

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2013

CONTACT: Marion Champion, (760) 604-4120

IID, Imperial County approve joint term sheet for Salton Sea restoration

The Imperial Irrigation District Board of Directors today approved a term sheet with Imperial County that represents a common vision of Salton Sea restoration in which renewable energy generation would provide a long-term funding mechanism and establish an enduring public-private partnership.

The action taken by the IID board follows that of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors a week ago and paves the way for a memorandum of understanding between the two public agencies that would signal a resolution of their longstanding dispute in the Quantification Settlement Agreement litigation.

“It has taken more than a decade to get to this point,” said Matt Dessert, IID board president, “but we are finally in a position to present a unified front on behalf of the sea and the region. Now it’s time for other QSA parties, including the state and federal government, to do the same.”

Imperial County is “pleased to join with IID in pursuing our shared vision of what the Salton Sea can and should be in the years ahead,” said Ray Castillo, chairman of the county board. “It’s good to finally be on the same page with the district and to have a common purpose.”

Among the terms included in the document approved by both boards are the following:

- An endorsement of the 2006 restoration model of the Salton Sea Authority, but with refreshed hydrological and cost estimates.
- Air quality, habitat, recreation and stabilization of the sea’s elevation and salinity levels as key foundational elements to guide the restoration planning process.
- Recognition by the state and federal governments that the use of Colorado River water to restore the Salton Sea and mitigate the impacts of the QSA water transfers is a reasonable and beneficial use.
- Joint pursuit of a state commitment to build transmission interconnecting to the district’s electric system for the export of up to 1,400 megawatts of renewable energy from the Salton Sea resource area to load centers throughout the state.
- An understanding that any MOU agreed to by the agencies will survive the current litigation and is meant to resolve all litigation issues between IID, Imperial County and its Air Pollution Control District and, ultimately, all the parties to the QSA coordinated cases.

At the request of IID and Imperial County, a tentative decision in the QSA litigation was stayed until June 3, 2013, by Sacramento Superior Court Judge Lloyd Connelly. Mediation to reach settlement with all the parties is currently under way.

Term Sheet here - <http://www.iid.com/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=7818>