

Little Hoover Commission: Follow up to Public Hearing of Salton Sea,
Tuesday April 28, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Katherine Boucher and I reside in Salton City, the West Shores of the Salton Sea. I was present at the above referenced hearing and was included in the first group of 3 individuals that gave public comments. On Thursday May 14, my attention was drawn to a flyer posted in our local market here in Salton City announcing as follows:

PUBLIC WORKSHOP
Salton Sea Restoration & Renewable Energy
Initiative

Salton Sea Funding & Feasibility Action Plan
IID
and
Salton Sea Authority

This workshop was scheduled for Monday May 18, 9-11AM. Approximately 50 people attended the workshop which was hosted by Bruce Wilcox of IID and Sujoy Roy of *Tetra Tech, a consulting/engineering firm for the Salton Sea Authority. Attendees received a 13 page hand out which coordinated with a slide show presentation. Said presentation was as follows: IID explained a proposal entitled Salton Sea Restoration & Renewable Energy Initiative to create ponds at the mouths of the Alamo and New Rivers on the exposed playa to allow controlled cascading fresh water to enter the Salton Sea (herein Sea) at the sites of their geothermal facilities (as depicted on pages 4-6 of the hand out.) It appeared as if their paramount concern, at these locations, is to protect the facilities and prevent them from turning into "blocks of salt" by way of fresh water irrigation of the area. Tetra Tech announced they had partnered with the Torres-Martinez Indian tribe to assist in wetlands restoration at the mouth of the Whitewater River. Mr. Roy went on to reveal that after 15 years of consultation with the SSA, a fabric tube, known as a Geotube, has been devised that will be filled with native dredge material for use in habitat construction and restoration applications (page 9 of hand out.) Currently, a Geotube demonstration project is being planned for the North Shore Yacht Club harbor.

The bottom line on all topics related to restoration of the Sea is that there has never been and there is not now any monies available to accomplish anything of substance in regard to this issue. Therefore, aside from funds being available for studies, (Tetra Tech has applied for a state grant to fund a 2 year program to investigate engineering feasibility and continued funding feasibility) all restoration efforts have focused on a piecemeal patchwork of wholly inadequate and confounding activities that give the appearance of adherence to mitigation.

Just for the Little Hoover Commission's edification, the above mentioned workshop was in actuality a status update re restoration efforts followed by a question and answer period.

Thank you for your time and attention to this time sensitive and important matter.

Sincerely, Katherine Boucher

* Tetra Tech, is located in Pasadena, CA. Per their website, they are a leading provider of consulting, engineering program management, construction management and technical services with 300 offices worldwide. Example projects:

(1) Hawaiian Marine Ntl. Monument Plan, largest marine conservation area in the world.

(2) Lorette River, Quebec, Canada, designing & implementing flood protection solutions for storm water drainage, construction of a catch basin includes new pumping station and control gates to secure water levels in downstream sectors of the river. Given that Tetra Tech "provides consulting services to support international development" they appear on paper to be the appropriate firm to design and implement a 75 mile sea to sea water transfer from the Sea of Cortez (page 12 of hand out under water conveyance options) to the New River.