

The background image is a landscape photograph of the Salton Sea. In the foreground, a large flock of white birds, likely Great Egrets, is gathered on the muddy shore. The water is a deep blue-grey. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains under a clear sky. The title text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

The Salton Sea: The Next Chapter

**Michael Cohen
Pacific Institute**

**Renewable Energy & Water Summit
March 10, 2016**



Pacific Institute



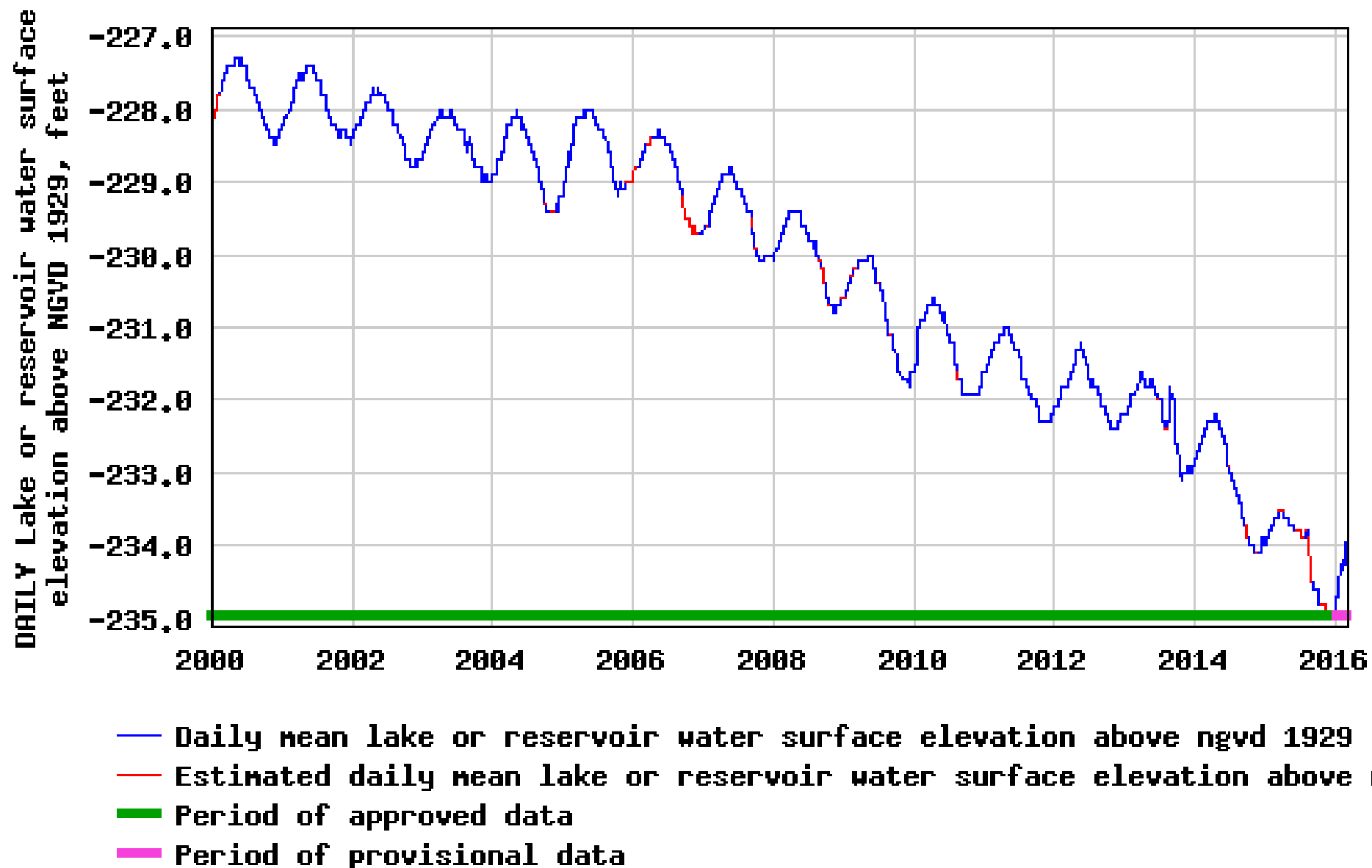
Founded in 1987 and based in Oakland, California, the Pacific Institute is a non-profit research center dedicated to protecting our natural world, encouraging sustainable development, and improving global security.

www.pacinst.org

Overview

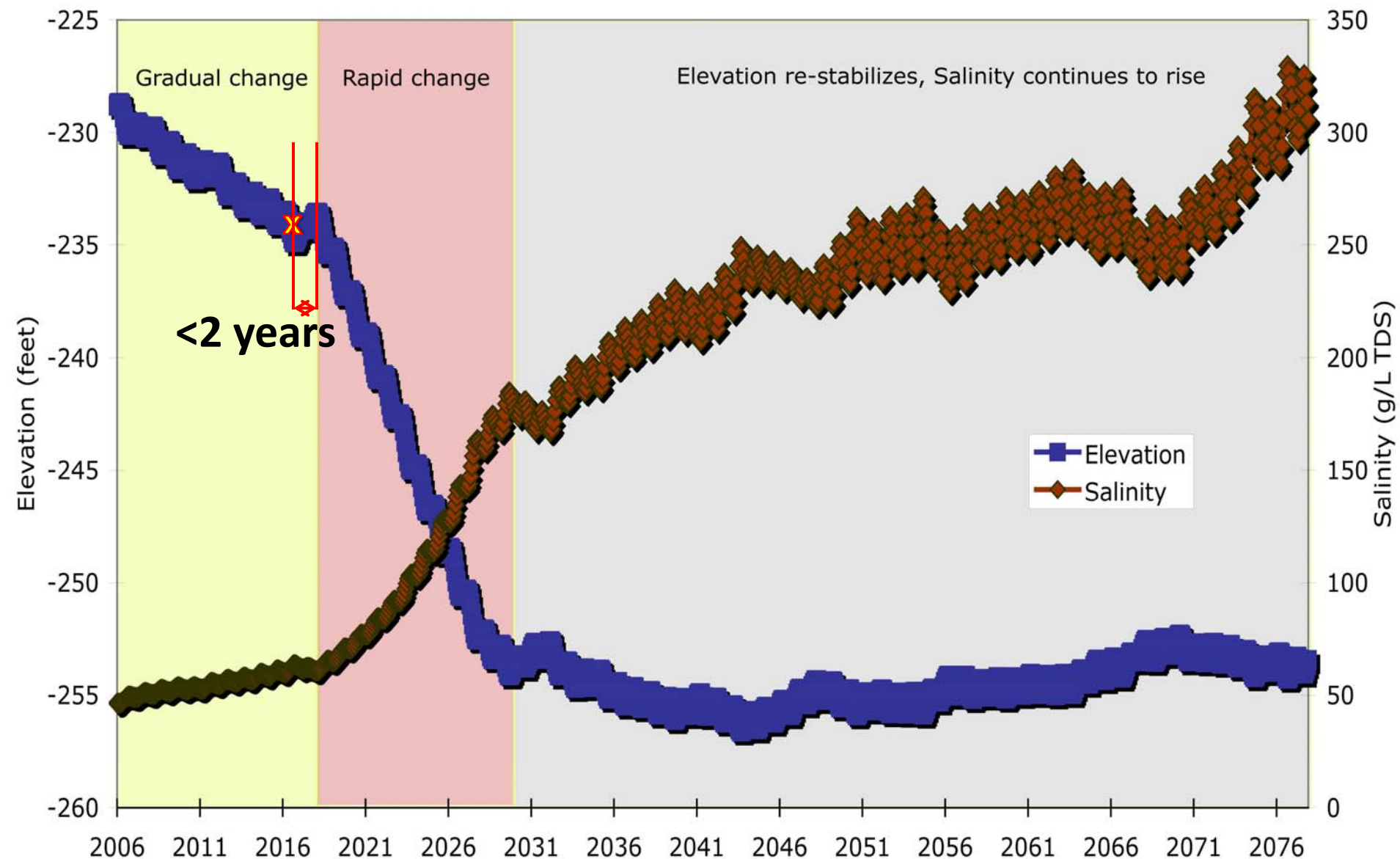
- Salton Sea status and prospects
- Task Force on renewables
- Progress, but long way to go
- Lots of opportunities
- Good options being developed

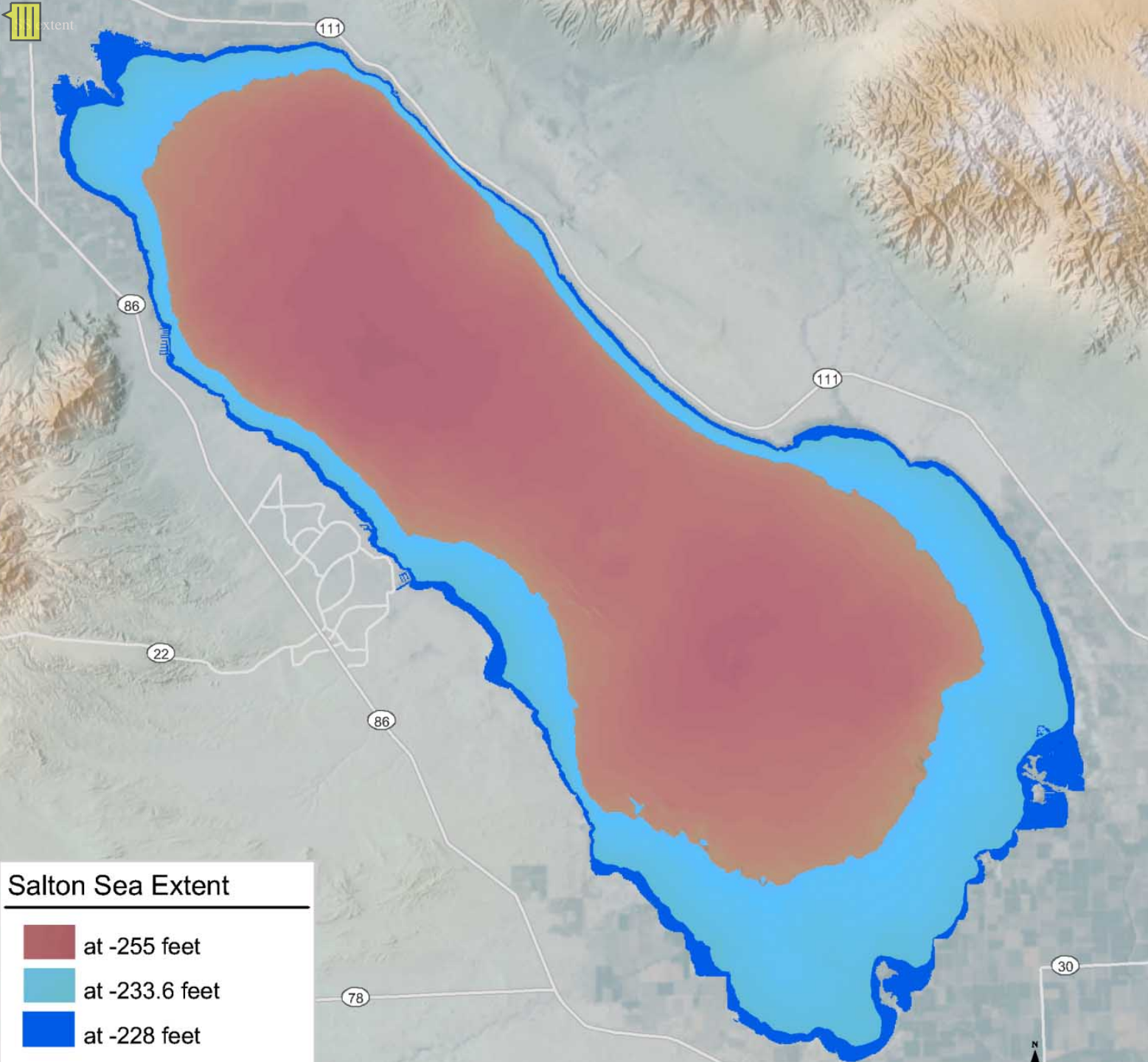
USGS 10254005 SALTON SEA NR WESTMORLAND CA





Salton Sea Elevation and Salinity





**Sea could
recede >5
miles from
recent
shoreline**



Salton Sea Task Force Agency Actions

The implementation of sustainable habitat and air quality management and mitigation at the Salton Sea through a Salton Sea Management Program is critical for the protection of regional air quality, natural resources at the sea, and the management of a stable Colorado River Supply for California. The Salton Sea Task Force recognizes the contributions of the local leadership, plans, and initiatives that have informed the Task Force process. Following meetings with key stakeholders, the Task Force finds that implementation of a successful Salton Sea Management Program depends on the following three principles: 1) strong state, federal, and local partnerships; 2) clear and achievable milestones with state-directed plans to achieve them; and 3) committed participation from all stakeholders who share the goals of protecting air quality, reducing habitat impacts, and maintaining a secure Colorado River Water Supply. These three factors will drive decision-making on a short- and a medium-term plan while leveraging fiscal and technical resources to deliver projects in an expedited manner.

The Natural Resources Agency will take the following actions over an accelerated timeline:

- **Begin immediate implementation and further development of Salton Sea management plan**
 - The plan will prioritize actions that respond to air quality and natural resources impacts while incorporating opportunities for regional economic development, including recreational and renewable opportunities that benefit implementation of the plan.
 - A science advisory committee will be utilized to provide scientific expertise into plan development.
 - Colorado River stakeholders will be asked to assist with the development of the plan. The Salton Sea Authority and its members will be asked to help facilitate local involvement.
- **Improve public outreach and local partnership**

Task Force Agency Actions

- “The CEC and the PUC will evaluate how renewables at and around the SS will further the goals of the integrated resources plans, including a balanced resource mix and the minimization of localized air pollutants”

Task Force Agency Actions

- “Within the next year [2016], as part of planning to meet the 2030 greenhouse gas goals, the PUC, the CEC and the ISO will consider renewable energy opportunities at and around the SS and the region, and any additional transmission that may be needed for the near term or long term.”

Salton Sea Management Needs

- Water – ✓
- Stakeholder support – ✓
- Funding – ?
- Leadership – ?
- Long-term Commitment – ?



**Smaller
But
Sustainable**

