

# SALTON SEA COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC, AND ENVIRONMENT FUND

Creating a unique funding source and catalyst to bring lasting change

"The Salton Sea's increasing salinity is killing off wildlife and its receding shoreline is exposing communities in Riverside and Imperial counties to toxic fumes...Once a hot tourist destination, experts say the Salton Sea has become the worst environmental and public health crisis in modern history."

~ CNBC's article *Ghost towns and toxic fumes: How an idyllic California lake became a disaster in 2021.*

Now, there is reason for hope of progress:

- The rapidly declining conditions have made the Salton Sea an immediate problem, not one which can be pushed down the road, bringing government and public attention to the immediacy of the problem and the rapidly deteriorating conditions.
- The State of California has allocated some \$500M of bond funding to short-term (10 year) projects to begin remediation of the conditions around the Sea.
- A vast quantity of lithium, essential for batteries used in homes and electric vehicles — has been discovered below the Sea. This reservoir of lithium — which could meet the needs of the United States for 60 years — can be recovered in an environmentally friendly way and can provide billions of dollars of tax revenue to the region, spur significant economic growth in creation of businesses and jobs and provide financial resources to implement solutions to remediate the Sea and invigorate the surrounding region.
- Environmental groups, community organizations, governments, businesses, and community leaders are beginning to recognize that the issues of the Salton Sea extend beyond its shores to the surrounding Imperial and Coachella Valley communities, which are largely underserved by governments, philanthropic organizations, and businesses.

## What is the Salton Sea Community, Economic, and Environment Fund (SSCEEF)?

The SSCEEF Fund was established in 2022 to support the critically urgent social, economic, and environmental resilience of the Salton Sea and surrounding communities. The fund will support science-based, data-driven approaches to environmental, social, and economic development of the Salton Sea Region through 1) creation of action plans generated from a diverse group of community-based organizations, environmental groups, policy organizations, and others in their Salton projects; and 2) funding these collaborations to bring shared expertise and interests together to remediate the Salton Sea region.



The Inland Empire Community Foundation believes that conditions are right for real, sustainable progress for the Salton Sea and the surrounding areas, and that change can occur with concerted effort by governments, universities, community organizations, environmental groups, business interests, local Native American tribes, and community members through the Salton Sea Community, Economic, and Environment Fund.



"Our choice is really simple: we can either sit on our hands, say the Salton Sea issues are too big or too complex, and leave the growing crisis to our children and grandchildren ... or, we can come together now, organizing small groups of people to begin to make real and lasting change that will benefit future generations. The mission and purpose of the SSCEEF is to be catalyst for that change."

**JEREMY HOBBS**

*President, Western Wind Foundation  
IECF Board Member, Secretary  
SSCEEF Founding Chairperson*



## What are the benefits of the SSCEEF?

- Learn about the impact of Salton Sea in our region.
- Participate in advocating for building consensus and shared principles to move viable projects forward.
- Support a \*participatory grant model that brings together all stakeholders to strategically support sustainable evidence-based progress for the Salton Sea.
- Combine your gift with others to enhance impact.
- Network with others who are philanthropically minded and living their passion to meaningfully improve the Inland Empire environment starting with the Salton Sea.
- Develop a collaborative model of regional problem-solving which can be used in other underserved areas.

\* Grants are made at least annually. Using "participatory grant making," several donors (including the Chair) and nonprofits work together with IECF's Grants and Community Impact team.

## Funds will be disbursed based on the committee's recommendations in the following ways:

- Fund applicants will have to demonstrate sound science-based, data-driven, and economically feasible support for their proposals.
- Successful applicants will demonstrate that proposals and projects are based on informed community input and driven by community voices and needs, including environmental, health, economic, and social issues, like education and workforce competencies.
- Successful applications will be required to provide explicitly for meaningful collaboration among other community-based organizations, environmental groups, community members, and other constituents.
- Grant recipients will be required to show measurable outcomes and real impact resulting from IECF grants.

Donations to the SSCEEF can be made directly online at:

[iegives.org/ssceefund](https://iegives.org/ssceefund)

For more information, contact Brie Griset Smith, Sr. VP Charitable Giving, at [bgrisetsmith@iegives.org](mailto:bgrisetsmith@iegives.org) or 951.241.7777 ext.111.

**DONATE TODAY!**



The information provided is general and is not to be construed as tax, legal or financial advice. Your attorney or tax professional can provide additional guidance on the best options to help you accomplish your financial and charitable objectives.

3700 Sixth Street, Suite 200  
Riverside, California 92501  
Corporate Office:  
T: 951.241.7777  
F: 951.684.1911

### Stay Connected

