

DRAFT

*RT's
Statement of Intent*

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE SALTON SEA DATABASE PROGRAM

and the Signatory Agencies and Member Institutions of the

SALTON SEA SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE

And Other Entities Concerned With

Restoration of the Salton Sea

REGARDING:

DATA SHARING AND DATA MANAGEMENT FOR THE SALTON SEA RESTORATION PROJECT

I. INTRODUCTION

Comprising about 375 square miles in area, the Salton Sea is California's largest lake. It provides valuable habitat for more than a million waterfowl and other birds along the Pacific flyway, as well as recreational, hunting, fishing, and significant agricultural values. However, during the past 10 years the Salton Sea has experienced a number of massive fish and bird die-offs as a result of a suite of pathogenic and other contaminant problems. Situated in a closed basin at approximately 227 feet below sea level and separated by one hundred miles of alluvial deposits of the Colorado River from the Gulf of California, the salinity of the Salton Sea has increased steadily since its original historic inundation in 1905 to the point where it is now one fourth saltier than the ocean; and at current rates of salt loading of 4 million tons of salts per year, the Salton Sea will be unsuitable for fish and other wildlife in about 15 years. The Salton Sea is facing ecological collapse.

To date, many local, State and Federal resource management agencies have collected data pertinent to their particular purview with respect to the Salton Sea (information concerning fish and wildlife by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, or hydrology data compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the area water agencies). In order to facilitate the environmental evaluations of the proposed engineering alternatives to restore the Salton Sea, there is an urgent need to consolidate these data in a commonly accessible database, and serve this data back out to decision-makers, stakeholders, resource agencies and the concerned public to promote an informed decision-making process.

Thus, the Salton Sea Database Program (SSDP) was established by the University of Redlands, funded by a \$2 million congressional appropriation administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The primary objectives of the SSDP are to:

- collect existing information pertinent to the environmental review of Salton Sea restoration alternatives;
- ~~evaluate the data~~ in accordance to established Federal and State ^{quality} assurance/quality control protocols; *geospatial*
- geographically reference the data to a digital base map and enter the data into a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the region;
- perform analyses of the data using GIS techniques and softwares;
- and serve the data to concerned parties via the Internet and electronic information transfer.

II. AUTHORITIES

NEPA/CEQA
↳ The Salton Sea Authority (SSA) is a Joint Powers agency established to oversee resource management decisions regarding the Salton Sea. The SSA is comprised of representatives of ~~the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (the Bureau)~~, the Coachella Valley Water District, the Imperial Irrigation District, Riverside and Imperial Counties. The Bureau is the Federal lead agency and the SSA is the State lead agency with regard to environmental evaluations of the proposed engineering alternatives to restore the Salton Sea (the Project). The SSA is presently negotiating the terms and conditions of approval of a \$5.7 million congressional grant appropriation to undertake environmental evaluations and feasibility studies of Project alternatives.

In addition, legislation currently pending before the U.S. Congress (Salton Sea Restoration Act, H.R. 3267 and S.B. 1716) would establish the "Salton Sea Research Management Committee" (Management Committee) to manage these investigations and coordinate the environmental review process of the Project alternatives. *Secy*
The Management Committee would be comprised of an appointee of each of the Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Governor of California, the Executive Director of the SSA, the Chairman of the Torres-Martínez Desert Cahuilla Tribal Government, and the Director of the California Water Resources Center.

An interagency "Science Subcommittee" (Subcommittee) would be established to provide technical review and recommendations to the Management Committee. The Subcommittee is comprised of scientists and technical experts representing sixteen ~~(16)~~ ¹⁹ Federal, State and local agencies and universities. The Subcommittee will report to the Management Committee, providing technical review of the data and environmental evaluations regarding the Project alternatives.

The University of Redlands has established the Salton Sea Database Program (SSDP) under the auspices of a \$2 million congressional appropriation administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The SSDP will collect, review and analyze bibliographic and scientific data on the Salton Sea; and serve these data to the Management Committee, the Subcommittee, stakeholders, decision-makers, and members of the public concerned with restoration of the Salton Sea.

III. PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

In order to coordinate research and avoid duplication of effort, it is necessary that the participating agencies in the Salton Sea restoration planning committees share pertinent data or the results of pertinent investigations with the SSDP. The following agencies and institutions are represented in the Management Committee and Subcommittee:

Salton Sea Authority Members

- Coachella Valley Water District
- Imperial Irrigation District
- Riverside County
- Imperial County
- ~~U.S. Bureau of Reclamation~~

Resource Management Committee

- U.S. Department of the Interior
- State of California, Governor's Office Appointee
- Salton Sea Authority
- ? [Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Tribal Government
- California Water Resources Center]

Science Subcommittee

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- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ✓
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- California Dept. of Water Resources
- California Dept. of Fish and Game
- California Environmental Protection Agency
- San Diego State University
- University of California at Riverside
- University of Redlands
- Imperial Irrigation District
- Coachella Valley Water District

SSA ✓
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- Elder
Torres - Martinez

IV. PURPOSE

The purpose of this agreement is to provide for the regular, expeditious sharing of information, particularly scientific and computerized data; and promote coordination in data gathering techniques, synthesis and analyses. The primary objective of these data sharing agreements with the participating agencies is to facilitate the environmental evaluations of the engineering alternatives proposed to restore the Salton Sea. These evaluations will be presented in the form of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the terms and specifications of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This document, a joint Draft EIR/EIS, will be prepared under separate contract to be issued by the Management Committee. The EIR/EIS must evaluate a wide range of environmental factors with respect to each of the Project alternatives, including potential impacts on air quality, water quality, geological and geotechnical resources, biological resources, land use, agriculture, human health and cultural resources.

The University of Redlands' SSDP will facilitate the EIR/EIS review process by providing pertinent data relative to each of the issues as required under CEQA/NEPA guidelines. The SSDP will establish a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the Salton Sea watershed area and extending south to the Gulf of California along proposed Project corridors. The data will be geographically-referenced to the base map, and reviewed by the Data Subcommittee (Data Subcommittee) of the Science Subcommittee. Qualitative attributes of each data set will be compiled in the metadata for the program.

The SSDP will compile a ^{big} bibliographic database of published literature for the coverage area and other closed-basin lakes ^{and other others?} with similar physical environmental management issues. Participating agencies, decision-makers, stakeholders and the public may review the annotated bibliography on the SSDP web site. Selected documents may be transmitted over the internet, by CD-ROM or by hard-copy data products upon request, in accordance with applicable copyright laws and in accordance with the specific terms and conditions of the data sharing agreement ^{between} of the agency that generated the particular documents and the SSDP.

Other geographical data may be viewed over the web or via other data-sharing products, subject to the access and security measures established for that particular kind of data. For example, any agency or individual may view certain data layers, such as the digital elevation model (DEM), lake elevation analyses, or salinity models, if they have the appropriate supporting software (the SSDP will operate primarily using ArcView and ArcInfo softwares and other supporting applications developed by ESRI). Other data sets are "location-sensitive" and may be accessed only by agency personnel with security clearance to access that particular kind of data. Participating agencies in the SSDP may request restricted access protocols for location-sensitive data sets.

will UK remove data if agreement terminated

V. TERMS OF AGREEMENT

This agreement will become effective immediately upon signature and date of the participating agency representative, and shall remain effective until terminated. Any party may terminate their participation in this agreement by notification of the other parties in writing.

Signatories to this agreement shall facilitate the evaluation of engineering alternatives to restore the Salton Sea by sharing pertinent information with the SSDP. Such information may include hard copy reports, studies, photographs and other bibliographic materials, as well as soft copy data and data models.

Signatory agencies may specify data access restrictions for any data deemed to be "sensitive" in nature by that agency. Security measures, data access and data viewing protocols may be established through the Data Subcommittee and the data-sharing agency representative(s). Such limitations and stipulations regarding data access will become part of this Agreement between the SSDP and the signatory agency.

Central interests

Obligations of the Data Sharing Agency

Signatory agency agrees:

who determines pertinence?

- to provide pertinent reports, studies, photographs and other bibliographic materials to the SSDP;
- to provide pertinent GIS data layers for inclusion in the SSDP;
- to coordinate study methods, analyses and new data collection efforts in accordance with the Data Subcommittee protocols.

The signatory agency may designate any data set(s) as "sensitive", and agrees to develop conditions of restricted access to and sharing of these data in consultation with the Data Subcommittee. These stipulations shall be detailed in Section VII of this agreement, and become binding between the data-sharing agency and the SSDP with their signatures below.

Obligations of the University of Redlands

The University of Redlands' Salton Sea Database Program agrees:

- to act as a data repository and dissemination facilitator of information dealing with the Salton Sea ecosystem;
- to synthesize GIS data layers from existing and newly-produced information;
- to analyze data layers for ecological linkages among them and cooperatively build and validate a GIS ecosystem model for the Salton Sea in collaboration with the Subcommittee;

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- to participate in screening and validating past studies and current proposals for scientific rigor, merit and pertinence to the EIR/EIS review processes;
- to share data and analyses in progress via a web page, and produce draft and final products and deliverables in the form of hard-copy and soft-copy reports, maps, and other data products;
- to take direction from the Management Committee and Science Subcommittee with respect to prioritization of data entry, data analyses and modeling programs in support of the Project evaluations;
- to abide by any stipulations regarding any data deemed “sensitive” in nature, in accordance with the terms of the data-sharing agency as set forth in Section VII of this agreement.

should membership of Data Subcomm be required?

VI. QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL

Existing data shall be reviewed by the Data Subcommittee and may be forwarded to other qualified members of the Subcommittee with expertise in the appropriate scientific discipline for technical peer review. A qualitative evaluation of the data set will be provided as metadata for the program. Upon determination of quality assurance by the Data Subcommittee, the data will be entered into the SSDP – GIS.

Collection of new data by participating agencies and contractors will comply with established Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) standards appropriate to the particular scientific discipline. New data generation shall comply with the appropriate geographic referencing standards established by the Data Subcommittee to enable efficient data entry into the SSDP.

VII. STIPULATIONS REGARDING SENSITIVE DATA

The signatory agency may determine that certain data in the agency’s possession are sensitive in nature. Specifically, the following data set(s) is(are) considered to be sensitive, and restricted access and data sharing protocols shall apply:

(Identify the data set(s) by name or general classification below)

In consultation with the Data Subcommittee, the following restrictions and security measures shall be implemented with respect to the sensitive data set(s) identified above:

VIII. PROJECT OFFICERS

The Project Officer for the signatory agency is:

Name/Title:

Agency:

Address:

Phone #:

The Project Officer for the University of Redlands is:

Dr. Timothy P. Krantz, Salton Sea Database Program Manager
University of Redlands
Duke Hall – Room 211
1200 East Colton Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373
(909)793-2121 Ext. 2938

The Project Officer for the Salton Sea Science Subcommittee is:

Dr. Milt Friend, Chairman
USGS - Biological Resources Division
Director, National Wildlife Health Center
6006 Schroeder Road
Madison, WI 53711-6223
(608) 270-2401

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each party hereto has caused this Cooperative Agreement to be executed by an authorized official on the day and year set forth opposite their signature,

SIGNATORY AGENCY _____

By: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS / Salton Sea Database Program

By: _____ Date: _____
Dr. Timothy P. Krantz

Title: _____
Program Manager

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY / Salton Sea Science Subcommittee

By: _____ Date: _____
Dr. Milt Friend

Title: _____
Chairman

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