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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
51st District, California

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December 30, 2014

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Salton Sea Stakeholders Meeting

Dear Madam Chair:

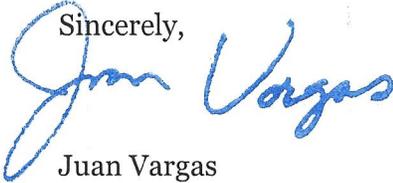
It has come to my attention that your board has recently received a formal request to convene a series of stakeholder meetings to discuss the current status of restoration efforts at the Salton Sea, which is located within my congressional district. As the federal representative of the district, I am fully supportive of the board's involvement in this important dialogue and look forward to participating in my capacity.

As you may already know, the Salton Sea is our state's largest lake and one of its most significant natural and environmental resources. It supports a diverse wildlife habitat for over 400 species of birds and serves as a critical link on the 5,000 mile international Pacific Flyway. The Sea is home to the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge and the Salton Sea State Recreation Area, both serving as recreational centers and attracting thousands of visitors annually. Unfortunately, the Salton Sea is also facing rapid deterioration and it is only expected to get worse, especially when mitigation water currently delivered to the Salton Sea under the Quantification Settlement Agreement will end in 2017.

I am very concerned with the complex environmental, public health, and socioeconomic issues that the Salton Sea's receding shoreline and thousands of acres of exposed lakebed poses to the region. If no immediate action is taken now, the concerns that will emerge may become one of southern California's most challenging. Although I'm pleased to learn there are some planned projects, the current situation demands immediate intervention and renewed collaboration with all stakeholders.

Your board has demonstrated remarkable leadership in finding solutions to some of our state's most pressing water related issues and I am confident that with your collaboration, we will make some real progress in tackling this issue. If you have any questions, please contact Rebecca Terrazas-Baxter of my staff at (760) 355-8800 and I look forward to working with you now and into the future.

Sincerely,



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress
51st District, California

cc: Rep. Raul Ruiz, 36th Congressional District
State Senator Benjamin Hueso, 40th Senate District
State Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, 56th Assembly District
Secretary John Laird, Natural Resources Agency
Mr. Kevin Kelley, Imperial Irrigation District
Mr. John Renison, Imperial County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Roger Shintaku, Salton Sea Authority
Mrs. Maureen Stapleton, San Diego County Water Authority
Mr. Jeffrey Kightlinger, Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA
Mr. Jim Barrett, Coachella Valley Water District