

Thomas J. Kirk III

Executive Director
Salton Sea Authority

Mr. Kirk is Executive Director of the Salton Sea Authority. Mr. Kirk was a fellow at the University of California Transportation Center and graduated number one in his class with a Master's degree in City and Regional Planning from the University of California, Berkeley. He also graduated magna cum laude from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is also a graduate of the Coro Foundation's public affairs program.

Mr. Kirk was hired as the Authority's first executive director and staff in late 1997. Since that time he has helped the Authority and the restoration program transform from its volunteer and modest roots to a program characterized by scientific and engineering underpinning and tangible pilot projects. Mr. Kirk manages the work of dozens of experts associated with the restoration program. Mr. Kirk is responsible, as co-lead manager with the Bureau of Reclamation, for restoration engineering/design and environmental compliance. Mr. Kirk is a frequent guest lecturer and speaker on Salton Sea issues.

Prior to working on the restoration project, Mr. Kirk's professional background included land, environmental and infrastructure planning as a consultant and as the Supervising Director of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments. He has received numerous local, national, and academic awards for his work. Mr. Kirk is also a member of the City of La Quinta Planning Commission and is active in various local organizations.