

## **Salton Sea Independent Review Panel identifies three water importation concepts to move to feasibility assessment phase**

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An Independent Review Panel studying water importation concepts to restore California's Salton Sea released a report today announcing that three of 18 concepts, submitted via two public Requests for Ideas (RFIs) in 2017 and 2021, have been identified to move to the feasibility assessment phase. The panel's [Fatal Flaw Report](#) is the second of four planned reports addressing water importation proposals for the Salton Sea, California's largest lake.

The Independent Review Panel was created through a 2021 agreement between California's Department of Water Resources and UC Santa Cruz. Later this summer, the Panel anticipates issuing both a Feasibility Analysis—that delves more deeply into the costs, benefits, and possible timeline of viable approaches to water importation—and a Summary Report.

To produce the Fatal Flaw Report, the Panel first agreed upon a set of five fatal flaws that no viable approach to water importation should have. Criteria included considerations around technology reliability, achieving restoration goals, not harming nearby protected habitats, minimizing risk of catastrophic flooding, and long-term project viability. The Panel then analyzed all submissions that conformed to the initial parameters of the RFI to look for fatal flaws. The panel sent submitters an explanation of initial findings in mid-June of 2022 and invited them to re-submit responses by July 1. The report was then finalized after a review of revised submissions.

The three projects that were ultimately found not to have any fatal flaws all involve drawing water from the Sea of Cortez and moving it to the Salton Sea. The Fatal Flaw Report describes the specifics of these passing proposals and also explains findings for each approach that was found to have fatal flaws.

The Salton Sea Independent Review Panel consists of seven experts in different aspects of water-body restoration, including engineering, ecology, economics, biogeochemistry, and law. The Panel is chaired by Rominder Suri, Professor and Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Temple University.

If you have any questions please send them to the public input email [sslt-eval-input@ucsc.edu](mailto:sslt-eval-input@ucsc.edu) .