

Michael and Erika Swimmer

Little Hoover Commission
Attn: Carole D'Elia Executive Director
Re: Salton Sea
April 29, 2015

Dear Ms. D'Elia,

I attended the hearing yesterday in Palm Desert. As a concerned resident and property owner in the Coachella Valley, I want to express my gratitude to the Commission for conducting this hearing in order to bring about a solution to this looming catastrophe.

My wife and I believe that if the problems of the Sea aren't corrected soon, our health, our way of life, and our property values will be severely impacted. Many of our friends and neighbors are equally concerned, and I'm writing this letter on behalf of all of us in the hopes that you will bring this issue to the attention of the California legislature so we can start to see some action.

All of the testimonies heard yesterday were impressive; these were clearly expert witnesses giving factual and often emotional advice. We hope you were equally impressed. If nothing is done soon to remedy the situation, it should be obvious that we will have a catastrophe.

I was especially impressed with the Restoration Plan that was suggested by several of the witnesses to implement a pipeline to the Sea of Cortez. That would allow the fish and wildlife to continue, but it would also provide a stable sea level, which would enable real estate and recreational development to take place. Any solution that doesn't take into account the need for a stable sea level would be short sighted, as the Sea has a great amount of economic potential.

It is obvious that the sea will soon reach a 'tipping point', where the fish and wildlife will experience huge die-offs. We can not allow things to reach this point, as this would be a calamity; the first of many. To avoid such a happening, I recommend the following steps be taken as soon as possible:

1. The 2107 water transfer **must be delayed** until the conditions for wildlife are stabilized, and that no more of the toxic dust on the playas becomes exposed. This is a mandatory first step that must be taken immediately.

2. Since the existing wildlife refuges seem to be functioning reasonably well, mitigation efforts should begin as soon as possible to create a series of refuges all along the shoreline in order to save the fish populations from dying of extreme salinity. This idea was outlined by Mr. Kelly of IID. This will buy some time until the Restoration Plan is enacted.

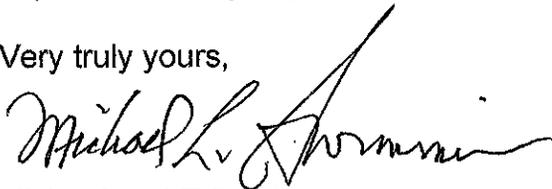
3. Begin work on the Restoration Plan that was presented by the gentleman from Eco Media Compass; that is, the pipeline to the Sea of Cortez.

4. Funding: seems to be a stumbling block to every suggested idea for restoration. My suggestion is to submit a bond issue on a ballot to all ten counties in Southern California that are affected. Assuming 20 million people in the 10 counties, and a projected cost of \$5 billion, this comes to about \$1000 per household of 4, plus interest. This could be extended over a 30 year period, amounting to less than \$100 per year, certainly an affordable amount when compared to the costs of doing nothing - \$75 billion-, as estimated by the Pacific Institute.

I would like to mention that I am a retired California Landscape Architect and a member of the California Audubon Society, and I have followed the problems of the Salton Sea for many years, making many trips to the area.

We here in Palm Desert wish you good luck in your efforts to save the Sea, and I hope some of my suggestions will be helpful.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael L. Swimmer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michael and Erika Swimmer