

Salton Sea Management Program  
Status Report 6  
Month of July 2016

This is the sixth 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 July.

- The Salton Sea Management Program web page address is: [resources.ca.gov/salton-sea](http://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.
- California Natural Resource Agency (CNRA) participated in the EcoMedia Compass's Salton Sea meeting on 02 July in Salton City.
- The Species Conservation Habitat (SCH) project team continues 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. Geotechnical data was collected and evaluated and the results will be shared with the Red Hill Bay design team when the evaluation is completed. Work continues on the easement language and on potential construction access issues at the site. The saline water pipeline design will be evaluated for potential upsizing to accommodate additional volume for the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative (SSRREI) project.
- CNRA, Salton Sea Authority (SSA) and the consultant met via conference call on 06 July to discuss potential Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS) contract changes and to start to identify potential areas for wetland construction.
- CNRA and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) met on 05, 06, 07 and 11 July for additional discussions, a status update on CEQA compliance for the SSMP and an update of the evaluation of Phase I of the SSMP. Phase I concentrates efforts in areas with the most playa exposure. The first steps in Phase I will be the construction design and implementation of a portion of the backbone infrastructure and associated habitat and air quality. The project will be developed to a level that will allow for the implementation of a design/build contract (legislation is in process to provide DWR's Division of Engineering that authority). The design/build process should expedite the project and allow for more flexible design criteria that are compatible with habitat and irrigation delivery infrastructure projects.
- CNRA met with a mineral extraction company on 12 July to discuss the potential for developing mineral extraction process at the existing geothermal plants around the Salton Sea. There was also a discussion on the potential for remediating salinity in the soils around the edges of the lake.
- CNRA presented the SSMP to a meeting of environmental justice groups including the Catholic Charities organization in El Centro on 13 July.
- CNRA participated in a discussion on the SSMP with the Salton Sea Action Committee meeting on 14 July.

- SSA, consultant and CNRA held a conference call on 21 July to discuss the wetland habitat portion on the SSA NRCS grant.
- CNRA met with local farmers to discuss the preliminary concepts of the SSRREI backbone and to answer questions about the location of some of the proposed delivery channels.
- SSMP Public Workshops were held in Bombay Beach (12 July), Calipatria (14 July), Westmoreland (21 July) and at Torres-Martinez Tribal Headquarters (30 July). The Public Outreach Committee continued with the survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the meetings. Results of the survey will be made available after the completion of the first group of public meetings in August.
- Final construction level drawings and bid specifications are anticipated in September/October for the Red Hill Bay project. An issue with potential geothermal access was identified by Cal Energy concerning potential seepage restricting access and that issue was resolved. Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) continue coordination on the development of lease agreements for the project parcels.
- A Long Range Planning Committee meeting was held on 21 August to discuss the SSMP Long Range Plan. A draft outline was discussed and various members volunteered to prepare draft sections of the report for the next meeting (29 September).
- CNRA and DWR met with Corps to discuss Clean Water Act permitting requirements for the SSMP.
- DWR and CNRA met on 25 July to discuss the status of various aspects of the SSMP.
- On 26 July CNRA, SSA and consultant met to discuss comments on Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) contract requirements and plan for outreach meeting.
- CNRA and DWR met to discuss two additional DWR positions for the SSMP. A single California Department Fish and Wildlife (DFW) position will also be added to the program.
- CNRA, Task Force and Water Board members met on 27 July to discuss agricultural return flow waters, water rights and how they pertain to the Salton Sea.
- CNRA and DWR met on 28 July to begin planning for the next Project Committee meeting. It was determined the meeting will be held in September and will include the Environmental Compliance Committee. The team also discussed the status of the various Financial Assistance projects.
- CNRA met with USGS Salton Sea Science Office to discuss upcoming Science Committee informational meeting with Audubon.