



THE SALTON SEA PROJECTS IMPROVEMENTS ACT

The Salton Sea Projects Improvements Act amends the Salton Sea Research Project (PL 102-575) to provide the Bureau of Reclamation with additional authorities to partner with the State of California, local counties and Tribal governments, the Salton Sea Authority, and non-profits like Audubon on projects to address the public and environmental health crisis at the Salton Sea.

BACKGROUND ON THE SALTON SEA RESEARCH PROJECT

The Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 was signed into law on October 30, 1992.

Title XI of the Act established the Salton Sea Research Project at the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Under this authority, Reclamation could engage in projects to research methods to control salinity, protect habitat, enhance fisheries, and protect recreational opportunities. Reclamation was authorized \$10 million for this work.

Under this current authorization, Reclamation is severely limited in their ability to participate in the Salton Sea Management Program run by the State of California, due both to funding constraints and the requirement that all projects have a research function.

After nearly thirty years of research related projects and other studies, the Salton Sea Projects Improvements Act would ensure that Reclamation is able to contribute meaningfully to large scale public health protection and environmental restoration projects.

THE SALTON SEA PROJECTS IMPROVEMENTS ACT

- This legislation allows the Bureau of Reclamation to enter into grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to carry out projects at the Salton Sea to improve air quality, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and water quality.
 - Reclamation may partner with the State of California, Tribal and local governments, water districts, the Salton Sea Authority, non-profit organizations, and institutions of higher education to implement these projects.
 - Eligible activities under this authorization may include the construction, operation, maintenance, permitting, and design activities of projects at the Salton Sea. Dust suppression projects are also authorized.
 - Authorizes \$250 million for Reclamation to carry out projects under this Act.
-