Salton Sea Science

A Quick Synopsis
Some of the early work

• National Irrigation Water Quality Program
  ➢ Roy Schroeder
  ➢ Jim Setmire
• Studies of contaminant impacts on birds by USGS and others
  ➢ Harry Ohlendorf
  ➢ Chuck Henny
These efforts were undertaken in the 1980-1993 time frame.
NIWQP follow up studies

- Taking a closer look at the birds—using samples collected in 1992-1996
- Trying to identify specific selenium problem drains by looking at water, sediments, transplanted *Corbicula*, and flora/fauna in 1994-1995
- Getting a better understanding of material coming into the Salton Sea over time by looking at suspended and bottom sediments in 1995-2001
The Symposia

- The 1999-2000 studies—the Big Push—resulted in a tremendous amount of data gathering that was presented in a symposium and ultimately published in a special issue of Hydrobiologia.
- The second symposium was held on the centennial of the current Salton Sea (2005) and was also published by Hydrobiologia.
Adding to our understanding

• Of the dynamics of the chemistry, phytoplankton, invertebrates, fish and birds—this special issue of Lake and Reservoir Management is jam-packed with yet another set of studies by numerous scientists that tease apart the functioning, or not, of the Salton Sea

• Of the dynamics by means of a set of ponds to capture processes at a scale that can be studied by USGS scientists
Where do we go from here?

- A recipe for monitoring change over time using standardized protocols for biology, hydrology, geology and air quality developed by USGS, CDWR, CDFW, and several university experts (2013)
- A thought exercise to keep the process of science at the Salton Sea moving forward, thanks to a dedicated group from USGS, UCs, CDFW, USFWS, BoR, BLM, SSA, NGOs, Water Districts, Air Quality Districts, and the Counties (2017)