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Mary Bono Mack
Congress of the United States
45th District, California

September 3, 2010

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

It has been brought to my attention that the California State Legislature has recently passed Senate Bill 51, to establish the Salton Sea Restoration Council as a state agency. As a Member of Congress representing a portion of the Salton Sea and a long-time advocate for its restoration, I am very interested in continuing to work on finding solutions to the many challenges impacting this unique resource. In previous discussions with you and other interested parties surrounding this issue, I have been clear that we need to act quickly to solve this problem.

As you know, Senate Bill 51 creates a 16-member Salton Sea Restoration Council. It is my hope that this proposal, if enacted into law, carries with it the necessary momentum to begin the next phase of the state's involvement and commitment to restore the Salton Sea. It is imperative that concrete actions are taken to save this sea in order to avoid the potentially disastrous consequences such as decreasing air quality, to protect the species that utilize the wildlife corridor, and to strengthen and enable the economic engine that exists in the region.

What we cannot allow is this newly formed council to further delay action and become another bureaucratic hurdle for solutions to clear. Nor should this Council reinvent the wheel or dismiss the viewpoints of local voices including the Salton Sea Authority. After years of hard work and research, the Salton Sea Authority offers valuable perspectives and a wealth of data. The State has an obligation to make this right and I implore you to use your leadership to embrace this opportunity and take action. I stand ready and committed at the federal level to work with you.

It is my sincere hope that the restoration of the Salton Sea receives the attention it deserves. The future of the local economy and the Sea's role as a primary migratory flyway depend on this. Thank you in advance for your consideration. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (202) 225-5330.

Sincerely,


MARY BONO MACK
Member of Congress