



# Sephton Water Technology

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13 Apr 2016

(4/19/16) Board Meeting  
Salton Sea Management Program  
Deadline: 4/13/16 by 12 noon

To: Jeanine Townsend, Clerk of the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Tom Sephton  
226 West J Street  
Brawley, CA 92227



Re: April 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 State Water Board Public Workshop on the Salton Sea Management Program

Dear State Water Resources Control Board members,

With State and Federal support, I've been working on projects that develop methods to manage salinity, reduce contaminants, and suppress dust at the Salton Sea. These projects make direct use of local geothermal and solar energy resources to reclaim Salton Sea water at high quality to sustain the local ecosystem while converting what would normally be desalination waste brine to valuable products to pay for the process. There are several feasible and cost effective strategies available to prevent collapse of the Salton Sea ecosystem and public health damage from windblown dust off the dry lakebed. Like others, I see these as the two most urgent issues that need to be addressed.

I'd like to applaud the State for taking the first major steps this year toward funding projects on the ground that begin to address the threat to the local ecosystem and the threat to the public health from dust. If fully executed, the projects recommended for funding will make a modest but significant difference in combatting those threats over the next several years.

While the near term on the ground projects are essential, I hope the State will also take the long view by making a plan to sustain the Salton Sea ecosystem and fully suppress lakebed dust decades ahead for the life and health of the next generation. California water management decisions have brought the Salton Sea close to a crisis. A longer vision that balances the needs of agriculture, growing coastal cities, vital ecological resources, and the health and well-being of people in often forgotten corners of the State, would serve to take the Salton Sea beyond crisis management to a sustainable future.

I hope the State will see fit to put a small portion of the funding made available into crafting a plan for the long term future of the Salton Sea and the surrounding region.

Sincerely,

  
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Tom Sephton  
President, Sephton Water Technology