

Salton Sea Management Program
Status Report 5
Month of June 2016

This is the fifth 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 month of June.

- 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, public workshops and material from those meetings.
- Department of Water Resources (DWR), DWR- Division of Engineering, California Natural Resource Agency (CNRA) and the Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) project consulting team continue to work on the development of documents necessary to bid the project for construction. The team held weekly teleconference calls and numerous in-house design meetings. Additional geotechnical data is being collected and the team is working on easement language with the local landowners. The DWR team also coordinated with IID on completion of the power distribution system.
- CNRA and other State representatives met with San Diego County Water Authority to discuss the Salton Sea Management Program on 07 June.
- CNRA and DWR met with Imperial Irrigation District's (IID) consultant to discuss the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative (SSRREI) infrastructure backbone feasibility analysis on 08 June.
- CNRA and DWR met with several consultants to discuss the potential of using woody debris as a surface cover on exposed playa around the lake. The Tree Mortality Task Force and the Division of Forestry participated in the meeting to discuss various sources of woody debris. The Task Force will continue evaluation of transportation costs of the woody debris from areas to the north. CNRA and DWR will continue to coordinate with the consultant to develop a pilot project plan for use of the woody debris that may be used at the Salton Sea. The plan will include an evaluation of the use of local landscape level woody debris and the use of the woody debris from the tree mortality areas. It will also include the development of standard specifications for woody debris used on the playa.
- The State Water Resources Control Board's Office of Public Participation completed a draft communication plan for the SSMP. CNRA continued coordination with Comité Civico del Valle on the development of a specific multi-media outreach program for local communities around the south end of the sea.
- SSMP Public Workshops were held in Palm Springs (02 June), Calexico (09 June), El Centro (16 June), Irvine (23 June) and in Palm Desert at the Coachella Valley Water District (30 June). The Public Outreach Committee continued with a survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the meetings. Results of the survey will be made available at the completion of the first group of public meetings.

- CNRA continued to participate with the Red Hill Bay project team (IID, consulting engineers, Cal Energy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge)) in design workshop meetings in June. Final construction level drawings are anticipated on September along with bid specifications. IID and Refuge are coordinating the development of lease agreements for the project parcels.
- IID and CNRA met on 14 June to discuss contract issues relating to the SSRREI backbone infrastructure.
- CNRA met on 15 June with Imperial County to discuss the County's request for proposals on air quality mitigation by local landowners.
- DWR's Division of Engineering completed the feasibility analysis of the perimeter lake concept.
- Salton Sea Authority (SSA), CNRA, IID, Imperial Valley Farm Bureau and Natural Resource Conservation Service met to discuss the draft contract for the SSA grant. The grant funds will be used for water conservation projects that benefit the Salton Sea, constructed wetlands and possibly for dust suppression pilot projects.
- CNRA presented the SSMP to the Coachella Valley Leadership class on 17 June.
- SSA, Torres-Martinez and CNRA met on 22 June to discuss plans and potential projects on the north end of the lake.
- CNRA met with the geothermal consultant and USFWS on the Hell's Kitchen geothermal project to discuss the project layout and how it might impact the design of SSMP.
- CNRA met with a State renewable energy tour group at the Salton Sea to discuss potential of geothermal and other renewables at the lake and how they would fit into the SSMP.
- DWR, CNRA and IID's consultant met on 28 June to discuss progress on the SSREI backbone infrastructure.
- CNRA attended the 29 June IID Board of Director's meeting and commented in favor of the Water Transfer air quality management funded by the Water Transfer Joint Powers Authority.
- DWR and CNRA continued coordination with State attorneys on CEQA documentation. State consultants began the initial preparation of the CEQA documentation for the SSMP.
- DWR and CNRA met with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to discuss Clean Water Act compliance for the entire SSMP and clarified that the remainder of the SCH project (the area to the west of the New River) is already permitted.