



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

*Office of the General Manager*

September 14, 2021

The Honorable Raul Grijalva  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Committee  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**RE: Support for Funding Salton Sea Management Projects**

Dear Chairman Grijalva:

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) supports including funding for Salton Sea dust mitigation and ecosystem management projects in the budget reconciliation bill. Metropolitan is the largest treated drinking water provider in the United States. We provide water to 26 member agencies which serve directly or through their retail agencies 19 million residents in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties in Southern California. The Colorado River is the backbone of Metropolitan's imported water supply which we divert through the Colorado River Aqueduct.

The Salton Sea was formed between 1905 and 1907 when Colorado River flood flows breached an irrigation canal headwork structure and flowed uncontrolled through the Imperial Valley into the formerly dry Salton Sink. Since then, the Sea has been maintained by agriculture runoff from the Imperial and Coachella valleys in California and agricultural runoff plus municipal wastewater discharges from the Mexicali Valley in Baja California, Mexico, and become an important stopover spot for migratory birds along the Pacific Flyway.

The continued drought in the Colorado River Basin and the first ever shortage declaration for Lake Mead has resulted in the Colorado River Basin States needing to develop new options to conserve water. While responding to these conditions, it is important to invest in Salton Sea management.

Thank you for your work to secure funding for the dust mitigation and ecosystem management projects on the Salton Sea. Funding this important work now will help improve local communities and assist the Lower Basin States as we embark on the upcoming negotiations on the Colorado River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adel Hagekhalil", written in a cursive style.

Adel Hagekhalil  
General Manager