



March 9, 2019

President Erik Ortega and Members of the Board
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Blvd.
Imperial, California 92251

Dear President Ortega and Members of the Board,

Thank you for your ongoing engagement with our Natural Resources Agency as we work to fulfill the state's responsibility at the Salton Sea. On behalf of Governor Newsom, I am eager to strengthen the partnership between our Agency and the Imperial Irrigation District to advance this critical pursuit.

As we have discussed, making visible progress to manage the Sea and implement our 10-Year Management Plan is essential for our Agency. We have appreciated your staff's willingness to work with us as we resolve outstanding questions and concerns regarding planned projects so that this work can move forward and provide important dust suppression and species habitat. I am particularly grateful to IID General Manager Martinez for his active outreach to me to establish a close working relationship at the leadership level as we work to advance these important projects.

As we work to implement near-term projects on the Salton Sea, we are committed to working with the District, Senator Feinstein, and other California delegation members to secure federal resources to manage the Sea. As the District has recently highlighted, the federal Farm Bill provides a promising source of funding for projects at the Sea that advance our management efforts while protecting adjacent agricultural production. Securing these resources is a top priority for our administration. Our California Secretary for Agriculture Karen Ross personally conveyed this priority to leaders at the US Department of Agriculture in Washington DC several days ago, and I have discussed this priority with Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Brenda Burman, who recognizes this priority and will continue to be our partner as we work together to manage the Sea.

Our Agency strongly supports efforts to finalize the landmark Drought Contingency Plan. Given increasingly uncertain hydrology, the plan enables water users to balance water supplies in the Lower Colorado River System during times of shortage. I believe this

1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 Ph. 916.653.5656 Fax. 916.653.8102 <http://resources.ca.gov>



agreement provides Colorado River water users—including the District—important flexibility to store supplies in Lake Mead and to broaden conservation activities that result in further banked water supplies. More broadly, the agreement represents the type of shared, collaborative approach that we are working to advance elsewhere in California.

We understand that now more than ever, we must redouble our commitment to the Salton Sea. At the same time, I believe it is critical to find a shared pathway to deal with imminent shortages in Lake Mead. Given this, we are hopeful that the District can participate in the DCP and secure the benefits of this agreement, while keeping us all focused and accountable toward securing resources for the Salton Sea in the coming weeks and months. You have my personal commitment on this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wade Crowfoot". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Wade Crowfoot
Secretary for Natural Resources