

Topic Page: [Salton Sea \(Calif.\)](#)

Definition: **Salton Sea** from *The Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia with Atlas and Weather Guide*
Saltwater lake in Imperial and Riverside counties, southeast California; area 650 sq km/250 sq mi. It lies 130 km/80 mi east-northeast of San Diego. The lake was accidentally created in the early 20th century during irrigation works from the Colorado River. It is used to generate electricity; see solar ponds.

Summary Article: **Salton Sea**

From *The Columbia Encyclopedia*

(sôl'tƏn), saline lake, 370 sq mi (958 sq km), northern part of the Imperial Valley, SE Calif.; 232 ft (71 m) below sea level. Salton Sea was formed as the Colorado River delta grew across the Gulf of California, severing the river's northern part. The area was a salt-covered depression known as Salton Sink until 1905, when a flood on the Colorado broke through an irrigation gap in its levee; the river flowed into the sink for two years before being checked. The water level rose due to runoff from surrounding mountains and irrigation systems, but in recent years the sea's size has decreased, its salinity increased, and fertilizer and pesticide pollution grown, harming both fish and bird life as well as the once-thriving tourist trade. A state park and a national wildlife refuge are on its shores; the sea is an important stopping point on the Pacific flyway.

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Salton Sea. (2018). In P. Lagasse, & Columbia University, *The Columbia encyclopedia* (8th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Retrieved from https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/salton_sea_calif



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"Salton Sea." *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, Paul Lagasse, and Columbia University, Columbia University Press, 8th edition, 2018. *Credo Reference*, https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/salton_sea_calif. Accessed 18 Sep. 2019.