend a 100 percent on Mexico to take care of the problem of the New River. To me and a lot of the community members that I showed and share the Alternatives proposed by your committee, we conclude and agree that your proposed alternatives is going to be a waste of money, time and effort if the main problem, which is the New River and the Alamo River is not solve first by the United States.

Sincerely,

Enrique Lozano.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Jan 5, 2007
Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 8th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

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).

The Salton Sea is absolutely critical for the survival of migratory birds and the animals they benefit by filling their niche in the ecosystem. These birds already suffer from massive loss of habitat due to development. The proposed plan by the Defenders of Wildlife would save these birds and benefit humans as well. I strongly urge you to implement this plan. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Lezenby
4900 Beaumont Ave Apt 1R
Philadelphia, PA 19143-3456

Kathryn Lezenby (KL)

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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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).

While the Barrier that forms the Marine Sea would be constructed using rock, impacts to big horn sheep and desert tortoise would be evaluated in detail in future project-level analysis.

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.
Thank you for your consideration.

Linda Leventhal
73100 Lyons Blvd
Desert Hot Springs Ca 92241
E-mail: mlleventh@hotmail.com

LLeventhal (cont.)
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 114B-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

please for the love of all things that are natural will you please save the birds. Its bad enough that we are killing this planet cant we leave the animals alone??? thank you

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Lore Lozier
23 Church St
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472-1205
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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 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.
The creation of a salt crust, as described in Alternative 7, remains a viable mitigation approach for some areas of the Exposed Playa, as long as it can be proven effective at the Salton Sea. Additional studies on salt chemistry, mineralization, and overall control efficiencies for salt crusts could be conducted during project-level analysis, in order to propose this method for dust mitigation. Any proposed mitigation measures must be as least as efficient as measures currently recognized by the air regulatory agencies as Best Available Control Measures.

MLopez-3

Potential for emissions from untreated, Exposed Playa is recognized extensively in Appendix E of the Draft PEIR, and Appendix H-3 addresses control of these potential emissions in great detail. Although public health standards for human exposure to PM10 exist, no similar thresholds exist for crops. In Appendix E, Attachment E10, the limited existing literature regarding dust impacts on crops was reviewed. National ambient air quality standards are developed on the basis of impacts to health and welfare, and these standards were used to develop the air quality management approach for the Draft PEIR. Compliance with these standards should provide significant protection to crops, as well as human health. It would be appropriate for future project-level analysis to address specific impacts and required mitigation measures.

MLopez-4

See response to comment MLopez-1 above. The Preferred Alternative does not include land development around the Salton Sea to fund restoration actions.

MLopez-5

See response to comment MLopez-1 above. The Preferred Alternative includes the creation of habitat, including Saline Habitat Complex and a portion of the Marine Sea, in the southern portion of the present Salton Sea. As described in response to comment MLopez-1, 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. These recreational opportunities could provide additional economic opportunities for communities surrounding the Salton Sea.
The cultural and Native American history in the Salton Sea area was described in Chapter 15 of the Draft PEIR. The Resources Agency recognizes the importance of these resources and the Draft PEIR includes a variety of Next Steps, or mitigation measures, that seek to reduce or eliminate impacts to these resources. The Preferred Alternative does not include land development around the Salton Sea to fund restoration actions.

See response to comment MLopez-1 above.
The hydrology and associated inflows analysis for the Draft PEIR was developed in coordination with the Inflows Working Group. The group was a sub-group of the Salton Sea Advisory Committee. It was open to the public and meetings were attended by a variety of local, regional, and statewide agencies, environmental organizations, and interested members of the public.

As described in Appendix H-2 of the Draft PEIR, the 717,000 acre-feet inflow was used in the analysis of all alternatives to allow for comparison of the alternatives. This inflow amount was selected in corporation with the Inflows Working Group and was based on the best available data and technical information. This inflow amount was intended to minimize the risk of failure of an alternative to meet its habitat, air quality, and water quality goals that could result with an inadequate water supply. It would be appropriate for reevaluation of future inflows to the Salton Sea to include the most current flow data during project-level analysis. The Draft PEIR inflow analysis does not include new water transfers.

While Fish and Game Code Section 2081.7 allows for the transfer of up to 1,600,000 acre-feet of water from IID to DWR and allows Metropolitan to purchase that water from DWR, as identified in the Draft PEIR, DWR has no plans to pursue the transfer and sale of the (c)(1) or (c)(2) water. The Resources Agency recognizes that the costs of the mitigation associated with the transfer of the (c)(1) and (c)(2) water could be substantial. As stated on page 3-81 of the Draft PEIR, "... the monetary benefit from the sale of (c)(2) or (c)(1) water does not appear to be significantly greater than the costs associated with the mitigations.”

Representatives of the State met with you to discuss the inflow analysis and your concerns regarding this analysis. While you disagree with the inflow analysis, as stated above, the analysis was prepared in an open, public process and in coordination with members of the Inflows Working Group. All data used in the inflows analysis was discussed with the Inflows Working Group and the State has not used manipulated data in the analysis.
The 32 member Advisory Committee included representatives from a variety of federal, State, and local public agencies, Tribal governments, and non-governmental organizations. They were selected by the Legislature to provide balanced representation of a variety of interests in the Salton Sea in accordance with the Salton Sea Restoration Act and related legislation. The 75-year study period was selected based on the Advisory Committee’s recommendation.

PL-3

See response to comment PL-2 above.

PL-4

The approach taken in the hydrologic analysis of the alternatives was to consider a range of possible future hydrologic scenarios over the planning horizon. The 75-year planning horizon was agreed upon by the Advisory Committee and is consistent with the planning horizon for the QSA. While the non-renewal of the transfer after 45 years could have been analyzed, from the perspective of the development of a restoration alternative, this scenario is speculative. Alternatives were developed under a reasonable, but conservative hydrologic condition such that the alternative would function across a broad range of possible conditions. Under future hydrologic conditions that have greater inflows than that used for design, such as the one described by the commenter, the alternatives would continue to function as designed but may have a larger Brine Sink.
TheDraft PEIR considered two alternative future hydrologic conditions: No Action Alternative-CEQA Conditions and No Action Alternative-Variability Conditions. The No Action Alternative-CEQA Conditions are based on the CEQA Guidelines which limits consideration to those projects and actions to those that are reasonably foreseeable (which, for the purposes of the Draft PEIR was determined to be projects that have already undergone environmental permitting). Due to the long planning horizon for this project and the sensitivity of the Salton Sea conditions to inflows, a broader interpretation was necessary and appropriate. The No Action Alternative-Variability Conditions considered a broader range of possible future conditions, including possible future water management changes, as discussed in Appendix H-2 of the Draft PEIR.

As discussed in Appendix H-2, the USGS (Hely et al., 1966), as part of an evaluation of evaporation at the Salton Sea, independently measured flows and provided estimates of total direct IID drain flows to the Salton Sea for years 1961–62. These values were found to be greater than those estimated by IID for the same period. The USGS also found that their computed historical Imperial Valley flows, while differing from those of IID on an individual year basis, were nearly identical over the 13-year period in which they were computed (Hely et al., 1966). The USGS did not continue measurement of the drains beyond the two-year program. IID maintains the only long-term records of Imperial Valley direct drains to the Salton Sea and also provided projections of these drainage flows for future years.

discussed in Appendix H-2, the future water budget considered the best available since regarding the effects of climate change in the region of the Salton Sea. The re climate scenarios included in the Draft PEIR are consistent with those utilized in the Climate Action Team Report by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA, 2006) and cited in the Appendix H-2 of the Draft PEIR. These scenarios indicate a strong trend toward increasing temperature, but relatively little change in total precipitation. As described in Appendix H-2 of the Draft PEIR, four climate projections from emission-model scenarios utilized in the Climate Action Team Report were evaluated at grid locations centered near the Salton Sea. These results were consistent with that described above, indicating relatively little change in total precipitation. These results are also consistent with findings by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2001) Third Assessment Report and recently released Fourth Assessment Report (IPCC, 2007). The Monte Carlo analysis considered the range of effects on evaporation from the lowest to the highest warming scenarios.
The "mean" future inflow is the average of all possible futures and not simply an analysis of a mid-point between extremes. In the analysis presented in Appendix H-2 in the Draft PEIR, the "mean" inflow would be exceeded in many possible future conditions. Likewise, for many other possible future conditions the flows would be less than the "mean" inflow. As discussed in Appendix H-2 “Considering Uncertainty in Sizing/Placement of Major Infrastructure”, the selection of the appropriate inflow for use in sizing or placement of major infrastructure is a function of uncertainty and risk. For the Draft PEIR, a conservative approach was taken such that the alternative configurations developed by the Resources Agency would function for 80 percent of the possible future conditions. This does not mean that "80% of the time, 646,000 a/ft being used would be too low" as suggested by the commenter. It does mean there is uncertainty regarding the future inflows and, given this level of uncertainty and desire for the alternatives to function over most possible conditions, a low level of risk was assumed. As discussed in Appendix H-2, similar evaluations of trade-offs and risk are part of many hydrologic or hydraulic analyses such as the sizing of flood control levees or water supply dams (failure or yield versus cost). Levees and dams are not designed for the average expected inflow; nor should structures at the Salton Sea.

The Resources Agency respectively disagrees with the commenter's suggestion that "manipulated data" was used in the Draft PEIR. The Resources Agency has taken great strides to perform a comprehensive analysis of the hydrologic conditions affecting the Salton Sea that has included extensive coordination and input from stakeholders.

As discussed in response PLarson-a-5, the No Action Alternative-CEQA Conditions was based on the CEQA Guidelines. Due to the long planning horizon for this project and the sensitivity of the Salton Sea conditions to inflows, a broader interpretation was necessary and appropriate. The No Action Alternative-Variability Conditions considered a broader range of possible future conditions, including possible future water management changes, as discussed in Appendix H-2 of the Draft PEIR. The Resources Agency’s goal was to develop alternatives that would be long-lasting and not be at risk of failure given the uncertainty of future inflows. For these reasons a conservative inflow was considered in placement/sizing of major infrastructure. If, as the commenter appears to suggest, the infrastructure should be placed considering higher future inflows, the alternative would not function should these flows not materialize.

The Resources Agency respectively disagrees with the commenter’s suggestion that "manipulated data" was used in the Draft PEIR. The Resources Agency has taken great strides to perform a comprehensive analysis of the hydrologic conditions affecting the Salton Sea that has included extensive coordination and input from stakeholders.

As discussed in response PLarson-a-5, the No Action Alternative-CEQA Conditions was based on the CEQA Guidelines. Due to the long planning horizon for this project and the sensitivity of the Salton Sea conditions to inflows, a broader interpretation was necessary and appropriate. The No Action Alternative-Variability Conditions considered a broader range of possible future conditions, including possible future water management changes, as discussed in Appendix H-2 of the Draft PEIR. The Resources Agency’s goal was to develop alternatives that would be long-lasting and not be at risk of failure given the uncertainty of future inflows. For these reasons a conservative inflow was considered in placement/sizing of major infrastructure. If, as the commenter appears to suggest, the infrastructure should be placed considering higher future inflows, the alternative would not function should these flows not materialize.
Each of the alternatives considered in the Draft PEIR was analyzed for the range of flows under No Action Alternative-CEQA Conditions and No Action Alternative-Variability Conditions. The detailed results of these analyses are shown in Appendix H-2, Attachment 2 and are summarized in various parts of the Draft PEIR, including Chapter 5 "Surface Water Resources". In addition, the performance of each alternative for individual hydrologic traces representing 600,000 acre-feet/yr, 700,000 acre-feet/yr, 800,000 acre-feet/yr, and 900,000 acre-feet/yr average annual inflows is included in these sections.

The commenter identifies a legal and policy issue that is outside of the scope of the Draft PEIR.
Robert Lozoya (RLozoya)

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.

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Robert Lozoya

I am thoroughly opposed to squandering taxpayer money to "Save" the Salton sea.

The sea was created by an accident. Nature is now trying to fix this mistake. This should be obvious by the natural state of the lake.

If the local residents want to create a water park in the desert to promote tourism and increase property values then they should issue a local bond to pay for it. The state does not have the money to do it.

Robert Lozoya
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.
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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- 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.
Ameyer-1

This comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State's Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

Ameyer-1

Now that you are begging for money from Chevron, health insurance companies, and anyone else you can think of, to have a big party for yourself, we can see why millions of us dont have health insurance and energy prices are so high!!! You are reverting back to a typical "republican" [Politically Incorrect]

How about doing something for us and try to save the Salton Sea!!!
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.

Sincerely,
Ann Morris
5902 Thonotosassa Road
Plant City, FL 33565-6714
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 major portion 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 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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 114-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Hi. I understand you’re taking comments on the proposal to restore the Salton Sea. I know how valuable it is as a stopover for migrating birds, and would like to see it preserved and restored. It not only benefits the bird population, but obviously, as with an living body of water, it cleanses the water and preserves the water table in its area.

It's my understanding that the current proposals don't go far enough to protect and restore the Salton Sea. I suggest you follow the guidelines proposed by Defenders of Wildlife, since I know their experts have studied and reviewed the current plans.

Thanks for your consideration.

Beth Montes

Sincerely,

Beth Montes
8330 E Big Horn Trl
Tucson, AZ 85750-9620

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Beth Montes (BMontes)

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 5, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1418 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please take steps to protect the Salton Sea. It is important to many birds who are dependent on it.

Sincerely,

Claudia McNiff
1623 E Candlestick Dr
Tempe, AZ 85283-2184

Claudia McNiff (CM)

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: Efron Morrison
To: SaltonSeaComments
CC: pat.cooper@sen.ca.gov; DCain@saltonsea.ca.gov; michelle.stevens@imperial.edu; salve1@earthlink.net; RonVV@aol.com; SaveOurSea2006@so.com; redearthhrb@zwan.com; isjain@netzero.com; rdanials@saltonsea.ca.gov; saltonsea.law@gmail.com
Subject: saving the sea, another way
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 10:25:09 PM

Please excuse my lateness in getting this out, but we are having a hell of a time with our mail. We can receive but can't send. I finally realized that I can send by going on the net and doing yahoo.com ... my Outlook is all screwed up!! ... Everett ...

LET'S SAVE THE WHOLE SEA
Or, throw a monkey wrench into the soup; it's #217;)

By Everett English, Editor – The Salton Seafarer

Around the Salton Sea, national politics are secondary to the real issue (#230; which plan will be used to clean up the sea? Or to put it another way, how are they going to chop it up? Many people have reluctantly agreed that the sea will have to be chopped to less than half its size, in order to save it, but very few of us know why such a drastic reduction must be made, and most of us still would prefer to find an alternative.

That answer reminds me of the Dalton Trumbo book &amp;#220;Johnny Got His Guns&amp;#221; I read long ago about a young WWI soldier who was badly blown up. As well as his loss of sight, hearing, voice, and smell, they cut off all his limbs in order to save him. It was an early experiment on how far could they go and still keep him &amp;#8220;alive&amp;#8221;.
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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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.
As described in Chapter 1 of the Draft PEIR (see page 1-3), the ability to use the Salton Sea for a repository of agricultural drainage was protected when President Calvin Coolidge in 1924 and 1928 ordered specific sections of land under the Salton Sea to be withdrawn from settlement, location, sale, or entry, and reserved for the purposes of creating a drainage reservoir. At this time there is no intent to change the Salton Sea as a repository for drainage water.
People here in the Imperial Valley will probably need a lot more convincing that global climates are changing as long as the Colorado River keeps its abundant flow, but we will see a big change just because of population growth in the Imperial Valley. If we grow to the predicted numbers, where will all the water come from that will be needed for that much population and infrastructure? What if droughts hit the Midwest and we start seeing less water coming down the Colorado?

Well, we don’t have to look far or too long ago to remember that Orange County used to be big ranches, big orange groves, big farms and dairies. I can remember when my uncle moved to Huntington Beach from Long Beach back in 1966; I helped him move and couldn’t understand why he wanted to move to an area that smelled heavily of the dairy cows across the road. Is there a single dairy cow, much less an orange grove, left anywhere in Orange County now?

We won’t be able to support all that growth and infrastructure and still keep our farming community. There isn’t enough water for both to exist. On top of that, seven states upstream will want more of their share of water, and they come first.

Do any of the Salton Sea plans really take that growth and change into account? I don’t think so, because even if they cut the sea down to its future size of about 40% or less than what it is right now, it will still be dependent on farming runoff to fill it. Don’t forget, our water rights are based on farmers’ needs and the sea is dependent on that. Eliminating them and adding thousands of people will change our water rights just as much as other entities and states that will want more of that water in the future. It will also change the runoff to brown water, which will only compound the sea’s present problems and require massive sewage circulation ponds which are very poor substitutes for the farm runoff we have now. Right now, they want to make California’s largest lake smaller than Lake Tahoe. With this lack of foresight,
we might eventually end up smaller than Lake Elsinore! So that's what it's all about; it's the water! Have you noticed that in most communities, people now run for the water boards rather than city councils? Tha
 is where the true power is; it's all about the water.
I know this is probably a bit late and throwing a monkey wrench into all the Granfalloon answers of saving our Salton Sea, but saving the sea might be better done if we look at the problem from a different angle. Perhaps saving the sea isn't the answer. Perhaps dealing with all that infrastructure, as well as all the growth projected for the West Shores, is the real problem and we should take a deeper look at how we can save our farming communities along with that growth. Saving the sea could then become the after effect of dealing with the problems of population growth. Sometimes, its best not to attack what the present problem is, but by solving other problems, we can heal what we perceive to be the problem.
In other words, we need to look to our future growth for our answers. The sea can be saved in its present size if we tackle those other problems. We will need water for all the growth projected for the Imperial Valley, and let's not forget the growth that's approaching us from the Coachella Valley. Part of the Salton Sea Authority's plan to pay for the costs of building that dike will be paid by building over 200,000 homes around the north end of the sea. That's more homes than San Diego proper, and don't forget, they won 15% of our water by taking it to court. They won't get that water for several more years, but things can change; much like the climate. The tables have changed and they can change again; a precedent has been set. Where all that water going to come from? Do you really think we'll get it from the Colorado? Worse yet, what if Global Warming affects the winter snow deposits in the Midwest. If that happens, that sea out there may dry up and turn into
the 2nd lowest land in the U.S., just five feet higher than Death Valley. Is that the tourist attraction we want?

Many people think it would be a good idea to build canals to the Sea of Cortez, but if that became the answer, we’d be signing agreements for over 50 years with two countries, several counties, and every town and farmer from here to there.

Other people have suggested a pipeline over or through the mountains to the Pacific Ocean, an endless supply of water. That is closer to the answer, but far too expensive, especially for just saving the sea. The expense really has to be taken into account, because let’s face it, the sea is attractive and has become one of the greatest bird migration spots in the world, but hardly an excuse for spending billions of dollars with no other real reason other than we like the view and the birds. Also, desalinating plants are expensive, and they would be needed for any pipeline or canals.

But if water is brought in for that infrastructure and population growth, then it can be paid for by their use. Of course, it will require a much larger water delivery and desalinating system than needed to just clean the sea, but its use by homes, farming, industry and general infrastructure would be paid by them and therefore become real bang for the bucks.

The best part would be the very little expense of continuing a pipeline to the Salton Sea compared to any of the eight plans of shrinking it to the size the engineers in all their wisdom have imagined now. We would be in the unique position of having two great water sources, so that even in a drought situation, we would have an abundance of water.

We also need to look at water supply systems in a much more advanced way than the easy ways we’ve gotten it in the past. Water is becoming as precious as fuel. The world is much more populated, now around 6.5 billion people, almost double what it was in 1965, and that was double what it was in 1900. At that rate, we are expected to reach 8 billion by 2020.

Municipal growth in the IID water service area would not result in additional water to the Salton Sea. Water would be expected to come from reductions in irrigation applications resulting in less drainage water that would otherwise flow to the Salton Sea.
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 PEIR. 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 concept of desalinization to control salinity has not been implemented on the large scale required at the Salton Sea. However, this concept could be considered on a smaller scale and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and others are currently conducting a pilot project related to desalination of Salton Sea water. Desalination of Salton Sea water could be considered further during project-level analysis.
is now starting to build one for its population in the North County. Don’t let anyone tell you it doesn’t work. It’s working in the Middle East, India.

One-third of the world’s population lives in countries with insufficient freshwater to support the population, so desalinating is the only viable answer as the world continues to increase its human populations, farming and industries. Right now, desalinating costs about $2 per 1000 gallons, about twice the costs of fresh water. But those costs will get cheaper as we increase its usage, just as fresh water will become more expensive. Eventually, desalinating may become as cheap as fresh water.

Some people have said that piping water along the border would be impossible because there are Indian lands along the border who wouldn’t want a pipeline across their land, but at the same time, they’ve been talking about a bullet train from San Diego to transport people to that new airport. Why would anyone want a bullet train crossing their land and not a water pipeline they can share from? I think that argument is a matter of convenience for those who don’t want to look outside the box they’ve so cleverly chosen to sit in. In fact, I’ve heard several nick-pickings against this idea, things like, “water district won’t allow anything but farm runoff to fill the lake, and all the other reasons are nothing more than man-made reasons that can be man-undone.” I suppose if this plane of importing water from the Pacific was what the SSA was planning, then this dice they now like would be impossible for the mirror-logics in the old, they say now. We can do whatever we want to do & do; as long as we agree that’s what we want to do.

If we were to build such a pipeline, there would be an abundance of water, and we would use a fraction of the Colorado River if we used it for drinking water only. Again, we would have two excellent water sources, enriching our valley beyond any other U.S.
community’s potential growth. The farmers would get all the water they need from the desalinated pipelines, and population growth and golf courses wouldn’t affect them at all. The final result would be what we around the sea really want, our beautiful view, abundant birds, and a shoreline that will always be right where we want it, about five feet higher than it is right now. Best of all, it would end up the cheapest way to save the sea because most of the expense would be paid by the population and industrial growth that would come with the pipeline. Desalinated water would fill the sea so the fish, fishermen, boats, recreation and good old days would be better than ever.

That would make me very happy. I love to watch the sun come up over the sea while I’m making my morning coffee. I would hate to see the sun rising over a levee instead.

Oh, ya! First dibs on the name. I want to call it The English Canal.
Jan 8, 2007
Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 114B-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Short, sweet, & to the point:

They cannot speak for themselves….SOMEONE has to protect them and their habitats. WE are the stewards of this planet...and everything we do has consequences...

Sincerely,

Gail Miller
318 rt 250
norwalk, OH 44657

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.
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.

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.
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 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.
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 --

Humans are clearing enough Wild life when they build homes. What happens is the Wild life gets killed. Don’t do this to Migrating birds and other animals, they need the Salton sea more than we do. So PLEASE!! Put your best foot forward and help these animals.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Mathis-Jones
1041 Cove Dr
Warrington, PA 18976-1777

Kimberly Mathis-Jones (KMathis-Jones)

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.
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,

Please prevent the Salton sea from dying. I had spent many years down there enjoying the place. To think that my Grandchildren will never see it is terrible. Please help save the Sea.

Sincerely,

Kirk McLaren
18 Boxwood Ln
Newport News, VA 23602-5404
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.

Jan 4, 2007
Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1146-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please save the Salton Sea. Help the birds

Sincerely,

Kerrie Monahan
3712 Raycraft Rd
Woodstock, IL 60098-8306
Jan 5, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I have relatives who live in California.

Have you learned nothing from the disaster that the Aral Sea has become?

Do we need to destroy all wildlife except ourselves? We will not find life worth living!

Sincerely,

Margaret Mathis
PO Box 187
Morris, NY 13808-0187

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Margaret Mathis (MMathis)

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.
This comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State’s Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.

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When Long Beach and Boeing LIE - Baby Birds DIE

How did the City of Long Beach and Boeing destroy the largest heron nesting site in Southern California? Read On!

In 1999 the Port of Long Beach relocated the largest Great Blue and Black-Crowned Night Heron nesting site in Southern California. The nesting site was moved to Gull Park on Terminal Island. The nesting site was moved in order to accommodate the development of a large container terminal on Terminal Island. Boeing exclusively operates the Eastern third of the Sea Launch facility immediately next to the heron nesting site. Here, Boeing assembles satellites to be attached to the Sea Launch rocket.

THE PORT OF LONG BEACH’S FIRST LIE:
The Port of Long Beach signed an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stating that the Port would maintain the nesting site and replace any trees that died. If the nesting site failed the Port agreed to improve heron nesting sites elsewhere. In the last five years the Port has not been watering the trees. Numerous trees have died and the Port has done nothing. Furthermore, all the herons disappeared five years ago and the Port has not made any effort on it’s obligations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assist the herons.

BOEING’S FIRST LIE:
During the planning stage it was agreed that Boeing would NOT build a permanent satellite fueling facility in favor of small portable tanks that are safer. After agreeing with the Long Beach Fire Department and informing the public in
the Environmental Impact Report that they will not build a large unsafe fueling facility, Boeing went ahead and built the unsafe fueling facility anyway.

At first the relocation of the largest Black-Crowned Night Heron nesting site in Southern California was successful. The monitoring in 2000 at Gull Park found 1,128 young in 423 nests.

**BOEING'S SECOND LIE:**

In 2000 Boeing kept port officials away from the heron nesting site by intimidating them with the dangers of the permanent fueling facility. Although the fuel facility was not necessary for the fueling of satellites it is useful for intimidating port officials. Boeing required port government officials to undergo training, and then never offered it to them. Shortly after intimidating the port officials to stay away from the nesting site the bird population dropped dramatically.

Black-Crowned Night Heron nesting activities at Gull Park decreased dramatically in 2001. While 81 Black-Crowned Night Heron nests were started and at least 173 eggs were produced, only 25 chicks were observed at the Gull Park site. In 2003 no successful nesting was observed. “...the continued absence of the black-crowned night heron nesting at Gull Park remains unknown.”

**THE PORT OF LONG BEACH COVERS UP THEIR FAILURE:**

Meanwhile the Executives at the Port of Long Beach continue to cover up the loss of the herons. Following is an excerpt from the Port Executives communication to their Board and the community.

“The seventh year of monitoring the black-crowned night heron colony at Gull Park on the Navy Mole was completed in August 2005.”

Note that there is no reference to the fact that the colony was destroyed six years ago and there has not been any nesting since. The Port Executives simply mislead their Board of Harbor Commissioners and the community by not informing them of their failure.

**THE TAXPAYERS PAY TWICE:**

First the community’s environment is shortchanged by the loss of the bird population. Then the taxpayer has to pay for the mitigation of this loss. The Port of Long Beach made a commitment with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that if
the relocation is not successful, the Port will prepare and implement a contingency
plan that would expand and enhance rookeries elsewhere in Southern California.

HOW DOES SEALAUNCH STAY A-FLOAT ANY WAY?
The Sea Launch operation has been a loser since inception. Where does it get
money to stay in business? There appears to be a generous number of Boeing
employees at the facility. Is Boeing subsidizing the Sea Launch operation with
Boeing employees and charging other operations like the federally funded C-17
program also in Long Beach? Sea Launch may not be a publicly traded company
that is subject to SOX, but BOEING is!

THE EVIDENCE

To see the Gull Park heron nesting site and Boeing facility:
Go to http://maps.google.com/maps, type in 2700 Nimitz Rd, Long Beach, CA
and switch to satellite view.

Port of Long Beach lack of acknowledgement of decrease in heron population.
Green port program. Quarterly Report #3

Boeing’s construction of illegal fueling facility.
United States Navy. Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact
Report. Volume I. For the Disposal and Reuse of Long Beach Complex, Long
Beach, CA. April 1998 Page 2-20 and J-94

Decline of herons at heron nesting site:
California Coastal Commission Revised Staff Recommendation: Report to Los
Angeles County on Marina del Rey Periodic LCP Review. July 20, 2006 pages
158-159

Boeing pressuring government officials to stay away:
February 29, 2000, and conversations with Port of Long Beach staff. POLB staff
stated that they are not able to visit the nesting site because Boeing never made the
required training available.
1) Regularly, deliveries are made to and within the facility by untrained truck
drivers.
2) The fuel facility was built and currently operated against OSHA regulations that require fuel and oxidizer to have separate secondary containment structures.

3) Boeing only has control of the property within their fence.


Port of Long Beach responsibility:

Black-Crowned Night Heron nesting site:
MBC Applied Environmental Sciences, Black-Crowned Night Heron Study, Year 8, 2006 Nesting Season, Gull Park, Navy Mole, Long Beach, California, Final report. August 2006
N.J. Mac (NMac)

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.
Alternatives that maintain the whole Salton Sea, including the importation of water from the Gulf of California was described in Chapter 2 of the Draft PEIR. As discussed in Chapter 2, this alternative was considered but was 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 use of solar ponds has 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, the use of solar ponds was not considered in detail in the Draft PEIR. However, future project-level analyses could further consider the use of solar ponds on a smaller scale.
"Rick Daniels, executive director of the Salton Sea Authority, which is pushing for an ambitious 175-square-mile lake, said that alternative was the only one that would generate private revenue for restoration - an estimated 500 million to $1 billion over decades as shoreline resorts, homes and other projects are built. I suggest Rick Daniels read the Lake Cahuilla proposal which states that in restoring the Sea at full size, with nice, clean sandy beaches, benefits to the Imperial Valley are left to the imagination of the reader. We did not think an economic benefits study was necessary."

"To re-create the sea as it was in the 1950s is probably not possible, but a more modest proposal is possible and feasible," said Julia Levin of Audubon California. I have advised Julia Levin to read the Lake Cahuilla Proposal.

"To be upfront, I don't think we will ever totally solve all the water quality issues $ or eliminate all the odors," Hoffman-Floereke said.

"It will never be turned into Lake Tahoe, but we will be restoring ecological values that don't exacerbate air quality and do protect wildlife."

Perhaps staff of Dale Hoffman-Floereke's Colorado and Salton Sea office for the California Department of Water Resources will elect to revisit the Lake Cahuilla Proposal in about five years, after Solar Power&Water is well along and fully engaged in our plans to make up for the deficiencies of the Colorado River.

The USBR has posted our Lake Cahuilla Proposal as Proposal on its web site as part of the Public Comments regarding the Bypass Flow Replacement or Recovery Methods. http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/programs/bypass/comments.html

I wish the Salton Sea good luck with whichever alternative is selected.

Goodbye,
Richard McKay

Submitted on behalf of Solar Power&Water,

--
Richard McKay PhD  richard@solarpowerandwater.com  805-441-1762
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.” Based on this statutory mandate, the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program is focused on the restoration of a marine, or saline, water body with salinities that range from 20,000 mg/L to over 200,000 mg/L.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>From</th>
<th>Richard McKay (RMb)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To</td>
<td>SaltonSeaComments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CC</td>
<td>Hoffman-Flores, Dale; Richard Daniels, John Johnson; Gerald S. Spangler; Laura <a href="mailto:Harrold@CH2M.com">Harrold@CH2M.com</a>; Snow, Lester; <a href="mailto:pat.mudry@swa.com">pat.mudry@swa.com</a>; Roger S. Sprinkle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subject</td>
<td>A Public Comment on the PEIR</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Saturday, January 13, 2007 1:13:16 PM</td>
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<td>Attachments:</td>
<td>via email</td>
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Attn: Chief Dale
Salton Sea PEIR Comments
Department of Water Resources
Colorado River & Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street, Room 148-6
Sacramento, California 95814

Noting that the comment period for the PEIR closes on January 16, 2007, three days hence, I hereby submit my final comment.

We, Solar Power & Water, find it puzzling that our Lake Cahuilla Salton Sea proposal not only is not among the PIER Alternatives, but its existence is denied. Admittedly, our proposal to change the Salton Sea into a fresh water lake at full size and do it profitably entails novel technology. We state that for relatively little money, our plan can be tested. Regardless of successful demonstration of the technology, there would be unambiguous benefit to the Sea, starting early, not years later as with the PIER Alternatives. The early benefits component could be terminated if the plan is terminated, or it could continue.

**Consider costs.** The Alternatives include various levels of new infrastructure with construction costs ranging from $2.3 billion to $5.9 billion in today’s dollars. And there will be significant maintenance costs. In comparison, ours would have a total expenditure of $139 million which gets totally paid off with increasing revenue from power sales to become very profitable, to say nothing about providing the benefit of producing renewable, sustainable power.

**Consider results.** The Alternatives all produce results which are an insult to the
Sea, sure to produce some unexpected unfavorable consequences. All the Alternatives feature a reduced lake and various levels of artificial habitat protection and air quality management. Ours maintains the full Sea with salinity optionally less than that of the Colorado River.

**Denial of our proposal existence.** The reason all the Alternatives feature a reduced lake is that the existence of our proposal was denied, and so could not be an alternative. This denial is risky because much to our pleasant surprise, our Lake Cahuilla Proposal was posted in November 2005 by the USBR among the public comments on bypass flow replacement or recovery methods. [http://www.usbr.gov/c4o/region/programs/bypass/comments.html](http://www.usbr.gov/c4o/region/programs/bypass/comments.html) It is still there for all the world to see. Search "Lake Cahuilla Proposal" including the quote marks.

**Speculation.** The Salton Sea and its environs have been studied since at least 1975 because of the increasing salinity and uncertain size of the Sea. Imagine that it had been known since then that starting in 2007 the Sea would gradually be renamed to the salinity it had in 1965 and could be maintained at an elevation of about -227 feet below mean sea level. An interesting question is how many hundreds of thousands of dollars would then need not have been spent. And looking forward, based on the same premise, how sad would it be to some interest groups that the proposed $2.3 billion to $5.5 billion in today's dollars would not be spent? Is this why our Lake Cahuilla Proposal is deemed not to exist? Because there would be no need for the make-work jobs? Extrapolating this, is this why for SNWA we seem not to exist and planning continues for a $3 billion invasive pipeline complex to steal water from rural Nevada which another plan of ours could provide profitably?

**One more thing.** Recently we have made a limited inspection of the Colorado River Delta, sufficient to reassure us that our expectations about the suitability of placing our Solar Power & Water systems there in sufficient numbers are correct. This backs up my claims made elsewhere that we could eventually enable scrapping the QSA, totally.

I wish the Salton Sea good luck. Its going to need it. Its future will be interesting.

Cc's as shown

Respectfully submitted,
Richard A McKay

Richard A. McKay PhD  richard@solarpowerandwater.com  805-441-1762
Jan 9, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1149-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

The Salton Sea is part of a great treasure as well as a sacred part of wildlife and animal spirit here on this planet. As a native American I know in my bones that mother earth is crying for nurturing as well as love that she has been missing for many moons. Mother sky will send thunder and storms due to his rage against mankind and there destruction of the gift of this planet earth. Man kind lives blind, looks, but does not see with his heart or spirit. Man kind lives as fools this material world that is a false world will not live on forever, as the next world in spirit will. I can only hope that you love every action you take makes a difference in the universe for there is 26 other dimensions. There is a mirror world in which you already live in, without knowing. Please wake up, stop being a part of the suffering and be a part of the solution by living on a Noble Path, which is your true Destiny. Goddess Koi Tek, Baby Choctaw and Sintollo

Sincerely,

Teresa Mason
1165 Nellrose Ave
Venice, CA 90291-5047

Teresa Mason (TM)  

TM-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.
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.

Yasuko Margolis (YM)

As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife and the Salton Sea 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).

You already know how crucial this lake is to the God-created wildlife. The Salton Sea is a national treasure, and the state must take action to prevent its disappearance. I believe, as the last bastion of wildlife protections, any CA department privileged with the power must take a proactive action.

A Final Preferred Alternative would best meet the legal requirements to maximize habitat, air quality and water quality, while also providing substantial recreation and development opportunities.

I firmly believe the state of California can take lead as a protector.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Yasuko Margolis
102 Jacqueline Ave
Delran, NJ 08075-2108
Lani Nestlen (LN)

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: Lani nestlen
To: SaltonSeaComments
Subject: Comments on Salton Sea
Date: Friday, January 05, 2007 11:32:27 PM

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I believe us humans are smart enough to realize whatever fate we give to wildlife or mother nature, is a fate that is inevitably our very own. Hopefully you make the right decision. Good luck and may good prevail.

Sincerely,

Lani Nestlen

Sincerely,

Lani nestlen
6519 N Wilbur Ave
Portland, OR 97217-5248
Chapter 21 of the Draft PEIR includes analysis of the potential for loss of access to geothermal resources at the Salton Sea. As identified in Chapter 21, all of the alternatives could provide for expanded geothermal values and Next Steps (i.e., mitigation measures) were identified and would include participation of the geothermal industry. The Next Steps identified in Chapter 21 include measures such as corridors for geothermal facilities or use of future technologies that would reduce impacts of the energy resource facilities on wildlife.

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, the Preferred Alternative includes an area designated for geothermal development and additional coordination with the geothermal interests.

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.” Development of geothermal facilities is not one of the restoration program’s statutory objectives.

See response to comment ON-2. Development of geothermal facilities is outside of the scope of the State’s Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program, but could be conducted by others.
JAN 9-8 2007

Members of the geothermal industry are available to help with incorporation of this resource into the Salton Sea restoration program. I look forward to talking with you.

Please contact me at 775-336-6155 to set up an appointment.

Sincerely,

Charlene L. Wardlow
Environmental/Regulatory Affairs Administrator

cc:  Dan Cun, Salton Sea Authority
      Senator Denise Ducheny
      Larry Unruh, Supervisor
      Brad Porte, Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
      Vince Signoretti, CalEnergy
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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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 and would extend 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).
RNicklen (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 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.

RNicklen-2

The State recognizes the urgency of restoration. However, future implementation would require additional authorizing legislation and identification of an implementing agency. The Draft PEIR provides an anticipated schedule for design, permitting, and construction of the project. Due to the nature, size, and funding availability of the project along with the issues that need resolution, it is anticipated that construction could not begin until 2011.
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.

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Ruth Niswander (RNiswander)

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.

---

Ruth Niswander

Jan. 6, 2007

Ca. Dept. of Water Resources
P.O. Box 941854
Sacramento, CA 94234

To Whom It May Concern:

Please continue your important efforts to restore the Salton Sea! It is well-known that this beautiful lake will shrink in size over the next 30 years and the result will be more dust and salt blowing through the Imperial and Coachella Valleys!

Unfortunately, your Draft Environmental Impact Report fails to provide a plan that will increase the fish and wildlife habitat as well as protecting the quality of air and water! I’m certain that you can propose an alternative that does both, and thereby saves the Salton Sea! Thank you for trying to do so!!

Sincerely,
Ruth Niswander
622 Barbara Place
Davis, CA 95616
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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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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

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 5, 2007
Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1410 9th Street, Room 1146-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I’m sure you must have heard many many times by now the steps in the preferred alternative members of Defenders of Wildlife, like me, support. So I won’t throw those same words at you.

The Salton Sea is one of the few things on this Earth that we have the power to protect - both for the habitat that needs it to exist and for our future generations to enjoy. The Earth is fighting so hard against us to keep the small things it still has, and I can’t see why that should be. So let’s make sure it’s not.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Nevi Ozturk
2115 Wiltshire Blvd
Huntington, WV 25701-5344

Nevi Ozturk (NO)
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Carolyn Pankow (CPankow)

CPankow-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.”

Water quality improvements in the New River are outside of the scope of the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program.

CPankow-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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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).

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 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.
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.
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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Karen Porter (KPb)

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.

Jan 4, 2007
Ms. Delia Hoffman-Florence
1415 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Florence,

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).

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.

Over 50 percent of the wetlands in California are gone, and the 400 bird species that depend on the Salton Sea will have no other place to go which could lead to catastrophic losses for migratory bird populations.

Please do everything possible to protect this important area.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Karen Porter
6168 Walnut St
Mays Landing, NJ 08330-3002
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.
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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 5th Street, Room 1145-6
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 on the California Department of Water Resources Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

Personally, I think that humankind is taking away what shouldn't be taken away... life! By that I mean any kind of life... we need to have birds as well as wild animals. This is where "balance" comes into play. Please do what is right.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Faith Rosenzweig
311 Cattree Dr
Levittown, PA 19055-1521
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

From: Fish Partners
To: SaltonSeaComments
CC: 
Subject: Comments on Salton PEIR
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 10:23:38 AM
Attachments:

January 16, 2007

Attn: Dale Hoffman-Floereke
Salton Sea PEIR comments
CA Department of Water Resources
Colorado River & Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814
SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floereke,

The PEIR calls for the interconnectivity of the local desert pupfish populations in the Imperial Valley. Yet it fails to note that this is a controversial topic among experts in the field. This omission should be addressed. Some benefits may accrue from interconnectivity of the populations; however, interconnectivity may also pose a serious threat to the population.

I believe interconnectivity of populations of desert pupfish should not be a priority or even a requirement. It imposes additional cost without clear benefits.

Sincerely,

George Ray,
Fish Producers, Inc.

George Ray (GR)

GR-1

Populations of desert pupfish which occupy discrete inputs (drains and creeks) that flow into the Salton Sea are currently presumed connected as a single metapopulation which allows some level of gene flow among the populations. The most recent analysis of desert pupfish genetics supports this conclusion. Desert pupfish connectivity, as described in the Draft PEIR, would maintain, to varying degrees, the existing population connections.

While a fully connected population is susceptible to a certain level of risk from the rapid spread of diseases, parasites, and/or invasive species, maintaining the present connectivity of desert pupfish would not expose the species to a greater risk than it currently experiences. Without such connections, there is a risk that a single population could be extirpated during times of low or non-existent water, and would not be re-populated.
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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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.
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.” As described in Chapter 1 of the Draft PEIR, the Salton Sea Restoration Act and related legislation facilities implementation of the Quantification Settlement Agreement and the Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project. Changes to the Quantification Settlement Agreement and the Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project are outside of the scope of the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program.

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.

Janis Reed
240A 28th St
San Francisco, CA 94131-2359

Janis Reed (JReed)

JReed-1

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’s insane to think of diverting water from the Salton Sea. PLEASE! Let’s start doing some forward thinking to solve problems instead of the destructive business as usual—which always seems to create even more problems.

Our actions have so clearly done so much damage already to this planet, that to think of intentionally putting any more wildlife at risk is criminal. Doesn’t anybody care anymore? What kind of world do you want to leave to your kids, and your grandkids?

Our officials and decision-makers should know better by now.

Sincerely,

Janis Reed

JReed-2

JReed-2

JReed-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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Jan 4, 2007
Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 8th Street, Room 1146-6
Sacramento, CA 95814
Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I feel compelled to comment on the California Department of Water Resources Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

90% of California wetlands are gone, so migratory birds must depend on the Salton Sea. We must preserve the Salton Sea as a national treasure to protect birds and the communities in the surrounding area. The birds that take Pacific Flyway are of economic importance because of the growing number of birders who travel miles to observe the migratory spectacle.

From what I've been told, most proposed alternatives in the PEIR fail to adequately protect fish, wildlife and air and water quality in the Salton Sea area.

Please work to maximize habitat, water and air quality while assuring that there will be ample recreational opportunities for nearby communities as well as travelers who come to enjoy the birds on the Flyway. Birders are a significant economic factor as has been found in coastal Texas in the Central Flyway.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

MarySue Rose
12340 Alameda Trace Circ Apt 1802
Austin, TX 78727-7119

MarySue Rose (MR)

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 ongoing 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: Patrick Russell
To: SaltonSeaComments;
CC: 
Subject: Salton Sea PEIR Comments
Date: Monday, January 15, 2007 1:20:40 PM
Attachments:

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

(916) 654-4925 FAX
SaltonSeaComments@water.ca.gov

January 15, 2007

Dear Ms. Floerke:
Comments on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (SSERP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), October 2006
We are writing as concerned residents of the state of California to request that the Department of Water Resources produce a PEIR that includes a functional alternative for the restoration of the Salton Sea, which is one of the most important biological resources in southern California.
The Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (SSERP) is a part of the Colorado River water transfer and Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA). The QSA requires preparation of the SSERP as well as other related actions that will collectively enable California to stay within its 4.4 million acre-foot annual appropriation of Colorado River water, allow transfer of water from Imperial Valley agricultural users to urban water users, and conserve/mitigate environmental resources of the Lower Colorado River, Imperial Valley, and Salton Sea.
The primary goal of the PEIR is to present a series of alternatives that provide the maximum feasible attainment of three key environmental objectives as specified in QSA-related State legislation:

- 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 to the extent feasible;
- Protection of water quality.

As recognized in the PEIR, with no restoration program the Salton Sea will gradually be reduced in size, resulting in hypersaline water quality, and exposing tens of thousands of acres of lake bed sediments. This would result in the decline and, ultimately loss of much of its fish populations and a significant diminishment in wildlife diversity and productivity. Further, windblown sediments from the exposed lake bed could result in adverse air quality effects that could affect human health and wildlife.

We believe that none of the current alternatives represents the maximum feasible achievement of the key environmental goals as well as provides a reasonable opportunity for adaptively managing the future Sea. A combination of the shallow saline habitat complex and concentric rings/lakes would best provide for the restoration of historic levels of fish and wildlife diversity based on the projected annual inflow of approximately 717,000 acre feet per year. The selected alternative must not rely solely on salt crust formation for providing long term air quality management and sufficient water must be provided to ensure that air quality can be addressed by measures such as water efficient vegetation.

Project Alternatives

The eight alternatives presented in the PEIR represent a range of alternatives intended to feasibly attain most of the project objectives and avoid or lessen significant effects, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Because this is a programmatic EIR, and due to the numerous...
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.
The process and criteria for selecting the Preferred Alternative are described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR.
Comments PR-3 through PR-10 provide a summary of the general attributes, benefits, and potential effects of each of the eight alternatives analyzed in the Draft PEIR, and serve as background and context for the recommendation of a preferred alternative presented in PR-11. This summary generally reflects the information contained in the Draft PEIR and provides a reasonably accurate characterization of each of the alternatives; however, several points of clarification are presented below.

The summarized descriptions of the alternatives in the comments provide interpretations of the performance of the alternatives relative to achieving the historic levels of fish and wildlife. The Draft PEIR presents information that projects, based on habitat modeling, how well selected bird species might be supported given the characteristics of the habitat in each of the alternatives. These projections provide an indication of the relative performance of the alternatives, but are not definitive regarding whether an alternative will support the historic levels of bird use at the Salton Sea. These results should be interpreted as indications of the likelihood that a given alternative would meet the objectives. Similarly, the analysis of fish diversity should not be interpreted as definitive. In the analysis, fish diversity relative to historic conditions assumes that the alternatives that contain deep marine sea habitats would have a much higher likelihood of supporting historic fish diversity than alternatives that rely on habitats with shallower water. This assumption was based on the conditions at the Salton Sea when those fish species survived and were successfully reproducing.
operating cost is estimated at $107 million.

This alternative would support increased avian wildlife diversity and abundance compared to historic levels but fish diversity would be less than historic levels. It would not provide physical connectivity among all desert pupfish populations. The saline habitat complex would provide a flexible construction approach that could accommodate construction and operational changes to the major habitat component (allowing for control of salinity, water exchange, and if needed, isolation of cells).

Alternative 3: This alternative would provide two shallow-moderate marine sea water bodies, a brine sink, desert pupfish population connectivity, and air quality management components with brine stabilization and irrigation of water-efficient vegetation. The primary benefit of this alternative would be to support avian species’ diversity and abundance but below historic levels and limited fish diversity and abundance. It would also provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities, but not marine sport fishing. Water along the entire historic shoreline would minimize changes to the microclimate and aesthetic values adjacent to these areas. Project construction cost is $4.9 billion and annual operating cost is $138 million.

This alternative would not support fish and wildlife diversity and abundance at historic levels, but it would provide physical connectivity among all desert pupfish populations. The concentric rings would provide a moderately flexible construction approach that could accommodate construction and operational changes to the major habitat component (allowing for control of salinity and water exchange rates in the rings).

Alternative 4: This alternative would provide up to four concentric lakes, a brine sink, connectivity among most desert pupfish populations; it does not provide for long term air quality management facilities. The primary benefit of this alternative would be to support avian species’ diversity and
abundance above historic levels. Fish diversity would not meet historic levels but most desert pupfish populations would be connected. It is not consistent with the air quality analysis (Chapter 10) that assumed various treatments for 70 percent of the exposed playa; it does not present a long term air quality management solution. It would provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities, but probably not marine sport fishing. Water along the southern and eastern historic shoreline would minimize changes to the microclimate and aesthetic values adjacent to these areas. Project construction cost is estimated at $2.3 billion and annual operating cost is estimated at $20 million.

This alternative would support avian diversity and abundance above historic levels. Fish diversity would be below historic levels and the southern and northern desert pupfish populations would not be connected. The concentric lakes would provide a moderately flexible construction approach that could accommodate construction and operational changes to the major habitat component (allowing for control of salinity and water exchange rates in the lakes). According to the PEIR (Chapter 10, Table 10-15), this alternative would result in substantially higher emissive pollutants from the exposed playa than any other alternative, and up to five times more than the least emissive alternatives.

Alternative 5: This alternative would provide a deep northern marine sea, saline habitat complex in the southern seabed, a brine sink, partial desert pupfish population connectivity, and air quality management with brine stabilization and irrigation of water efficient vegetation. The primary benefit of this alternative would be to provide avian species’ diversity and abundance above historic levels and possibly fish diversity and abundance comparable to historic levels. Desert pupfish would exist as three separate populations. It would provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities, probably including marine sport fishing. Water along the southern and northern historic shorelines would minimize changes to the microclimate and aesthetic values adjacent to these areas. Project construction cost is

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PR (cont.)

PR-6

It is unclear how the statement made in PR-6 regarding the relative performance of Alternative 4 with regard to playa emissions (i.e., “up to five times more emissive than the least emissive alternatives”) was derived. Table 10-15 of the PEIR indicates that fugitive dust emissions (PM10) during Phase IV would be above, but near the levels associated with the No Action under alternatives 1, 2, and 8. Alternatives 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 would be about 2, 25, 5, 5, and 15 times greater than projected emissions under the No Action.
estimated at $4.5 billion and annual operating cost is estimated at $134 million.

This alternative would support avian diversity and abundance above historic levels. Fish diversity (it is unclear regarding abundance) could be comparable to historic levels. However, a northern marine sea will be much smaller than the historic sea, and it is likely to become thermally stratified more often, creating water quality conditions that could lead to more frequent fish and invertebrate die-offs. The southern and northern desert pupfish populations would not be connected. The saline habitat complex portion of the alternative would provide a flexible construction approach that could accommodate construction and operational changes to a major habitat component (allowing for control of salinity and water exchange rates in the lakes). However, creating a smaller marine sea requires construction of a massive, permanent barrier across the existing seabed. This would probably eliminate any significant future construction modifications and limit operational modifications.

**Alternative 6:** This alternative would provide a deep northern marine sea and a smaller, shallower southern marine sea, a brine sink, a saline habitat complex in the southern seabed, partial desert pupfish population connectivity, and air quality management with brine stabilization and irrigation of water efficient vegetation. The primary benefit of this alternative would be to provide avian species’ diversity and abundance slightly above historic levels and possibly fish diversity and abundance comparable to historic levels. Desert pupfish would exist as three separate populations. It would provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities, probably including marine sport fishing. Water along the southern, western, and northern historic shorelines would minimize changes to the microclimate and aesthetic values adjacent to these areas. Project construction cost is estimated at $5.9 billion and annual operating cost is estimated at $149 million.

This alternative would support avian diversity and abundance at or slightly above historic levels. Fish diversity (it is unclear regarding abundance)
Comment PR-9 also raises concerns about the potential for increased avian disease resulting from the increased availability of freshwater. While the alternatives were designed to maintain salinity levels that would discourage the development of some avian diseases (e.g., avian botulism), insufficient information on the design and operation of the reservoir was available to fully analyze the influence of the reservoir on avian diseases. This analysis would be conducted at a project level.
larger size may partly offset the increased stratification. This alternative requires more inflow than the PEIR’s calculated average inflow to meet marine sea elevation and salinity objectives by the end of the project evaluation period (2078). Because the shoreline and salinity objectives cannot be met during the project period, the resulting biological values would be lower than projected. The southern sea may experience stratification and die-offs more frequently than occurred historically.

The freshwater reservoir, as depicted in the PEIR, does not appear to incorporate a major barrier that would be needed. Also, it is not apparent if the construction cost includes this major barrier. One concern about a freshwater reservoir is its potential for supporting wildlife diseases. One of the water quality objectives of the SSERP is to minimize creating conditions that could promote diseases, and all of the other water bodies are planned to have water at or above a salinity of 20,000 mg/l. Lower salinity water in and around the Sea has been implicated as a primary condition leading to wildlife disease outbreaks. Most of the desert pupfish populations would be connected, except for the southeastern drains.

Unlike all the other alternatives (except Alternative 4), this alternative does not include alternative methods such as the use of water efficient vegetation to stabilize emissive soils of the exposed playa. Instead, it proposes to address air quality by creating a salt crust over the exposed playa. This poses a potential concern if the salt crust method cannot be solely utilized to address long term air quality management, particularly if additional irrigation water is needed to stabilize soils. According to the PEIR (Chapter 10, Table 10-15), this alternative would produce several times more emissive pollutants off the exposed playa than most other alternatives (except Alternative 4, which produces even greater emissions).

The saline habitat complex portion of the alternative would provide a flexible construction approach that could accommodate construction and operational changes to a major habitat component (allowing for control of salinity and water exchange rates in the lakes). However, creating two
smaller marine seas requires construction of massive, permanent barriers across the existing seabed. This would probably eliminate any significant future construction modifications and limit operational modifications. As noted above, this alternative also raises concerns about whether inflows will be sufficient to fully implement the marine sea objectives and air quality needs.

Alternative 8. This alternative would provide a small, shallow northern marine sea and a larger, deep southern marine sea; a brine sink; a saline habitat complex in the southeastern and southwestern seabed; partial desert pupfish population connectivity; and, air quality management with brine stabilization. The primary benefit of this alternative would be to provide avian species’ diversity and abundance but below historic levels and possibly fish diversity and abundance comparable to historic levels. Desert pupfish would be connected except for the Salt Creek population. It would provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities, probably including marine sport fishing. Water along the southern historic shoreline, and to a lesser extent along the northern shoreline, would minimize changes to the microclimate and aesthetic values adjacent to these areas. Project construction cost is estimated at $5.8 billion and annual operating cost is estimated at $145 million.

This alternative would support avian diversity and abundance, but below historic levels. Fish diversity (it is unclear regarding abundance) could be comparable to historic levels. The small, shallow northern marine sea may not stratify frequently, but the southern marine sea is likely to thermally stratify, although possibly less often than under historic conditions. The saline habitat complex portion of the alternative would provide a flexible construction approach that could accommodate construction and operational changes to a major habitat component (allowing for control of salinity and water exchange rates in the lakes). However, creating two smaller marine seas requires construction of massive, permanent barriers across the existing seabed. This would probably eliminate any significant future construction modifications and limit operational modifications.

See response to comment PR-3.
Recommendation:

The draft PEIR identifies the historical, current, and potential future conditions of the Salton Sea. It identifies a range of potentially acceptable alternatives and the analyses of these alternatives is clear and adequate for a programmatic document. However, based on the above review, none of the alternatives appears to meet the key environmental objectives, the need for flexibility to adaptively manage the future Sea, and to provide (not at the expense of the two previous critical criteria) reasonable recreational and economic benefits. The large sea component forces a permanent physical construction that could not be modified if the future lake did not function as hoped. Also, this component presents a significant risk of stratification that could greatly reduce the anticipated benefits to fish and wildlife. Based on the assumptions and analysis in the PEIR, an alternative that does not propose to allocate a portion of the water budget for long-term air quality management presents an unacceptably high risk of future air quality problems.

The preferred alternative should be a combination of the shallow saline habitat complex and the concentric ring/lake components to provide the maximum feasible restoration of historic fish and wildlife resources. The concentric rings/lakes could be configured to provide greater recreational opportunities and retain aesthetic/visual values by expanding the width of the outside ring/lake in certain areas. A long-term air quality management component (with an assured, reserved water allocation) must be included in the preferred alternative.

Thank you for considering our comments and recommendations for developing an alternative that could meet the critical criteria for a functional solution to the restoration of the Salton Sea.

Sincerely,
Patrick and Karoly Russell
4678 Muir Avenue
San Diego, CA 92107
As described in Appendix H-6, berms contain water that is less than 6 feet in depth whereas dikes contain water that between 6 to 10 feet in depth.

As described in Appendix H-6, Geotubes® are encased in berms that contain water that is less than 6 feet in depth.

This change has not been made to the Draft PEIR because aquiculture a purpose of the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program and is not anticipated to be included in the Saline Habitat Complex areas.

This change has not been made to the Draft PEIR because private research facilities are not a purpose of the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program and are not anticipated to be included in the Saline Habitat Complex areas.

See response to comment RRobinson-1.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

R. Kathleen M. Rooney (RRooney)

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, 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).

The Salton Sea is a national treasure, and the state must take action to prevent its disappearance. The condition of the sea not only affects an important migratory bird stopover, but also the health, industry, and well being of the entire surrounding community.

I won't bore you with statistics you've read in 100 other emails and are well aware of but I will say that habitats are vanishing and with them whole ways of life. This is not only true for our wild friends but also for the community that loses it's fishing, recreation and even endangers their health by just dipping a toe in the waters.

You know what's right and what needs to be done to correct the issues before it becomes a moot point and the area becomes a barren contaminated landscape of value to none—human or animal. I have every confidence that you'll find a way.

Good luck in the journey,
R Kathleen M Rooney

Sincerely,
R. Kathleen M. Rooney
5755A Eme Ave
Ewa Beach, HI 96706-3255

RRooney-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 "toolbox" 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.
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.
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.
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."

Water quality in the New River and in agricultural runoff is outside of the scope of the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program.
Jan 5, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As a believer in the premise that "once our birds and animals are gone, so are we," 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).

Save what you have in regard to wetlands in a way that protects your wildlife and water fowl. I'm so surprised to here that California, of all places, needs any kind of awareness reminder of this sort. It is a State that typically leads all others on progressive and environmentally friendly legislation and development. So what is going on here? Be the California that makes us all proud that there is at least one place in America that does not bow to the interests of commercialism and blind expansion.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Theresa Rohloff
101 Nickland Dr.
Scott, LA 70663-5653

Theresa Rohloff (TR)

TR-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,

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'm sure you already know the statistics. The bottom line is, we are at a critical point in the conservation of natural areas in our country. Wildlife depend on these natural areas. We cannot keep reducing and losing the water, forest, and land that sustain wildlife. It has to stop now. You have the power to do this.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Beth Shulman
1011 Lawrence Rd
Hillsborough, NC 27278-6864

Beth Shulman (BSchulman)

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.

BSchulman-1
Jan 4, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

My wife and I visited the Salton Sea many times when we lived in California. This is a unique and critical location to thousands of birds and should be managed with their well being in mind.

Please save the Salton Sea and protect the wildlife that rely on it for their very lives.

Sincerely,

Barry and Sandy Stevenson
10964 Stratton Rd
Hamersville, OH 45130-9752
Jan 4, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

Please come up with a plan to save the Salton Sea. This world is destroying so many things that animals and humans depend on for survival. Again please save the Salton Sea for the wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Beth Streiff
New Floyd Rd
Rome, NY 13440

Beth Streiff (BStreiff)

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.
Clyde Shields (CShields)

As stated in Fish and Game Section 2931, "It is the intent of the Legislature that the State of California undertake the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the permanent protection of the wildlife dependent on that ecosystem."

Additionally, Fish and Game Code 2081.7 (e)(1) states that "the Secretary of the Resources Agency, . . . shall undertake a restoration study to determine a preferred alternative for the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the protection of wildlife dependent on that ecosystem."

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."

This comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State’s Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.
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.

The Preferred Alternative does not seek to take water away from existing water users in the Coachella and Imperial valleys. Rather the Preferred Alternative was formulated to function on the anticipated future inflows to the Salton Sea and assumes that these inflows would continue to come primarily from agricultural and other drainage sources in the Imperial and Coachella valleys.
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,

Please protect what Mother Nature gave us!

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

courtney smith
706 N Bridge St
Carbondale, IL 62901-1314
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.
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- 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
1418 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As a supporter of Defenders of Wildlife and the Salton Sea -- I have a problem with the lack of concern for saving wildlife. The upsetting of the natural balance of things will always have a negative result.

Migratory birds have natural flight patterns and need their stopovers undisturbed by our greed and thoughtlessness. If we continue on the path we are traveling of disturbing nature reserves, massacring wolves, hunting whales and dolphins to near extinction, etc. the world will soon be a barren, lifeless place.

When the day comes that we can’t look out our windows and see the beauty that nature provides us... I no longer want to be around. It is critical that we work with government, city, state, nation, and world wide to assure that we do all we can to protect all of nature and it’s wondrous beauties.

Sincerely,

Denise Spors
605 Richie Rd
Mocksville, NC 27028-4927

Denise Spors (DSpars)

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.
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.
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." The Draft PEIR includes a reasonable range of alternatives that meet the project’s legislatively mandated objectives as required by CEQA.

A variety of options 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.
CCI's proprietary technology to be used for desalination of Salton Sea water utilizes solar thermal energy as a primary heat source and pressurized boilers that boil the concentrate to produce steam for saline water/concentrate volume reduction, electrical energy, other thermal energy uses and the production of desalinated water.

The process technology:
- Concentrating Solar Thermal Arrays (simplified design and tracking system reduces cost)
- AEME standard boilers heated from mixed energy (solar thermal, gas/coal/brine).
- Steam engines to drive electrical generators. Excess electricity will be provided to the electric grid to offset pumping costs and for other purposes.
- CCI is presently designing an ethanol production system using the steam/heat after it has been used for the power generation. (The residual heat can alternatively be used for other purposes such as preheating the feedwater).
- Concentrate evaporator for further concentration of the brine.
- The steam can be condensed to produce potable quality water.
- The superheated or residual solids can be separated for beneficial use. The salt can also be used to cover the expected bottom of the Salton Sea (Playa) in a similar manner as described in Alternative 7 in the DPEIR.
- The technology is capable of removing excess nutrients, pesticides and selenium from the treated water, helping to prevent continued and possibly reversing ecosystem degradation.

The capital cost of the solar thermal process is in line with the cost of the alternatives presented in the DPEIR. The life-cycle cost would be lower due to the electric energy generated and the sale of sulfate and other salts, if desired.

Representatives from Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer’s offices have seen the technologies in operation and are interested in the technology being adopted. We urge you to carefully evaluate the above described ZLD solar thermal ecosystem restoration alternative to be considered as an alternative in the DPEIR. As the project for restoring the Salton Sea Ecosystem moves forward, we believe that the ZLD solar thermal technology should be included as part of the solution.

You may contact me at 831 224-2513 (email THE@G8@bad.com or PB, my engineering partner, at 818 338-9078 (HE@M3@BAD@BAD.com) for further information.

Sincerely,

Frank Schubert, President
Central Coast Inventions, LLC

CC: Jim Jensen, PB
Ian Parkinson, PB
Jan 4, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

If I need to explain to you why it's important that you make an effort to save the Salton Sea and all environmentally sensitive areas, then maybe you should consider looking for other work.

I'm tired of inaction and disgusted with people who can't make the proper decisions. What's needed now are people who understand the necessity for preserving the environment. Cleaning the air, the water and making a world where fauna and man live harmoniously is the challenge today. Everything else is secondary.

Gary Simon
154 Belle Terre Blvd
Covington, LA 70433

Sincerely,

gary simon
154 Belle Terre Blvd
Covington, LA 70433-4757

Your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State’s Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.
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.

Sincerely,
Judy Spector
34143 Village 34
Camarillo CA 93012
805 384-9039
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.
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.
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.
Audubon California and other environmental groups, and I support it as well.

I ask you to do the same.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Smith Myles
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.

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.
Nitrogen deposition impacts on desert upland ecosystems were not analyzed in the Draft PEIR, because the information needed to conduct this analysis was not available. Air quality dispersion modeling of estimated NOx emissions and estimation of nitrogen deposition impacts were not conducted as part of the Draft PEIR air quality impact analyses. Dispersion modeling would have been premature, due to the limited available information on the locations and magnitude of future NOx emissions sources, potential mitigation measures, the relative locations of sensitive ecosystems, and potential future air quality conditions at the Salton Sea under the various project alternatives. If feasible, a project level dispersion modeling and nitrogen deposition analysis could be conducted during project-level analysis.
Nancy Smith (NS)

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,

Just in my short lifetime, I’ve witnessed the decline of birds and their habitats. Birds are some of nature’s most miraculous creatures. Without a doubt, we must preserve their habitats! These creatures of the air are also of the earth—when we preserve them, we are preserving some of God’s most beautiful and necessary creations!

SAVE THE SALTON SEA!

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Patti Shanks
113 Willis Ave
Columbia, MO 65201-5838

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.
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 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).

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.
Existing energy resources, including geothermal are discussed in Chapter 21, Power Production and Energy Resources, of the Draft PEIR. Such resources could be used to help implement the Preferred Alternative. There are currently no major solar power facilities in the study area. However, at the programmatic level, all the alternatives are developed with enough flexibility to not preclude investments in solar or other resources that could be used to help restore the Sea.

The concept of desalinization to control salinity has not been implemented on the large scale required at the Salton Sea. However, this concept could be considered on a smaller scale and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and others are currently conducting a pilot project related to desalination of Salton Sea water.

RSchilling-2

RSchilling-2

RSchilling (cont.)
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Jan 4, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I am professional photographer/videoographer working in educational media production and work closely with members of our horticulture department to protect local flora and fauna. One of my inspirations for this career included living in Southern California and falling in love with the natural beauty that defines the area. The thought of that disappearing with the Salton Sea is distressing for me, even here in Iowa. I hope you will do all you can to protect and strengthen one of your great resources. I hope to make it back to Southern California in the near future and experience again the sweeping vistas full of migratory birds. You are a precious part of America and I hope you have the foresight to act now in support of one of our most amazing national treasures and save the Salton Sea and it’s teeming wildlife populations from destruction. Thanks for whatever you can do...for all of us Americans who love your beautiful state.

Sincerely,

Rick Severin
3286 89th St
Atkins, IA 52206-9010

Rick Severin (RSeverin)

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.
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, this alternative was considered but was not carried forward 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 preparation of an economic impact report is not a requirement of CEQA, the Salton Sea Restoration Act, or related legislation. No displacement of homes or business is anticipated.
A. PROPOSAL FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE ENTIRE SALTON SEA

To bring about the restoration of the entire Salton Sea, it is proposed that two waterways be constructed to connect the Salton Sea with the Gulf of California. One waterway would deliver water from the Sea to the Gulf, the other would deliver water from the Gulf to the Sea. A major obstacle confronting this approach to the restoration is the 230 foot difference in elevation. It would be necessary to pump the Salton Sea water up to sea level so a pumping facility of appropriate capacity would need to be designed and constructed. The water incoming from the Gulf would experience a 230 foot fall and in so doing the energy of that fall could be harnessed to generate some of the energy required to operate the discharge pumps. Sizes of all the component parts would have to be determined so as to achieve total exchange in a reasonable period of time.

The discharge waterway should connect to the Sea at its southern extremity and the incoming waterway close to the northern end of the Sea to bring about complete exchange in the shortest period of time. The sizes chosen would dictate what that period would be.

At the conclusion of that period the water in the Salton Sea would be exactly the same as the water in the Gulf of California. It would also be at the same level as it is currently today, i.e. 230 feet below sea level. There would be no need to block off any part of the Sea to bring this about. The resulting Sea would be fully restored with aquatic and bird life as it is today in the northern part of the Gulf.

Some objection may be raised that the nutrient-rich water of the Sea would degrade the Gulf water. However, the total volume of water in the Sea amounts to a "drop in the bucket" compared to the amount of water in the Gulf and tidal action in the Gulf would distribute the incoming Salton Sea water so effectively that virtually no difference would be detectable.
Land acquisition costs could be a significant portion of the overall cost of this proposal. Rights of way may have to be purchased and there would be an economic impact on landowners who would be displaced by the waterways. To the largest extent possible the paths to be followed by these waterways should be over government owned land (Federal, State, County, and Municipal). It is my opinion that these government lands should be donated to the project at no cost since the greater good is being served. Of course, it would be necessary to prepare an estimate of cost, but this should await further engineering definition of the details.

To repeat: the completion of the project in this way would

1) Restore the entire Sea at its existing level
2) Eliminate any concern about air quality
   (a major problem of the eight alternatives discussed in the EIR)
3) Restore marine and bird life in and around the Sea to historic levels with no other work required
   (another major problem of the eight alternatives)
4) Totally eliminate the need for the fresh water allocation arrangements of the QSA
5) Establish once again a prime recreational playground with greatly enhanced property values along the shore and in the general area, with a variety of residential commercial investment opportunities with attendant increased property revenues.

The paths to be followed by the waterways in the United States would need to be thoroughly researched and evaluated but, in my opinion, should be laid out so that the incoming channel connects to Mexico's Laguna Salada just south of the border. This large area is a dry sea bed at approximately 100 feet below sea level just west and south of Mexicali. It stretches south to within about 25 miles of the Gulf. This area could easily be flooded with Gulf water to any level desired by means of the continuance of the above described waterways creating thereby a "sea" area in Mexico similar to the Salton Sea. This "sea" could then be similarly developed.
into a highly desirable water playground and greatly enhance the value of its surroundings.

To recap, then, the incoming water would run from the Gulf of California through a 25 mile waterway to the flooded Laguna Salada, through this newly created lake to another waterway which would then end at the upper part of the Salton Sea falling 230 feet in the trip. The outgoing water would travel from the southern end of the Salton Sea all the way to the Gulf of California.

I would propose that this project be a two-nation enterprise with considerable value to both. In particular, the value to Mexico would revolve around its water playground possibilities and resulting income opportunities.

I would think that

1) All work in Mexico should be performed by Mexicans thereby helping to relieve some of that country’s unemployment problems.

2) All of the land in Mexico required by the project should be contributed by Mexico at no cost. Most of the land is not currently in use for any purpose.

3) The cost of all work to be accomplished in Mexico should be borne by Mexico.

4) The junction with the Gulf of California may involve working around some ecologically sensitive areas. Mexico should do whatever may be required.

5) Mexico could consider allowing the lake created by flooding the Laguna Salada to become an adjunct of the Gulf and permit its use by pleasure watercraft.

I recognize that for this project to be successful the cooperation of Mexico is required. Some kind of contractual arrangement would need to be negotiated and this might have to be handled by the United States State department with their Inter-American Affairs organization.

Mexico has just elected a new president. Perhaps his new administration could be helpful in getting an agreement worked out. There are many benefits to Mexico from this enterprise. Those benefits should be stressed in opening the discussion. That, however,
is for the State Department to decide. If Mexico can be convinced
to do its part California has much to gain by pursuing this proposal.
The restoration of the entire Sea would be much more beneficial than
restoration of only a part of it.

A PROPOSAL BY

RICHARD B. SPEED
81914 PASEO REAL
INDIO, CA 92201
760-347-6139
Jan 4, 2007

Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-3
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

It’s way past time we all recognize we can either destroy or start saving our wildlife, so please do what you can for the good of mankind, womankind and animalkind.

Sincerely,

sybil sage
45 Christopher St
New York, NY 10014-3533
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." Flood control in the Coachella Valley is outside of the scope of the Draft PEIR.
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.
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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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.

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.
Sea is going to go along with all the agriculture in the Imperial Valley, making a way for a greater tax base in housing, casinos, and golf courses etc., and there will be no need to throw millions or even billions of dollars at the Sea. I welcome all comments to TaitRussellResources@msn.com.

Thank you,
Brian J. Tait-Russell
Carrie Thistle (CThistle)

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 7, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I am writing to strongly urge you to restore the Salton Sea. As I am sure you know the Salton Sea is one of the most important stops for migratory birds, including some endangered species. They depend on the Salton Sea for survival. It is also a very important resource for the surrounding communities. I implore the California Department of Water resources to come up with a plan to provide adequate protection for the Salton Sea and the birds and people who depend on it.

Sincerely,

Carrie Thistle
13 Casa Dr
Mansfield, MA 02048-1134
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.
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.
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.” As described in Chapter 1 of the Draft PEIR, the Salton Sea Restoration Act and related legislation facilitate implementation of the Quantification Settlement Agreement and the Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project. Changes to the Quantification Settlement Agreement and the Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project are outside of the scope of the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program.
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.
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.

Leonard Thomas (LT)

Sincerely,

Leonard Thomas
2912 Cherimoya Ct
Antelope, CA 95843-4028

LT-1
Peter Tigler (PT)

PT-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 9, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

To whom it may concern:

It should be mandatory that you do whatever it takes to save the Salton Sea for the sake of the migrating birds. So many living species have been wiped out off the face of earth. and it is too late to save them. Look at what happened to the white dolphins in China. They no longer exists. What happened...gosh!

Thank you,

Peter Tigler
2019 21st St
Santa Monica, CA 90404

Sincerely,

Peter Tigler
2019 21st St
Santa Monica, CA 90404-4809
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Richard Thanner (RT)

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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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.

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 1146-6  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

49

Sincerely,

Vera Taylor  
1925 N 3rd St Apt 204  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5171

Your comment does not raise any concerns or questions specific to the State’s Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program Draft PEIR.
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.

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 innovative 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.

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.
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.
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,

Robert and Renca Ulvang
6302 Shelter Creek Lane
San Bruno, CA 94066
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, this alternative was considered but was not carried forward 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.

May seem like a goofy idea, but....how about working a deal with Mexico and build a pipeline to the Gulf Of California...that water is less salty than the Salton Sea....pump the water in to maintain a very even level.....low elevation of the sea would save a lot on pumping cost.....almost a siphon effect

Don
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. Although it does not include the production of bio-fuels, such production could be considered during future project-level analysis if it is related to restoration actions at the Salton Sea. Production of bio-fuels at the Salton Sea could also be considered as a separate project by other individuals, corporations, or agencies.

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.
Anna Wagemann (AW)

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.

Sincerely,

Anna Wagemann
7313 S. 177th St.
Omaha, NE 68126

Anna Wagemann
7313 S 177th St
Omaha, NE 68126-2033
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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Carol Webb (CWebb)

CWebb-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.

CWebb-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:

- 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 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 save the Salton Sea. Thank you,
Damaris Welles

Sincerely,

Damaris Welles
224 Cottonwood Dr
Saint Paul, MN 55127-6104

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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Jan 5, 2007
Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I would like to comment on the California Department of Water Resources Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

Habit loss is the biggest single threat to wildlife all over the planet. The Salton Sea represents unique and irreplaceable habitat for many species, including many migratory birds. It is vital that the integrity of this ecosystem be preserved for the long term. Any plans that do not absolutely insure this as first priority must be questioned and revised.

Sincerely,

David Wellman
HC 60 Box 227
Copper Center, AK 99573-9703

David Wellman (DWellman)

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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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 Defenders of Wildlife I feel somewhat guilty about sending this letter but I had to do so in the interests of truth and science.

The Salton Sea is not a natural sea, and has no natural source. It was created by a huge accident, one of the most costly accidents in history, when you consider the huge amount of water lost at the time–enough to create a sea in just a few days. The event was nearly biblical in proportions.

For the State of California to refill the Salton sea would be an expensive waste of water that is in short supply as it is. The Colorado River is a resource like any other, and finite. We cannot afford to "spend" our future subsidizing a lake that cannot exist without us, and has no benefit for us to match the humongous costs involved.

As a resident of Mohave County, Arizona, I ask that you NOT try to save the Salton Sea. The birds will be able to stop along the coast and the river as they did for thousands of years before the construction of the California Aqueduct system created the Salton Sea. Save the water from the Colorado River Aquifer for the people and animals who live along it...and the cities in California that depend upon it for survival.

Sincerely,

Donna Wickerd
PO Box 1402
Dolan Springs, AZ 86441-1402

---

Donna Wickerd (DWickerd)

DWickerd-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."

DWickerd-2

See response to comment DWickerd-1.

DWickerd-3

See response to comment DWickerd-1.

---

DWickerd-1

See response to comment DWickerd-1.

DWickerd-2

See response to comment DWickerd-1.

DWickerd-3

See response to comment DWickerd-1.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Jan 4, 2007
Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1419 5th Street, Room 1145-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

As the Salton Sea shrinks someone must realize we are depriving 400 species of birds their natural stopover as they migrate. This obviously spells the beginning of the end for these creatures of nature. Creatures that can never be replaced.

We must stop this terrible fact from happening and must refrain from once again altering Mother Nature.
Please do all in your power to help

Sincerely,

Ed Wagner
15129 Hiawatha St
Mission Hills, CA 91345-2514

Ed Wagner (EW)

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.

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

I sent my comments yesterday to the general DWR email address. To make sure that my input has been received I have attached my comments and a separate article written about the PEIR process. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hartmut S. Walter
Professor
Department of geography
UCLA
Tel. 310-825-3116
Email walter@geog.ucla.edu
January 13, 2007

Attn: Dale Hoffman-Flores
Salton Sea PEIR Comments
California Department of Water Resources
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Draft PEIR on the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program

I greatly admire and commend the work of the Salton Sea Advisory Committee. The Draft PEIR has enabled me to learn much more about the complex issues facing the restoration efforts of the Salton Sea Ecosystem than any earlier publications on the Salton Sink. In particular, I appreciated the summary portion outlining and comparing the eight Alternatives. In order to assist any state’s agencies with the development of a final restoration plan, I wish to provide a few short comments on several aspects of the PEIR.

As a senior and independent conservation biologist, biogeographer, ecologist and ornithologist my concerns deal mostly with the environmental health of the entire Salton Sink ecosystem, particularly the outrageous water pollution, the impending drought emergency around a shrinking Salton Sea, the problem of long-term wildlife disturbance during earth- and water-moving construction periods, and the creation of better habitat for pugilfish and waterfowl. I attach my recent article on the Salton Sea issue (designed to spark readers’ interest in the restoration debate) that reflects my general approach to the importance of the Salton Sea. Basically, it is my opinion that the actual and potential value of the natural capital of the Salton Sea ecosystem is huge and increasing steadily at pace and more wetland and open space habitat is converted to suburban housing tracts and agriculture. Therefore the ongoing restoration program is not only important but a necessary endeavor for the future of the natural heritage of California and the Southwest.

A. Water Pollution

It is appalling that the Salton Sea has become a giant sewer. Long overdue is the complete treatment and recycling of all sewage and other waste water in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. While millions of $ are spent in Los Angeles and at my school UCLA to prevent all street and lawn runoff from reaching the precious Pacific coastal waters, here in SE California we find a kind of Wild West environmental recklessness. I refer to all the published pollution studies and measurements of rivers and other inflows to the Salton Sea. Just last week, on a visit to the Salton Sea area, we endured the toxic smell of a large stream of sewage-like water entering...
One of the major functions of the Salton Sea is to serve as a sump for agricultural wastewater from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. Executive Order of Withdrawal (Public Water Reserve No. 114, California No. 26), signed in 1928, designated lands within the Salton Basin below elevation 220 feet below mean sea level as storage for wastes and seepage from irrigated lands in the Imperial Valley. Approximately 75 percent of the inflow to the Sea is agricultural drain water from Imperial Valley. Agricultural discharges in the Imperial Valley contain pesticides, nutrients, selenium, and silt in amounts that violate water quality standards. The Salton Sea also receives discharges from the New and Alamo rivers. The New River originates in Mexico, flows approximately 20 miles through the City of Mexicali, Mexico, crosses the International Boundary, continues through the City of Calexico in the United States, and travels northward about 60 miles to the Salton Sea. The New River carries urban runoff, untreated and partially treated municipal wastes, untreated and partially treated industrial wastes, and agricultural runoff from the Mexicali Valley, Mexico into the United States. In addition, the New River carries urban runoff, agricultural runoff, treated industrial wastes, and treated, disinfected and non-disinfected domestic wastes from the Imperial Valley. The Alamo River originates about 2 miles south of the International Boundary with Mexico, and flows northward across the border for about 50 miles to the Salton Sea. The Alamo River is dominated by agricultural return flows from Imperial Valley, but also carries treated wastewater from point sources in Imperial Valley.

Restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem must maintain the ability of the Salton Sea to serve as a sump for agricultural wastewater from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys. In addition, the source water for the Salton Sea and, thus for the restoration alternatives, are primarily agricultural drains and the New and Alamo rivers. Hence, any restoration alternative will continue to receive water with various levels of pollutants. However, the CRBRWQCB has established Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits for several pollutants causing impairments to ensure that impaired waters attain their beneficial uses. The CRBRWQCB has adopted TMDLs for sedimentation/siltation for the Alamo and New rivers and Imperial Valley drains and pathogens for the New River, and has draft TMDLs for bacteria for the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, trash and dissolved oxygen for the New River, and nutrients for the Salton Sea. These TMDLs, and operation of the Mexicali II Wastewater Treatment Plant in Mexico, are expected to significantly improve the quality of water flowing into the Salton Sea as described in the Draft PEIR.
The use of tamarisk (salt cedar) to provide vegetative cover to control dust by reducing wind speeds at the soil/air interface was not considered because of its high water demand compared to more water efficient vegetation like Atriplex (saltbush). Water is an important factor when considering restoration options and the use of large amounts of water for air quality management is particularly problematic. Research has shown that tall, dense stands of salt cedar have the potential to use over 9 acre-feet of water per year for every acre of salt cedar. Therefore, 50,000 acres of Exposed Playa that is covered with salt cedar has the potential to use over 450,000 acre-feet of water per year. This is more than half of the total water budget for the entire restoration program.

The Draft PEIR recognizes the affects of implementation on fish and wildlife for each of the alternatives. As stated on Table 8-4 of the Draft PEIR, Next Steps (i.e., mitigation measures) include the consideration of measures during project-level analysis that could avoid disturbance of fish and wildlife resources during construction and operations and maintenance. A schedule for the Preferred Alternative is included in Chapter 3 of the Final PEIR.
subpopulations are spatially isolated from the main population center as a security in case of unpredictable events such as disease, new predators, and environmental uncertainty. Recent published evidence tends to favor the latter approach.

In this specific case, it is my opinion that the precautionary principle favors managing the pupfish population (which breeds readily even outside the Salton Sea Sink such as the Coachella Valley Nature Preserve) as distinct and spatially segregated subpopulations. Loss of genetic diversity can easily be prevented by the occasional transfer of several individual pupfish between natural breeding habitats. As a further management tool, I would suggest keeping the water bodies containing pupfish fully discrete and small, this way, fish demography, water quality and potential invasive species can be monitored and controlled more effectively.

E. Bird Conservation

Waterbirds need a better and healthier Salton Sea; the eight Alternatives promise many improvements for breeding, migrating and wintering species. I am particularly impressed by the emphasis on the creation of thousands of acres of the Shallow Salton habitat complex. This habitat type is known worldwide as highly attractive to many shorebird and duck species. If properly managed in terms of water height and degree of salinity, it will become a great addition to the rich complex of waterbird habitats in the Salton Sink.

F. Ecosystem Management

I am somewhat apprehensive about the 75 year time span of the project. I understand that water agencies want and need the certainty of long-term contracts. When it comes to wildlife habitats, however, it is almost unheard of. I believe, to legally bind natural habitats and their species as if they were physical commodities like acre-feet of water. In modern ecosystem management, we use monitoring and adaptive strategies to periodically adjust, correct, improve components and processes of the ecosystem. Ecosystem change, probably more rapidly now than in the recent past. As a consequence, I strongly urge including in the preferred final alternative a requirement for periodic evaluation assessments every 15 years or so. In a time of uncertain regional climate warming, there has to be the option to make more than minor adjustments to the restoration program. I think that this can be achieved without altering the respective water contracts between major stakeholders such as San Diego Water and the Imperial Irrigation District.

I look forward to a speedy completion of the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program.

Sincerely,

Hartmut S. Walter, Ph.D.
Professor
Email: walter@geo.ucla.edu


Populations of desert pupfish which occupy discrete inputs (drains and creeks) that flow into the Salton Sea are currently presumed connected as a single metapopulation which allows some level of gene flow among the populations. The most recent analysis of desert pupfish genetics supports this conclusion. Desert pupfish connectivity, as described in the Draft PEIR, would maintain, to varying degrees, the existing population connections.

While a fully connected population is susceptible to a certain level of risk from the rapid spread of diseases, parasites, and/or invasive species. Maintaining the present connectivity of desert pupfish would not expose the species to a greater risk than it currently experiences. Without such connections, there is a risk that a single population could be extirpated during times of low or non-existent water, and would not be re-populated.

A guiding principle of conservation biology is to protect and sustain conditions which allow a species’ natural processes to persist, without the need for human intervention. Physically segregating sub-populations is normally only undertaken as a last resort, when conditions require it for the protection of the species. The USFWS Recovery Plan for desert pupfish requires the creation of a number of small discrete “refugia” for desert pupfish, as suggested by the comment, to protect against (inter alia) the potential threats referred to in the comment. However, to manage the entire population in this manner would be extremely costly, and would neglect the responsibilities that resource agencies have to act as stewards of habitat, and populations in situ.

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

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

The attachments provided with this letter are included in Appendix A.
Jan 5, 2007
Ms. Dale Hoffman-Floerke
1416 9th Street, Room 1145-5
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

SURELY WE CAN FIND A BETTER WAY TO TREAT GOD’S CREATURES THAT HE ENTRUSTED TO US. HE IS ALWAYS WATCHING!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wyatt
5411 Summit St
Whitehall, PA 18052-1725

Jennifer Wyatt (JW)

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.
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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Lynda Winslow (LWinslow)

LWinslow-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.

The 62,000-acre Saline Habitat Complex 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 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 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.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Jan 4, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

With over 90% of California’s wetlands gone, it important to take good care of what’s left. If those of you in charge of such national treasures as the Salton Sea allow it to shrink or disappear, you will have done the state and the nation a great disservice. It would also harm an important migratory bird stopover in the Pacific Flyway. Most proposals fail to adequately protect fish, wildlife and air and water quality in that area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Olive Wilson
280 2nd St NE
Pringhier, IA 51245-1120

Olive Wilson (OW)

OW-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.
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
There is a pronounced microclimate influenced by the Salton Sea in areas adjacent to the water. Regardless of the alternative configuration, the areas near the water would have more of an influence from the Salton Sea than those areas further away. The existence of this microclimate and its influence on the areas adjacent to the Salton Sea are acknowledged in the Draft PEIR in Chapter 10 and Appendix E, Attachment E11, and potential microclimatic impacts have been discussed for each of the alternatives. To define in more detail the effects of this body of water on the surrounding microclimate under each alternative would require additional research. Such an evaluation could be conducted during project-level analysis.
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.

Steve Wickliffe
1610 Ogden Ave.
Anaconda, Montana
406.563.3243
From: daaneyoung@aol.com
To: SaltonSeaComments
CC: daaneyoung@aol.com
Subject: Salton Sea Comments
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2007 3:02:02 PM
Attachments: Ranch_Listing.xlsx

COCOPAH NURSERIES INC.
(a “young” family company)
81-880 Arns Ave. - Indio, California 92201
Office 760-347-5678, fx 760-
342-6188

lee young

Duane Young email = daaneyoung@aol.com

January 16, 2007

VIA FACSIMILE (916) 654-4925
VIA E-MAIL 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 148-6
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Comments on Salton Sea
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

There is a pronounced microclimate influenced by the Salton Sea in areas adjacent to the water. Regardless of the alternative configuration, the areas near the water would have more of an influence from the Salton Sea than those areas further away. The existence of this microclimate and its influence on the areas adjacent to the Salton Sea are acknowledged in the Draft PEIR in Chapter 10 and Appendix E, Attachment E11, and potential microclimatic impacts have been discussed for each of the alternatives. To define in more detail the effects of this body of water on the surrounding microclimate under each alternative would require additional research. Such an evaluation could be conducted during project-level analysis.

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.

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

**DY-3**

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.

The Quantification Settlement Agreement Joint Powers Authority Agreement does not indemnify for damages caused by the water transfers.

**DY-4**

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, this alternative was considered but was not carried forward 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.
an engineering perspective even if it is more complicated from a political standpoint.

Our futures in Riverside and Imperial counties depend upon a viable Sea and our business interests directly depend upon the success of your endeavors. We appreciate your hard work and would be happy to answer any more questions. At this point, we simply do not think that DWR’s environmental document addresses the concerns of agriculture, and we would appreciate that those concerns be clarified and addressed before a remedy is selected.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely

Duane Lee Young

Duane Lee Young

Enclosed Spreadsheet Identifying APN Parcels.
### Chapter 9
### Individual Comments

#### DY (cont.)

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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 in the southern 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 Marine Sea would also provide foraging habitat for fish-eating birds. The Marine Sea 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 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 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.
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- Provide at least one-half acre-foot of water per acre of exposed Seabed, as stipulated by the Salton Sea Advisory Committee, to prevent dust pollution caused by exposed playa, as described in Alternatives 1-3, 5-6 and 8;
- Construct shallow saline habitat (known as "early start habitat") immediately to provide resources for birds during the long permitting and construction process, as described in all of the proposed alternatives; and
- Develop a plan that provides water for habitat and air quality mitigation first, in case of possible shortages or system malfunctions, as described in Alternatives 1-3.

A Final Preferred 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, air quality and water quality, while also providing substantial recreation and development opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Yang
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Joe Zuback (JZ)

JZ-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.” The use of agricultural drainage water for irrigation for additional agricultural lands or potable sources is outside of the scope of the State’s Draft PEIR.

JZ-2

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

Dear Ms. Hoffman-Florea,

I am writing regarding the Resources Agency’s Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program.

I would like to encourage that the State implement the “evolved alternative,” that combines the best of the proposals, the alternative has been outlined in letters from the Salton Sea Coalition, Audubon California, and other environmental groups! 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 consideration.

Best regards,

Susan Gilmore
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.

Robert Chandler (RChandler)

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.
Thank you for your suggestion. The use of jojoba as a water efficient vegetation for air quality control actions could be considered during future project-level analysis.
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.

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 to address air quality uncertainties.

For the programmatic level of planning, the availability of quarry materials for construction was evaluated by looking at potential sites including permitted and non-permitted quarries. A cursory evaluation of potential rockfill sources was performed in the Draft PEIR. The evaluation considered issues such as land ownership and access, environmental impacts and potential mitigation actions, as well as rock suitability. Information to determine site specific impacts at all potential sites was not available. Project-level analysis of the Preferred Alternative and rockfill sources would be required to evaluate the extent and magnitude of direct and indirect impacts and identify appropriate mitigation.

The potential for loss of life or property due to failure of a facility due to an earthquake or related seismic event was described in Chapter 9 of the Draft PEIR. As identified in Chapter 9, all of the alternatives could result in significant impacts due to the potential risk to workers and others during seismic events. However, Next Steps were identified that include construction of facilities in accordance with the California Building Code and applicable design standards to reduce the risk of loss due to seismic events.
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
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 questions in Spanish was provided for those interested.
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, this alternative was considered but was not carried forward 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.
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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
The Salton Sea Advisory Committee members are listed in Table 1-1 on page 1-15 of the Draft PEIR.

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 questions in Spanish was provided for those interested.

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.”
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See response to comment SNuyen-3.

The comment is unclear regarding which ring or cell in which alternative the commenter is referring to. However, the width of the water bodies under each of the alternatives is provided in Chapter 11 of the Draft PEIR.
SNuyen (cont.)

Geotubes® have not been tested at the Salton Sea. Such testing could be conducted during future project-level analysis if Geotubes® are used in any restoration program.

SNuyen-8

The potential for loss of life or property due to failure of a facility due to an earthquake or related seismic event was described in Chapter 9 of the Draft PEIR. As identified in Chapter 9, all of the alternatives could result in significant impacts due to the potential risk to workers and others during seismic events. However, Next Steps were identified that include construction of facilities in accordance with the California Building Code and applicable design standards to reduce the risk of loss due to seismic events.

SNuyen-9

Chapter 14 of the Draft PEIR includes a discussion of hazards within the study area. Some potentially hazardous or contaminated areas have been identified in the project study area; however, the Salton Sea has not been designated as a Superfund site by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
The Draft PEIR and the Final PEIR include a reasonable range of alternatives as required by CEQA and are based on the best available scientific information. Information from the SSA was used to develop Alternative 7, and the SSA's redesign of its proposal occurred after the Draft PEIR analysis was well underway. Although the SSA proposal has continued to evolve, the State's March 2006 information submittal deadline was necessary to complete the analysis and the Draft PEIR within a reasonable timeframe, particularly in view of the statutory deadlines for completion of the restoration study and programmatic environmental document.

Although the modifications to the SSA’s alternative have not been included in either the Draft or Final PEIR, the modifications are within the range of alternatives and configurations evaluated in the Draft PEIR. The absence of these additional modifications in Alternative 7 did not preclude the alternative from being considered as part of a future restoration program, because these modifications could be considered during project-level analysis as mitigation measures.

As described in Chapter 26 of the Draft PEIR, the State conducted an extensive public outreach effort for the preparation of the Draft PEIR. As part of this effort, public outreach meetings were held in various locations throughout the Salton Sea watershed in an effort to increase participation by all members of the Salton Sea community. As described in Chapter 26 of the Draft PEIR, the 26 public outreach meetings held during the preparation of the Draft PEIR were attended by over 600 people. While some of the meeting attendees were from outside of the Salton Sea watershed, the State believes that the majority of the attendees were residents from the local communities.

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.
SNuyen (cont.)

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.
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. (2) Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration projects. (3) Protection of water quality.”
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Shirley Palmer (SPalmer)

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.

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 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).
SPalmer (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.
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.

As described in Chapter 3 and Chapter 25 of the Draft PEIR, a variety of studies are needed to complete the design and permitting process prior to the initiation of construction activities. These studies include such things as additional bathometric and topographic studies necessary for facilities design and additional biological, air quality, and cultural studies. The completion of these studies, design, and environmental compliance is expected to take some time.

See response to comment SPetroff-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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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.

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Chapter 9
Individual Comments

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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 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.
The California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams requires that all dams within its jurisdiction be capable of adequately passing a selected design flood. This would require a hydrologic analysis be performed to evaluate spillway capacities for design to prevent overtopping. Additionally, all of the alternatives include a flood diversion structure to convey the largest historical flood events to the Brine Sink. This would allow for conveyance of flood flows around the project facilities and minimize the risk of failure of facilities. This is discussed in Chapter 3 and Appendix H-6 of the Draft PEIR.

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, this alternative was considered but was not carried forward 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.
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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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.

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See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Sandy Symington (SSymington)

SSymington-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.

SSymington-2

The potential for loss of life or property due to failure of a facility due to an earthquake or related seismic event was described in Chapter 9 of the Draft PEIR. As identified in Chapter 9, all of the alternatives could result in significant impacts due to the potential risk to workers and others during seismic events. However, Next Steps were identified that include construction of facilities in accordance with the California Building Code and applicable design standards, such as the standards set forth by the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams to reduce the risk of loss due to seismic events.

SSymington-3

The hydrology and associated inflows analysis for the Draft PEIR was developed in coordination with the Inflows Working Group. The group was a sub-group of the Salton Sea Advisory Committee. It was open to the public and meetings were attended by a variety of local, regional, and statewide agencies, environmental organizations, and interested members of the public.
SSymington (cont.)

The Draft PEIR considered two alternative future hydrologic conditions: No Action Alternative-CEQA Conditions and No Action Alternative-Variability Conditions. The No Action Alternative-CEQA Conditions are based on the CEQA Guidelines which limits consideration to those projects and actions to those that are reasonably foreseeable (which, for the purposes of the Draft PEIR was determined to be projects that have already undergone environmental permitting). Due to the long planning horizon for this project and the sensitivity of the Salton Sea conditions to inflows, a broader interpretation was necessary and appropriate. The No Action Alternative-Variability Conditions considered a broader range of possible future conditions, including possible future water management changes, as discussed in Appendix H-2 of the Draft PEIR.
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.

The exact location of facilities would be determined during project-level analysis.

Benjamin and Dolores Wilson (BWilson)

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

The exact location of facilities would be determined during project-level analysis.
Chapter 9
Individual Comments

Anonymous 1 (Anon1)

Anon1-1

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.” All of the alternatives meet the legislative objectives to varying degrees.

Anon1-2

See response to comment Anon1-1. 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.

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 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.

Anon1-3

As described in Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR, 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.

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®.

See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
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.”
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.
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 interested in wildlife conservation and concerned about protecting wildlife habitat at the Salton Sea, which is an Important Bird Area and a national treasure. Over 400 bird species rely on the Salton Sea ecosystem, and public health depends on preventing dangerous dust pollution caused by a dry seabed. Restoration should provide the maximum feasible wildlife habitat, air, and water quality protection, as required by law.

Although the Draft EIR contains a wide range of restoration alternatives, none of the alternatives provides the maximum feasible wildlife, air, and water quality protection. By taking features from different alternatives, however, the State of California could present a final, preferred alternative that meets these requirements and protects this unique and important resource.

The preferred alternative should include the following features from different draft alternatives:

1. At least 38,000 to 50,000 acres of Shallow Saline Habitat Complex, as described in draft Alternatives 1 and 2;
2. Concentric lakes using geotubes or other dirt-filled barriers, as described in draft Alternative 4, to provide additional habitat and recreational opportunities;
3. A large north lake, fed by the Whitewater River, as described in draft Alternatives 5-7, to provide recreational opportunities without the habitat and other risks posed by a deep, mid-Sea barrier and pumping from the New and Alamo Rivers;
4. Sufficient water for air quality mitigation, including at least one-half acre-foot per year of water for each acre of exposed seabed, as described in draft Alternatives 1-3, 5-6 and 8;
5. Several thousand acres of Early Start Habitat to replace habitat during permitting and construction;
6. The flexibility of Alternatives 1, 2 and 4 to allow for phasing, monitoring and adaptive management.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.
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 implementation 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.

The Preferred Alternative includes many of the components suggested by the commenter. See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke:

I am writing to offer my comments on the Resources Agency’s Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program (PEIR).

There is no question that the State of California must take action at the Salton Sea. A shrinking Salton Sea will harm the health of children and adults in the Imperial and Coachella valleys by subjecting this population to hundreds of additional tons of dust that would blow, each year, off the exposed land. A smaller, saltier Sea would also be of little or no value to many of the 400 species of birds sometimes numbering in the millions of individual birds that currently use the Sea. With the loss of nearly 95% of California’s wetlands, many of these birds will have no other place to go, leading to catastrophic losses that will be felt up and down the Pacific Flyway.

Most proposed alternatives suffer from massive construction and permitting requirements that would slow implementation, degrade air quality, and impose additional, unacceptable impacts over a wide area. In light of California’s commitment to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, it makes no sense to implement a project that requires massive amounts of energy to pump (and in some instances, treat) water, nor does it make sense to build massive dams or dikes that require thousands of truck trips each day, to move the tens of millions of cubic yards of rock needed for construction.

Fortunately, the PEIR contains the information and components necessary to piece together a successful plan from the proposed alternatives. Alternatives 1 and 2 provide important habitat to support many of the birds that currently use the Salton Sea. Alternative 4 offers a relatively low-cost, low-impact method to distribute water around much of the present shoreline and would provide additional habitat, shoreline protection and opportunities for recreation. The concentric lakes plan would provide direct air quality benefits, and would also offer a ready source of water for managing air quality problem areas that might arise in the future. And components of the larger north lake alternatives (Alternatives 5-7) provide recreation and economic development opportunities, enjoying the broad local support necessary for funding and implementation.
I urge that DWR combine the following features from the proposed alternatives into a final, preferred alternative that would meet the legal requirements for restoration of the Sea:

* Between 38,000 - 50,000 acres of Shallow Saline Habitat Complex, as described in Alternatives 1 and 2, at the southern and northern ends of the Sea to provide habitat for shoreline species;

* Create concentric rings using geotubes or other dirt-filled barriers, as described in Alternative 4, to provide additional shallow habitat, deeper marine habitat, shoreline and view protection, air-quality protections, and recreation;

* Similar to the lakes found in Alternatives 5-7, provide a large (approximately 10,000 acre) North Lake, which would be the largest recreational lake in Southern California, fed by the Whitewater River to provide recreation and development opportunities without the costs and risks associated with a major mid-Sea barrier or the costs of pumping water from the southern end of the Sea;

* Provide at least one-half acre-foot of water per acre of exposed Seabed, as stipulated by the Salton Sea Advisory Committee, to prevent dust pollution caused by exposed playa, as described in Alternatives 1-3, 5-6 and 8;

* Construct shallow saline habitat (known as early start habitat) immediately to provide resources for birds during the long permitting and construction process, as described in all of the proposed alternatives; and

* Develop a plan that provides water for habitat and air quality mitigation first, in case of possible shortages or system malfunctions, as described in Alternatives 1-3.

A Final Preferred 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, air quality and water quality, while also providing substantial recreation and development opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.
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 implementation 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.

The Preferred Alternative includes many of the components suggested by the commenter. See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
Dear Dale Hoffman-Floerke, CA Dept. of Water Resources,

I am writing to offer my comments on the Salton Sea Restoration Program DPEIR. The State of California must take action to preserve critical wildlife habitat in the Salton Sea, unfortunately, none of the alternatives presented in the DPEIR adequately protect wildlife habitat, air and water quality. Therefore, I urge the Resources Agency to consider combining the best features from the proposed alternatives into a final, preferred alternative that would meet the needs for habitat restoration and protect local and regional air and water quality.

Alternatives 1 and 2 provide important habitat to support many of the birds that currently use the Salton Sea. Alternative 4 offers a relatively low-cost, low-impact method to distribute water around much of the present shoreline and would provide additional habitat, shoreline protection and opportunities for recreation. The concentric lakes plan would provide direct air quality benefits, and would also offer a ready source of water for managing air quality problem areas that might arise in the future. Components of the larger north lake alternatives (Alternatives 5-7) provide recreation and economic development opportunities, enjoying the broad local support necessary for funding and implementation of the needed restoration.

Specifically, I encourage the Resources Agency to adopt a final, preferred alternative that includes the following:

- Between 25,000 and 50,000 acres of Shallow Saline Habitat Complex, as described in Alternatives 1 and 2, at the southern and northern ends of the Sea to provide habitat for shoreline species;

- Creation of concentric rings using geotubes or other dirt-filled barriers, as described in Alternative 4, to provide additional shallow habitat, deeper marine habitat, shoreline and view protection, air-quality protections, and recreation;

- Creation of a large North Lake, similar to those found in Alternatives 5-7, to provide recreation and development opportunities without the costs and risks associated with a major mid-Sea barrier or the costs of pumping water from the southern end of the Sea;

- Adequate water per acre of exposed seabed, as stipulated by the Salton Sea Advisory Committee, to prevent dust pollution caused by exposed playa, as described in Alternatives 1-3, 5-6 and 8;

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).
- Construct shallow saline habitat immediately to provide resources for birds during the long permitting and construction process; and

- Develop a plan that prioritizes use of water for habitat and air quality mitigation first, in case of possible shortages or system malfunctions, as described in Alternatives 1-3.

A Final Preferred 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, air quality and water quality, while also providing substantial recreation and development opportunities. I urge the Resources Agency to provide a proposal with the components and features outlined above as the final, preferred alternative, and I urge the State to select this alternative that will best protect wildlife habitat and air and water quality at a reasonable cost and in a reasonable time frame.

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 implementation 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.

The Preferred Alternative includes many of the components suggested by the commenter. See Chapter 3 of this Final PEIR for a more detailed description of the Preferred Alternative.
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 on 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.

Unfortunately, most proposed alternatives in the PEIR fail to adequately protect fish, wildlife and air and water quality in the Salton Sea area. The PEIR does, however, contain the components and information necessary to formulate a successful plan. Please incorporate the following features into a final preferred alternative that would meet legal requirements for the restoration of the Salton Sea:

* Establish between 38,000 to 50,000 acres of Shallow Saline Habitat Complex, as described in Alternatives 1 and 2, at the southern and northern ends of the Sea to provide habitat for shoreline species;

* Create concentric rings using geotubes or other dirt-filled barriers, as described in Alternative 4, to provide additional shallow habitat, deeper marine habitat, shoreline and view protection, air-quality protections, and recreation;

* Provide a large (approximately 10,000 acre) North Lake, which would be the largest recreational lake in Southern California, fed by the Whitewater River to provide recreation and development opportunities without the costs and risks associated with a major mid-Sea barrier or the costs of pumping water from the southern end of the Sea (Similar to the proposals found in Alternatives 5-7);

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).
* Provide at least one-half acre-foot of water per acre of exposed Seabed, as stipulated by the Salton Sea Advisory Committee, to prevent dust pollution caused by exposed playa, as described in Alternatives 1-3, 5-6 and 8;

* Construct shallow saline habitat (known as "early start habitat") immediately to provide resources for birds during the long permitting and construction process, as described in all of the proposed alternatives; and

* Develop a plan that provides water for habitat and air quality mitigation first, in case of possible shortages or system malfunctions, as described in Alternatives 1-3.

A Final Preferred Alternative that contains all of these components would best meet the legal requirements to maximize habitat, air quality and water quality, while also providing substantial recreation and development opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.
Dear Ms. Hoffman-Floerke,

I am writing to offer my comments on the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Program.

There is no question that California must take action at the Salton Sea. A shrinking Salton Sea would subject the residents of Imperial and Coachella valleys to hundreds of additional tons of harmful dust each year that would be blown off the exposed land. A smaller, saltier sea also would be of little or no value to many of the 400 species of birds that currently use the sea. With the loss of nearly 95 percent of California's wetlands, many of these birds would have no other place to go, leading to catastrophic losses.

Fortunately, a successful plan can be pieced together from the proposed alternatives in the draft report. I therefore urge your department to combine the following features from the proposed alternatives into a final preferred alternative to restore the Salton Sea:

** as described in Alternatives 1 and 2, include 38,000 to 50,000 acres of shallow habitat for shoreline species at the southern and northern ends of the sea;

** as described in Alternative 4, create concentric rings using geotubes or other dirt-filled barriers to provide additional shallow habitat, deeper marine habitat, shoreline and view protection, air quality protections and recreation opportunities;

** similar to the lakes found in Alternatives 5 through 7, provide a large (approximately 10,000-acre) North Lake, which would be the largest recreational lake in southern California, fed by the Whitewater River to provide recreation and development opportunities without the costs and risks associated with a major mid-sea barrier or the costs of pumping water from the southern end of the sea;

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.

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** as described in Alternatives 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8, provide at least one-half acre-foot of water per acre of exposed seabed to prevent dust pollution; and

** as described in all of the proposed alternatives, construct shallow saline habitat (known as "early start habitat") immediately to provide resources for birds during the long permitting and construction process.

A final preferred alternative that includes 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, air quality and water quality, while also providing substantial recreation and development opportunities.

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** Form5 (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 implementation 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.

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