

August 21, 2015

Little Hoover Commission
925 L Street, Ste 805
Sacramento, CA.95814

Re: Proposal for the Restoration of the Salton Sea

To whom it may concern:

There are many complaints about inaction regarding the receding Salton Sea and incoming environmental catastrophe. There are many studies proving those concerns. There are several proposals promoting "a smaller lake option" which are expensive and do not solve the problems.

I do have a very good solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea, which solves all problems and provide conditions for economic prosperity and clean environment. The economic prosperity is expected to be in hundreds billion dollars in a few decades and will continue so in the future. For more details visit: <http://www.geothermalworldwide.com/proposal-california.html>.

My proposal is a preliminary design explaining the feasibility of the concept. The second stage would require collaboration with potential contractors and would contain more details, including more detailed cost estimate, which would follow with the final production design.

In addition to my previous comments regarding the Proposal for the Restoration of the Salton Sea, I am including additional information about cost estimate which was lacking in my proposal.

After consulting with engineers in the pipeline business, I have been informed that range of cost today of installed pressure pipe of 48-inch diameter in various terrains would be \$600 - \$1,000 per linear foot. I used most conservative option \$1,000 per linear foot. This is still a rough cost estimate, a few adjustments still can be made, but at least we have a bulk cost estimate for evaluating the proposal.

It means that connecting the Salton Sea with Pacific Ocean (San Diego area) distance about 80 miles (about 20 miles mountain terrain and about 60 miles relatively flat terrain). It comes to: 80 miles x 10 pipelines = 800 miles of pipelines could cost about 4.3 billion. To add several pump stations, several freeway underpasses, and permits - it still might be under 5 billion. It is less than I was expecting. I believe that two main dikes (about 15 miles), separating the Salton Sea and several secondary dikes (another 15 miles), including treatment plants, could cost another billion or two.

To start several power plants on several sectors around the Salton Sea could take another billion or two. It means that we can restore the Salton Sea with less than 10 billion. A portion of the revenue from those several power plants in several sectors around the Salton Sea can be used for financing subsequent power plants. This will provide conditions for the private sector to get involved with more confidence. This process will continue to grow and the future generations will continue building on it.

In the meantime, by filling central part of the Salton Sea with oceanic water, the private sector could start developing resorts, beaches, hotels, motels, etc., and start generating revenue from tourism.

To summarize again a few objectives that my Proposal for the Restoration of the Salton Sea fulfils:

1. Raising and stabilizing the lake's water line level (NOT REDUCING IT);
2. Separating the Salton Sea with two main dikes in three sections (Northern, Southern and Central);
3. The main inflows from the New River, Alamo, and White Water, and agricultural runoff from farmland will be contained in Northern and Southern sections of the lake, treated and reused for farmland and /or for refilling depleted aquifer. Now, we will have a substantial amount of water for farmland that otherwise would be lost if mixed with the salty water of the Salton Sea. Alternatively, if needed, some of this treated water can be added to the central section of the lake.
4. Preventing agricultural runoff waters which contain pollutants such as fertilizers and pesticides to mix with the central section of the Salton Sea;
5. Providing wildlife sanctuary. Different species can choose any of the three sections of the Salton Sea and appreciate diversity;
6. The equalizing salinity of the Salton Sea water with salinity of the Ocean water by connecting central section of the Salton Sea with the Ocean (preferably a San Diego area a few miles off shore where there is a strong current) and exchanging high salinity waters from the bottom of the Salton Sea with oceanic water. Higher salinity water has a tendency to accumulate at the bottom of the see where we can access it with my IN-LINE-PUMP (See slide 4 & 5 at 10 slide short version);
7. Providing conditions for tourism (beaches, hotels, resorts, waterfront properties, etc.), and making the Salton Sea a renewed recreational destination;
8. Harnessing prevalent geothermal source of the Salton Sea Geothermal Field (SSGF) for generation of electricity which can generate hundred billions in revenue in a few decades (not with conventional geothermal systems, but with my design, the SCI-GHE system) and will continue generating such revenue in the future. I would like to emphasize that with my design of the geothermal power plants, the SCI-GHE system, which doesn't depend on hydrothermal reservoir, we can build hundreds of power plants, modular units, not on the exposed bottom of reduced lake, but rather on West, South and East sides of the Lake, away from the shore of the Lake and generate electricity not just 1,700 MW or 2,000 MW, but rather 10,000 MW, or 20,000 MW and more.
9. Producing a substantial amount of new potable water, which we desperately need as the drought worsens, which is produced from, now ocean water in the lake, as a by-product from power plants of my design, the SCI-GHE system, without additional cost for the desalinization process (see slide 10 at short 10 slide version).

10. During the transfer of Ocean's water into the central section of the Salton Sea through, let's say 7, pipelines we can generate electrical energy because the Salton Sea is lower than sea level (the Ocean) for about 270 feet (See slide 4 & 5 at 10 slide short version).

11. In light of the points above my proposal will provide conditions for economic prosperity and clean environment (no pollution emitted in any of the processes involved). The economic prosperity is expected to be in hundreds billion dollars in a few decades and will continue so in the future.

Now that we have something of value we could and should easier get funding for the restoration of the Salton Sea from state and preferably some from the federal level. We are talking about a new methodology that can be implemented in many locations in the USA and worldwide and will greatly contribute in clean energy supply and preserving our environment.

In light of the information above, it would be highly irresponsible to promote and support a proposal that will reduce the Salton Sea, which is based on acceptance of the presumption that the best solution is "a smaller lake option". Unfortunately, "a smaller lake option" would: a) increase pollution and salinity of the Salton Sea; b) promotes building a conventional geothermal power plant(s) on exposed bottom of the receded lake with a strong possibility to gradually lose more water from the lake; c) implement different projects on the exposed bottom of the lake such as solar plants, biomass plant, etc., in order to minimize and/or prevent an incoming environmental disaster with health issues from the exposed bottom of the receded lake. All those projects will have a price and minimal final effect. All this can be avoided by simply implementing my proposal and refilling the Salton Sea with oceanic water to the original level.

It is not my intention to degrade work or to criticize other proposals in a malicious way, but we have to be fair and objective and support the best solution in the interest of the Salton Sea and our community. I welcome hearing scientific criticisms of my proposal. In my opinion, we have to take out of the equation - ego, prestige, arrogance, personal interest, special interest, and politics.

For more details of my proposal please visit:

<http://www.geothermalworldwide.com/proposal-california.html>

Sincerely,

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