

SALTON SEA RESTORATION PLAN

REPORT CARD 2006

PLAN	GRADE	EXPLANATION
Saline Habitat Complex (SHC) I	B-	<i>SHC I does more to address impacts to air quality and water quality than the other alternatives. However, this alternative will not provide enough habitat to maintain historic numbers and diversity of fish and birds nor will it provide for a diversity of recreation with little to no fishery or boating. Unlike other more complicated alternatives, the design is simpler to implement, more flexible and reduces risk of failure.</i>
Saline Habitat Complex (SHC) II	B-	<i>SHC II (Alt. 2) will provide more habitat for birds, including fish-eating birds, than SHC I. However, due to the more extensive shallow saline wetlands, this proposal has more impacts to air quality and is more complicated to implement.</i>
Concentric Rings	D	<i>Concentric Rings (Alternative 3) will have extensive impacts on air quality due to the need to excavate and transport 85.2 million cubic yards of rock and gravel for the berms, could have significant problems with Selenium and temperature control, and will provide much less of the critical shallow water habitat for birds. Further, the extensive berms are untested and thus the proposal scores lower in dependability.</i>
Concentric Lakes	C +	<i>Concentric Lakes (Alt. 4) will provide greater diversity of habitats for fish and birds, greater recreational opportunities than the shallow saline habitat proposals, and has less impacts to air quality from construction because, unlike Alt. 3, it relies on geotubes rather than rock for the creation of berms. This proposal received a lower grade due to the failure to incorporate mitigation for air quality impacts from exposed playa.</i>
North Sea	C	<i>Despite the North Sea proposal's (Alt. 5) providing of a diversity of habitats for fish and birds with the combination of shallow water and deep sea habitats and greater recreation opportunities, the need to excavate and transport 53.7 million cubic yards of rock and gravel creates a massive air quality problem for local communities. In addition, the deep sea may also suffer recurrent hydrogen sulfide eruptions that will cause massive fish kills and poor water quality.</i>
N. Sea Combined	C	<i>While the North Sea Combined (Alt. 6) proposal will provide greater fish and wildlife habitat and recreation than Alt. 5, the need to excavate 93.7 million cubic yards of rock and gravel for the dam creates greater problems with air quality, flexibility and dependability.</i>
Combined North & South Lakes	D	<i>Difficulties with the SSA Plan (Alt. 7) are similar to those with Alternatives 5 and 6. However, the SSA plan has an additional problem because the current proposal does not mitigate the impacts to air quality caused by the exposed playa. Also, the SSA plan requires a larger dam structure that is less dependable and will take longer to complete the project.</i>
S. Sea Combined	C	<i>South Sea Combined (Alt. 8) Though the South Sea Combined proposal (Alt. 8) creates a greater abundance of fish and wildlife habitat with a southern lake, the need to excavate and transport 100 million cubic yards of rock and gravel creates enormous impacts to local air quality.</i>
No Action-QSA	F	<i>QSA provides limited fish and wildlife habitat, eliminates most existing recreational opportunities, requires extensive air quality management infrastructure to deal with a shrinking lake and the exposure of more than 130 square miles of playa, and provides no water quality management.</i>
No Action-Variability	F	<i>No Action -- Variability provides limited fish and wildlife habitat, eliminates most existing recreational opportunities, requires extensive air quality management infrastructure to deal with a shrinking lake and the exposure of more than 130 square miles of playa, and provides no water quality management.</i>

About the Salton Sea Coalition

The Salton Sea Coalition is comprised of 13 organizations of varied interests and backgrounds that have joined together to support and advocate for the protection and revitalization of the Salton Sea, an important part of California's natural, cultural and agricultural heritage. The Coalition organizations represent more than 1.3 million Californians, including approximately 15,000 members and supporters who live in Imperial and Riverside Counties.

About the Salton Sea Restoration Process

At the conclusion of the 90-day period, DWR will review the comments it has received and incorporate them into a final Environmental Impact Report. By spring 2007, DWR expects to release a final Environmental Impact Report, and submit to the Legislature a recommended preferred restoration plan and a proposed restoration funding plan.

