

## **RESOLUTION NO. 2020 - 039**

### **A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA QUINTA, CALIFORNIA, DECLARING ITS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF ALL WATER IMPORT ALTERNATIVES AS PART OF THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION FOR THE SALTON SEA**

**WHEREAS,** the inflow of water to the Salton Sea has decreased and pursuant to the Quantification Settlement Agreement, mitigation water inflows ended on December 31, 2017, and without restoration or stabilization measures, the Salton Sea will rapidly decline; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of California ("State") has developed the Salton Sea Management Program ("SSMP") through departments within the California Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agencies and is obligated to pay for certain costs related to habitat, and water quality issues at the Salton Sea; and

**WHEREAS,** On November 20, 2018 the City of La Quinta adopted Resolution No. 2018-057 in support of a Memorandum of Understanding with Riverside and Imperial Counties to work together with local agencies to collaborate with stakeholders affected by the Salton Sea. The goal was to solve complex challenges and promote economic development, public health, air quality, and wildlife habitat;

**WHEREAS,** On May 7, 2019 the City of La Quinta adopted Resolution No. 2019-012 that read: "Parties are supportive of comprehensive analysis of ocean water importation as a long-term solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea. Parties respectfully request analysis be conducted of ocean water importation and incorporated into the State's 10-year SSMP plan"; and

**WHEREAS,** the California State Water Resources Control Board has an oversight role in monitoring and ensuring progress towards the goal of the SSMP and has set a deadline of December 31, 2022 for the completion of a long-term plan regarding the Salton Sea;

**WHEREAS,** eleven (11) proposals received by the State in 2018 in response to their Request for Information (RFI) included a water importation component; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council requests that agencies and stakeholders begin the analysis of water import alternatives so it could be completed by the December 31, 2022 deadline as set forth by the California State Water Resources Control Board for the long-term plan regarding the Salton Sea;

**WHEREAS**, the State will require that any water import project proposal include an engineering and logistic feasibility study conducted on behalf of the proponent by an accredited or licensed engineering, planning, or equivalent organization recognized by the State prior to consideration by the SSMP; and

**WHEREAS**, the State prepared a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an independent reviewer panel to conduct a feasibility study of water importation proposals in February 2020 and again in June 2020, neither of which received response; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of La Quinta, California, as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Council declares its continued support for the completion of a comprehensive analysis and review of all water import alternatives as a long-term solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea, and requests the analysis of said alternatives be incorporated into the SSMP.

SECTION 2. The City requests that the State continue to aggressively pursue the creation of an independent reviewer panel for the immediate analysis of water import alternatives in order to maintain the current December 31, 2022 completion deadline as set forth by the California State Water Resource Control Board for the long-term plan regarding the Salton Sea.

SECTION 3. The City of La Quinta requests that the Salton Sea Management Program allocate two million dollars of the \$507.5 million unused and available funding for restoring the Salton Sea for an immediate comparative engineering review of the ocean water import proposals accepted by the state in 2018.

**PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED** at a regular meeting of the La Quinta City Council held on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020, by the following vote:

**AYES:**       **Council Members Fitzpatrick, Peña, Radi, Sanchez, Mayor Evans**

**NOES:**       **None**

**ABSENT: None**

**ABSTAIN: None**



LINDA EVANS, Mayor  
City of La Quinta, California

**ATTEST:**



MONIKA RADEVA, City Clerk  
City of La Quinta, California

(CITY SEAL)

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



WILLIAM H. IHRKE, City Attorney  
City of La Quinta, California