

Little Hoover Commission: For your consideration in regard to restoration of the Salton Sea

It seems to me that the Salton Sea Restoration issue has become a microcosm of the state of our State and the state of our union as far as the capacity to govern with leadership and vision that requires cooperation, partnership, and the ability to effectively recognize the scope and ramifications of the pressing issues before us. Decades of inaction and dithering are poised to put our way of life as we know it in jeopardy throughout the State especially in relation to water issues.

Continuing arguments of complexity must be broken down into historically proven solutions:

1. Water has been found to restore the Salton Sea at the Sea of Cortez 75 miles to the New River via Laguna Salada (Refer to Red Sea to Dead Sea in Reuters).
2. Three billion dollars is needed and can be funded incrementally for a Sea to Sea water transfer that would include a desalination facility. ROI on such a restored Sea could well rival that of Mulholland's 1913 San Fernando water project and the resulting development of that area.
3. Prioritization, with restoration as the number one goal, must work top down since the environment, including air quality, as we know it in the region (which has been hard fought to protect) will be a moot point if allowed to collapse under the weight of further inaction.
4. The needed technology is available, the needed partnerships both foreign and domestic have proven capable in past ventures when called to action.

Therefore, I strongly urge the Commission to make a recommendation that the terms of the QSA contract be fully enforced and that direct and immediate action be legislated in resolution to protect and serve the true invested stakeholders, which are the citizens and communities of the great State of California, who can ill afford the impact of any part of the impending devastation that would otherwise be avoided.

Sincerely,
Katherine Boucher