

Salton Sea Management Program
Status Report 7
Month of August 2016

This is the seventh 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 August.

- 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.
- California Natural Resource Agency (CNRA) met with several companies with chemical soil stabilizer products to discuss their potential use on Salton Sea exposed playa areas as part of Imperial County's Request for Interest for Dust Suppression Pilot Projects (County RFI) or as development of Best Available Control Measures (BACM) for the SSMP.
- 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. Data from the geotechnical surveys was included in the design process and was shared with the Red Hill Bay team. During the coordination on the easement agreements it was discovered that the easements will need to be altered to accommodate changes in the design (inclusion of another pipe for future expansion), sale of several parcels and to provide secondary access to those areas. IID and DWR - Division of Engineering are working on the details of those changes.
- CNRA attend the 02 August Imperial County Board of Supervisors meeting to support the RFI noted above. These projects may be funded by the Salton Sea Authority's (SSA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) grant and matched funds from State of California Proposition One (Water Bond). Interest letters are due in September and the County along with others will evaluate the responses.
- CNRA held a SSMP Public Workshop in Los Angeles on 02 August. This is the last of the first group of workshops which were held to introduce the SSMP and solicit comments on Salton Sea management. The Public Outreach Committee will prepare a summary of the comments received and the results of the participant's survey results. A Public Outreach Committee Meeting is scheduled for 19 September at the Regional Water Quality Control Board offices in Palm Desert.
- CNRA and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) met on 01, 08, 15, 22, and 29 August for weekly status updates on the Species Conservation Habitat project and the SSMP backbone infrastructure and associated habitat and air quality components. Internal meetings to discuss the evaluation matrix and the results were also held during the month. Additional meetings were held on 04 August to discuss SSMP unit costs estimates and on 23 August for further discussions on the Corps permitting and Corps Memorandum of Understanding. CNRA

continued monitoring the progress of legislation that authorizes DWR – Division of Engineering to proceed with design/build projects at the Salton Sea. CNRA and DWR began development of the Statement of Work (SOW) for a Request for Qualifications from consultants for SSMP related work. This contract will be used to supplement DWR – Division of Engineering to assure an expedited design process.

- CNRA, Salton Sea Action Committee and SSA met to discuss the Infrastructure Finance District proposed by the SSA.
- CNRA met with Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge to discuss Red Hill Bay and the SSMP on 03 August.
- SSA, Consultant and CNRA held a teleconference on 03 August to discuss release of Imperial County's RFI for air quality mitigation pilot projects.
- Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and CNRA met on 08 August to discuss the Financial Assistance project and other projects relating to the Salton Sea. The discussion also included coordination on the SCH easements and a discussion on the infrastructure backbone system. IID and CNRA will meet approximately monthly to discuss ongoing issues at the Salton Sea.
- CNRA testified at Assemblyman Garcia's Select Committee on Renewable Energy Development and Restoration of the Salton Sea on 10 August at the State Capitol.
- CNRA presented the SSMP at the Regional Tribal Operations Committee Summer Meeting on 11 August in San Francisco.
- CNRA met with Federal Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 on 11 August to discuss partnerships for air and water quality at the Salton Sea.
- Imperial County, SSA and CNRA held a teleconference meeting to discuss the Infrastructure Finance District (IFD). Parties agreed to continue working on development of the background information for the development of an IFD
- CNRA met via teleconference with members of the State Water Board, Salton Sea Taskforce and the others to discuss Salton Sea issues and a status update on the upcoming Water Board Hearing.
- CNRA met with representative of a water treatment firm to discuss their ideas for treating inflow water. CNRA will collect water samples from the two southern rivers and send to the firm for a bench test of their product.
- CNRA met with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) to discuss DFW position for Salton Sea on 15 August.
- CNRA presented an update of the status of the SSMP and related projects to the State Water Resources Control Board at their 16 August Sacramento meeting.
- California Energy Commission team members and CNRA met to discuss potential for PV solar on exposed lakebed at the Salton Sea. The discussions center on hydrologic issues and the potential for flooding during certain storm events.
- CNRA, SSA and consultants met with Imperial County in Brawley, CA to discuss the air quality pilot project program.
- CNRA participated in a briefing with area stakeholders at the Senator Boxer field visit to the Refuge on 18 August.

- CNRA met with Refuge staff on 19 August to discuss Red Hill Bay project schedule and the SSMP status.
- CNRA met with several firms on 22 August to discuss methodologies for enhanced vegetation and surface cover projects. The firms provide information on their products which will be distributed to the various SSMP committees for review and comment.
- CNRA and DWR continued work on the evaluation matrix in preparation of the Joint Project and Environmental Committee meeting scheduled for 14 September in Palm Desert.
- IID and CNRA met with the Watershed Committee of the Imperial County Farm Bureau to discuss the status of the SSMP and the State's role in implementing the project.
- CNRA met with one of the water import proponents to discuss the results of the Long Range Planning Committee's evaluation.
- CNRA and DOI developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by and between the United States Department of Interior and the State of California Natural Resource Agency Regarding the Coordination of Activities to Manage the Salton Sea. The MOU outlines a framework for participation of federal, state and local agencies, along with philanthropic and academic organizations in the Salton Sea Management Program.
- CNRA participated in the weekly SCH design meeting held at DWR offices on 30 August.
- CNRA attend the Tahoe Conference and participated in the signing ceremony for the MOU on 31 August.