

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-48

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA, IN SUPPORT OF THE ADDITION OF A VALLEY-WIDE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SALTON SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (“SSMP”) ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE, AND SUPPORTING THE IMMEDIATE COMPARATIVE ENGINEERING REVIEW OF THE OCEAN WATER IMPORT PROPOSALS ACCEPTED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN 2018.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA DOES HEREBY FIND, RESOLVE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the State of California ("State") has developed the Salton Sea Management Program through departments within the California Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agencies and is obligated to pay for certain costs related to habitat, air and water quality issues at the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, the California State Water Resources Control Board ("Board") has an oversight role in monitoring and ensuring progress towards the goals of the Salton Sea Management Program and has set a deadline of December 31, 2022 for the completion of a long-term plan regarding the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Restoration Act (known as the California Fish and Game Code 2931) was approved on September 29, 2003; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of CHAPTER 13. Salton Sea Restoration Act, provision 2931, provide:

- (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the State of California undertake the restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the permanent protection of the wildlife dependent on that ecosystem.
- (b) This restoration shall be based on the preferred alternative developed as a result of the restoration study and alternative selection process described in Section 2081.7 and using the funds made available in accordance with that section to be deposited in the Salton Sea Restoration Fund and other funds made available by the Legislature and the federal government.
- (c) The preferred alternative shall provide the maximum feasible attainment of the following objectives:
 - (1) Restoration of long-term stable aquatic and shoreline habitat for the historic levels and diversity of fish and wildlife that depend on the Salton Sea.
 - (2) Elimination of air quality impacts from the restoration projects.
 - (3) Protection of water quality.
- (d) For the purpose of the restoration plan, the Salton Sea ecosystem shall include, but is not limited to, the Salton Sea, the agricultural lands surrounding the Salton Sea, and the

tributaries and drains within the Imperial and Coachella Valleys that deliver water to the Salton Sea.

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2020, the City Council of the City of Coachella passed Resolution No. 2020-05 that read, in part:

“Section 2. The City is supportive of a comprehensive analysis of ocean water import as a long-term solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea and respectfully requests that analysis of ocean water import be incorporated into the Salton Sea Management Program.

“Section 3. The City requests that the agencies and stakeholders begin the analysis of ocean water import as soon as possible so it can be completed by the deadline of December 31, 2022 as set forth by the Board for a long-term plan regarding the Salton Sea.”

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Management Program (“SSMP”) has not responded to, or taken constructive action on the resolutions of the nine Coachella Valley cities and Torres Martinez Tribe.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA DOES HEREBY FIND, RESOLVE AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein.

Section 2. The City is supportive of selecting a representative to attend the SSMP Engagement Committee meetings.

Section 3. The City is supportive of the Salton Sea Management Program to allocate two million dollars of the \$507.5 million unused and available funding for restoring the Salton Sea for an immediate comparative engineering review of the ocean water import proposals accepted by the State of California in 2018.

Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Section 5. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 7th day of August 2020.

Steven A. Hernandez
Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela M. Zepeda
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Carlos Campos
City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE) ss.
CITY OF COACHELLA)

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 2020-48 was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Coachella at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 7th day of August 2020, by the following vote of Council:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Andrea J. Carranza, MMC
Deputy City Clerk