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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 the Imperial County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO representing eighteen (18) affiliates in Imperial County, 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.

Imperial County suffers from some of the highest unemployment and worst air quality in the state. If the Salton Sea is left unaddressed, these challenges will worsen and harm working families who are already struggling to make ends meet.

We are thankful for the Board's actions to date and encouraged by the progress that has been made. We are also very grateful to the Governor for his leadership on this issue of statewide significance. Creating the Salton Sea Task Force is a critical step in the right direction. As the Task Force continues its work, it is imperative to have a defined action plan with measurable milestones, accountability and resources.

Left unaddressed, the Salton Sea crisis poses severe public health risks for Imperial County residents and millions in Southern California. With swift, smart action, we can implement solutions to improve air quality, protect fragile species and create high-quality renewable energy jobs. The Imperial County Building and Construction Trades Council supports accelerated action and urges the Board to continue your oversight role to move us to a safe, healthy, sustainable Sea.

Sincerely,

Sterling "Arkie" Mayes
Secretary-Treasurer
Imperial County Building & Construction Trades Council

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