Salton Sea Management Program Update

Salton Sea Summit | October 18, 2019
Salton Sea Management Program Updates

1. General Overview
2. Habitat Projects
3. Dust Suppression Projects
4. Community Engagement
5. Partnerships
6. Planning
SSMP Phase I 10-Year Plan 2018 - 2028

• State is committed to making progress on the ground

• Urgent need to address public health and ecological challenges

• Near-term priorities
  • 15,000 acres of habitat projects
    o New River
    o Whitewater River
    o Alamo River
  • 15,000 acres of dust suppression projects
SSMP Habitat Projects
Species Conservation Habitat

• First major SSMP habitat project
• 3,770-acre site of exposed lakebed
• Southwestern end of the Sea, east & west of the New River
• Request for Proposals expected to be issued in coming weeks
• Estimated to be complete by end of 2023
SSMP Habitat Projects

Future Projects

North Lake Project - Concept

• Approximately 3,680-acre horseshoe-shaped lake

• North end of the Salton Sea adjacent to the Whitewater stormwater channel

Alamo River - Future site
SSMP Dust Suppression - Bruchard Road Project

- Trenching on 150 – 200 acres of exposed playa
- Located on the southern of the Sea
- Estimated to be complete in next few months
SSMP Dust Suppression
Future Projects & Engagement

• Evaluating sites for 9,000 acres of dust suppression

• Preliminary locations determined by soil emissivity, prevailing wind patterns and threat to populated areas

• Public meeting later this fall to gather input on priorities

• Developing a programmatic approach to environmental planning and permitting
Transparency / Community Engagement

- Work with local leaders and community members to improve transparency and engagement
- Incorporate community input and priorities where possible
- Launch new Salton Sea website and e-newsletter
- Increase local presence
- Identify opportunities for local employment
Partnerships

• Work with local, state, tribal and federal partners to pursue funding
• Develop templates for land access, water availability and recreation opportunities
• Engage with partners to address scientific data gaps and identify priorities
SSMP Planning

- Implement an additional 26,000 acres
- Programmatic approach to environmental planning and permitting
- Establishing framework to address critical path items including water availability and land access
- Complete independent analysis of water import concepts