

CHAPTER 26

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, CONSULTATION, AND COORDINATION

During the preparation of this Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), input was actively solicited and incorporated from a broad range of interests. This PEIR was prepared in consultation with a variety of federal, State, and local agencies and interested organizations in accordance with requirements of the Salton Sea Restoration Act, the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) implementing legislation, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Public involvement is a process by which interested and affected individuals, organizations, agencies, and government entities are consulted to participate in a decision making process. Due to the complexity of issues involved in development of this PEIR, the diversity of interests with a stake in restoration of the Salton Sea, and the large geographic area that may be affected, an extensive public involvement effort was conducted. The goal of the public involvement effort for this PEIR was to understand and address public concerns and issues and to develop an ecosystem restoration study and PEIR that addressed these concerns and issues.

This chapter summarizes the public involvement effort and the public's role in the preparation of the PEIR. For the purpose of this PEIR, the term "public" includes the general public, stakeholders, regulatory agencies, and elected officials.

ROLE OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

This section provides a summary of the role that public involvement played in the PEIR. For the purposes of this discussion, the PEIR process is divided into four phases: Scoping, Preparation of the PEIR, Public Review of the PEIR, and Preparation of the Final PEIR.

Scoping

Scoping is used to determine the range and type of issues that relate to a proposed project. It is generally the first public involvement activity in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process. Scoping gave governmental agencies, organizations, groups, and interested individuals the opportunity to identify issues of concern, provide input on level of detail, offer opinions about formulation of alternatives, identify methods to assess impacts, and suggest ideas for potential mitigation measures.

Scoping for the PEIR began with preparation of a Notice of Preparation (NOP) in February 2004. The NOP was mailed to 300 involved agencies and interested organizations and individuals. Five PEIR scoping meetings were held in March 2004 (Table 26-1). In addition, a scoping meeting was held at the Torres Martinez Tribal Headquarters to solicit input from several Indian tribes. Participants provided comments on the PEIR process, scope and content of the PEIR, and the legislative authority and mandate for conducting the ecosystem restoration study. The major themes and issues expressed at these meetings are summarized in the Scoping Report, which is provided in Appendix B. The comment letters received on the NOP are available on the website (www.saltonseawater.ca.gov).

The information obtained from scoping was used to shape the scope, content, and level of detail in the PEIR. In addition, scoping comments were used as a basis for developing further studies (such as selenium and ecological risk studies). The scoping comments were considered in all phases of preparation of the PEIR.

Table 26-1
PEIR Scoping Meeting Locations and Dates

Meeting Location	Date
Coachella	March 16, 2004
El Centro	March 17, 2004
San Diego	March 18, 2004
Sacramento	March 22, 2004
Oakland	March 24, 2004

Preparation of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report

Preparation of the PEIR was initiated following scoping. This phase included a wide variety of activities that led to a final range of alternatives and the approach to analyzing these alternatives in the PEIR. This phase included the preparation of the Baseline Conditions and No Action Reports, which established the Existing Conditions at the Salton Sea and the conditions that would be expected to occur in the future if restoration of the Salton Sea did not occur. In addition, a variety of special studies and focused reports were conducted during this phase related to air quality, water quality (including selenium and selenium source control), biological resources, ecological and human health risk, rock sources for barrier construction, and infrastructure designs. These studies and focused reports filled data gaps, provided additional, relevant information for development of the alternatives, and defined an approach to analyzing the final alternatives in the PEIR.

Developing a set of alternatives that reflected the full range of feasible options was a substantial challenge. Three main factors contributed to this challenge: (1) the programmatic nature of the PEIR required that alternatives be broadly defined and focus on different “long term” configurations or layouts for the Salton Sea rather than specific locations of facilities; (2) restoration of the Salton Sea is inherently complex and has been studied for many years, however, there were still a variety of key data gaps (questions and unknowns) that needed to be addressed; and, (3) the overall PEIR timeline was short and the development of alternatives was conducted in parallel with studies and focused reports to fill data gaps. To meet these challenges, an aggressive public involvement process was initiated for preparation of the PEIR. Through this process, the public was actively involved in the development and refinement of alternatives, and the development of the impact analysis for the PEIR.

This phase began in about May 2004 and was completed with the issuance of the PEIR. Throughout this period, over 68 public meetings, including 20 Salton Sea Advisory Committee meetings, 27 Working Group meetings, and 26 public outreach meetings were held to solicit the public’s input on the development and refinement of the alternatives, and the approach to impact analysis in the PEIR.

During this phase a variety of key areas were discussed with the public. These key areas can be grouped into four broad categories: alternatives/infrastructure development, air quality management, habitat restoration, and inflows/modeling/water quality, which generally follow the Working Group categories. Goals and objectives for the restoration of the Salton Sea, development of existing conditions, and development of the No Action Alternative were also discussed with the public during this phase.

Public involvement during this phase played a key role in developing the final range of alternatives and focusing the impact assessment for the PEIR. The public was consulted at every major step and critical decisions during the development of the PEIR, and the information, insight, and concerns raised by the public were considered throughout development of the alternatives and the PEIR.

Public Review of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report

This phase began with distribution of the PEIR for public review. Upon completion of the PEIR, a Notice of Availability (NOA) was prepared and distributed to individuals on the mailing list and other interested parties. The NOA advised the public of the availability of the PEIR, the review period for the document, and included information on public workshops. The public workshops will be held in various locations in the State and will serve as informational gatherings. Comments can be provided in writing at the workshops or mailed, e-mailed, or faxed to the address for the Department of Water Resources listed on the cover of the document. Comments received during the review period will be used in preparation of the Final PEIR.

Preparation of the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report

Once the formal public review process is completed, the Final PEIR will be prepared. The Final PEIR will consist of responses to comments received during the PEIR comment period and revisions to the PEIR as a result of the comments. This information will be used to identify a preferred alternative.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

CEQA requires that State agencies consult with responsible agencies, trustee agencies, any public agency that has jurisdiction by law with respect to a project, and any city or county that borders on a city or county within which the project is located (Public Resources Code Section 21104). In addition, State agencies may consult with any person who has special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved. This consultation must be completed prior to completing the Final EIR. The consultation and coordination activities conducted for the PEIR to date are summarized below.

Through the Salton Sea Advisory Committee, the various Working Groups, presentations and discussions at Board meetings of many of the local agencies, and focused stakeholder meetings, DWR and DFG, on behalf of the Resources Agency, consulted with a variety of responsible and trustee agencies, public agencies that have jurisdiction by law with respect to activities at the Salton Sea, counties within which the Salton Sea is located, and other regional agencies. Consultation and coordination was also conducted with potential responsible and trustee agencies that are not represented on the Advisory Committee, including the California State Parks, Salton Sea Authority, and Wildlife Conservation Board. These consultation and coordination activities will continue through completion of the PEIR, and additional consultation and coordination will be conducted with other potential responsible and trustee agencies, along with the counties bordering the counties within which the Salton Sea is located.

Consultation and coordination was also conducted with a variety of federal agencies that may have permitting or approval authority over activities at the Salton Sea, or that may be affected by restoration actions at the Salton Sea through the Salton Sea Advisory Committee, various Working Groups, and focused stakeholder meetings. These federal agencies included the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs; U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Geological Survey.

International consultation and coordination was conducted with the Republic of Mexico. A meeting was held with officials from the government of Mexico to discuss current and future actions that could affect projected conditions assumed in the PEIR.

Tribal Consultation and Coordination

The Salton Sea holds cultural value to the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. Both tribes were active participants in the activities of the Salton Sea Advisory Committee and the Working Groups, and several additional focused consultation and coordination meetings were held with each tribe. In addition, several public outreach meetings were also held on lands of the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians to receive input from tribal members.

APPROACH AND TOOLS

This section describes the overall approach used for public involvement and the tools used to implement that approach.

Approach

To meet the goal of the public involvement effort, an open and objective approach to development of the PEIR was developed. Through a variety of public involvement activities such as public meetings, Working Group meetings, and information materials, the State solicited public input for preparation of the PEIR. The public involvement approach developed for the PEIR was a two way exchange of information. This approach sought to maximize the exchange of information between the State, other agencies, and the public.

Overall, the approach to public involvement consisted of three main components:

- **Salton Sea Advisory Committee should address overall technical assumptions and policy issues** – The public involvement approach integrated closely with the Salton Sea Advisory Committee on overall technical assumptions and policy issues. The Salton Sea Advisory Committee is composed of a diverse group of stakeholders from federal, State, and local regulatory agencies, tribes, and interested non-governmental organizations. The Salton Sea Advisory Committee brings a diverse array of expertise and knowledge of different scientific and policy issues that may affect the Salton Sea or the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration;
- **Working Groups should address detailed technical issues** – Early on in the development of the PEIR, it was recognized that a number of technical issues needed to be addressed and that some of these issues required very specific expertise. Therefore, a Technical Committee and a variety of issue specific Working Groups were established by the Salton Sea Advisory Committee to facilitate technical input into the PEIR. Regular updates were provided to the Salton Sea Advisory Committee on the status, results, and recommendations of the various Working Groups; and
- **Public Outreach meetings are key to addressing local concerns and issues** – The public provides a unique view of the concerns and issues that may not be provided by stakeholder groups. The public is generally concerned about a wide variety of issues, whereas stakeholder groups may be focused on a set of specific issues. Therefore, an aggressive public outreach effort was implemented to solicit input from the general public.

The public involvement approach included a variety of means to facilitate involvement in the development of the PEIR. These included public outreach, Advisory Committee, Working Group, and stakeholder meetings, along with printed materials such as fact sheets, *Salton Sea Updates*, a brochure, the *Salton Sea Reference Information* book, and meeting handouts. In addition, materials were made available on the webpage at www.salttonsea.water.ca.gov.

This open and objective approach sought to involve a diverse group of individuals in all aspects and levels of the development of the PEIR.

Tools

A variety of “tools” were used to facilitate effective involvement in the development of the PEIR. These tools are briefly described below;

- **Meetings and Briefings** – Throughout the PEIR process a variety of meetings and briefings were held to facilitate the public’s involvement. Meetings included scoping meetings, Salton Sea Advisory Committee meetings, Working Group meetings, and public outreach meetings, as described below. Meetings were held periodically with agencies and interest groups, referred to as stakeholder meetings. Periodic meetings also were held with legislators. These meetings were effective forums to share and discuss information. These meetings are described in more detail below;
- **Meeting Materials and Handouts** – A variety of printed material was prepared and distributed for each meeting. These materials were also made available on the website;
- **Brochure** – A brochure (Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration: Road to Restoration Plan) was produced in August 2005. The brochure provided information about the need for restoration of the Salton Sea, elements that would be considered in the PEIR, and the restoration planning process. It also explained different water management infrastructure scenarios. The brochure was distributed to the mailing list, made available at a variety of meetings, and posted to the website;
- **Salton Sea Updates** – Five *Salton Sea Updates* were published in August 2005, November 2005, January 2006, May 2006, and September 2006. The *Salton Sea Updates* provided a summary of the PEIR status, covered a variety of topics relevant to the PEIR at the time they were issued, and provided a preview of upcoming meeting topics and locations. Updates were distributed to the mailing list, made available at meetings, and posted to the website;
- **Website** – PEIR objectives, background, restoration information, planning process information, announcements of upcoming meetings, and related documents were all available on the website. The website was updated frequently to include all meeting notices and schedules, meeting presentations, meeting handouts, links to other sites, and any news or interest items. Reports and technical memorandum were also posted on the website. In addition, many of the reference documents used during the preparation of the PEIR were posted to the website (references covered by copyrights and references readily available on the internet were not posted). The website served as an important tool in making information available to the public. An email link was provided on the website allowing individuals and interested parties to contact the Department of Water Resources and Department of Fish and Game via the internet; and
- **Mailing List** – A mailing list of interested individuals and organizations was developed and maintained throughout the PEIR process. Printed materials such as the *Salton Sea Updates*, a brochure, and public outreach meeting notices were distributed via direct mailing to the individuals and organizations on the mailing list. Over 1,500 interest groups, agencies, and members of the public are included on the list.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT CHALLENGES

An effective public involvement process seeks to include all interests with a stake in the outcome and seeks to inform the public on the issues involved. The nature and scope of restoration of the Salton Sea presented a number of challenges for the public involvement process, including the following;

- **Scope** – Some members of the public expressed concerns about projects and actions that were outside of the scope of the alternatives. Some of these concerns included the Quantification

Settlement Agreement, Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project, and water quality in the New River. The scope of the alternatives is shaped by the Salton Sea Restoration Act and associated legislation, and the alternatives consider a variety of related actions and projects (see Chapter 4 for a discussion of related projects). However, addressing some of these other environmental and quality of life concerns is outside of the scope of the alternatives;

- **Complex Issues** – The alternatives addresses a variety of complex and interrelated issues related to the Salton Sea. To ensure constructive public input, efforts were taken to describe in detail the technical aspects of many of these issues, including habitat, water quality, and air quality management;
- **Program Schedule** – Given the magnitude of restoration of the Salton Sea, this PEIR was prepared in a relatively short period of time. The public involvement effort sought to maximize public involvement within the available schedule. Public participation opportunities were focused at key decision making points and were developed to provide forums for participation throughout the process; and
- **Large and Regionally Diverse Public** – The Salton Sea watershed covers an area of over 8,000 square miles over portions of four counties. In addition, many stakeholders and regulatory agencies with interests in the Salton Sea are located outside of the watershed. The size of the area potentially affected and the regionally diverse public necessitated a variety of outreach activities to provide a variety of opportunities for the general public, stakeholders, regulators, and elected officials to effectively participate in the preparation of this PEIR.

OUTREACH MEETINGS

Outreach meetings were conducted throughout the PEIR development process and provided the main forum for the public’s input into the process. A summary of the different types of meetings is provided below.

Advisory Committee Meetings

The implementing legislation directed the Secretary for Resources to complete an ecosystem restoration study by December 31, 2006 in consultation with a legislatively established Salton Sea Advisory Committee. The Resources Agency was directed to consult with the Salton Sea Advisory Committee throughout all stages of the alternative selection process. Salton Sea Advisory Committee meetings provided the members with the opportunity to discuss a wide variety of technical and policy decisions related to the preparation of the PEIR. Salton Sea Advisory Committee meeting dates, locations, and major topics addressed are summarized in Table 26-2. There are 32 Salton Sea Advisory Committee members, as described in Chapter 1, and 20 Salton Sea Advisory Committee meetings were held in various locations throughout California between January 2004 and August 2006.

Salton Sea Advisory Committee meeting dates, times, and locations were distributed to the members and posted on the website as soon as the dates were known, typically a month before the meeting. Meeting agendas and any related review materials were distributed and posted on the website. An e-mail “reflector” (e-mail group that included the Salton Sea Advisory Committee members and other interested individuals) was established to facilitate the distribution of materials and communication.

To facilitate input by a variety of stakeholders and because Salton Sea Advisory Committee members are located in both the Southern California and Sacramento areas, the location of the meetings was alternated between Southern California and Sacramento. Beginning in late 2005, videoconference locations within the Salton Sea watershed were also provided. The Salton Sea Advisory Committee meetings were open to the public and were generally well attended by both Salton Sea Advisory Committee members and members of the public.

**Table 26-2
Advisory Committee Meeting Dates and Primary Topics Addressed**

Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Primary Topics Addressed
January 20, 2004	Sacramento	Implementing legislation; fish and wildlife resources and considerations; prior studies
February 18, 2004	Salton Sea watershed	Tour of the Salton Sea
March 23, 2004	Sacramento	Committee logistics; ecosystem restoration goals; CEQA process; habitat characteristics of hypersaline lakes
April 27, 2004	Holtville	Background on related processes and programs; example large scale projects; desert pupfish; SSA's preferred alternative
June 8, 2004	Sacramento	Salton Sea hydrology and salinity; ecosystem restoration considerations; hydrologic variability
September 8, 2004	San Diego	Baseline conditions; selenium; air quality; No Action Alternative; administration of Proposition 50 funds
November 4, 2004	Sacramento	No Action Alternative; study period; SSA Bond fund request; Science Symposium update; biological monitoring; data gaps; selenium ecological exposure
November 30, 2004	Palm Springs	Range of inflows; geotechnical studies; SSA Bond fund request; Cascade Concept; screening criteria; analytical tools
January 14, 2005	Sacramento	Conceptual alternatives; fish and wildlife components; selenium treatment components; infrastructure and water management components; other potential components; SSA Bond fund request
March 16, 2005	Los Angeles	Owens Lake Dust Mitigation Program; air quality studies; Upper Basin selenium sources and control efforts; ABMet® treatment technology; natural water treatment in the Everglades; inflows
May 18, 2005	Sacramento	Recreation and local economics study; inflow projections; development of alternatives; SSA grant application to the Wildlife Conservation Board
July 15, 2005	San Diego	Recreation and local economics study; alternatives; sediment and water quality field work; Science Panel
August 17, 2005	Sacramento	Ecosystem Restoration process; Working Group updates; development of screening criteria; results of field work
September 20, 2005	Holtville	Working Group updates; Science Panel update; new website; development of screening criteria
November 1, 2005	Sacramento and Indio via video conference	Working Group updates; recreation and economic study; screening criteria; range of alternatives
December 8, 2005	Torres Martinez Reservation, Thermal	Range of alternatives
January 31, 2006	Sacramento and Indio via video conference	Inflow assumptions; habitat objectives; water treatment; range of alternatives
March 16, 2006	Los Angeles, Indio and El Centro via video conference	Air quality management assumptions, overview of final range of alternatives, phasing and construction assumptions, impact assessment level of detail
June 2, 2006	Sacramento, Palm Desert and Brawley via video conference	Impact assessments for biological resources, ecological risk and air quality, summary of results of impact assessments, review process for the PEIR
August 2, 2006	San Diego	Summary of impact assessments, development of a process to select the preferred alternative, process for public review of the PEIR, development of a process for the funding plan; methods for seismic risk assessment

For the Salton Sea Advisory Committee meetings, printouts of the meeting presentations and any related handout materials were provided at each meeting. These materials were also posted on the website after the meeting. In addition, a summary of each meeting was prepared and posted on the website.

Working Group and Technical Committee Meetings

Four Working Groups and one Technical Committee were established to address technical issues, including infrastructure/alternatives, air quality, habitat, and inflows/modeling. The Working Group meetings were primarily attended by Salton Sea Advisory Committee members or other individuals within the members' organizations. These meetings were open to the public and some members of the public attended these meetings. The Working Group and Technical Committee meetings provided a forum to discuss a wide variety of technical issues in detail. Experts from a variety of agencies and organizations were also invited to present and/or attend these meetings. Working Group and Technical Committee meeting dates, locations, and major topics addressed are summarized in Table 26-3. Overall, 27 Working Group and Technical meetings were held throughout the preparation of the PEIR.

Working Group and Technical Committee meeting dates were generally developed in coordination with the members, and dates, times, and locations of the meetings were distributed to the Working Groups and posted on the website as soon as the dates were known, typically at least a month before the meeting. Meeting agendas and any related review materials were distributed to the Working Groups and posted on the website prior to the meeting. Both Working Group specific e-mail reflectors and e-mail lists were used to facilitate the distribution of material and communication amongst the Working Group members.

The Working Group meetings were primarily held in the Southern California area, near major airports to facilitate attendance by local organizations and stakeholders located outside of the Southern California area.

Printouts of meeting handout materials were provided at each meeting. These materials were also posted on the website after the meeting.

Public Outreach Meetings

Throughout the PEIR process, public meetings were effective forums to share and discuss information and to gather input from diverse interests. Meetings were held in the Salton Sea region to facilitate the participation of local residents and individuals from interested organizations. The public outreach meeting dates and locations are summarized in Table 26-4.

Overall, 26 public outreach meetings were held throughout the Salton Sea watershed during the preparation of the PEIR. There also were two scoping meetings held in the Salton Sea watershed. There were five "rounds" of meetings, each with at least four meeting locations. Overall, six meetings were held in the northern portion of the watershed (Coachella, Indio, La Quinta, and Palm Desert area); six meetings were held in the eastern portion of the watershed (Bombay Beach and Calipatria); seven meetings were held in the southern portion of the watershed (Brawley, Calexico, and El Centro); and, seven meetings were held in the western portion of the watershed (Desert Shores, Salton City, and the Torres Martinez Reservation).

**Table 26-3
Working Group Meeting Dates and Primary Topics Addressed**

Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Primary Topics Addressed
Infrastructure/Alternatives Working Group		
July 6, 2005	Ontario	Development of infrastructure; barrier configurations and general layouts; North Sea, South Sea and Combined configurations
August 8, 2005	Ontario	Development of infrastructure; Evolving Sea, Gulf of California and Concentric Rings configurations
December 1, 2005	Ontario	Barrier design and construction considerations; phasing
January 18, 2006	Ontario	inflows report; infrastructure update; phasing
Air Quality Working Group		
July 19, 2005	Ontario	Air quality approach for the PEIR; playa emissivity estimation; playa dust control measures; updates on field studies and related projects and activities
September 12, 2005	Ontario	Discussion of draft air quality documents; research needs; sediment testing results
November 9, 2005	Ontario	Discussion of draft air quality document; update on research and studies; research needs; wind tunnel study results
January 11, 2006	Ontario	Alternatives update; observed dust conditions; construction related regulations and mitigations; wind tunnel study results; update on research and studies; research needs
April 19, 2006	Ontario	Programmatic approach to air quality management; dust mitigation and monitoring requirements; use of salt crust; potential dust control measures; update on research and studies
Habitat Working Group		
June 29, 2005	Ontario	Habitats and species; approach to restoration; review of habitat configurations
August 9, 2005	Ontario	Existing habitat; habitat goals and objectives; restoration approach; modeling effort; review of habitat configurations
September 8, 2005	Ontario	Relative value of shallow water habitats; habitat goals and objectives; integration of aquatic habitat with infrastructure configurations
October 6, 2005	Ontario	Overview of work in progress; geothermal resources; function versus form in created habitat areas; review of configurations; bird use of agricultural areas
October 25, 2005	Ontario	Historic bird abundance and habitat availability; habitat priorities and goals; desert pupfish goals and criteria; habitat based screening criteria; Whitewater River Delta Wetlands Project
November 30, 2005	Ontario	Minimal Barrier and Concentric Rings configurations; review of other alternatives
January 17, 2006	Ontario	Modified Minimal Barrier alternative; 'historic' conditions; basis for Saline Habitat Complex; habitat evaluation criteria
March 15, 2006	Ontario	Concentric Lakes and Combined North and South Lakes alternatives; geothermal expansion; coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge; historic bird abundance and expectations for restoration

**Table 26-3
Working Group Meeting Dates and Primary Topics Addressed**

Meeting Date	Meeting Location	Primary Topics Addressed
Inflows/Modeling Working Group		
June 13, 2005	Ontario	No Action Alternative-CEQA Assumptions inflows; proposed approach to No Action Alternative-Variability Assumptions inflows
June 28, 2005	Ontario	Proposed approach to No Action Alternative-Variability Assumptions inflows; variability factors; model development
August 4, 2005	San Diego	Proposed approach to No Action Alternative-Variability Assumptions inflows; future salt loading assumptions; model development update
September 16, 2005	San Diego	Model development update; CALSIM software overview; Salton Sea model formulations and enhancements; model demonstration; deterministic versus stochastic applications
October 28, 2005	San Diego	Spatial distribution of inflows; refinements to hydrologic model; model calibration and validation; model schematics for major alternatives; deterministic and stochastic model application
January 18, 2006	Ontario	Review of draft inflows report; alternatives update and phasing; water treatment
Technical Committee Working Group		
August 27, 2004	Ontario	Baseline conditions; variability analysis; overview of selenium and issues to be considered; overview of No Action Alternative
March 4, 2005	Ontario	Selenium in the environment and action levels; selenium data and data gaps; QSA water transfer mitigation requirements; activities for closing selenium data gaps; selenium management challenges
March 10, 2005	Ontario	Air quality work to date, data collection and management; selenium data collection and management; population projections; inflow projections and variability; human induced climate changes
April 14, 2005	Ontario	Adaptive management in restoration; overview of bird habitat modeling at the Salton Sea; IID burrowing owl studies and monitoring; playa and dust management implications; current and future biological data collection; Salton Sea limnology; selenium cycling and future research needs

**Table 26-4
Public Outreach Meeting Locations and Dates by Set**

Meeting Location	Date
First Set of Meetings	
Brawley	February 24, 2005
Salton City	February 24, 2005
Calipatria	February 28, 2005
El Centro	February 28, 2005
Desert Shores	March 3, 2005
La Quinta	March 9, 2005
Indio	March 9, 2005
Second Set of Meetings	
Indio	April 13, 2005
Torres Martinez Reservation	April 13, 2005
Bombay Beach	April 14, 2005
Brawley	April 14, 2005
Calexico	April 21, 2005
Calipatria	April 21, 2005
Third Set of Meetings	
Bombay Beach	September 13, 2005
Brawley	September 13, 2005
Palm Desert	September 14, 2005
Salton City	September 14, 2005
Torres Martinez Reservation	September 15, 2005
Fourth Set of Meetings	
Calipatria	November 29, 2005
El Centro	November 29, 2005
Palm Desert	November 30, 2005
Desert Shores	December 1, 2005
Fifth Set of Meetings	
Bombay Beach	January 18, 2006
Brawley	January 18, 2006
Palm Desert	January 18, 2006
Salton City	January 19, 2006

A variety of methods was used to distribute information about the public outreach meetings including the following:

- **Mailing List** – Invitations for the outreach meetings were sent to the mailing list at least two weeks prior to the meeting;
- **Posters** – Posters with the meeting dates, times, and locations were developed, and posted in high traffic public locations, such as on community bulletin boards, in various locations throughout the watershed. Posters were also sent to community leaders and interested individuals who helped distribute them around the local area;
- **Newspaper Advertisements** – Newspaper advertising was used to increase public awareness of the meetings. Announcements were posted in a variety of local newspapers including the following newspapers: Desert Sun; Imperial Valley Press; Press-Enterprise; The D (a weekly from the Press-Enterprise); La Prensa (Spanish language); and the Salton Seafarer (monthly community paper);
- **Public Service Announcements** – Public service announcements for the meetings were developed and sent to a variety of local radio and television stations;
- **Website** – Meeting dates, times, and locations were posted on the website; and
- **E-mail Announcements** – E-mail announcements were sent to individuals on the mailing list.

The public outreach meetings were open to anyone who wanted to attend. The meeting format was “town hall style”; a presentation of the status of the PEIR and major findings to date was provided at each meeting, and questions and comments were addressed throughout the meeting. Comments and questions were also recorded at each meeting.

Meeting handout materials were provided at each meeting. These materials and the meeting presentation were also posted on the website after the meeting.

Below is a summary of the topics and number of attendees at each of the five sets of public outreach meetings:

- **First Set of Meetings, February and March 2005** – These meetings addressed the overall Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration, including the implementing legislation, State’s responsibilities under the legislation, and schedule and process for moving forward. The meetings were well attended with about 150 participants;
- **Second Set of Meetings, April 2005** – These meetings presented material on three of the four components of the PEIR: water quality, air quality, and habitat. The meetings were attended by about 80 people;
- **Third Set of Meetings, September 2005** – These meetings addressed projected future inflows and configurations, and provided the public the opportunity to comment on the layouts in “break out” sessions. The configurations presented included the Import-Export of water to the Gulf of California, North Sea, North Sea Combined, South Sea, and South Sea Combined. The meetings were attended by about 75 people;
- **Fourth Set of Meetings, November/December 2005** – These meetings built upon the Third Set of Meetings and addressed the remaining configurations: Saline Habitat Complex (referred to as Evolving Sea at that time), Concentric Rings, and No Action Alternative. These meetings were attended by about 75 people; and

- **Fifth Set of Meetings, January 2006** – Detailed engineering and cost information for the alternatives were presented at these meetings. In addition, the Import-Export of water to the Gulf of California and the Pacific Ocean were discussed in detail with a discussion of the Salton Sea Advisory Committee’s recommendation to not include this configuration in the Final Range of Alternatives in the PEIR. These meetings were attended by over 220 people.