

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-_____

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-80 RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS IN SUPPORT OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF IMPERIAL AND THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE ON THE SALTON SEA

WHEREAS, on June 26, 2018, the County of Imperial, a political subdivision of the State of California, and the County of Riverside, a political subdivision of the State of California (Counties) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding representing a mutual good faith commitment and common goals made in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration to benefit the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the County of Imperial and the County of Riverside to work together with other local agencies in a collaborative manner and support common goals to further Salton Sea restoration and management efforts as well as the development potential of the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, the Counties encourage outreach to the surrounding communities and seek supportive resolutions from all cities and other agencies. The Parties welcome cities other agencies to join and assist them in efforts that are supportive of the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, the inflow of water to the Salton Sea has decreased and pursuant to the Quantification Settlement Agreement, mitigation water inflows ended on December 31, 2017, and without restoration or stabilization measures, the Salton Sea will rapidly decline; and

WHEREAS, the State of California ("State") has developed the Salton Sea Management Program ("SSMP") 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 state has developed the 10-year SSMP plan and identified a phased series of projects, the state has not appropriated all the necessary SSMP funding. The Salton Sea is at substantial risk of irreversible damage and threatens wildlife and public health; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Counties to take coordinated and cooperative action with other agencies to further stabilize the Salton Sea on such restoration efforts which would protect and improve public health, air quality, and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire and intent of both Counties to work together with local agencies on agreed projects and financing mechanisms such as an Enhanced Infrastructure Finance District ("EIFD") that would support projects and stimulate economic development around the Sea; and

WHEREAS, both Counties recognize and support the immense value of working together with other local agencies to enhance opportunities for renewable energy and geothermal development to the region by providing reliable, affordable energy in furtherance of the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard and Greenhouse Gas Reduction goals and could provide funding for Salton Sea infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of said integrated projects would include economic development, recreational activity, and reduction in air quality impacts as well as optimize the potential opportunities at the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, California law requires the California Natural Resources Agency to develop a Salton Sea plan in cooperation and consultation with local agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Authority supports the common goal of a locally managed and more efficient process to expedite projects at the Salton Sea to avert a further decline at the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Authority is in support of the North Lake vision which would complement the state's SSMP plan by providing an in-sea barrier around the contours of the north shoreline with a deep lake and respectfully request the state's support and recognition in the SSMP as an important integrated project; and

WHEREAS, the Salton Sea Authority is supportive of the Perimeter Lake concept which would also include a South Lake component and resemble a flowing river with a system of lowprofile levees bordering the Salton Sea shoreline. The Parties respectfully request to have the Perimeter Lake incorporated into the state's SSMP long-term plan; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Salton Sea Authority to improve the public health, economic opportunity and overall quality of life of the disadvantaged communities around the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Salton Sea Authority to support public-private partnerships and will assist private entities to define and develop projects around the Salton Sea; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Desert Hot Springs hereby adopts this Resolution in support of the Memorandum of Understanding between Riverside County and Imperial County which agrees to a collaborative partnership and a unified strategy to support common goals which would stabilize and restore the Salton Sea.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Desert Hot Springs on the 15th day of January, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

[SIGNATURES FOLLOW ON THE NEXT PAGE]

ATTEST:

Jerryl Soriano, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Scott Matas, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jennifer A. Mizrahi, City Attorney