



Local Union 569 San Diego

(1/5/16) Board Meeting
Salton Sea
Deadline: 12/30/15 by 12:00 noon



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
4545 Viewridge Avenue, Suite 100 San Diego, CA 92123-5615 (858) 569-8900

December 18, 2015

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov



Subject: Comment Letter: Salton Sea

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Board:

On behalf of over 3,200 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 569 representing San Diego and Imperial Counties, I am writing to express our strong support for continued action and oversight by the State Water Resources Control Board in addressing the looming public health, economic and environmental crisis of a shrinking Salton Sea.

As noted in our previous comments, Imperial County is a working class community where many families struggle with the dual challenges of making ends meet while being impacted by some of the worst air quality in the state. The risks presented by a shrinking Sea will harm this vulnerable region even more and places the public health of millions of Southern Californians in jeopardy. Inaction is not an option.

We are both encouraged by and thankful for the Board's actions to date as well as the Governor's leadership on this issue of statewide significance. Creating the Salton Sea Task Force is a meaningful step in the right direction. As the Task Force continues its work, we believe it is critical to have a defined action plan with measurable milestones, accountability and resources.

Similar to climate change, the Salton Sea crisis presents difficult challenges but if we get it right, there is hope and opportunity for a better future. We can improve air quality, protect fragile species and create high-quality renewable energy jobs. IBEW Local 569 supports accelerated action and urges the Board to continue your oversight role in moving us to a safe, healthy, sustainable Sea.

Sincerely,

Johnny Simpson
Business Manager

cc: Congressman Juan Vargas, 51st District
Senator Ben Hueso, 40th District
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, 56th District
Stephen W. Benson, Board President, Imperial Irrigation District
Ryan E. Kelley, Chairman of the Board, County of Imperial

JS:dkm
opeiu #537, afl-cio, clc