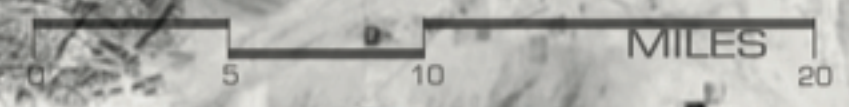




# HEALING A PARADISE IN DISTRESS: USING "ART • CUPUNCTURE" TO SAVE THE SALTON SEA





## BACKGROUND

Submerged between the valleys of Imperial and Riverside, the Salton Sea's unique landscape remains hidden between the towering terrains. It was first recognized as a paradise by early developers, where boating activities, beach resorts and fishing sports attracted majority of the public. However, since the site is located in an arid climate the sea's resources has desperately diminished and forced residents to fled the area. Although the sea does not hold the same qualities it had when it was established, the Salton Sea has transformed into a new paradise and redefining the beauty of nature. The Salton Sea is more than a lake placed in the desert, it is artificial, bizarre, unique and its natural essence captures travelers from across the globe.

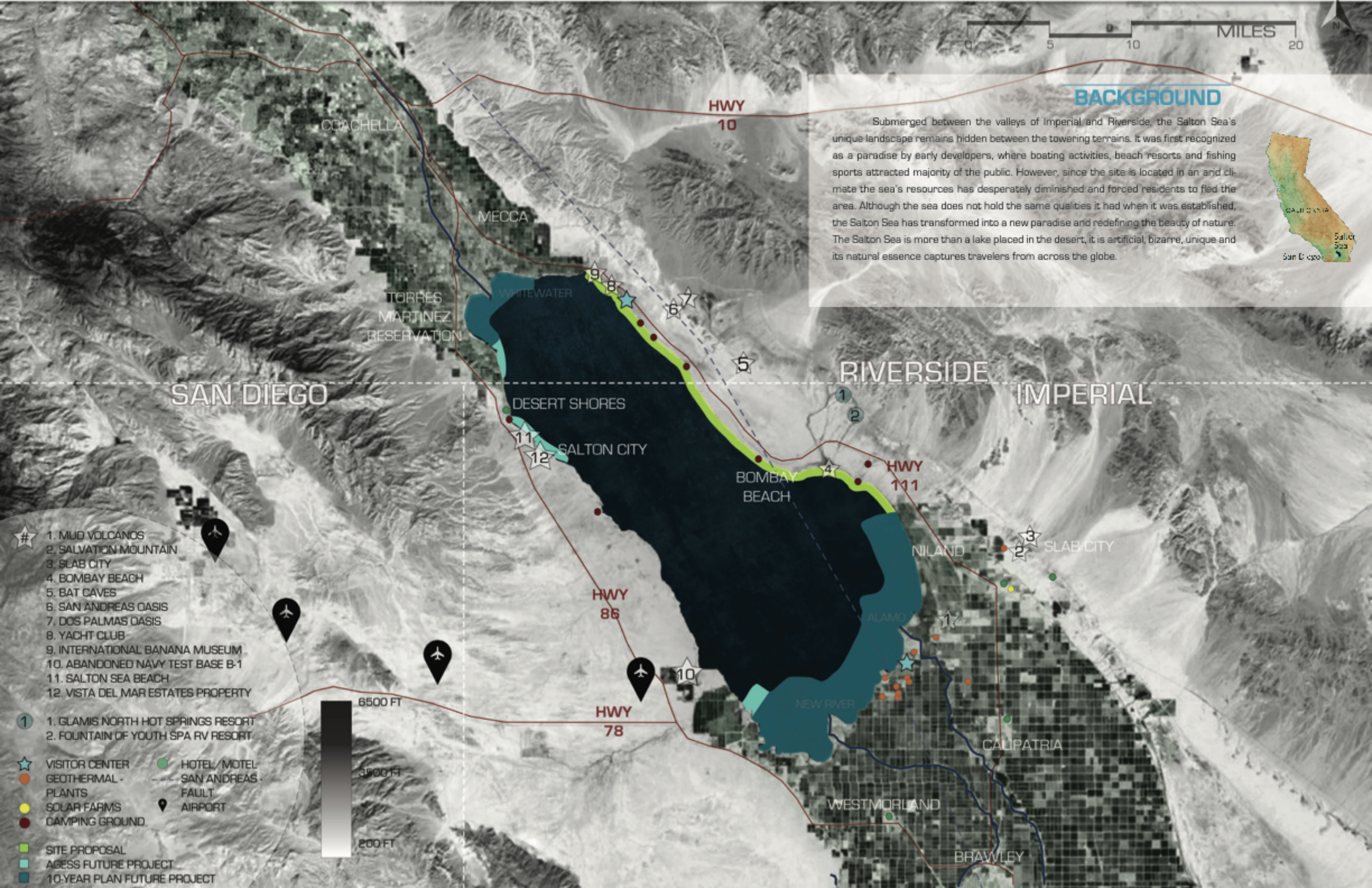
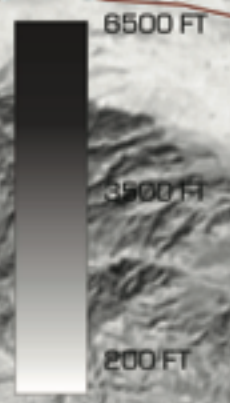


- # 1. MUD VOLCANOS
- 2. SALVATION MOUNTAIN
- 3. SLAB CITY
- 4. BOMBAY BEACH
- 5. BAT CAVES
- 6. SAN ANDREAS OASIS
- 7. DOS PALMAS OASIS
- 8. YACHT CLUB
- 9. INTERNATIONAL BANANA MUSEUM
- 10. ABANDONED NAVY TEST BASE B-1
- 11. SALTON SEA BEACH
- 12. VISTA DEL MAR ESTATES PROPERTY

- 1 1. GLAMIS NORTH HOT SPRINGS RESORT
- 2. FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH SPA RV RESORT

- ★ VISITOR CENTER
- GEOTHERMAL PLANTS
- SOLAR FARMS
- CAMPING GROUND
- HOTEL/MOTEL
- SAN ANDREAS FAULT
- ✈ AIRPORT

- SITE PROPOSAL
- ACCESS FUTURE PROJECT
- 10-YEAR PLAN FUTURE PROJECT





ARTIFICIAL SEA  
**1905**

This artificial sea is not naturally made but created by accident when an agriculture canal rupture in 1905. This caused the Colorado river to release enormous amounts of water into the basin, creating the largest lake in the state of California.



PHOTO BY AUTHOR

PARADISE RETREAT  
**1950**

Although this issue was deemed as an agricultural disaster, developers took this as an opportunity to create a retreat paradise.



PHOTO BY LOS ANGELES TIMES

FLUCTUATING FLOODS  
**1970**

This enigmatic basin was first considered a paradise in the desert. Due to a series of heavy tropical storms, rising water levels forced development areas to move inland numerous of times, while floodings forced home construction to be abandoned.



PHOTO BY SHUAN LANG

SALINITY, BIRD & FISH CRISIS  
**2000**

Over time the arid climate prevented rainfall to occur and caused evaporation rates to spike. The Salton Sea's water condition continue to evaporate and is leaving behind 4.5 million tons of salt annually (Krantz, 2008). These harsh water conditions caused many bird and fish populations to deplete drastically. The sea's bizarre location also has no inflow nor outflow of water which makes it more difficult to resupply its natural resources.

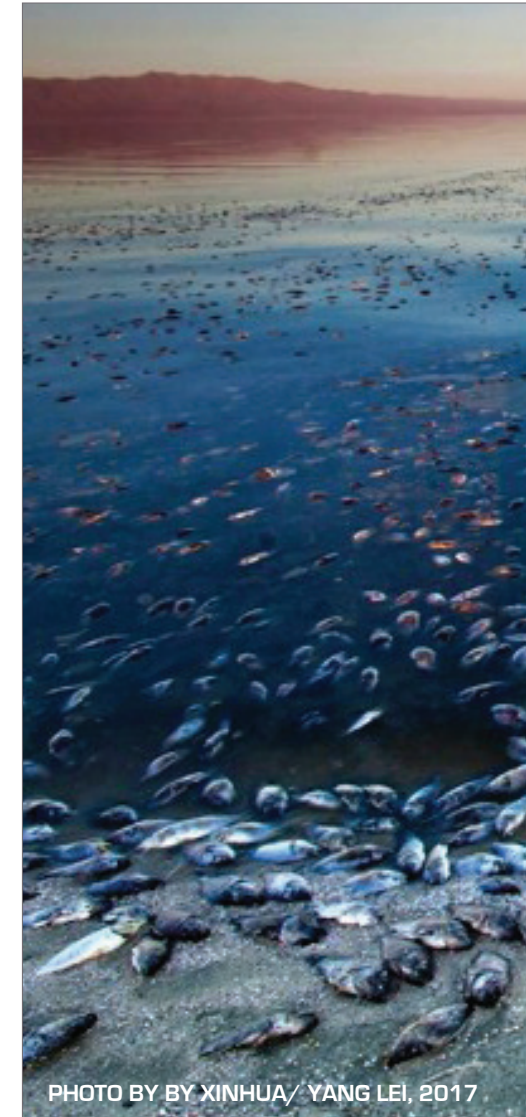


PHOTO BY BY XINHUA/ YANG LEI, 2017

RESPIRATORY IMPACT  
**CURRENT**

The depleting water has exposed high amounts of sediments to the atmosphere and winds are pushing a "fishy" odor to neighboring cities. The odor impact can be seen in the image below and it is produced when organic matter breaks down the environment lacking oxygen. This reaction causes hydrogen sulfide gas to produce and mainly found in deeper locations of the sea.

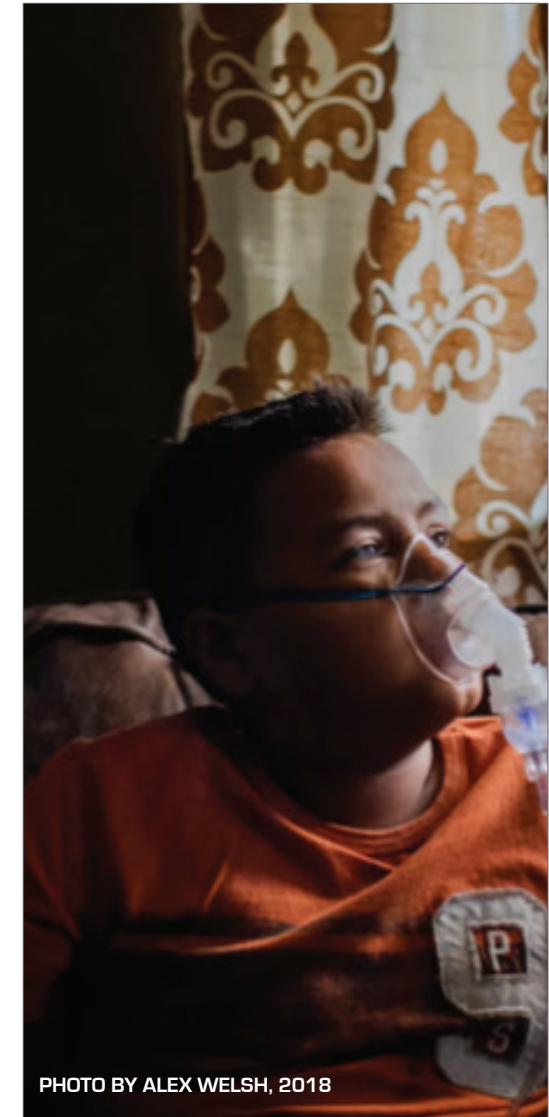


PHOTO BY ALEX WELSH, 2018



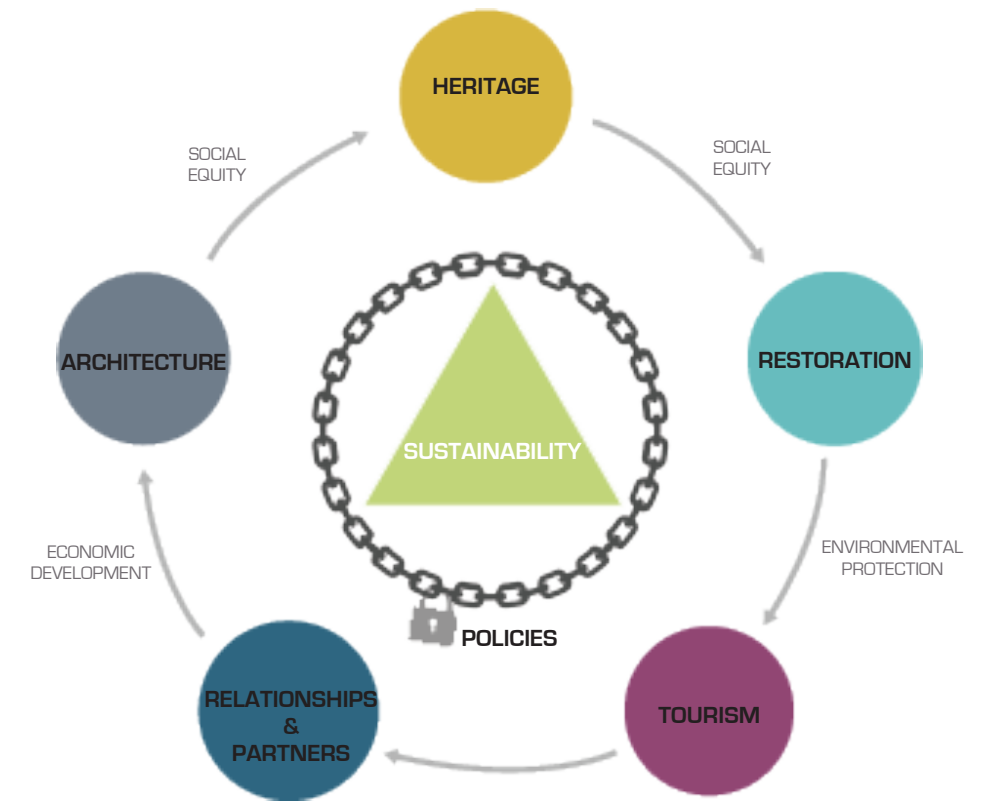
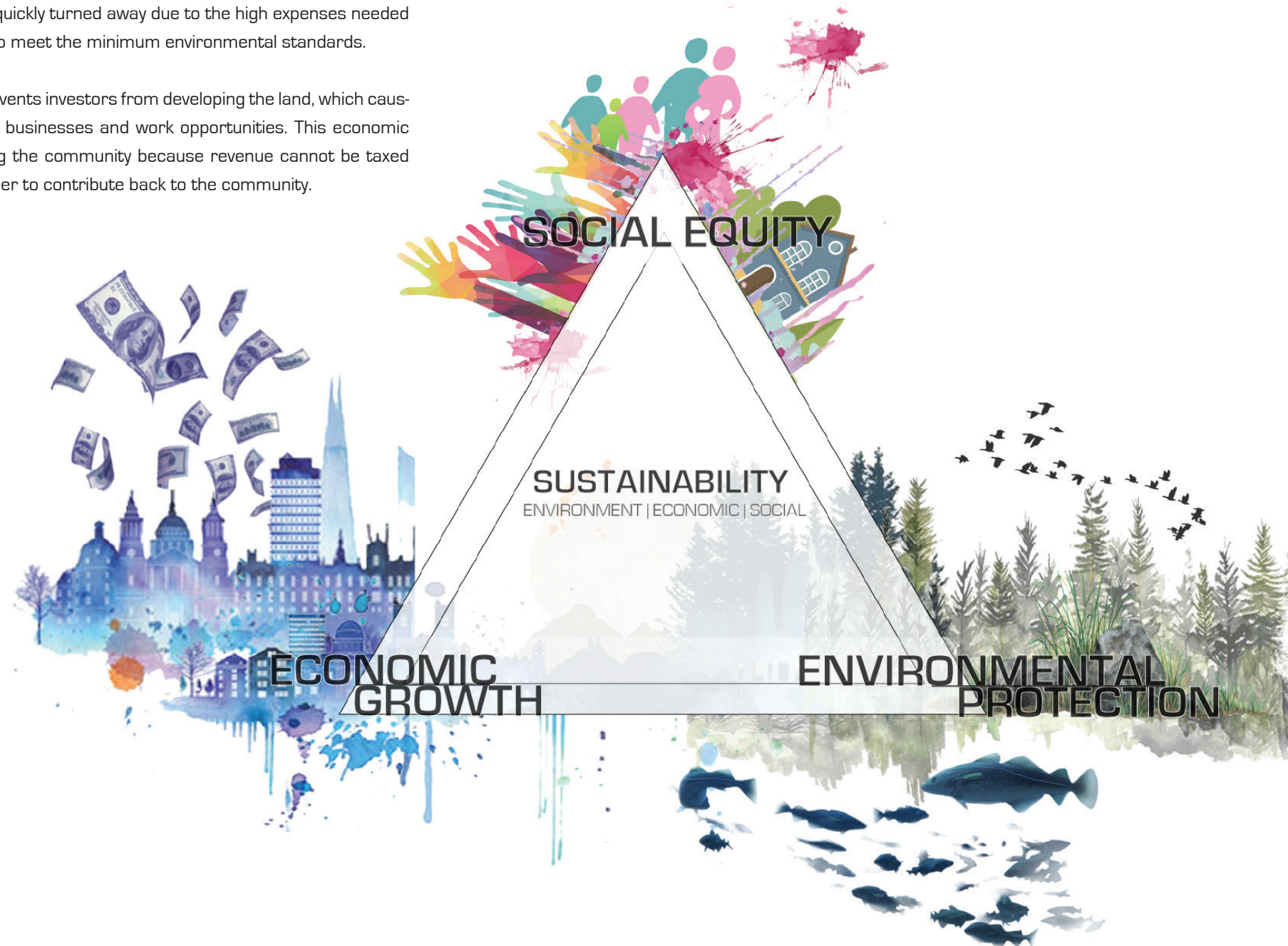
# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The Planner's Triangle is a simplified approach urban planners have been utilizing for many years. In an ideal world, the planner will strive to achieve a balance of all three goals: environmental protection, social equity, and economic development. Essentially, these are the main priorities of the city and represented by separate interest groups. All three points on the triangle interactively relate to each other. If the city values leans strongly towards one interest, than the city's goals will steer away from other values.

At the Salton Sea, environmental regulations are mainly securing the site from being exploited. Individuals that are interested on re-developing the site, are quickly turned away due to the high expenses needed to get property to meet the minimum environmental standards.

This problem prevents investors from developing the land, which causes limitation for businesses and work opportunities. This economic strain is affecting the community because revenue cannot be taxed nor gained in order to contribute back to the community.

This situation is exactly what happened to the Salton Sea Action Committee, where money was funded to buy the land, restored and re-developed in order to gain profit to contribute for future revitalization projects. Unfortunately, all the money raised was spent on permits and cleaning out the marina. From a business perspective, stakeholders see no value for funding these projects at the Salton Sea.



## 1. HERITAGE

Every location is unique and will not hold the same value of significance compared to others. However, it is important to understand the value of the site through its community, history and indigenous connections.

## 2. RESTORATION

The objective of a restoration plan should conserve the natural and cultural significance, while minimizing any environmental impact. Restoration projects and technology are great solutions for sustaining the site.

## 3. TOURISM

Eco-Tourism allows the city to gain revenue from visitor spending, without impacting the environment severely. The money received from this, will be used to fund for restoration projects.

## 4. RELATIONSHIPS & PARTNERS

Economic development will greatly depend on strong relationships between developers, businesses and the local community. If the community has an understanding of the master plan, they will be more supportive for private projects.

## 5. ARCHITECTURE

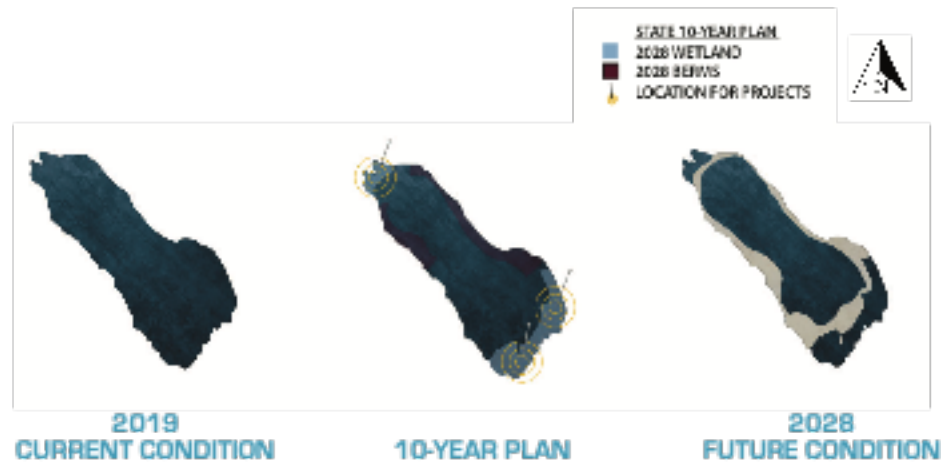
Architecture acts an embellishment to the site by creating anchor points that attract the general public. Spaces can also be used for businesses to support the economy and community gatherings.

## 7. POLICIES

It is critical to understand that every decision made must be approved by city and state officials. This process itself can be tedious and sluggish. However, policies cannot be overlooked when proposing new solutions.



## CURRENT PLANS 2019



California's current 10-year plans are focused on constructing shallow wetlands on the north and south region of the Salton Sea. Meaning the communities in the east and west region are not going to receive much benefits, besides the constructions of berms that suppress exposed lake shores.

## CASE STUDIES

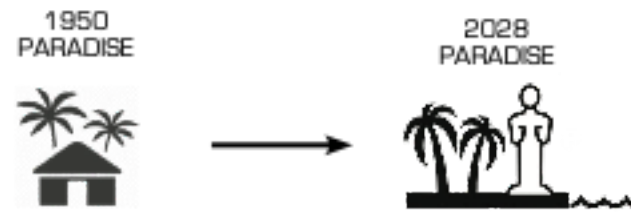


## PROJECT PROPOSAL 2020

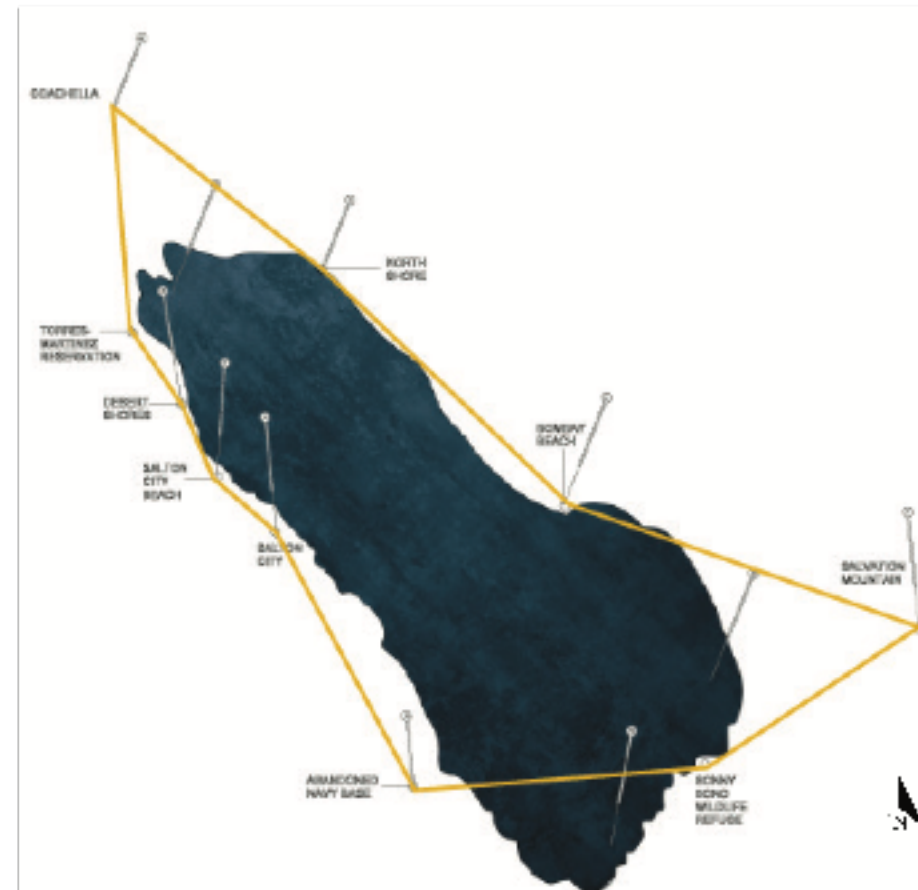
### ART • CU • PUNC • TURE

noun

Creating small intermediate projects using Art and Urban- Acupuncture to attract resources which will increase environmental awareness, economic growth and quality of life.



"Art • Cupuncture" is not a term planner's use today, yet more of a tactic developed through researching several international master-plan guidelines that support sites in need of eco-tourism and case studies that used architectural experience as a catalyst. In the 1950, the Salton Sea paradise was defined as beach resorts, fishing sports and boating activities. However, with the current conditions of the Salton Sea, there is an opportunity for setting a new type of paradise.



## PROPOSAL OUTCOME 2050

YEAR 2050  
FUTURE CONDITION:



ELEMENT 1:  
HERITAGE



ELEMENT 2:  
RESTORATION



ELEMENT 3:  
TOURISM



ELEMENT 4:  
RELATIONSHIPS &  
PARTNERS



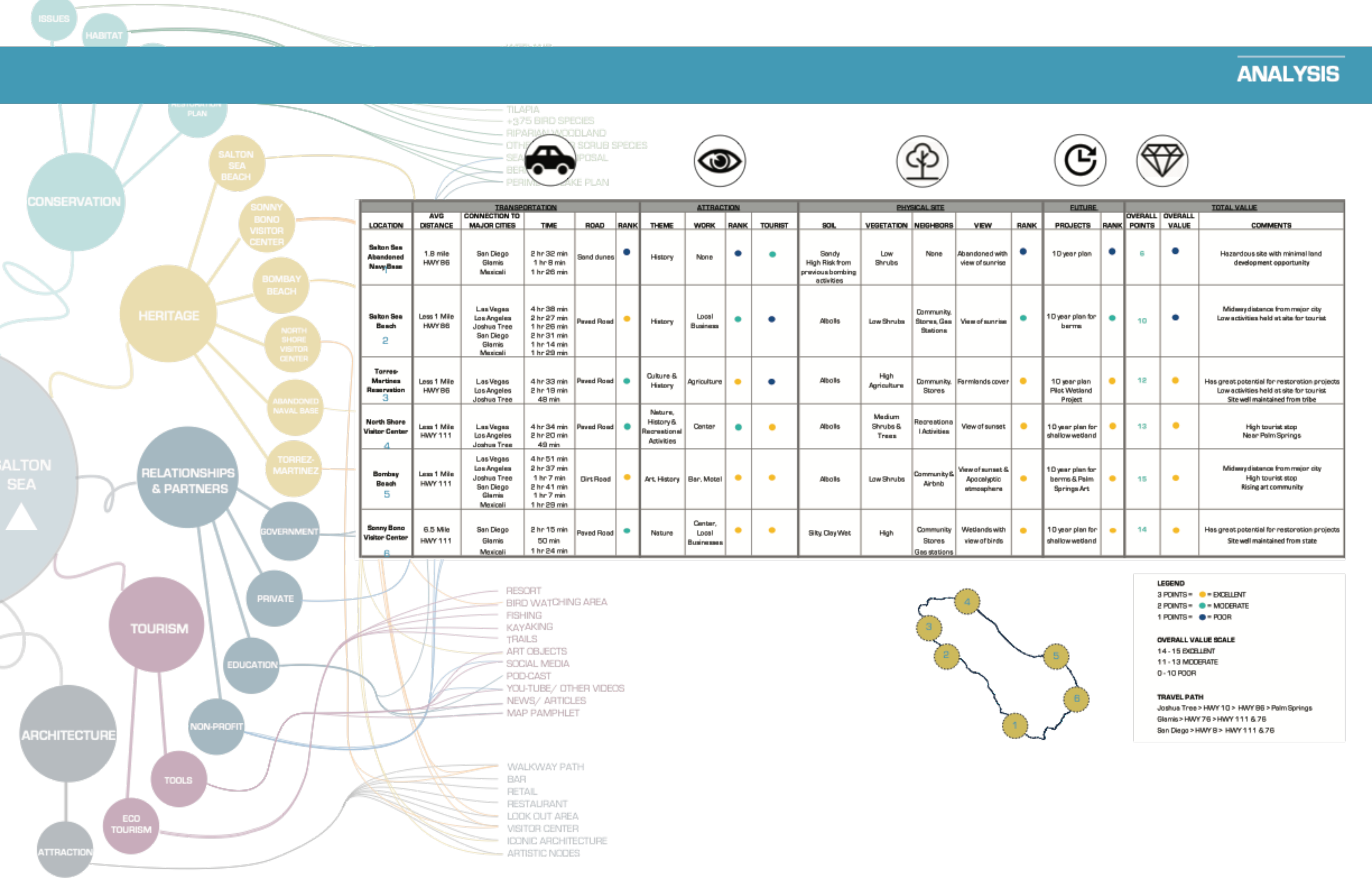
ELEMENT 5:  
ARCHITECTURE



YEAR 2020  
CA 10-YEAR PLAN:







TILAPIA  
 +375 BIRD SPECIES  
 RIPARIAN WOODLAND  
 OTHER SCRUB SPECIES  
 SEA TURTLE  
 BEAR  
 PERIMETER LAKE PLAN



LOCATION	TRANSPORTATION					ATTRACTION				PHYSICAL SITE				FUTURE		OVERALL POINTS	OVERALL VALUE	TOTAL VALUE COMMENTS	
	AVG DISTANCE	CONNECTION TO MAJOR CITIES	TIME	ROAD	RANK	THEME	WORK	RANK	TOURIST	SOIL	VEGETATION	NEIGHBORS	VIEW	RANK	PROJECTS				RANK
<b>Salton Sea Abandoned Navy Base</b>	1.8 mile HWY 86	San Diego Glamis Mexicali	2 hr 32 min 1 hr 8 min 1 hr 26 min	Sand dunes	1	History	None	1	1	Sandy High Risk from previous bombing activities	Low Shrubs	None	Abandoned with view of sunrise	1	10 year plan	1	6	1	Hazardous site with minimal land development opportunity
<b>Salton Sea Beach 2</b>	Less 1 Mile HWY 86	Las Vegas Los Angeles Joshua Tree San Diego Glamis Mexicali	4 hr 38 min 2 hr 27 min 1 hr 26 min 2 hr 31 min 1 hr 14 min 1 hr 29 min	Paved Road	2	History	Local Business	2	2	Albols	Low Shrubs	Community Stores, Gas Stations	View of sunrise	2	10 year plan for berms	2	10	2	Midway distance from major city Low activities held at site for tourist
<b>Torres-Martinez Reservation 3</b>	Less 1 Mile HWY 86	Las Vegas Los Angeles Joshua Tree	4 hr 33 min 2 hr 19 min 48 min	Paved Road	3	Culture & History	Agriculture	3	3	Albols	High Agriculture	Community Stores	Farmlands cover	3	10 year plan Plot Westland Project	3	12	3	Has great potential for restoration projects Low activities held at site for tourist Site well maintained from tribe
<b>North Shore Visitor Center 4</b>	Less 1 Mile HWY 111	Las Vegas Los Angeles Joshua Tree	4 hr 34 min 2 hr 20 min 49 min	Paved Road	4	Nature, History & Recreational Activities	Center	4	4	Albols	Medium Shrubs & Trees	Recreational Activities	View of sunset	4	10 year plan for shallow wetland	4	13	4	High tourist stop Near Palm Springs
<b>Bombay Beach 5</b>	Less 1 Mile HWY 111	Las Vegas Los Angeles Joshua Tree San Diego Glamis Mexicali	4 hr 51 min 2 hr 37 min 1 hr 7 min 2 hr 41 min 1 hr 7 min 1 hr 29 min	Dirt Road	5	Art, History	Bar, Motel	5	5	Albols	Low Shrubs	Community & Airbnb	View of sunset & Apocalyptic atmosphere	5	10 year plan for berms & Palm Springs Art	5	15	5	Midway distance from major city High tourist stop Rising art community
<b>Sonny Bono Visitor Center 6</b>	6.5 Mile HWY 111	San Diego Glamis Mexicali	2 hr 15 min 50 min 1 hr 24 min	Paved Road	6	Nature	Center, Local Business	6	6	Silty Clay Wet	High	Community Stores Gas stations	Wetlands with view of birds	6	10 year plan for shallow wetland	6	14	6	Has great potential for restoration projects Site well maintained from state

RESORT  
 BIRD WATCHING AREA  
 FISHING  
 KAYAKING  
 TRAILS  
 ART OBJECTS  
 SOCIAL MEDIA  
 POD-CAST  
 YOUTUBE/ OTHER VIDEOS  
 NEWS/ ARTICLES  
 MAP PAMPHLET

WALKWAY PATH  
 BAR  
 RETAIL  
 RESTAURANT  
 LOOK OUT AREA  
 VISITOR CENTER  
 ICONIC ARCHITECTURE  
 ARTISTIC NODES



**LEGEND**  
 3 POINTS = ● = EXCELLENT  
 2 POINTS = ● = MODERATE  
 1 POINTS = ● = POOR

**OVERALL VALUE SCALE**  
 14 - 15 EXCELLENT  
 11 - 13 MODERATE  
 0 - 10 POOR

**TRAVEL PATH**  
 Joshua Tree > HWY 10 > HWY 86 > Palm Springs  
 Glamis > HWY 76 > HWY 111 & 76  
 San Diego > HWY 8 > HWY 111 & 76





PHASE 1.1 | ART-CUPUNCTURE  
AVENUE E



PHASE 1.2 | DEVELOP NEIGHBORHOOD  
AVENUE E



PHASE 1.3 | EVENTS FOR COMMUNITY & PUBLIC  
AVENUE E

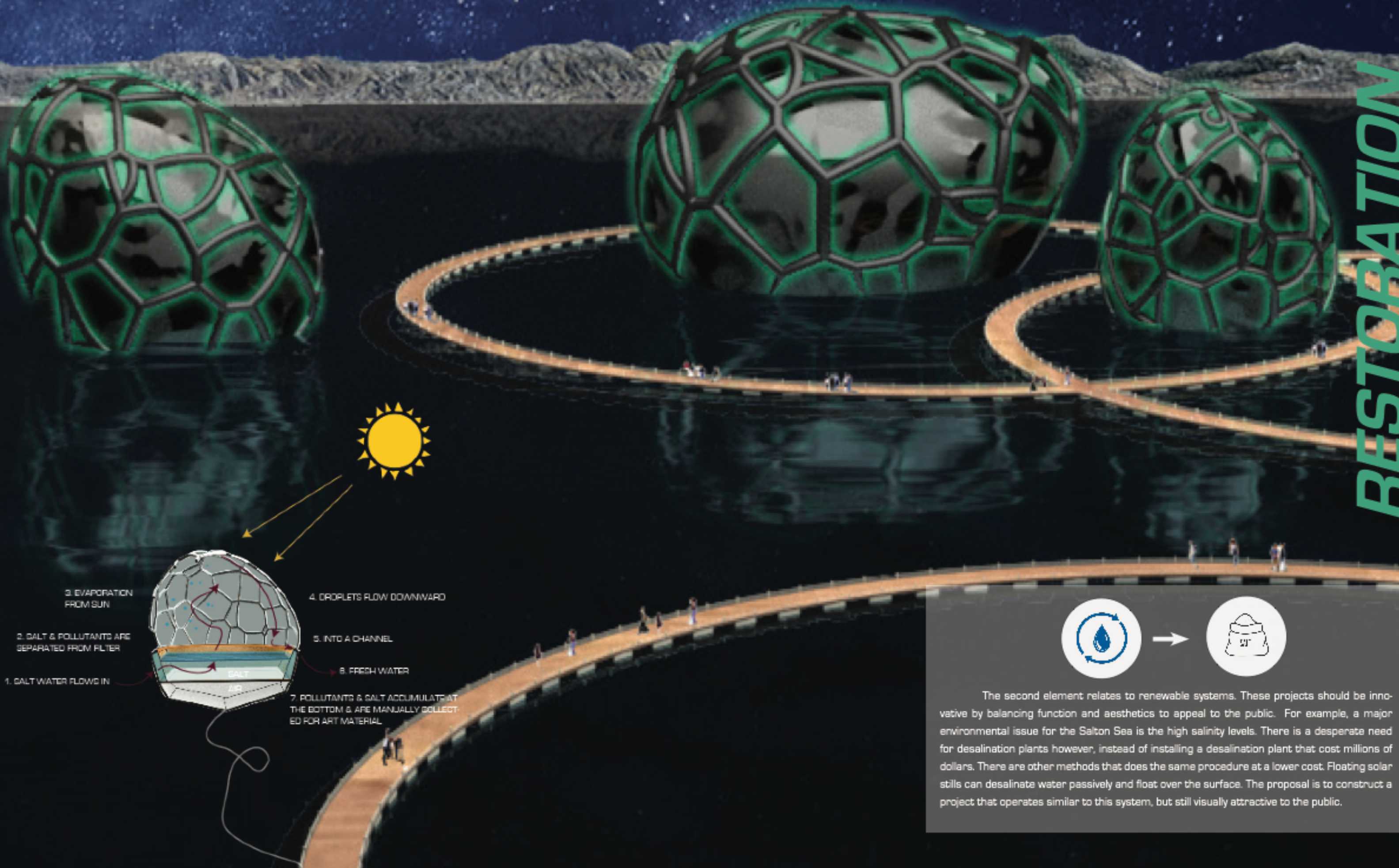


This is the most important phase because it is the catalyst for getting people interested to the site. The idea is not to re-create something new, rather develop the node artistically to enhance the site's and communities' existing identity. For example, Bombay Beach has a rising art community, where international artists purchase homes and display their artwork for the Bombay Beach Biennale festival. This art culture can be used as a strategy to get people to recognize Bombay Beach.

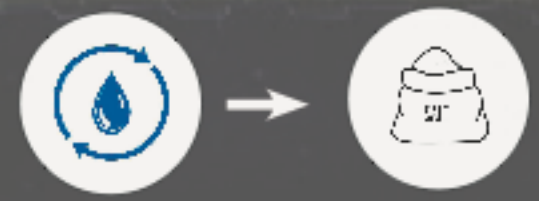


HERITAGE





- 1. SALT WATER FLOWS IN
- 2. SALT & POLLUTANTS ARE SEPARATED FROM FILTER
- 3. EVAPORATION FROM SUN
- 4. DROPLETS FLOW DOWNWARD
- 5. INTO A CHANNEL
- 6. FRESH WATER
- 7. POLLUTANTS & SALT ACCUMULATE AT THE BOTTOM & ARE MANUALLY COLLECTED FOR ART MATERIAL
- 8. FRESH WATER



The second element relates to renewable systems. These projects should be innovative by balancing function and aesthetics to appeal to the public. For example, a major environmental issue for the Salton Sea is the high salinity levels. There is a desperate need for desalination plants however, instead of installing a desalination plant that cost millions of dollars. There are other methods that does the same procedure at a lower cost. Floating solar stills can desalinate water passively and float over the surface. The proposal is to construct a project that operates similar to this system, but still visually attractive to the public.





# TOURISM

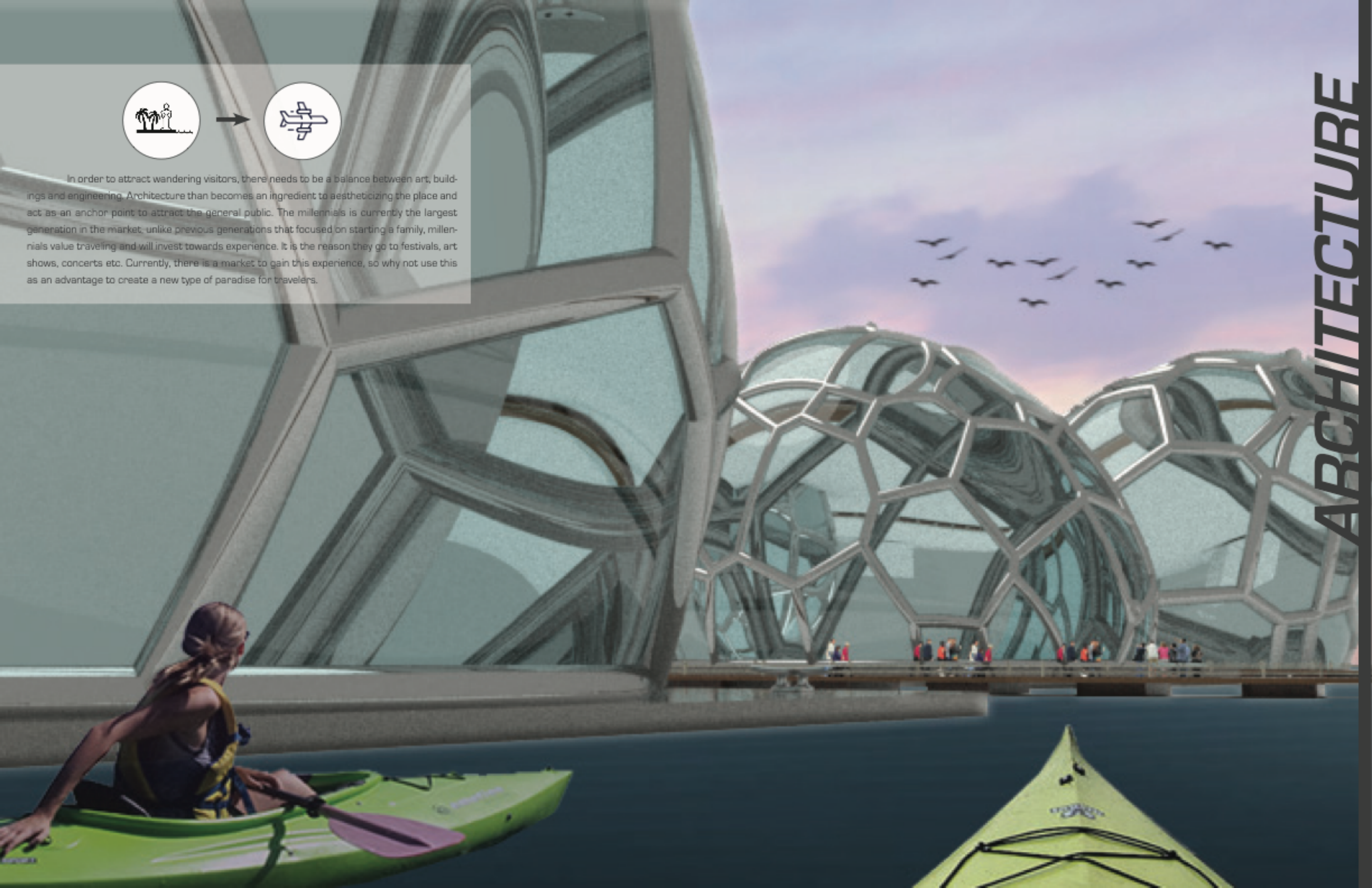


As for the Salton Sea, the tourism strategy must grab visitor's attention by integrating loud and large-scale art projects. However, these objects should not act as a separate entity, but rather contribute to the restoration of the site. For example, as the desalination seeds separate the salt and fresh water. The collected salt should be used as art material and will bring awareness of the harsh salty conditions. The open art gallery will not only create an emotional connection to the visitor but it is benefiting the sea by reusing the substance that needs to be extracted.





In order to attract wandering visitors, there needs to be a balance between art, buildings and engineering. Architecture then becomes an ingredient to aestheticizing the place and act as an anchor point to attract the general public. The millennials is currently the largest generation in the market, unlike previous generations that focused on starting a family, millennials value traveling and will invest towards experience. It is the reason they go to festivals, art shows, concerts etc. Currently, there is a market to gain this experience, so why not use this as an advantage to create a new type of paradise for travelers.



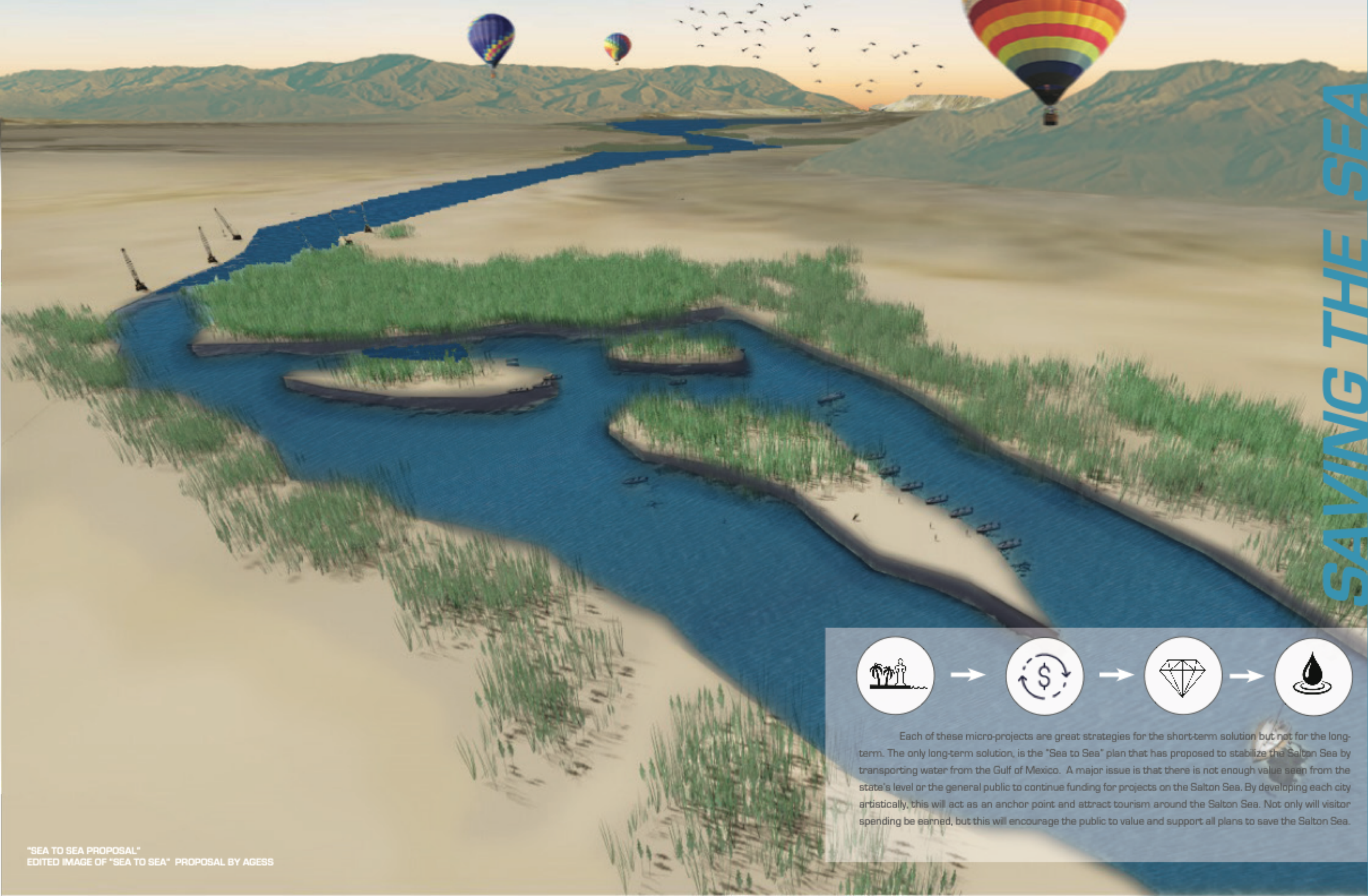
ARCHITECTURE







# SAVING THE SEA



Each of these micro-projects are great strategies for the short-term solution but not for the long-term. The only long-term solution, is the "Sea to Sea" plan that has proposed to stabilize the Salton Sea by transporting water from the Gulf of Mexico. A major issue is that there is not enough value seen from the state's level or the general public to continue funding for projects on the Salton Sea. By developing each city artistically, this will act as an anchor point and attract tourism around the Salton Sea. Not only will visitor spending be earned, but this will encourage the public to value and support all plans to save the Salton Sea.