

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



FROM: Supervisors Benoit and Ashley

SUBMITTAL DATE: January 9, 2014

SUBJECT: Resolution to Support in Concept the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative

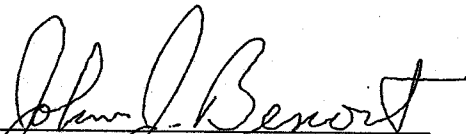
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

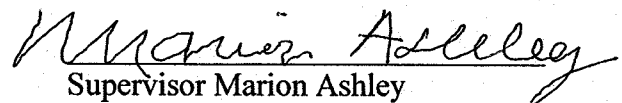
- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 2014-035, support in concept the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative.
- 2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to transmit copies of this resolution to Governor Brown, Riverside County's state legislative delegation, Imperial Irrigation District and the Imperial County Board of Supervisors.

BACKGROUND: The Salton Sea Restoration & Renewable Energy Initiative, launched by the Imperial Irrigation District in partnership with Imperial County, seeks a collaborative Salton Sea restoration solution designed to minimize the looming environmental and air quality impacts from the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) water transfers projected to occur after 2017.

The Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative would use revenue generated by new renewable energy projects to fund environmental mitigation and restoration efforts at the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea Authority voted to support the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative at their December 19, 2013 meeting.

The Salton Sea is California's largest inland lake, and it is receding rapidly. Riverside County supports efforts to protect the Salton Sea's surrounding communities and minimize impacts to human health, air quality, and the wildlife dependent on that ecosystem.

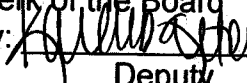

Supervisor John J. Benoit
Fourth District


Supervisor Marion Ashley
Fifth District

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Benoit, seconded by Supervisor Ashley and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: January 14, 2014
xc: Supvr. Benoit, Supvr. Ashley, State

Kecia Harper-Ihem
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

3-22

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-035

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT IN CONCEPT FOR THE SALTON SEA RESTORATION AND
RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea is a critically important environmental resource providing vital habitat sustaining over 400 avian species on the Pacific Flyway while also offering the most diverse and plentiful renewable energy resources to be found anywhere on earth; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, the California legislature authorized the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) as a joint powers authority comprised of Riverside County and other local governments whose goal is to revitalize the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the state committed through the Salton Sea Restoration Fund Act to assume responsibility for funding and implementing a Salton Sea restoration plan to facilitate local government agencies' authorization of the 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA), a series of agreements which enabled California to live within its 4.4 million acre foot (maf) annual Colorado River entitlement; and

WHEREAS, , in 2007, the state completed an environmental process identifying Salton Sea restoration alternatives ranging from a \$1 billion plus cost for a "No action" alternative to a \$8.9 billion alternative preferred by the California Natural Resources Agency but never acted upon by the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the 2003 QSA, which authorized the nation's largest agricultural-to-urban water transfer, is influenced by certain commitments the State of California assumed for itself beyond the environmental mitigation funding responsibilities of the participating water agencies; and

1 **WHEREAS**, while the QSA will have provided mitigation water from 2003 to 2018, the state continues to hold
2 legislative obligation to provide for mitigation and restoration actions, as it is generally recognized that dramatic
3 declines will occur absent implementation of the restoration plan for the Sea; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, early and aggressive implementation of Salton Sea restoration would offset the need for many
6 expensive QSA air quality and habitat mitigation requirements; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the SSA, with support from its member agencies including Riverside County, has been authorized
9 by the state legislature in AB 71 (Perez) to lead development of a financial feasibility action plan to harness
10 economic resources necessary to implement a long term restoration strategy for the Sea; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and Imperial County entered into a memorandum of
13 understanding (MOU) on October 24, 2013 that seeks a collaborative Salton Sea restoration solution designed
14 to minimize the looming environmental and air quality impacts from the QSA water transfers projected to occur
15 after 2017;
16

17 **WHEREAS**, the MOU is foundational to the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative currently
18 in development, which is focused on a smaller but financially and environmentally sustainable Salton Sea.
19 Designed around reduced inflows, and optimizing access to the playa in the Known Geothermal Resource Area
20 at the Salton Sea that will be exposed as the shoreline recedes, the initiative proposes the development of
21 renewable energy projects and subsurface mining extraction opportunities to provide a funding mechanism to
22 jump-start restoration; and
23


24 **WHEREAS**, America's Renewable Energy Powerhouse at the Salton Sea offers renewable energy sources
25 estimated to eventually provide up to 1,700 megawatts of geothermal baseload energy plus other renewable
26 generation opportunities such as solar, wind, solar gradient, biofuels, mineral extraction and other developing
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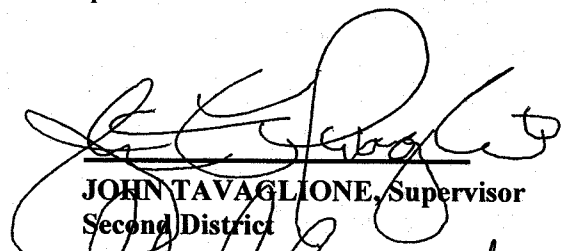
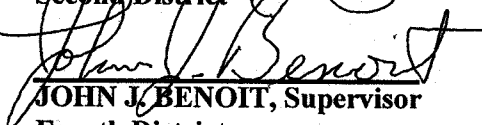
1 green technologies to assist load-serving utilities in meeting California's renewable portfolio standard
2 requirements; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, stakeholders including the state of California sense that inaction at the Sea poses imminent threats
5 to California's environment, human health, large scale agricultural food supply, renewable energy production
6 and economic vitality, which is building momentum for the Salton Sea Authority to vigorously pursue a more
7 productive working relationship with the state and federal resource and regulatory agencies;

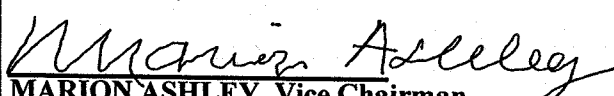
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9 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Riverside County Board of Supervisors supports the
10 concept of a Salton Sea Renewable Energy Initiative and calls on the State to work closely and cooperatively
11 with the Salton Sea Authority and its member agencies including Riverside County to fulfill its Salton Sea
12 mitigation and restoration responsibilities.

13
14 **APPROVED AND ADOPTED THE** 14th day of January, 2014. I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution
15 was adopted by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

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17 
18 **KEVIN JEFFRIES, Supervisor**
First District


JOHN TAVAGLIONE, Supervisor
Second District

JOHN J. BENOIT, Supervisor
Fourth District

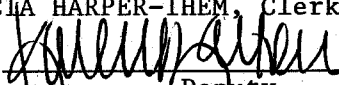
19 
20 **JEFF STONE, Chairman**
Third District

21 
22 **MARION ASHLEY, Vice Chairman**
Fifth District

23 ROLL CALL:

24 Ayes: Jeffries, Tavaglione, Stone, Benoit and Ashley
25 Nays: None
26 Absent: None

27 The foregoing is certified to be a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by said Board of Supervisors on the date therein set forth.

KECIA HARPER-IHEM, Clerk of said Board
By 
Deputy

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