

The Fifth Lagoon

FROM THE SALTON SEA TO THE PACIFIC
FROM THE SALTON SEA TO THE GULF



I
The Salton Sea is to continue to function as a repository for agricultural and municipal wastes from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys so that its salinity, turbidity and pesticide levels continue to increase as mandated by law
then
the Salton Sea can no longer continue to function as a recreational area with fishing and swimming as designated by law

II
The Salton Sea is to continue to function as a recreational area with fishing and swimming as designated by law
then

the Salton Sea can no longer continue to function as a repository for agricultural and municipal wastes from the Imperial and Coachella Valleys so that its turbidity, pesticide and salinity levels continue to increase as mandated by law

III
The salinity, turbidity and pesticide levels of the Salton Sea are allowed to continue to increase at their present rate so that the proportion and composition of the salts and trace minerals continues to diverge from that of the ocean (34,000 ppm to 36,500 ppm)
then
over the next few years as the salinity approaches 55,000 ppm all life forms will have ceased to reproduce many of the higher taxa in the food chain will have ceased to function

then
only a highly adapted minimally productive low yield biomass can stabilize

IV
The salinity, turbidity and pesticide levels of the Salton Sea are permitted to decrease and the proportion and composition of the salts and trace minerals brought to greater convergence with that of the ocean
then

over the next few years as the salinity reapproaches 36,000 ppm all the extant life forms can regenerate and the food chain can be complicated by the introduction/reintroduction of species

then
a less generally adapted higher yield biomass can stabilize

V
No action is taken on the desalination of the Salton Sea
then

Proposition III will come to pass and the socioeconomic/ecological contradictions posed in Propositions I and II will be resolved by the reduction of alternatives/the exclusion of possibilities

VI
Action is taken on the desalination of the Salton Sea
then

Proposition II will come to pass and the socioeconomic/ecological contradictions posed in Propositions I and II will be resolved by the expansion of possibilities/the inclusion of alternatives



if action is taken and the salinity of the salton sea is reduced via the ongoing exchange of waters with the pacific ocean or the gulf then over time as the salinity reapproaches that of the ocean trace minerals will flow in and the proportion and composition will begin to converge with that of the ocean and diverge from that of the main the delta and the middle water rivers then a wide range of less specialized more highly productive life forms can be introduced life forms still extant can regenerate and a more stable food chain can evolve with additional additions from the ocean or the gulf

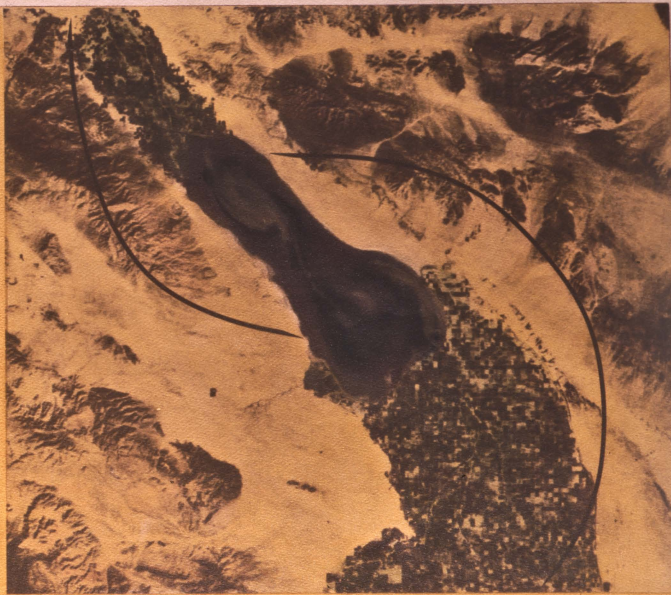
then the salton sea can become an estuarial bogoon with inflow rivers behaving as freshwater forages and a saltwater input-output channel with locks and pumps cut through the mountains to the pacific or through the colorado river delta to the gulf then the salton sea can be turned to productivity as a 360 square mile low intensity agriculture system with yields of up to 1,000 pounds per acre

if the waters of the salton sea are exchanged with those of the pacific with the outfall near the nuclear power plant at san rafael then a channel from the salton sea to the colorado river aqueduct at san rafael pass follows the route of the aqueduct to a point near the sea and from there cut a channel to the pacific so that output waters conform with those of the nuclear power plant and input waters are taken from an area further out then the two way input output system would need to move a distance of 160 miles over a rise of 3500 feet then the cost would be roughly equivalent to that of the system which currently brings sacramento river water from bakersfield over the tehachapi mountains to the los angeles basin

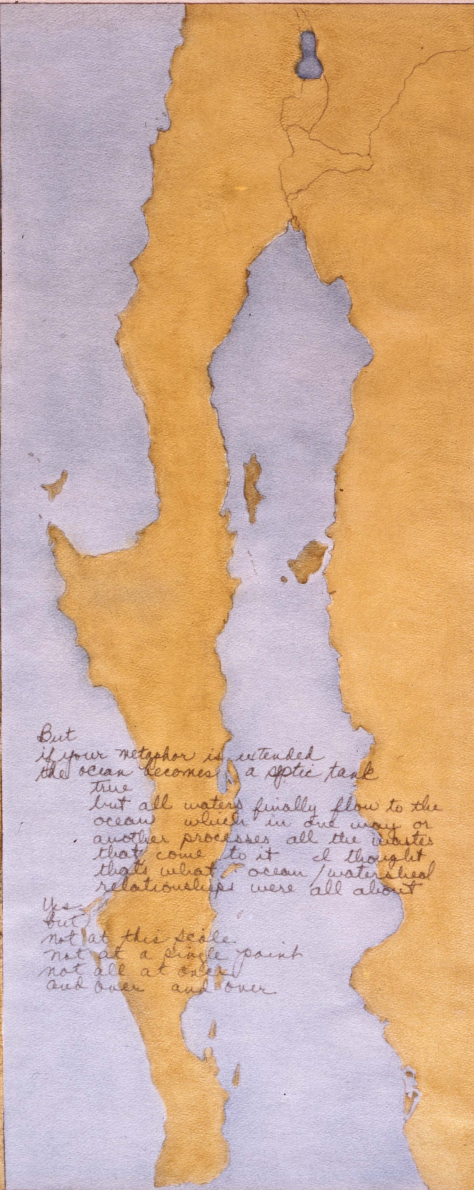
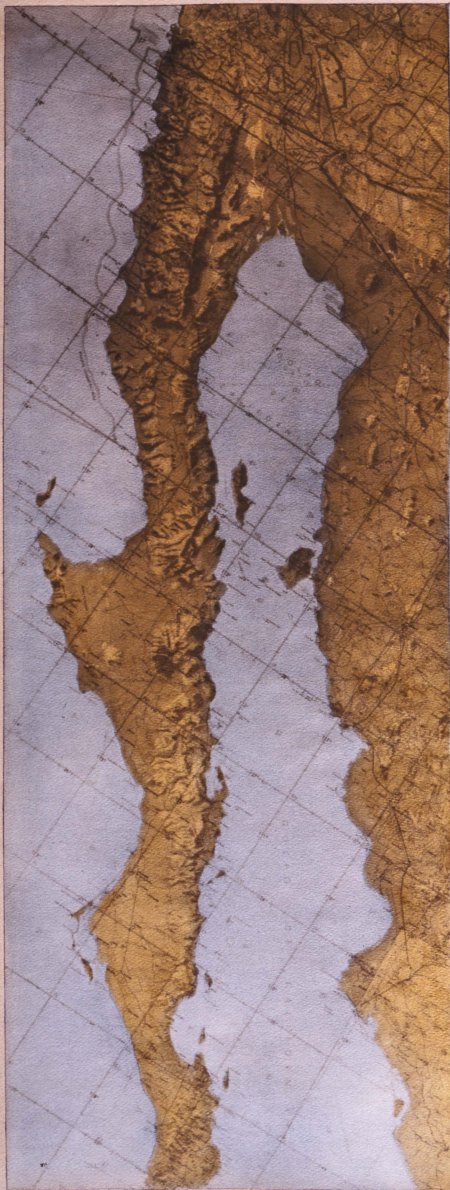
if the waters of the salton sea are to be exchanged with those of the gulf of california then a channel must be cut from the salton sea through the colorado river delta to a point below san rafael following sea level then a two way input output system with locks and pumps would be needed to move waters a distance of almost 160 miles over a maximum rise of 300 feet then the cost would be roughly equivalent to that of building a four lane highway over the same terrain

for
if you flush the Salton Sea
and make it into an estuarial lagoon
with locks and pumps
in the input-outlet channels
out northward to the Pacific
or southward to the gulf
then
360 square miles of oasoline water
contaminated with herbicides,
pesticides, minerals and metals
will be transferred to the Pacific or the Gulf
and as long as the irrigated agriculture continues
so will the contamination
then
who will flush the ocean
who will flush the gulf.

therefore
not this

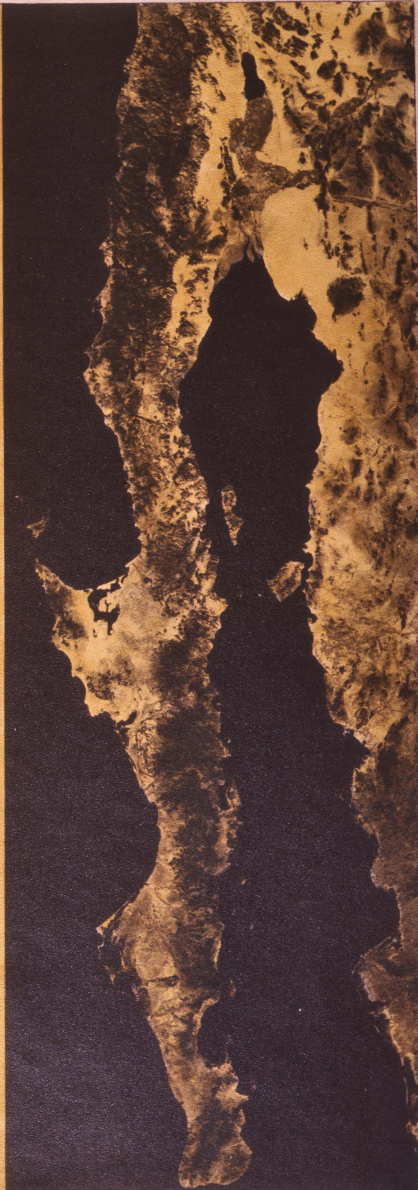


on this

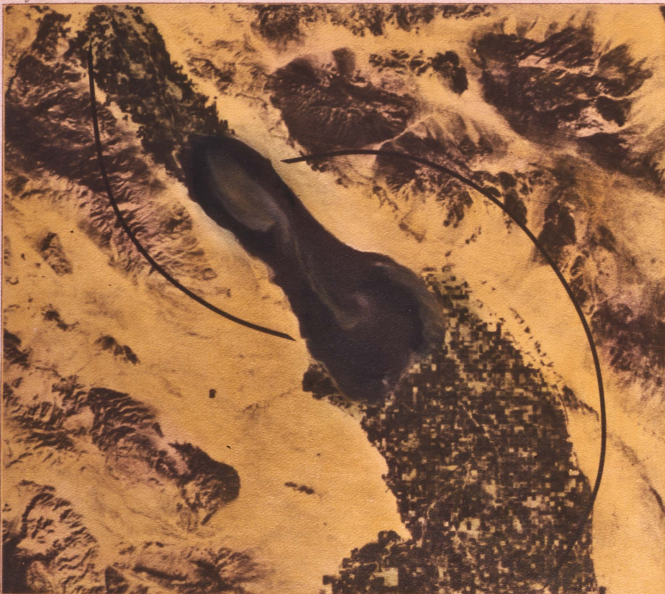


But
if your netzphen is extended
the ocean becomes a optic tank
The
but all waters finally flow to the
ocean which in due way or
another processes all the waters
that come to it I thought
that's what ocean / water level
relationships were all about

Yes
but
not at the scale
not at a single point
not all at once
and over and over



if this



Indeed
you can transform the Salton sea
but where
did such a curious notion
come from

as I tipped the map
in another direction
looking at the Salton sea
in relationship to Liapa
and the mainland
and the gulf
an image emerged
of the Salton sea
as a diseased bladder
for a moment
I imagined myself a surgeon
inserting a catheter
and generating an artificial
urethra

or this

then that



or that