

Salton Sea Management Program
Status Report 4
Month of May 2016

This is the fourth in a series of monthly status reports that will provide information on various aspects of the State of California's Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) conducted during the previous month.

- The Salton Sea Management Program web page address is: resources.ca.gov/salton-sea. The web page serves as a centralized site for the dissemination of information on the state's Salton Sea Management Program. It also contains a schedule of upcoming advisory committee meetings and material from those meetings. A schedule of upcoming public workshops is also included on the web page.
- Department of Water Resources (DWR) continued coordination with the Division of Engineering and the Species Conservation Habitat project consulting team on the development of documents necessary to bid the project for construction.
- The Air Quality Advisory Committee met on 02 May, 2016 to discuss air quality issues relating to the Salton Sea, water transfer and the SSMP. Imperial Irrigation District (IID) will likely release a draft of the Water Transfer Air Quality Management Program in late June. Another meeting will be scheduled soon after that release. California Air Resources Board (CARB) and California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) continue to coordinate with IID, the Water Transfer JPA and Imperial County Air Pollution Control District on the development and integration of the air quality program into the SSMP. CARB is working on identifying funding for a toxic monitoring study.
- CNRA met with Comite Civico Del Valle, Inc. to discuss environmental justice issues and ways to reach out to disadvantage communities as part of the Public Workshop program. The State Office of Public Participation is preparing a communication plan for the SSMP which will include an environmental justice element.
- CNRA participated with IID, Cal Energy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge in two design workshop meetings on Red Hill Bay. Several design scenarios were discussed and the consulting team will complete design alternatives for review in early June.
- CNRA and the Salton Sea Authority participated in a Salton Sea discussion at the IID Board meeting on 10 May, 2016.
- DWR Division of Engineering met with Salton Sea Authority on May 11, 2016 to gather more information necessary to finalize the feasibility analysis process.
- U.S. Geological Survey Salton Sea Science Office (USGS Science Office) and CNRA presented a status of science at the Salton Sea and the Salton Sea Management Program to the Great Salt Lake Issues Forum in Salt Lake City, Utah. The presentations were geared toward sharing science data and management scenarios with the groups affiliated with the Great Salt Lake and included discussions on salt water lake ecology in the Southwest.

- Regional Water Board, Office of Public Participation and CNRA met to discuss development of a communications plan for the public outreach process. A draft communication plan was prepared and circulated to the Outreach Committee. A final plan will be completed in June.
- CNRA presented the Salton Sea Management Program to the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee on Air Quality (CA Department of Public Health) at their Oakland, CA meeting on 17 May, 2016.
- CNRA, along with other local stakeholders participated in a community workshop at Salton City, CA on 17 May, 2016 to discuss the Salton Sea and dust emission issues around the lake and the surrounding desert areas.
- Imperial County and CNRA met on 19 May, 2016 to discuss air quality issues around the lake and the potential for an air quality mitigation program with local landowners.
- On 19 May, 2016 CNRA held a public workshop at the Borrego Springs State Park to present the Salton Sea Management Program to the local stakeholders. The workshop included a presentation and a question and discussion session after the presentation. There were approximately 35 people in attendance.
- The Science Advisory Committee met on 20 May, 2016 to review and comment on documentation that provides guidelines for the purpose and actions of the committee. The comments received will be incorporated into a final draft document for review by the Science Advisory Committee. The document will be available on the CNRA Salton Sea webpage upon completion. The USGS Science Office will act as the chairperson of the committee.
- The Long Range Planning Committee met on 20 May, 2016 to discuss the water import proposals and to identify other areas that should be explored by the committee. A process for evaluating the proposals to determine if they met the various submittal requirements and the objectives of Salton Sea management was completed. The Committee will release the results of that documentation after review at their next meeting (late June). The Committee also discussed other potential topics for future meetings; including reclamation of agricultural lands, other water import scenarios (brine lines, groundwater etc.).
- CNRA met with the Little Hoover Commission on 23 May, 2016 to further discuss the April hearing and to answer additional questions regarding the SSMP.
- DWR and CNRA met with State attorneys to discuss the environmental documentation process for the SSMP. It was determined that the consulting team will review the proposed projects, their potential impacts and make a determination as to the similarity of the impacts to the previous documents. If that analysis determines the impacts are similar and addendum to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document will be prepared.
- DWR and CNRA are also coordinating with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regulatory Branch and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). DWR has a meeting scheduled with Corps to identify the Corps lead person and to discuss various permitting scenarios.
- CNRA met with Audubon California on 24 May, 2016 to discuss the Audubon project for avian population and habitat functional value analysis at the Salton Sea. Bureau of Reclamation and CNRA will help fund the analysis program. The discussion also included methods to convey to

the public that wildlife habitat is a very effective dust suppression method and provides many additional benefits.

- An Outreach Committee meeting was held on 25 May, 2016. Discussion items included the draft communication plan, the public workshop schedule and comments and changes to the workshop PowerPoint presentation.
- The first Project Committee meeting was held on 26 May, 2016 at Coachella Valley Water District offices in Palm Desert. Web and telephone communication link were provide for those attending from remote locations. The discussion included the status of the Red Hill Bay project and the Species Conservation Habitat project, identification of the SSMP Phase I project areas and the preliminary layout of the backbone infrastructure.
- Salton Sea Action Committee, Torres-Martinez and CNRA met on 31 May, 2016 to discuss the SSMP north end projects. The discussion will be continued at a later meeting.