



(1/5/16) Board Meeting
Salton Sea
Deadline: 12/30/15 by 12:00 noon

The EcoMedia Compass

2554 N. Marina Dr
Salton City, California 92275
Phone: (404) 88-WORLD
Info@EcoMediaCompass.org
www.EcoMediaCompass.org



Dear California State Water Board,

My name is Giovanni Arechavaleta and I am a resident of the Salton Sea, a biologist working at the Salton Sea and Campaign Director for the Save Our Sea! Campaign under The EcoMedia Compass based at the Salton Sea. I want to first and foremost thank and congratulate you, Imperial County, Imperial Irrigation District and the active agencies... on all of the groundbreaking projects working towards a restored Salton Sea.

As a biologist, I understand the invaluable environmental resource that is the Salton Sea. The Sea thrives as one of the last remaining wetland habitats in our state providing crucial resources to over 420 bird species migrating across the world. It supports one of the largest fisheries in the nation providing sustenance to millions of birds. The Sea is connected to an entire desert ecosystem comprised of not only birds and fish but mammals, amphibians, reptiles, insects and a wilderness of desert and aquatic plants. Due to rapid human development, over 90% of California's wetlands have been destroyed and we cannot afford to lose this one.

The Sea currently supports tens of thousands of acres in wetland habitat, most of which will be lost if the Quantification Settlement Agreement goes through without any long term restoration action being implemented. Current wetland habitat restoration projects and proposed restoration plans only conserve a small fraction of the necessary habitat needed to maintain wildlife populations. Furthermore the QSA and proposed plans only continue to fragment wetland habitat. Habitat fragmentation poses a direct threat to the Salton Sea ecosystem by reducing available habitat and supporting smaller populations of plants and animals ultimately making them more vulnerable to extinction. And it's a threat that cannot be afforded as habitat sustaining threatened and endangered species such as the Desert Pupfish, Ridgway's Rail, California Brown Pelican and Mountain Plover.

We, as a state, have the responsibility to maintain and improve the quality of irreplaceable habitat within this great lake not only for the wildlife that depend on it but for our public health and future generations. It is absolutely imperative for the future health of our planet to maintain the environmental integrity and resources that is the Salton Sea, with long-term solutions. We must prevent dust, expand habitat, create renewable energy and keep this region enjoyable for our future generations. The time for action is now, and the time for serious funding towards the many projects being discussed is now. We are here to help with the voice of local communities and volunteers. Let's make a healthy and sustainable Salton Sea happen.

Sincerely,
Giovanni Arechavaleta
Campaign Director/Biologist
The EcoMedia Compass
(909) 841-0410
EcoMediaCompass.org

Facebook.com/EcoMediaCompass
Twitter.com/EcoMediaCompass
Instagram.com/EcoMediaCompass