

## LATE COMMENT

(3/18/15) Public Workshop  
Salton Sea  
Deadline: 3/11/15 by 12:00 noon

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March 6, 2015

Jeanine Townsend, Clerk to the Board  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, 24th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Subject: Comment Letter: Salton Sea**

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Board:

On behalf of over 4,000 members of the American Federation of Teachers Local 1931, I am writing to express our support for the Imperial Irrigation District's request to convene stakeholders to find a definitive, funded solution to prevent the impending public health, economic and environmental crisis of a shrinking Salton Sea.

Imperial County is a working class community where many families struggle to make ends meet. The region also suffers from terrible air quality. These challenges could worsen if the Salton Sea is left unaddressed. Mitigation water currently delivered to the Sea under the Quantification Settlement Agreement will stop in 2017. As water levels decrease and the Sea shrinks, new shoreline will be exposed and dust can become airborne. This will worsen Imperial County's already-poor air quality and increase harmful health risks to residents in local and neighboring communities.

Additionally, the Salton Sea is one of our state's most significant environmental resources, supporting more than 400 diverse species and serving as a critical link on the Pacific Flyway.

We call upon the Board to use its power to bring all necessary parties together and convene a collaborative process to identify a specific restoration plan that can be implemented and funded in time to avert this looming disaster threatening our region and the entire State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Mahler".

Jim Mahler, President  
AFT Guild, Local 1931

cc: Stephen W. Benson, Board President, Imperial Irrigation District  
Ryan E. Kelley, Chairman of the Board, County of Imperial