WRPI Annual Conference
“Changing the Path of Waterways: The Unforeseen Consequences”
HISTORIC STEPS TO REVITALIZE THE SALTON SEA

Salton Sea Authority
Historic progress at the Sea

- Breakthroughs in cooperation
- Governance clarified
- Policy enhanced
- Funding expansion
- Local Consensus
- State Commitment
- Tangible Plans and Projects
Salton Sea Authority

- What is the SSA? Who are the members?

- When was it created, and by whom?

- Why was it created and what is its mission?
Cooperation = Funding Expansion

- Guiding Principles adopted
- Internal legal dispute settled
- MOU’s
  - SSA/DOI
  - CNRA/DOI
  - US ACOE -- WRDA
- Funding expansion
  - State funding
  - Federal Funding
  - Nonprofit
  - Private

Salton Sea Authority
Improved Trust = Legislative Support

- **Funding**
  - State $$$
    - Prop 1 = $80.5 M
    - Prop 68 = $200 M (Pending voter approval)
  - Federal $$$
    - Dept of Ag = $7.5 M
    - WRDA (Army Corps) = $30 M
- **Construction savings**
  - Dam Safety considerations
- **Time savings**
  - Design-Build capability for Sea projects
Focus on **Action**, not Studies

- SSA delivers “Action Plan” on time and under budget

- AB 1095 (Garcia) – defines “shovel ready”

- Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) prioritizes “shovel ready” projects
The projects shown on this map would protect about 30,000 acres of playa that would otherwise be exposed along the shoreline. While the central body of water is expected to reduce in size over time, these projects would allow water to be distributed from the outer elevations to the lower center lake to reduce dust emissions from potentially exposed areas.
United Plan: Salton Sea Management Program

• The SSMP integrates federal, state and local partnerships as well as stakeholder and public to develop habitat and air quality projects needed for a revitalized Sea.

• SSMP Advisory committees:
  – Science Advisory Committee
  – Air Quality Committee
  – Environmental Compliance Committee
  – Community Engagement Committee
  – Long Range Planning
Stable Shoreline = Multiple Benefits

• Smaller sustainable sea
• Benefits: AQ, Habitat, Recreation, Renewable Energy
• Protects up to 30,000 acres of potentially emissive playa
**Water Delivery Backbone (Phase 1)**

- Focus: “no regrets” projects

- CNRA and IID joint project

- Construction anticipated for 4th Q, 2018
Species Conservation Habitat (SCH Phase 1)

- Construction of berm and levee improvements to create bird habitat
- Will address salinity level problem in this area
- Construction is anticipated in Autumn of 2018
Alamo River: Red Hill Bay

• Reestablish the Red Hill Bay Area

• A playa ground breaking ceremony was held in November 2015

• Construction underway
Alamo River
**Whitewater Channel: TM Wetlands**

- Benefits: Habitat, AQ

- Reconstructs ponds serving as habitat while removing invasive plants

- Construction started in 2016 (funded by state), coordinated by SSA in partnership with TM Tribe

- COMPLETED - SSA Project: FIRST state-funded project finished (Phase 1) at Salton Sea
Whitewater Channel – North Lake
Salton Sea Authority
P-3 Financing Strategy
Infrastructure Financing Districts (IFDs)

• Leverages local property tax

• Feasibility analysis confirms significant financial potential

• Requires a defined project that can provide clear benefit
What is at stake?

• Major Ecological Disaster

• Billions in liabilities to the State

• Elimination of a major Pacific Flyway Route

• Negative effects on human health and economy of the area
Affected Assembly Districts
Salton Sea Odor Impacts:
Complaints to AQMD on Sept 10-13, 2012

Legend
- California Assembly Boundaries
- Odor Plume
- Cities
- Lakes and Rivers
- County Boundary

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