



**Date:** 12/8/17

**To:** All interested Parties

**Re:** Request for Information for Salton Sea Water Importation Projects

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Under the leadership of Governor Edmund G Brown Jr., the 2014 California Water Action Plan set forth a vision for California water management that balances statewide water supply security with the protection of public, economic and ecological health. The California's Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP), led by the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) is designed to address public and ecological health issues at the Salton Sea while securing Colorado River water supplies for the state.

The SSMP is a long-range program that concentrates on the immediate need for habitat and air quality protections and includes the development of a long-range plan as part of the first Phase I Ten Year Plan. The SSMP takes a phased, incremental approach of habitat and other dust suppression projects to protect air quality and ecosystem values at a smaller and sustainable Salton Sea. The Phase I Ten-Year Plan concentrates on the development of constructed projects at the north and south end of the lake where the playa exposure is the greatest and water inflows are most available.

This Request for information (RFI) outlines the information requested by CNRA to evaluate proposals for a water import project to meet long-range goals of the SSMP. The intent of the RFI process is to gather information on the proposed water import projects. The information received will be reviewed and may be included in the long-range plan for the Salton Sea.

### Submission Requirements

**Submission Deadline:** Responses to this RFI should be sent to Bruce Wilcox at [Bruce.Wilcox@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Bruce.Wilcox@resources.ca.gov) by **March 9, 2018**.

**Questions:** Questions or requests for clarification on the content of the RFI should be directed to Bruce Wilcox at [Bruce.Wilcox@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Bruce.Wilcox@resources.ca.gov). The question period closes on **January 31<sup>st</sup>**; questions received will be answered and posted on the CNRA web page after that date. All questions will be answered through the process noted above, no answers will be provided to individual emails.

**Required Information:** The following information is required as part of the submittal. The information should be presented in the format noted (i.e. Section 1 Project Team, Section 2 Narrative Description...). If requested information is not available, the proposal should include as much detail as available and steps needed to gather the required information. The respondent should note if any portion of their response should be considered proprietary and not be shared publicly.

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1. **Identification of Project Team**

Members of the project team, and their roles on the project should be identified.

2. **Narrative description of project concept and how/when it will benefit the lake.**

A brief description of the proposed project is required that includes a general discussion of the project concept, the business plan and the implementation of the project. The project concept discussion should include a description of the project and how it will improve conditions at the lake. The business plan should include a discussion of the ownership of the proposed project and the plan for generating revenue from the project.

3. **Planning and design process of project**

Describe the planning process completed to date and detail how the planning process will be completed. The description should include the following:

- **Project Feasibility** -- Documentation of the engineering feasibility of the project. Documentation should include at a minimum: system capacity; pumping requirements; channel and pipe size; water quality; other associated infrastructure such as desalinization, fish or trash screens, etc.; and expected energy use.
- **Water Source Identification** – Either provide documentation from the water rights holder that establish the willingness of the water rights holder to allow use of their water right or provide detailed description of process to establish those rights.
- **Land Use** – provide project route alignment and status of land use permission for the conveyance route both in the United States and in Mexico.
- **Environmental Impact** – provide information on any anticipated environmental impacts from the project in both Mexico and the US and how those will be generally mitigated. This should include a discussion of any anticipated impacts to existing surface water use, groundwater basins, and wildlife resulting from the introduction of ocean water to existing, or new, river channels or canals. If the project is proposed within the Alto Golfo de California Biosphere Reserve, please identify any anticipated impacts to that area and expected mitigation measures.
- **Salton Sea Salinity** – how does the project plan to deal with increased salinity at the Salton Sea from the imported ocean water? If the proposed project includes a desalinization system where will the resulting brine be deposited?
- **Water Use** – Describe the projected water balance including consumptive use, system loss, evaporation etc. and ability of the proposed project to operate successfully with decreased flows.
- **Cross Border Governmental Coordination and Permitting** -- provide details of conducted or needed coordination and permitting from governmental agencies from both Mexico and the United States that deal specifically with cross border project development. Agencies include but are not limited to the International Boundary Water, Commission, Mexico federal agencies, tribal governments, and necessary United States agencies.
- **Project Development Schedule** -- Schedule for project development from current stages through implementation.
- **Operation Schedule** -- Provide an estimate of the length of time necessary for the proposed project to raise the water levels at the lake to recover potentially emissive playa.

4. **Cost projection**

- Provide a cost projection for the proposed project. The projection should be documented to the extent that the reviewers can review the cost projection process and determine the validity of the projections

**5. Plan for funding of proposed project**

- Describe how the planning, design and construction implementation of the project will be funded.
- Identify the responsible parties for the operation and maintenance for the project and estimate annual cost.