





## **VEGETATION ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**

The State of California's **Salton Sea Management Program** (SSMP) is implementing projects on exposed Salton Sea lakebed to reduce wind-blown dust and improve habitat value. The Vegetation Enhancement Projects are designed to enhance the growth of existing native plants and promote new growth in currently open areas. These projects are being done in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Native plants and seeds will be used to grow vegetation on site. Plants have been grown from locally harvested seeds that have been tested to tolerate the salinity that is present in the region. Grass bales are placed onsite to protect growing plants from wind abrasion and dust inundation. Once established, the vegetation will prevent soil erosion and reduce dust emissions from these sites. Work is expected to continue into 2024.

As plants grow and when completed, the projects will establish vegetation on about **1,700 acres** of exposed playa.









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#### What's Happening?

There are currently three vegetation enhancement projects in progress around the Salton Sea. The projects cover approximately 1,700 acres but over time, the projects may be expanded to cover additional areas. The goal of these projects is to establish native vegetation to reduce wind-blown dust from the exposed Salton Sea lakebed. These projects consist of the initial placement of grass bales followed by seeding or planting of native vegetation at different locations across the sites.

#### What to Expect in Your Community?

There will be increased construction vehicle traffic near project locations. Temporary road closures may occur if large equipment is needed. Pedestrian access is open. However, unauthorized vehicles are prohibited from the project areas, including newly constructed ramps and access paths. This action allows for the protection of the taxpayer funded investment.

#### What's the Schedule?

Construction began at the Clubhouse site late in 2021. Phase I of bale placement has been completed at the Clubhouse and West Bombay Beach sites. In addition, initial planting and seeding across 35 acres at the Clubhouse site was completed last Spring. Work at the Tule Wash project site began in July 2022. Bale placement onto the Tule Wash project site will begin in September. Planting and seeding are scheduled to restart this Fall 2022 and will continue until vegetation communities are established across all three sites. Construction activities are expected to continue through 2024 with project maintenance continuing thereafter.

### Who is Doing this Work?

The State of California's Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP) is implementing these projects in partner-ship with the United States Bureau of Reclamation. For more information about the SSMP, visit our website: <a href="https://www.SaltonSea.ca.gov">www.SaltonSea.ca.gov</a>.

#### Who Should I Contact?

For any questions or concerns, please email: <u>Cnra-saltonsea@resources.ca.gov</u>.

