



*Working Together to  
Protect and Restore the  
Salton Sea Ecosystem*

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**Salton Sea Authority's Current Plan to Restore the Salton Sea  
Threatens Public Health and Environment**

***The Salton Sea Coalition opposes the Authority's current plan***

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – Today, the Salton Sea Coalition released a letter to the Salton Sea Authority (Authority) opposing the Authority's current plan for the Salton Sea because it will threaten the Salton Sea's air, water, fish and wildlife. The Salton Sea Coalition stated that the current plan significantly exacerbates air quality problems in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys by promoting significant new development around the Sea without providing specific measures to address air quality issues. In fact, the Authority's plan ignores the need to mitigate for air quality and substantial fish and wildlife impacts. The plan also fails to meet the state and federal requirements to protect fish and wildlife habitat.

"We strongly support the goal of ensuring that a restoration plan is a benefit to the local economy, but we believe that this plan is wholly one-sided, creating rampant development at the expense of a healthy environment. Critical public health, habitat and economic sustainability issues will be left for future generations to address. This is not responsible planning," said Kim Delfino, California Program Director for Defenders of Wildlife.

Due to a water transfer that will divert approximately 300,000 acre feet from the Salton Sea, more than 50,000 acres of toxic sediments could be exposed to desert winds causing major air quality issues for the more than half million people and the wildlife that reside around and near the sea. The Coalition is currently working with the State of California to develop a viable restoration plan that will provide for air and water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities and economic development.

"We urge the Salton Sea Authority to re-examine their current plan and work to address the environmental issues we have raised in our letter. We hope the Authority will work with us to ensure that any plan for the Sea will protect public health and the Sea's natural resources while still providing an economic benefit for this region," stated Ms. Delfino.

For more information on this issue, visit: [www.saltonseacoalition.org](http://www.saltonseacoalition.org).

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*The Salton Sea Coalition is comprised of 13 organizations of that have joined together to support and advocate for the protection and revitalization of the Salton Sea -- an important part of California's natural, cultural and agricultural heritage. The Coalition's environmental and recreation groups, as well as two local tribes, represent more than 1.3 million people.*

Audubon, California

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians

California Waterfowl Association

Center for Biological Diversity

Defenders of the Wildlife

Desert Protective Council

National Wildlife Federation

Planning and Conservation League

San Diegans for the Salton Sea

Sierra Club

The Pacific Institute

Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

United Anglers of Southern California

Western Outdoor News