



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

April 11, 2017

Pedro Nava
Chairman
Sean Varner
Vice Chairman

The Honorable Eduardo Garcia
State Capitol, Room 4140
Sacramento, CA 95814

Scott Barnett
David Beier

RE: SUPPORT FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 798 (GARCIA)

Anthony Cannella
Senator

Dear Assemblymember Garcia:

Jack Flanigan
Chad Mayes
Assemblymember

The Little Hoover Commission supports Assembly Bill 798, the measure you authored to require the Natural Resources Agency to establish a timeline and secure adequate funding for the creation, operation and maintenance of 25,000 acres of wildlife habitat and air quality projects at the Salton Sea, as well as create a long-term plan for Salton Sea management.

Don Perata
Sebastian Ridley-Thomas
Assemblymember

Richard Roth
Senator

In its September 2015 report, *Averting Disaster: Action Now for the Salton Sea*, the Commission found that seemingly endless study processes fraught with stakeholder disagreement over desired Salton Sea outcomes, liability and funding, without any authority ultimately accountable for results, yielded years of inaction. It recommended that the new Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy immediately implement shovel-ready projects, develop short-, medium- and long-term plans for managing the sea and identify potential sources of funding.

Janna Sidley

Helen Torres

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

The Commission reiterated that recommendation during its 2016 review of state action at the Salton Sea. In its June 2016 letter to Governor Brown and the Legislature, Commissioners expressed concern that projects still had not been implemented, and recommended that strategic management of the Salton Sea be given as high of a priority within the administration as the delta tunnels and high speed rail.

Because Assembly Bill 798 would require the Natural Resources Agency to take action to meet and fund defined medium-term goals to protect air quality and wildlife habitat at the Salton Sea, and develop a long-term plan to manage the Salton Sea, the Commission supports this measure.

As the bill moves through the legislative process, I will be writing letters on behalf of the Commission to legislators urging aye votes. If I or the Commission can provide any further assistance or expertise, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

Carole D'Elia
Executive Director

c: Commissioners, Little Hoover Commission