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*Comment Received From: Nikola Lakic
Submitted On: 12/22/2023
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**Additional information against the “current course of action”
“ Three Geothermal Project - Application for Certification**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

December 22, 2023

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814
Attention: Noemi Gallardo
Commissioner and Presiding Member of the Morton Bay, Elmore North, and Black Rock
AFC Committee.
Docket No. 23-AFC-01, (23-AFC-02) & (23-AFC-03)
docket@energy.ca.gov.

SUBJECT: Additional information against the “current course of action” - Three
Geothermal Project - Application for Certification (23-AFC-01-03) – and the SOLUTION
for the Salton Sea.

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To Commissioner **Noemi Gallardo**:

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

In addition to the previous letter (12 pages) which I sent to CEC on August 28, 2023, I am writing again with a few additional information that can help understand the situation about the Salton Sea concerning the AFC Committee and three geothermal projects – applicants - the Morton Bay, Elmore North, and Black Rock.

Recently I wrote two similar letters – the first letter (55 pages) to Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of CNRA in response to an article about local leaders receiving \$19.25 million for the “North Lae Pilot Project” that I sent on December 1st, 2023, - and the second letter (50 pages) to Bureau of Reclamation in response to the



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that I sent on December 11, 2023.

In both letters, I pointed out on faultiness of the 'current course of action' in general, the disconnect between agencies, and manipulative conduct by some officials (local leaders) that promote and support projects that are against fundamental policies of the California State and Federal Government. Please read those letters.

- 1.1 Here is the link to my letter (55 pages) that I sent on **December 1, 2023**, to Wade Crowfoot Secretary of California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) in response to the news article titled "**Initial Work Begins on North Lake Salton Sea project**" with a price tag of \$19.25 million published on October 20, 2023.

[Letter to CNRA - 12-1-23 - Re the KESQ News - article titled "Initial work begins on North Lake Salton project.pdf - Google Drive.](#)

In this letter (link above), I responded to the recent article in "The Desert Sun" and the video on KESQ News regarding the "North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project". Also, I included a substantial amount of information about the faultiness of the 'current course of action' and about the indication of 'stealing in process'.

- 1.2 Here is the link to my response (50 pages) that I sent on **December 11, 2023**, to the Bureau of Reclamation in response to the **Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)**.

[Response to revised Draft SEIS to the Bureau of Reclamation - 12-11-23 -.pdf - Google Drive.](#)

In the letter (link above), I pointed out that the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) ignored my comments submitted on August 15, 2023, and other numerous comments from public and knowledgeable experts that I heard during previous Zoom meetings and seeing some written public comments pointing out on incoming ecological disaster if we continue with 'current course of action' and lose the Salton Sea.

Also, I have included a substantial amount of information about the faultiness of the 'current course of action' and respectfully urged the BoR to reconsider their decision and to include the Salton Sea for the Development of Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies because the Salton Sea is part of the Colorado River Based.

- 1.3 In both those letters, I also wrote in one segment about the three geothermal projects Morton Bay, Elmore North, and Black Rock (BRGP) – applicants - that are asking you (CEC) for the certificate so that they can proceed with the projects.



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

Although I did include you and a few other commissioners in the “cc” address of those two letters, I am including here directly, for the record, the section from those two letters in the following segment below. It contains important information applicable to Docket No.23-AFC-01, (23-AFC-02) & (23-AFC-03).

2.0 COMMENTS:

Since there is a disconnect and manipulative interference between agencies, particularly in this case, between CNRA, CalEPA, CEC, Bureau of Reclamation, US Army Corps of Engineers, and local leadership, and because there is a possibility that my comments will not be read by those that should be reading them (I included two dozen people in the “cc” address that are associated with the Salton Sea issue but they may be supporters of the ‘current course of action’ and not willing to inform (forward message to) the rest of their team (associates)), and because there is no unity in the State (there is no mechanism – commission - formed by honorable members of the CNRA, CalEPA, USACE, DOE /CEC) dealing exclusively with the Salton Sea issues, I respectfully urge You (CEC) to initiate a process in cooperation with Governor and rest of stakeholders so that my proposal can be reviewed properly and officially accepted so that we can start moving forward with the restoration of the Salton Sea which includes the current three geothermal projects (applicants). Proceeding with three applicants' projects without accepting the master plan first, will be losing precious time and money that the state will be responsible for.

So far, a leader is missing – a person who can unite agencies and applicants in a common goal of mutual interest.

I am emphasizing, again, the critical points that I have mentioned in my recent letters above, that need to be challenged (question and answer). I am including below the segments from the letter to the Bureau of Reclamation which is almost identical to the letter to the Secretary of the CNRA. The segments apply to Docket No.23-AFC-01, (23-AFC-02) & (23-AFC-03). Here are those segments with a few grammar fixes and touchups:

2.1 I respectfully urge BoR, again, to reconsider its decision and include the Salton Seas, not just in “Post-2026 Operation”, but to enforce its policy and in cooperation with CNRA, CEC, and Army Corps of Engineers open investigation and work on a speedy evaluation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea.

The Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) needs to be aware that the restoration of the Salton Sea is of enormous importance not just for the local population but for the



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

environment and the State of California and the United States of America. We have already lost a lot of time and money unnecessarily - just because of the incompetence of 'local leadership' and a few state officials.

2.2 The "current course of action" - which is the "Pilot Demonstration Project" which is part of the bigger project the "North Lake" which is part of the bigger project so-called "Perimeter/Brine Lake" which was recently renamed to the "In-Basin Solution" or "In-Basin Long-Range Solution" which include related dust suppression projects that implement the 'hay bales' on exposed lakebed (not mentioned in this article) - does not make sense because the final product would be a smaller, saltier, smellier, and more polluted lake with serious consequences to the environment, the health of the nearby population and economy in general. That is an indisputable fact.

2.3 Although it should be standard practice by Federal and State officials before issuing funding for any project, in this case, I am respectfully requesting, because I am deeply involved in this case, as the author of the real solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea, and because state's interest and liability is involved, that the State (officials in charge of delivering the funding) ask the local leadership and the applicants the following questions and request solid answers (not vague ones such as "we will check on it later" or "we are working on it" and alike). It is important to point out that local leaders have been working (participating) on design for the restoration of the Salton Sea already for over 20 years and come up with a non-functional long-term solution in December 2022.

2.4 The Questions that should be asked by top officials are the following:

2.4.1 (a) What is the functional purpose of the "Pilot Project Lake" if there is any?

2.4.2 (b) If there is none, then why proceed with the "Pilot Project Lake"?

2.4.3 (c) Where exactly water will be supplied from for the "Pilot Project Lake" and the accountability for it?

2.4.4 (d) Where exactly water will be supplied for the "North Lake" project and the accountability for it?

2.4.5 (e) Who will lose the water that will be used for the "Pilot Project Lake"?

2.4.6 (f) How will the "Pilot Project Lake" fit into the whole project for the restoration of the Salton Sea?



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
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Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

- 2.4.7 (g) Will the dike (barrier) that forms the “Pilot Project Lake” be dismantled after local leaders supposedly find what the quality of the water will be, or will the dike (barrier) stay there permanently as an obstacle to the water flow when the real functional solution is going to be implemented?
- 2.4.8 (h) To provide a dated blueprint of their plan – illustrations with water level (elevation) in the “Pilot Project Lake”, and water level (elevation) in the “North Lake”, and water level (elevation) in the Central part of the Salton Sea where their “Brine Lake” will be?
- 2.4.9 (i) Since the Salton Sea is a relatively shallow lake, the difference in water level (elevation) between bodies of water (Pilot Project, North Lake, and Brine Lake) increases, the surface of exposed lakebed (playa) - the distance between those bodies of water - What they intend to do with exposed lakebed (playa) formed between the “Pilot Project Lake” and “North Lake” and between the “North Lake” and “Brine Lake” according to their design?
- 2.4.10 (j) Are they infringing anyone’s patent rights, partially or entirely, by proceeding with ‘their’ “North Lake” design’?
- 2.4.11 (k) If so, do they intend to transfer liability for their mistakes (illegal conduct) to the State and Federal governments?

Those questions above are relative to the “Pilot Project Lake”. Since ‘local leaders do not want to answer any of my questions posed to them, I am respectfully requesting that federal and state officials, who oversee the situation of the Salton Sea, ask the ‘local leaders and request straight answers to the following questions before delivering the check of \$19.25 million, because the questions are of great importance and answer on those question will help understand the situation which is in interest to State and all stakeholders. Also, the state and federal officials need to be extra aware of the answer to question (k) (2.4.11) above.

My statements (claims) are extraordinary and should be challenged but have not been challenged either by local leaders or by the State or by BoR.

2.5 The second set of challenging questions are the following:

- 2.5.1 When I say: “with the implementation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea, we could generate revenue of about at least \$500,000,000 per year just from clean renewable energy”. That should be challenged with the question: “How that could be done?” If needed debate and cross-



examination questions should be allowed and welcomed. If local leaders prefer not to have revenue for the community (stakeholders) of at least about \$500,000,000 per year just from clean renewable energy, then, they need to write reasoning for such decisions.

- 2.5.2 When I say: “With the implementation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea, we could fill up the Salton Sea to the water level of the 1950s and ’60s and restore original beaches and marines despite lessened water inflow from Colorado River”. That should be challenged with the question: How that could be done?” If needed debate and cross-examination questions should be allowed and welcomed. If local leaders prefer not to have restored the Salton Sea to the glory of the 1950’s and 60’s, then, they need to write reasoning for such decisions.
- 2.5.3 When I say: “With the implementation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea, we could import seawater from the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) and save about \$100,000,000 per year”. That should be challenged with the question: How that could be done?” If needed debate and cross-examination questions should be allowed and welcomed. If local leaders prefer not to save \$100,000,000 per year, then, they need to write reasoning for such decisions.
- 2.5.4 When I say: “With the implementation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea, we could put the Salton Sea on the World Map as a tourist destination”. That should be challenged with the question: How that could be done?” If needed debate and cross-examination questions should be allowed and welcomed. If local leaders prefer not to have the Salton Sea on the World Map as a tourist destination, then, they need to write reasoning for such decisions.
- 2.5.5 When I say: “With the implementation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea, we could have a constant production of lithium of about 1,000 – 750 tons per year from imported seawater”. That should be challenged with the question: How that could be done?” If needed debate and cross-examination questions should be allowed and welcomed. If local leaders prefer not to have about 1,000 tons of lithium per year from imported seawater, then, they need to write reasoning for such decisions.
- 2.5.6 When I say: “With the implementation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea, we could have several recreational parks with small lakes with nearby fisheries on an industrial scale without additional water for it”. That should be challenged with the question: How that could be done?” If needed debate and cross-examination questions should be allowed and welcomed. If local leaders prefer not to have several recreational parks



with nearby fisheries on an industrial scale, then, they need to write reasoning for such decisions.

2.5.7 When I say: “With the implementation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea, we could have the Salton Sea as a hub for the production of potable water”. That should be challenged with the question: How that could be done?” If needed debate and cross-examination questions should be allowed and welcomed. If local leaders prefer not to have the Salton Sea as a hub for the production of potable water, then, they need to write reasoning for such decisions.

2.5.8 When I say: “With the implementation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea, we could harness geothermal energy, which is prevalent in the area, with no limitation to geothermal reservoir” – meaning, we could harness much more geothermal energy than estimated with conventional systems. That should be challenged with the question: How that could be done?” If needed debate and cross-examination questions should be allowed and welcomed. If local leaders prefer not to harness much more geothermal energy than estimated with conventional systems, then, they need to write reasoning for such decisions.

Brushing off those claims above in 2.4 – 2.4.11 and 2.5 – 2.5.8 and avoiding challenges and open discussions proves arrogance, ignorance, naiveness, and incompetence by local and some state officials. Also, it indicates an anticipation of illegal conduct as I mentioned in numerous sections in those letters.

2.6 As I explained in many of my public comments, I will repeat it here again. There are two options for the State and Federal governments to choose about the fate of the Salton Sea with two completely different outcomes:

2.6.1 **Option I** – To proceed with the current projects already in motion the “North Lake Pilot Demonstration Project” which is part of the “Smaller, *Sustainable* Lake” – “10-year plan” – “Perimeter/Brane Lake” - The projects that will be constantly asking the State and Federal Governments for help (for more money) for fixing never-ending problems - and at the end losing the Lake with tremendous liabilities in billions of dollars (environmental disaster – toxic dust storms, health issues, and economic fold). NOTE: In the process would benefit a few “friendly” companies on the expenses of the environment and communities; and

2.6.2 **Option II** – Based on new revealing critical information, redirecting efforts and allocated money toward implementation of the long-term solution (my proposal) which would restore the Salton Sea to the water level of the



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

1950s and '60s; provide the condition for tourism, wildlife sanctuary, clean environment, and generate revenue in 100s Billion Dollars in several decades and would continue so in the future costing only about \$15,000,000,000 to build. NOTE: A few companies that would benefit from Option (I), would benefit even more with Option (II). ... That is the absurdity of the current situation.

2.7 Since the check of \$19.25 million was delivered, according to the article and video, it appears that my numerous public comments in which I exposed the faultiness of the 'current course of action' did not make any effect, and because the disconnect between local leaders (members of the SSA) and top State and Federal officials exist, I am contacting You (the CEC) again directly, for the record, urging you, to inform Secretary Wade Crowfoot, Governor Gavin Newsom, and BoR to stop nonsensical projects and start working towards the restoration of the Salton Sea – option (II) above 2.6.2.

Because the local leaders – members of the Salton Sea Authority – are not functioning properly these days – they are not working in the interest of the Salton Sea and nearby communities as originally intended at their formation in 1993, - therefore honorable top state and federal officials must use its power to save and restore the Salton Sea and enforce the fundamental State's and Federal's policies regarding the Environmental Law. Based on attitude and the record, it is obvious that 'local leaders' will not change their intentions unless they are forced to do so by the top State officials.

2.8 It is obvious that the local leaders, mostly the members of the SSA, especially those that represent the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and Imperial County, that do not want to restore the Salton Sea but rather support the concept of a smaller Lake, is because, very possible, they are influenced by a few 'friendly' farmers who already cultivated exposed lakebed at the southside of the Salton Sea (Please see the link above in section 1.1 and check on about 24 photos). It is unfortunate, sad, and at this point questionable, that those members of the SSA, after so many of my attempts, do not want to consult with me and learn that, by building a dike around the edge of the already cultivated lakebed, they would not need to destroy the Salton Sea.

2.9 The same applies to those that promote three proposed geothermal projects for the extraction of lithium from geothermal brine (the Black Rock Geothermal Projects, Morton Bay Geothermal project, and Elmore North Geothermal, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC.).

2.9.1 **NOTE:** While writing this letter, came to my attention the response by Jacobs to CEC's inquiry titled: "[Black Rock Geothermal Project Air Quality Operational Emissions Spreadsheet](#)" Docket Number **23-AFC-03** - Bleck Rock



Geothermal Project (BRGP). The document is a spreadsheet with information (data) about “Project Emission Summary” etc. I have seen quite a few similar documents earlier and recently about air monitoring stations, the efficiency of cooling towers, etc., trying to prove the validity of their project. I am using this opportunity to comment on that issue because it is relevant to the overall gray situation of the Salton Sea and the disconnect between agencies (CNRA, CalEPA, CEC, BoR) on which I elaborated in two letters mentioned above.

2.9.2 **NOTE:** The applicants of those three geothermal projects are focused on their particular projects and they are not concerned about the overall situation of the Salton Sea because they might not be fully aware of the existence of the master plan (architectural plan) for the restoration of the Salton Sea because my concept has not been officially accepted yet, and because they are not in the business of taking care of the Salton Sea nor the environment. They are in the business of getting certificates from the CEC and making money from geothermal projects. That is another strong reason for the State to speed up the evaluation of my proposal and provide conditions for proper development of the situation around the Salton Sea that includes the restoration of the Salton Sea, synchronization of the mentioned geothermal project to fit into the master plan, and implementation of States policies regarding environment, energy, and wellbeing of the population.

2.9.3 **NOTE:** Without going into specifics of those several responses by applicants that I have seen, the data presented is from the ‘Modeling Emission Summary’ provided by a system (program) that did not include information about the master plan (architectural plan). Also, as presented, those geothermal projects are not in harmony with the long-term plan (master plan) for the restoration of the Salton Sea.

Making colorful diagrams with estimates (predictions) of the water level, salinity level, air quality, algae, etc., will be in 10, 20, or 50 years does not contribute at all to the restoration of the Salton Sea.

2.9.4 **NOTE:** It is important to understand that building a dike around the edge of their preferred location (lot(s)), as I explained and illustrated in my architectural plan (proposal), means that they (applicants) would be able to continue with their ‘obsolete’ systems without destroying the Salton Sea. Preferably those three applicants could work with me (consult with me) and accept my ‘patented’ system that uses a completely closed-loop system, - both, for a cooling system (without cooling towers that require a substantial amount of water) and for the production of potable water and



concentrated brine - that are superior to conventional systems. That is another strong reason for the State to get involved more decisively.

2.9.5 Also, it is important to clarify that the applicants had provided several faulty information to boost support for their projects such as the number of households that they will provide power to. For example, applicants stated on several occasions that 1 MW of generated electricity would provide power for about 700 households. The more realistic number is about 250 – 300 households.

2.9.6 Also, the applicants stated on several occasions that they relied on a promise by the IID to supply the necessary water that they need for the functioning of their proposed geothermal plants for the extraction of lithium.

2.9.6.1 **NOTE:** The IID cannot supply water that does not have. Unless it is openly disclosed that allocated water (promised water) is at the expense of the disappearing Salton Sea. The nearby population, including tribes, needs to understand that. So far that has not been voiced. That is my assertion that I am repeating frequently and requesting a straight answer. Unfortunately, I have been ignored so far. That is another reason for the top state officials to act with a proper evaluation of my proposal and its official acceptance. Also, official abolishment of the corrupted UCSC Panel report is necessary.

2.9.6.2 **NOTE:** Because of drought and reduction of water from the Colorado River, with the 'current course of action' we do not have enough water neither to balance evaporation of the Salton Sea nor for managing the exposed lakebed of the shrinking Salton Sea. The 'current course of action' leads to the destruction (disappearance) of the Salton Sea. That is my assertion that I am repeating frequently. I respectfully urge commissioners of the CEC to pose those questions and request a solid answer. Such critical information should not be ignored or hidden from the population. Unfortunately, so far that has been the case.

2.9.7 In one televised meeting, the applicants mentioned that they intend to use 'their' system for recycling water, therefore, they will need less water but did not disclose technology for proprietary reasons. In such a case, the members of the CEC should have access to verify the uniqueness of such technology and check on available patents and priority dates. I am saying that because I have been proposing for quite a few



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

years about using a 'closed-loop environmental' system for the generation of potable water in geothermal power plants that could be very useful for providing (increasing concentration) concentrated brine that can be used for extraction of lithium regardless of specific technology that can be implemented for the extraction of lithium from geothermal brine.

2.9.8 Also, I read a few documents submitted to Docket No. 23-AFC-01, (23-AFC-02) & (23-AFC-03) regarding monitoring air pollution. The language in the document about the importance of monitoring air pollution is very similar to the language used in several previous documents from the Pacific Institute (Michael Cohen). Let it be known that monitoring air pollution in this case does not solve the problem. With the "current course of action", the Salton Sea will continue being smaller with more exposed lakebed (playa), saltier, smellier, and more polluted. How many monitoring stations will be used, and which location, is irrelevant. Therefore, such documents, as well as other documents that do not provide the answers to the needed water supply do not carry any weight and should be challenged or ignored. What is needed in this situation is the solution – an architectural plan – which I am providing. Also is needed different and decisive approach towards the restoration of the Salton Sea.

2.9.9 To make the right decisions, You, especially David Hochschild - chair of the California Energy Commission (CEC), BoR, Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of CNRA, Governor Gavin Newsom, Yana Garcia, Secretary of CalEPA, must know that the applicants of three geothermal projects (Black Rock Geothermal Projects, Morton Bay Geothermal project, and Elmore North Geothermal, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC.) are aware of the existence of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea. I sent my introductory letter with links to my proposal to Ms. Christina Fleming, VP of Mineral Development for BHER, on July 18, 2023, and a letter to Mr. Rob Berntsen, Senior Vice President, and General Counsel, BHE Infrastructure Group, on September 3, 2023, and a letter to Mr. Jon Trujillo, GM Geothermal Development, BHE Renewables on October 5, 2023.

Also, I did mention the existence of my proposal and summarized it in a few minutes in my public comment during a televised meeting in High School in Calipatria where representatives of BHE Renewables, LLC., were present on August 31, 2023. In my introductory letters, I offered them cooperation and suggested to them to extend their involvement in the restoration of the Salton Sea beyond just geothermal projects. I have not received any response from them yet. It seems that they are not in a position, as applicants, to make radical changes in their primary mission,



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78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

which is not the restoration of the Salton Sea (see 2.9.2). Also, there is no incentive for them to be involved in the project unless my proposal is officially accepted by the State. That is another strong reason for the top state officials to initiate a speedy evaluation of my proposal and officially accept it as a master plan to follow.

3.0 **FACTS:**

- 3.1 The fact is that the three geothermal projects – applicants – need a substantial amount of water that currently is not available unless it is publicly disclosed that the required amount of water will be used at the expense of the already shrinking Salton Sea that would speed up its disappearance.
- 3.2 The fact is that a disconnect between agencies and local leadership exists as well as manipulative conduct such as the ‘joining team’ of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Salton Sea Authority (SSA) to improve the situation of the Salton Sea, knowingly very well that the SSA openly opposes restoration of the Salton Sea and supports its disappearance.
- 3.3 The fact is that the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) believes that they have the authority and the final word on the fate of the Salton Sea.
- 3.4 The fact is that by excluding the Salton Sea from consideration for the Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies, by the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) and subsequently United States - Department of the Interior, the Salton Sea will end up a smaller, saltier, smellier, and more polluted Lake and sooner or later would become a cesspool with tremendous consequences to the environment, health of nearby population including tribes, and economy in general.
- 3.5 The fact is that despite colorful presentations that local leaders, mostly members of the Salton Sea Authority (SSA) frequently present, in the recent case - the “Pilot Demonstration Project” with a price tag of \$19.25 million which is part of the “current course of action” which include the “North Lake” which is part of the “In-basin long-range plan” or previously called the ‘Perimeter/Brine Lake” with related dust suppression projects, that all agencies so far support - for a ‘suspicious’ reason - is based on manipulative conducts by a few officials and the false assumption, that importation of the seawater is not a feasible concept.
- 3.6 The fact is that the “current course of action” blatantly violates Environmental laws^[1] which is a foundation of the State of California and Federal policies and regulations that fundamentally support initiatives towards a clean environment, clean air, clean water, resiliency to climate change, clean renewable energy, protection of the health of the population, and economy, etc.



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
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Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

3.7 The fact is that two attempts by the State to find the solution for saving and restoring the Salton Sea were ‘sabotaged’ by a relatively small group of people associated with local leaders and members of the Salton Sea Authority.

3.7.1 **NOTE:** – My proposal, which is a preliminary architectural plan for saving and restoring the Salton Sea was rejected (sabotaged) twice without a single scientific argument against it. My proposal was excluded from evaluation based on ridiculous criteria inserted by a relatively small group of people associated with local leaders and members of the Salton Sea Authority. (See section 1.2 of this letter and sections 5.3.2; 5.3.7 – 5.3.8.1 of the letter - the link provided).

3.8 The fact is that the introduction of the ‘North Lake’ concept, by local leaders is a departure (pivoting) from the single “Perimeter/Brine Lake” concept which was accepted in 2016, by the SSA and several State agencies, - despite being dysfunctional at the present form, - it infringes competing patented concept (my proposal) which has “North Lake” as an essential part of the architectural plan that also includes the “South Lake” and large “Central Lake”. By the way, my concept has been systematically ignored for 10 years and systematically rejected by the local leaders. (See Sections 1.2 of this letter and Sections 9.0 and 10.0 of the letter – the link provided).

I was aware of the importance and value of my concept and had filed for a patent application before I spoke with local leaders. I knew that my concept will be accepted, whether it will be during the current set of leadership or a new one, or during our current generation or future generations. I know that sooner or later common sense will prevail because it would be foolish to ignore revenue of at least \$500 million per year. Here are a few of my issued patents - US Patent No.: 11,098,926; Issued on August 24, 2021; US Patent No.: 9,995,286; Issued on June 12, 2018. I still have several patent-pending applications with more details.

The absurdity of this case is that I am defending the fundamental policy of the State and Federal governments against ‘local leaders’ and agencies that the State and Federal governments keep funding.

4.0 **RECOMMENDATION:**

4.1 I respectfully recommend as I did in many of my comments, that top state officials (Governor, and secretaries of the CNRA, CalEPA, DOE/CEC) organize and televise (record) a meeting where I would be able to make a complete presentation of all five segments in front of all stakeholders and be able to answer directly any questions that stakeholders may have (from sections 2.4 –



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
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Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

2.4.11 and 2.5 – 2.5.8) especially those who oppose the restoration of the Salton Sea and proposes destruction of the Salton Sea as a direction to follow. Priority should be ‘understanding’ the concept and not ‘limited time’ for the presentation. Those who oppose my proposal and question its feasibility are welcome, if needed, to bring their friendly ‘experts’ from the Tetra-Tech, Pacific Institute, and UCSC Panel to help them ask me questions and help them understand my answers.

4.2 It is not my intention to insult anyone and if I do then I apologize in advance, but I have to say the following: The virtue of late Steve Jobs, CEO of the Apple, Inc., was the ability to ‘turn on the dime’ when he saw a better solution despite already invested money on some project. That is characteristic of intelligent people. That is quite different from those who proceed with projects, which are doomed to fail, just because of the previous commitment and/or already invested money.

4.3 Formation of the mechanism (commission) formed by honorable people of several agencies for dealing with Salton Sea issues is necessary.

5.0 IN CLOSING

I would like to point out a few obvious facts that the CEC and all stakeholders need to understand. I copied/pasted two maps from my recent letter to the Bureau of Reclamation (8.1.1 & 8.1.2) which are also included in this letter in sections 7.1.1 and 7.1.2.

Dividing the Salton Sea into three sections is an essential element of my proposal and the only feasible solution for saving the Salton Sea from disappearance, filling it up to the water level of the 1950s and 60s despite reduced inflow from the Colorado River and restoring the Salton Sea beyond the glory of the 1950s and 60s. Although my proposal should be read and understood entirely – which I doubt that anyone did - at this junction, please see at least the Summary of the Summary below in section 7.0. There is nothing mysterious about it. That is not difficult to understand.

Sorry to say, and I do not mean to insult anyone, but those who do not understand the basic function illustrated on maps 7.1.1 and 7.1.2, and those who have not read my proposal since 2018, nor have the desire to study it, nor have engineering background should not participate in making a critical decision regarding the Salton Sea. They should rather find some other job in another department and other subjects, like administrative issues, that is closer to their expertise. The evaluation of my proposal should be the job of architects (planners), civil engineers, and mechanical engineers. Here is an analogy: A



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

dentist should not perform thorax surgery (heart bypass) although he/she may be a nice person and very good dentist.

I am not saying it as a punitive measure but because the Salton Sea is a bigger issue than the ego and personal status of anyone.

The fate of the Salton Sea depends on a bad decision that is, unfortunately, already made through a manipulative process – which is to get rid of the Salton Sea – and the motion that I am proposing which is to change the ‘current course of action’. That will not happen by itself. Someone with power needs to initiate such a motion. We are still in time to save the Salton Sea, but ego, prestige, personal interest, and special interest must be taken out of the equation.

Also, I would like to point out that I am not against the projects for harnessing geothermal energy and extraction of lithium, but those projects need to be implemented responsibly without the destruction of the Salton Sea. Currently, those three geothermal power plants with a focus on the extraction of lithium, do not have the necessary water for their operation. My proposal provides the necessary water for their operation. Therefore, my proposal must be officially accepted, and that is the job of the State / CNRA / CEC. The State, by now, is aware of my proposal and the benefits that provides. The applicants are aware of my proposal and the benefits that provides. The State has, by now, more than enough information to act on this issue and fulfill its task. Deflecting responsibilities to another department or agency would not be a productive resolution.... Deflecting responsibilities to someone else would be ‘kicking the cane down the road’ and nothing would be done.

6.0 A few words about MY WORK and the PROPOSAL for the RESTORATION of the SALTON SEA:

My proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea – terminal Lake in California - involves an architectural plan which incorporates several breakthrough technologies in the energy industry which I have invented and modified to incorporate local conditions of the Salton Sea area with the final product – the self-sustained long-term solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea. It might be considered a project of the century costing only about \$15 billion and generating at least \$500,000,000 in revenue per year just from clean renewable energy – in addition to revenue from other activities including tourism.

Here I will just summarize the subjects of my breakthrough methodologies:



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

- I am the inventor of the new system for harnessing geothermal energy (a completely closed-loop system) which is not limited to geothermal reservoirs.
- I am also the inventor of the new system for drilling deeper and wider wellbores.
- I am also the inventor of the new system for harnessing solar energy (thermo-optical solar system) having the “power unit” with pistons, which is at least several times more efficient than Photo Voltaic (PV) systems.
- I am also the inventor of the new system of cross-country pipelines for importing seawater or other fluids, having the “in-line pump” as segments of the pipeline for uphill routes, and having the “in-line generator” as segments of the pipeline for downhill routes with the “Delta Power Plant” at the last section.
- I am also the inventor of the new system for using the pipeline as a foundation for solar panels which eliminates expenses for purchasing or leasing huge sections of land, which is an expensive requirement for conventional solar facilities on an industrial scale. My system decentralizes the conventional centralized systems.
- I am also the inventor of the new system for the desalinization of salty water using solar and/or geothermal energy to generate electricity and having potable water as a free byproduct, and concentrated brine to be used to produce Lithium.
- After the accident offshore of Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, 2010, and a failure of the "Blow Out Preventer" (BOP) in the Macondo well, it became a challenge how to stop uncontrollable bursts of crude oil in the Gulf of Mexico and prevent disasters of epic proportions. Out of over 3,000 proposals and many universities and laboratories participating, my proposal for controlling dysfunctional “Blow out Preventer” was used to stop uncontrollable bursts of crude oil. By July 15, 2010, the Macondo well was successfully sealed, if only temporarily, for the first time in 87 days. That was only 34 days after my submission. The implementation of the control valve on top of the dysfunctional BOP was televised on CNN.
- I graduated from the School of Architecture, University Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, North Macedonia, in 1982, and immigrated to the United States in 1983, as a student at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, Taliesin West in Arizona, and Taliesin East in Wisconsin. The University Cyril and Methodius – School of Architecture -



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

consists of nine semesters, around 38 exams, plus graduate work which takes an additional 5-6 months. I am proud to say that my graduate work scored 10 out of 10, which is rarely given.

My mission is global – which is licensing technologies worldwide to capable companies/contractors with means. The Salton Sea project is a small part of it, but it is an important part. It is imperative to save the Salton Sea and our environment despite unreasonable opposition. I am providing a solution and the “know-how” to the desperate situation.

Also, I am including links and a summary of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea divided into five segments for easier understanding. Each of the segments (phases) is essential for the final product of the self-sustained Salton Sea.

On February 6-8, 2023, Stanford University hosted Geothermal Workshop (SGW 2023). I made three presentations at the SGW 2023. The subject of the SGW 2023 was ‘Geothermal’ and had limited time for presentations, therefore, I did not submit two papers about harnessing solar and hydropower in more detail.

Here below are links to my papers from the Stanford Geothermal Workshop (SGW 2023) where I made three presentations on February 7, 2023, each lasting 30 minutes including Q & A. Although 90 minutes was a short time for a substantial material, I am thankful for such an opportunity. It is a summary of the larger material ... It is worth seeing it.

6.1 Papers - Segment (I) - **Harnessing Energy and Water in the Salton Sea.**

[Click here to see](#) or click the link below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oowNJNodUNIfT_Jg5byczZTKbm1z9glW/view?usp=sharing

6.2 Papers – Segment (II)

Harnessing Geothermal Energy in the Salton Sea Area.

[Click here to see](#) or click the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W8Au4FTwwJf8NaBBxfFTDfub5golqLtv/view?usp=sharing>.

6.3 Papers – Segment (III)

System for Drilling Deeper and Wider Wellbores.



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

[Click here to see](#) or click the link below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BgS5RzXerJym0YGVajK7HFEyKbr-O3XL/view?usp=sharing>.

PowerPoint Presentation – Slides – are bigger files. I am including links to them below.

The slides are summaries of the papers and are easy to review after the papers are read. In the text of the papers, I referred to certain illustrations (See Fig. so and so), which are in a separate segment. In the PPT files, the illustrations are smaller, and on the right side of the slide, there is a short description (summary – power points).

I have included all files on my website www.GeothermalWorldwide.com => OUR TECHNOLOGY => Presentation at Stanford University.

6.4 PowerPoint Presentation – Slides – Segment (I) – **Harnessing Energy and Water in the Salton Sea. Click the link below:**

[PowerPoint Presentation – Slides – Segment \(I\) – Harnessing Energy and Water in the Salton Sea.](#)

6.5 PowerPoint Presentation - Slides - Segment (II) - **Harnessing Geothermal Energy in the Salton Sea Area. Click the link below:**

[PowerPoint Presentation – Slides - Segment \(II\) - Harnessing Geothermal Energy in the Salton Sea Area.](#)

6.6 PowerPoint Presentation - Slides - Segment (III) - **System for Drilling Deeper and Wider Wellbores. Click the link below:**

[PowerPoint Presentation - Slides - Segment \(III\) - System for Drilling Deeper and Wider Wellbores.](#)

For more information and for those two additional segments about harnessing **solar** and **hydropower** please visit the page [PRESENTATION AT EL CENTRO.](#) It is just above the link “Presentation at Stanford University”.

Here are all five links from my website to be handy. Here are Segments I-V.

The segment about Harnessing Hydro Power is presented here as Segment II.

The segment about Harnessing Solar Energy is presented here as Segment III.



The segment about Harnessing Geothermal Energy is presented here as Segment IV. And

The segment about System for Drilling Deeper and Wider Wellbores is presented here as Segment V.

Here are the links:

6.7 Harnessing Energy and Water in The Salton Sea (**Segment I**)
(**System for Importing Seawater**). Here is the link:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PWZbInYIV2dHnFXQqVwZwV56P6rqPZHI/view?usp=sharing>.

6.8 Harnessing Energy and Water in The Salton Sea (**Segment II**)
(**Harnessing Hydro Power**).
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wEoi3VNNscX6SkH7dWlrmNMZO7oRb5vu/view?usp=sharing>.

6.9 Harnessing Energy and Water in the Salton Sea (**Segment. III**)
(**System for Harnessing Solar Energy**).
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZLuZbt6RsLo3x19x2sKB_XVPjkJJUNwv/view?usp=sharing.

6.10 Harnessing Geothermal Energy with the Self Contained In-Ground
Geothermal Generator and Self Contained In-Ground Geothermal Heat
Exchanger (**Segment IV**)
(**Harnessing Geothermal Energy in The Salton Sea Area**).
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wqRUgmib_Si-odYmWV8F5TILOL-U7R7l/view?usp=sharing.

6.11 Harnessing Energy and Water in The Salton Sea (**Segment V**)
(**System for Drilling Deeper and Wider Wellbores**).
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Aig8tuELsDkvfFakK-SEMvyW-bUQd76r/view?usp=sharing>.

The architectural plan is a comprehensive design. In order to be understood entirely, it needs to be studied as a whole by people preferably with an engineering background. Also, it is an art.



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

7.0 The Summary of the Summary of the proposal for the Restoration of the Salton Sea:

My architectural plan successfully restores and refills the Salton Sea to the level of the 1950s and the '60s and reestablishes huge wildlife sanctuaries despite reduced inflow of water from the Colorado River.

By redirecting the New River and Alamo River back to Mexico before it gets polluted with fertilizers and pesticides, it provides an option for filling up the Laguna Salada – dry Lake in Mexico - and reestablishes flow in the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez). Everyone should love that. In return, through negotiation by the 'International Boundary and Water Commission' (IBWC) and their counterparts in Mexico, through a treaty to negotiate a corridor with a service road for a pipeline for importing seawater into the central section of the Salton Sea. Since such a solution is of great interest to us (USA) and to Mexico, the negotiation should not be a difficult task. We could exchange at least the same amount of water, although, through negotiation, we could have an opportunity to get 1,000,000 acre-feet of seawater and to keep a certain amount from the Colorado River. Also, it would be an opportunity to negotiate 100 years deal with an option to renew the deal after 100 years. This solution would save us around \$100,000,000 per year that otherwise we would need to pay for importing 1,000,000 acre-feet of seawater. I elaborated on it in more detail in original papers submitted in 2018 following the Request for Information (RFI) issued by the State in 2017.

Also, it is important to mention, that I, as the author of the Architectural Plan and the inventor of a new system for the desalinization of salty water using geothermal and/or solar energy, should be included as a part of the team of the IBWC as a contributing consultant during a negotiation with Mexico because my presence would improve our leverage because by using my system (methodology) Mexico can provide potable water for nearby city Mexicali that desperately needs potable water and concentrated brine that can be used to produce lithium. Both elements are in demand. The same system that I am proposing for the Salton Sea.

Also, an essential part of my proposal is that by dividing the Salton Sea into three sections, we would need water from the Colorado River only for farmlands and for balancing the evaporation of the North Lake and South Lake. That is in harmony with the reduced inflow of water from the Colorado River as required by the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) and possible additional reductions in the future because of drought.



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

Also, it is important to mention, that an essential factor of my proposal is utilizing a dike around the desired area allocated for the extraction of lithium to provide dry land and prevent destruction of the Salton Sea as would be the case with the current course of action.

Also, it is important to mention that the implementation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea would cost only about \$15,000,000,000. It can be completed in about 5-6 years and would generate at least \$500,000,000 in revenue per year - out of the blue – literally. The revenue numbers in my papers are conservative. A more realistic revenue estimate would be about \$1,000,000,000 per year. That is in addition to achieving a clean environment, a substantial amount of potable water, lithium, tourism, and other activities that generate revenue.

7.1 Since there is possibility that officials who reviewed my previous documents are lacking engineering background and could not understand the function of the concept because of too many functions (information) on one illustration, I am using this opportunity to use the Map from Reclamation report to simplify it even more by showing on one map below (7.1.1) only distribution of water from the Colorado River through the All-American Canal to the South Lake and through Coachella Canal to the North Lake, and another map (7.1.2) showing only importation of seawater through pipeline Route #1 from San Felipe area of the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) to the Central Lake (section) of the Salton Sea, and another pipeline Route #2 from Long Beach area to the Central Lake (section) of the Salton Sea.

7.1.1 Here below is the Map showing distribution of water from Colorado River through the All-American Canal and Coachella Canal to the South Lake and North Lake of the Salton Sea.



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

1. Purpose and Need

MAP 3.1.1.



COACHELLA CANAL

NORTH LAKE

SOUTH LAKE

REDIRECTED WATERS OF MEW & ALAMO RIV.

LAGUNA SALADA

October 2023

Revised Draft SEIS for Near-term Colorado River Operations

1-3



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

7.1.2 Here below is the Map showing only importation of seawater through a pipeline Route #1 from San Felipe area of the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortez) to the Central Lake (section) of the Salton Sea, and another pipeline Route #2 from the Long Beach area to the Central Lake (section) of the Salton Sea.



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

1. Purpose and Need

MAP B.1.2.



October 2023

Revised Draft SEIS for Near-term Colorado River Operations

1-3



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

7.2 **NOTE:** Those who make policies, including all stakeholders, need to understand that the Salton Sea situation is unique in the whole World. The depression of over - 220 feet below sea level is in a desert about 200 miles from both - the Gulf of California (San Felipe) and the Pacific Ocean (Long Beach). In the area, there is a prevalent geothermal source and many sunny days throughout the year.

Importing seawater and using those natural sources (geothermal and solar), as I explained in my proposal, the Salton Sea can and should become a hub to produce potable water that can be used in many applications. Although I have explained the function of the feasible concept with a pipeline diameter of 48", through which can be imported about 1,000,000 acre-feet of seawater from the Sea of Cortez and about 2,000,000 acre-feet from Long Beach, the system can be multiplied – something for future generations to continue doing.

Think for a moment about the alternative – the ‘current course of action’ – the disappearance of the Salton Sea – exposed lakebed (playa) – toxic dust storms, degrading environment, the health of the population, and economy.

This is a rare opportunity that should not be ignored and suppressed as was the case in the last 10 years.

7.3 **NOTE:** Those involved in decision making on the Salton Sea issue, including all stakeholders, needs to understand that every year that the implementation of my proposal for the restoration of the Salton Sea is postponed (delayed), we are losing revenue of at least \$500,000,000 per year just from clean renewable energy - not to mention other activities including tourism.

7.4 Here is the link to the video of my short presentation in front of members of the CEC in 2021. It is about 60 minutes. I am grateful for such an opportunity from the CEC although the material is substantial, and I needed more than a few hours. Here is the link:

https://energy.zoom.us/rec/share/d4tAFmZFYEoqg4_VQzKgnbEbbjsTG-o8xeJX9KRklp4uLvOr7dCOz-9zrcMW-tW.JZXVajNyKAb3E9Of.

7.5 Here is the link for a short presentation to the CUSC Panel of independent reviewers on October 22, 2021: [Geothermal Worldwide Zoom.mp4 - Google Drive](#). (It is about an hour (52:02). Here is an optional link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aFacKaq-jppZuNF-00v88mYAiNa3vUAK/view?usp=drive_link.

We are in a critical moment in history dealing with climate change, drought, and ecological disaster. We must use this opportunity and not ignore it as has been the case in the last 10 years.



Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.,
78-365 Hwy 111, #402, La Quinta, CA 92201,

Email: nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com
Ph: 760-347-1609

I respectfully urge the California Energy Commission not to succumb to the pressure of those who work on destruction (disappearance) of the Salton Sea, but to use given power and engage more decisively in saving and restoring the Salton Sea.

I would be glad to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Nikola N. Lakic
Graduate Engineer, Architect, / Inventor
Geothermal Worldwide, Inc.
78-365 Hwy 111, #402
La Quinta, CA 92253
01-760-347-1609
01-760-333-3851 cell
www.GeothermalWorldwide.com
nlakic@GeothermalWorldwide.com

