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Contact: Ian Crawford

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530.758.2360

Global Geothermal Community Endorses Salton Sea Initiative

The Geothermal Resources Council backs the plan to restore the inland sea using revenue from new geothermal energy development

(Davis, Calif.) The Geothermal Resources Council (GRC) today joined with other influential groups in endorsing the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable Energy Initiative. Steve Ponder, GRC Executive Director, delivered a [resolution](#) backing the initiative, to the Senate Select Committee for California's Energy Independence and Assembly Select Committee of the Renewable Energy Economy in Rural California at a joint informational hearing for legislators at the California State Capitol in Sacramento.

According to the Imperial Irrigation District (IID), "the Salton Sea Restoration & Renewable Energy Initiative, launched by the Imperial Irrigation District in partnership with Imperial County, will leverage funds generated by new renewable energy projects located at the Sea to help finance activities for air quality management and habitat restoration."

The IID further explains, "The Initiative will first focus on developing up to 1,700 megawatts of new geothermal energy at the Sea – enough to power more than one million homes. Not only is there more geothermal generating capacity in the Imperial Valley than anywhere else in the U.S., but geothermal energy can be produced with minimal impact on landscape and habitat. It also provides a steady, reliable source of energy to the state electricity grid that is not subject to weather or seasonal fluctuations."

According to GRC Executive Director, Steve Ponder, "The Imperial Valley has the largest confirmed geothermal reservoirs in the USA. These reserves are generally considered by geothermal experts to be between 1500 MW and 2500 MWs. These estimates are orders of magnitude larger than any other geothermal potential reserves in known geothermal areas in the USA."

The GRC Board resolution notes that "the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area (SSKGRA) is one of the greatest opportunities for new geothermal energy development in the United States."

Geothermal Resources Council

P.O. Box 1350, Davis, CA 95617

Phone: 530.758.2360 / Fax: 530.758.2839

www.geothermal.org

It points out some of the advantages of the initiatives as:

- Creating thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of permanent jobs and bringing other substantial economic benefits to Southern California;
- Providing consumers affordable, long-term electric price stability through a renewable baseload fuel supply that does not fluctuate; and
- Enhancing environmental quality and supporting species habitat conservation.

The complete GRC resolution can be reviewed at:

www.geothermal.org/pdfs/Salton_Sea_Resolution_GRC.pdf. For more information on the Salton Sea Restoration & Renewable Energy Initiative go to: www.iid.com/index.aspx?page=663

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About the Geothermal Resources Council:

With the experience and dedication of its diverse, international membership bolstering a more than 40-year track record, the Geothermal Resources Council has built a solid reputation as the world's preeminent geothermal association. The GRC serves as a focal point for continuing professional development for its members through its outreach, information transfer and education services.

For more information, please visit www.geothermal.org.

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