

Pedro Nava, Chairman
Loren Kaye, Vice Chairman
Carol D'Elia, Executive Director
The Little Hoover Commission

For the past 15 years (and longer) we have been talking about how to save the Salton Sea. Study after study and millions of dollars have been spent and a contentious diversion of Colorado river water have been tried, all to no avail. Continuing down this path will never solve the problem. The only solution is to add more water to the Salton Sea: the minor amount of water being diverted from the Colorado river will never be enough to do the job.

There is, however, a solution – a virtually unlimited source of water which can be brought to the Salton Sea, namely from the Gulf of California.

Building a canal from the Gulf of California is technically feasible and would provide the needed water to truly save the Salton Sea.

The Gulf is only 125-150 miles from the Salton Sea with no significant topographical impediments. This is a minor civil engineering project compared to the numerous vastly larger projects throughout the West.

The fact that the Salton Sea is 240 feet below sea level makes the project very economical and might even provide the ability to generate power in the process.

Since the salinity of the Salton Sea is greater than the Gulf, adding Gulf (sea) water would actually reduce the salinity of the Sea. However, given the current salinity level in the Sea and its lack of outflow, it will never be reduced to the level even of the ocean.

Such a project would permit a reallocation of the current Colorado river water diversion to better uses and might even permit an increased flow to the river delta in Mexico.

The environmental and wildlife benefits of this project are obvious as this area is a major center of avian bio-diversity.

While the solution is not a novel idea, it appears to be one whose time has come. We have tried a multiplicity of approaches which are not working, so now is the time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fred Wolf", written in a cursive style.

Frederick D. Wolf
Rancho Mirage