



Members of the Board,

My name is Holly, and I am a doctoral student in Chemical and Environmental Engineering at UC Riverside. I am co-editor and a contributor to the blog Salton Sea Sense (www.SaltonSeaSense.com), along with eight other graduate students from various science disciplines. We started the blog in early 2015 with the goals of increasing awareness about the Salton Sea, improving public perception of the Sea, and providing a resource for anyone who wished to learn and engage with the Sea. In order to provide timely and effective solutions for this potential environmental disaster, we believe that both public and government agencies must remain well informed and aware of each other's needs.

Firstly, the Salton Sea Sense team greatly appreciates your continued interest and robust discussion of the future of the Salton Sea. However, I will reiterate that now is the time for action at the Salton Sea, rather than more talking and studies. The public health concerns at the Sea are the most pressing priority, in our opinion, as the 2017 implementation of the Quantification Settlement Agreement looms. It will quickly becoming an issue of environmental injustice, as the pre-dominantly Hispanic and low-income communities in Imperial County are already disproportionately affected by economic challenges and health risks. As environmentalists, we also acknowledge the necessity of protecting the natural ecosystems that are crucial to the threatened Pacific Flyway.

Therefore, we urge you to consider both short and long-term solutions to the problems at the Salton Sea. We are especially in favor of projects like the Red Hill Bay Restoration Project, which are efficient uses of limited time, money, and water resources. Additionally, comprehensive plans like the IID's SSRREI proposal are what the Sea needs to move forward: integrating the priorities of all stakeholders, utilizing a realistic budget scenario, and creating economic opportunities for Salton Sea communities in conjunction with ecological remediation. The many grand technological proposals for saving the Salton Sea are undoubtedly attractive up front, but we must remain realistic and action-orientated in the coming months to preserve and protect the Salton Sea, and its human and avian residents.

Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can be of any service to the Board or the Salton Sea.

Respectfully,

Holly Mayton

Editor in Chief, Salton Sea Sense