

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS  
MAY 20, 2026**

**ITEM 6**

**SUBJECT**

ANNUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON THE STATUS OF PHASE 1 OF THE SALTON SEA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

**DISCUSSION**

[Water Rights Order \(WRO\) 2017-0134](#) requires that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) hold a public meeting each year during Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) to receive oral and written comment on the status of Salton Sea restoration from California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA). The purpose of the May 20<sup>th</sup> workshop is for the State Water Board to hold the State Water Board's annual workshop to receive information related to the progress of Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program from CNRA and to receive written and oral comments from the public.

On October 28, 2002, the State Water Board issued [Order WRO 2002-0013](#) which approved the long-term transfer of water from the Imperial Irrigation District to the San Diego County Water Authority, the Coachella Valley Water District, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. On December 20, 2002, the State Water Board issued [Order WRO 2002-0016](#), which revised [Order WRO 2002-0013](#). On November 18, 2014, the Imperial Irrigation District filed a Petition for Change seeking modification of Revised Order WRO 2002-0013 to address anticipated reductions in flows to the Sea stemming from the long-term water transfer. The Salton Sea Task Force was established in May 2015 to identify realistic short and medium term goals to respond to potential air quality and ecological impacts resulting from scheduled reduced flows of fresh water to the Salton Sea.

On November 7, 2017, the State Water Board adopted Order WRO 2017-0134, amending revised Order WRO 2002-0013 to incorporate additional conditions and set forth restoration milestones to address public health and environmental concerns within Phase 1 of the SSMP (see Table 1). Order WRO 2017-0134 also requires the State Water Board hold an annual public workshop on the progress of Phase 1 of the Salton Sea Management Program.

Per Order WRO 2017-0134, a report from state agencies, due in the 1st quarter of each year, will identify: (i) completed projects and milestones achieved in the prior year; (ii) amount of acreage of completed projects that provide dust suppression and habitat

restoration, broken down by habitat type; (iii) upcoming projects to be completed and milestones to be achieved prior to the next annual progress report; (iv) the status of financial resources and permits that have not been secured for future projects; (v) any anticipated departures from the dates and acreages identified in condition 24 of the order, and; (vi) progress toward development of the long-range plan described in condition 26 of the order. The SSMP Team submitted their 2025 annual report to the State Water Board by the March 31 deadline set forth in WRO 2017-0134. The report can be accessed online in English and in Spanish at <https://saltonseaca.gov/>. Information submitted in this report will be presented at the workshop.

Table 1: Specific restoration milestones to address public health and environmental concerns within phase 1 of the SSMP.

Year	Total number of acres of habitat and dust-suppression projects that shall be completed each year (annual milestones).	Cumulative acreage by the end of each year (cumulative milestones).
2018	500	500
2019	1,300	1,800
2020	1,700	3,500
2021	3,500	7,000
2022	1,750	8,750
2023	2,750	11,500
2024	2,700	14,200
2025	3,400	17,600
2026	4,000	21,600
2027	4,000	25,600
2028	4,200	29,800

**POLICY ISSUE**

None. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None. This is a workshop only and no decisions will be made.