



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

911 NE. 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

July 15, 1997

Dear Participant:

This letter is your invitation to participate in the Salton Sea Needs Assessment Workshop to be held in Palm Springs, California, August 4-8, 1997, at the Marquis Crown Plaza Resort and Hotel. It is anticipated that this workshop will produce a description and budget for biological, chemical, physical, and cultural studies that need to be completed as part of the environmental compliance process for proceeding with initiatives to repair the Salton Sea ecosystem. This information will be used by natural resource agencies and local project participants in the formulation of a planning effort that will address the short- and long-term needs of the Salton Sea ecosystem.

Since the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will benefit significantly from workshop outputs, that agency is pleased to defray a portion of your costs by funding your expense for lodging and meals if you are serving on the Physical Environment, Biological, Cultural Resources, Pathogens and Disease, Contaminants, Facilitator, Administrative, or Management Teams. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Marquis Crown Plaza Resort and Hotel (flyer is enclosed). Reservations will be made in your name (except for those who will commute) by Reclamation. Team Leaders should anticipate staying through Thursday evening and departing on Friday after 3:00pm. All other team members should anticipate concluding the workshop Thursday at 4:00pm. Reclamation will reimburse you or your agency for the cost of meals and incidental expenses at the federal per diem rate for Palm Springs, which is \$28.50 for the first and last day (includes travel time), and \$38 a day for each full day. In order for you to receive reimbursement from Reclamation for meals and incidentals, you or your agency must submit an invoice to the Bureau of Reclamation, Attention: LC-3205, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, Nevada 89005. Federal agencies may utilize the Online Payment and Collection (OPAC) system, using Reclamation's agency location code, 14-06-0905. Please reference agreement number 7-MT-30-00027 and cost authority number 100-1375-1375-103-02-0-0 on your invoice or OPAC. If you have any questions about lodging and meals or Reclamation's payment of your costs for those items, please call John A. Johnson at 702/293-8509.

Travel to Palm Springs can be by direct flight into Palm Springs Airport, or by flying into Ontario, California, and driving 1.5 hours to Palm Springs. All participants will be required to pay their own travel costs to and from Palm Springs. All special guests will be required to pay all their own expenses. Salary will not be reimbursable for any participant.

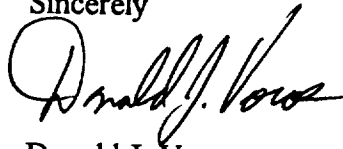
The workshop will be an intensive working session that will result in a product at its termination developed by a multi-team effort. Your team leader and/or facilitator will contact you prior to the workshop to discuss any advanced preparation that may be required. If you do not hear from them within 2 weeks prior to the workshop, you should initiate the contact. Names, addresses, and phone numbers for all participants are provided in your packet of information.

All attendees are encouraged to bring laptop computers that are preprogrammed with WordPerfect 6.0 or better software. Each team will have a separate meeting room once they break out of the main session. Each meeting room will have a main station IBM PC with printer. A copy machine will be located on site for use by the group. Administrative staff will be available to aid in some typing, copying, or other administrative tasks to complete our mission.

As you are aware, extensive wildlife mortalities over the years have accentuated the need to develop short- and long-term comprehensive, investigative and research approaches to enable natural resource scientists and managers to begin understanding the dynamics of the Salton Sea ecosystem. Armed with this information, scientists and managers will be able to effectively evaluate and provide sound recommendations on any proposed engineering solutions developed to correct the deteriorating Salton Sea ecosystem. You have been selected by your peers to take this first critical step to assess the needs of the Salton Sea ecosystem. Welcome aboard!

If you have any questions regarding the workshop, you may contact Tony Faast at 503/231-6128, Dick Zembal at 760/930-0168, or Don Voros at 503/231-6167 or Don_Voros@mail.fws.gov.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald J. Voros". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "D".

Donald J. Voros
Associate Manager
California/Nevada National Wildlife Refuges