

PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF PROPOSITION 4 SALTON SEA FUNDING

Public Resources Code Section 91033(b):

(b) Of the funds made available by subdivision (a), ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) shall be available for either of the following:

- (1) The creation of the Salton Sea Conservancy.*
- (2) The Salton Sea Authority.*

ENTITY	INTENDED USES OF FUNDING
Salton Sea Authority	<p>Given the delineation of roles and tasks, and the value that the Authority delivers to a variety of ongoing, essential projects and programs to benefit environmental restoration and economic revitalization in and around the Sea, the following reflects an equitable distribution of the Proposition 4 allocation pursuant to Section 91033(b) between the Authority and the Conservancy over the next 2-3 year time period:</p> <p>\$5 M allocation to Salton Sea Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2M for use in supplementing funding for the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project and Desert Shores Channel Restoration Project (Total \$2M allocation) • \$3M for the Authority’s ongoing work relative to the federal feasibility study, air monitoring task force, support of the Salton Sea Conservancy, and implementation of Conservancy activities <p>Multi-benefit uses of funding by the Salton Sea Authority, include:</p> <p>(1) Facilitating the Federal Feasibility Study: Outreach, education, and engagement relating to the Imperial Streams Salton Sea and Tributaries Feasibility Study by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to pave the way for long-term restoration at the Salton Sea through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of innovative projects to restore conditions at the Sea • Opening pathways for ongoing federal funding contributions for projects to improve environmental conditions and economic revitalization at the Sea

Ongoing engagement by the Authority will include working with the study team and subject matter experts in the fields of hydrology, biology, agriculture, and water and land use policy – by bringing outreach and communications to the efforts through the unique and deeply-ingrained relationships that the Authority has established in and around the Salton Sea over the last four decades – to develop a hydrologic and hydraulic model of the Sea.

Importantly, the Authority plays a key role in facilitating potential federal engagement and implementation of early-action, no-regrets targeted restoration opportunities that could be implemented on an accelerated schedule, in advance of the longer-term, comprehensive federal feasibility study.

(2) Supplemental funding for the North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project* (originally initiated under Proposition 68): This funding will continue efforts to construct an approximately 156-acre lake at the North end of the Salton Sea to create shallow and deep-water habitats for fish and birds. The Authority’s relationships and outreach abilities within Riverside County help uniquely position the Authority to bring partnerships together to restore and manage the habitat for fish and wildlife, control dust for public health protection, and provide recreational opportunities to facilitate economic revitalization.

(3) Desert Shores Channel Restoration Project: This funding will support habitat restoration and dust suppression by refilling the five southernmost boat channels in the Desert Shores Marina. The Authority has actively created and engaged in partnership development between local, state, and federal agencies for active restoration work and infusion of funding to move this project forward.

(4) Advancing the concept of a Salton Sea Air Monitoring Task Force: A significant portion of the Salton Sea’s emissions – particularly dust, hydrogen sulfide, and other airborne toxins – remains insufficiently monitored. The Salton Sea Authority is committed to protecting public health by deepening its understanding of these risks and fostering transparency across all monitoring efforts. To advance this mission, the Authority will form a multi-sector task force that will unify current activities, identify critical gaps, and establish a durable, science-based framework for accountability.

(5) Leveraging opportunities for improved economic development and revitalization. This funding will further the Authority’s ongoing engagement and activities around the planning, analyzing, and implementing of focused opportunities to support and promote economic activities that could be useful in

funding Conservancy actions related to environmental protection and restoration of the Sea. The Authority’s engagement and involvement in partnerships to facilitate expanded North Lake recreation, tourism, and natural resources activities (lithium) would be valuable in providing economic investment opportunities to further advance the goals and objectives in and around the Salton Sea.

(6) Supporting the Salton Sea Conservancy: The Salton Sea Authority is the local government entity in the region that serves as partner with the State to fully implement activities related to Salton Sea restoration and economic revitalization. Given the Conservancy’s role to operate and maintain completed Salton Sea Management Plan projects and own land associated with the SSMP, there is considerable support and technical assistance that the Authority can provide relative to standing-up the Conservancy over its initial phases, continuing to engage regional, state, and federal partners to facilitate the Conservancy’s early-stage efforts, and facilitate ongoing engagement with partners throughout the region to ensure that all of the environmental restoration and economic revitalization interests are well represented.

(7) Implementing Conservancy Activities: The Authority is well-positioned to be an implementer of Conservancy activities given its long and successful history of facilitating communication and partnerships throughout the Salton Sea region and its ability to be nimble in undertaking specific tasks, activities, programs, and projects. As the soon-to-be second largest state conservancy, the Salton Sea Conservancy will play a critical role in catalyzing conversations in and around the Sea, but the Authority can provide seamless real-time, on-the-ground facilitation of project and program implementation as a result of its historical engagements and its reputation as an agile entity that can get projects done.

INTENDED USES OF FUNDING

Salton Sea Conservancy	\$5 M in start-up costs for the initial steps toward creation of the Conservancy. Most recent state conservancy created is the Delta Conservancy in 2009 – start-up costs were in the range of \$1.3 million. Given cost-of-living adjustments and escalation, it is conceivable that start-up costs for a new conservancy in 2025 would be in the range of \$3-4 million
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*Based on timing and adequacy of need – other potential uses as determined by the Authority Board could include community stakeholder planning efforts, including proposed local trail systems and other community amenities, for example

**These funds may be creditable to the local sponsor’s 50% matching commitment under the Imperial Steams Salton Sea and Tributaries Feasibility Study