

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



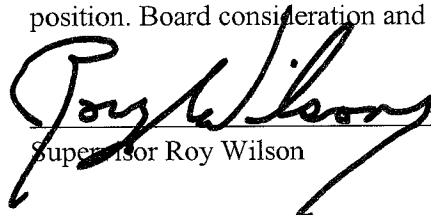
FROM: Supervisor Roy Wilson
Supervisor Marion Ashley

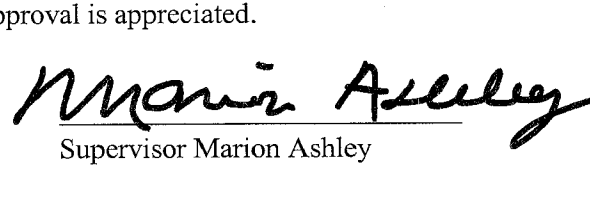
SUBMITTAL DATE: October 28, 2003

SUBJECT: Supporting the Salton Sea Authority as the lead agency on corrective measures to preserve the Salton Sea as well as directing previously approved funding to the Authority.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors adopt the resolution and authorize its circulation to other interested agencies.

BACKGROUND: The Salton Sea and its potential future and restoration have been the principal task of the Salton Sea Authority. The Authority established as a Joint Powers Agency in 1993 includes both Riverside and Imperial Counties as well as the Coachella Valley Water District and Imperial Irrigation District. The Salton Sea Authority has become recognized as the principal central clearing house for scientific research and policy development for the Sea's future. The State of California is currently working on taking the leadership role from the Salton Sea Authority. Additionally, the current state administration is trying to acquire the \$300 million made available by the recent signing of the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement for the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea Authority, of which this County is an active member, should remain the lead agency for identifying and implementing corrective measures to preserve the beneficial uses of the Sea as well as maintaining the funding support. The attached Resolution restates the Board's previous position. Board consideration and approval is appreciated.


Supervisor Roy Wilson


Supervisor Marion Ashley

2 **RESOLUTION NO. 2003-501**

3 **SUPPORTING THE SALTON SEA AUTHORITY AS LEAD AGENCY IN IDENTIFYING AND**
4 **IMPLEMENTING CORRECTIVE MEASURES TO PRESERVE THE BENEFICIAL USES OF**
5 **THE SALTON SEA**

6 WHEREAS, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors finds that:

- 7 1. Salton Sea is California's largest inland water body with beneficial uses including
8 fisheries and wildlife habitat, recreation, and preservation of endangered species.
- 9 2. The Salton Sea ecosystem is a critical link on the international Pacific flyway. The
10 ecosystem has supported a productive fishery and over 300 species of birds.
- 11 3. Salton Sea ecosystems are critical given the decrease in California wetlands.
- 12 4. The Sea is threatened by increasing salinity and water loss.
- 13 5. The Salton Sea Authority is a joint powers agency chartered by the State of
14 California in a Joint Powers Agreement on June 2, 1993. It is the lead agency for
15 identifying and implementing corrective measures to preserve the beneficial uses of
16 the Sea.
- 17 6. The Salton Sea Authority has made a concerted effort to collect all known
18 suggestions for remediation of the Salton Sea and has subjected these proposals to
19 formal review against specified criteria. The Authority also is taking concrete steps in
20 preparing for the detailed planning of a remediation project.
- 21 7. Recent legislation linked to the Colorado River Quantification Settlement Agreement
22 recognizes the Salton Sea as a critical environmental issue to be addressed and
23 provides up to \$300 million for that purpose.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- 25 1. The Salton Sea Authority should remain lead agency for identifying and implementing
26 corrective measures to preserve beneficial uses of the Sea.
- 27 2. Available funding be directed/redirected to the Salton Sea Authority for remediation
28 efforts specifically related to the Salton Sea.