

**Appendix 1.** Interview guide.

**California's Imperial and Coachella Valleys in 2050:  
The future of the land, new technologies, and agricultural communities**

**Preliminary Questions:** *Let's begin with some background questions about your community and your views on the future of the landscape here.*

1. How long have you lived here?
2. How has this valley changed over time?
3. What type of work do you do?
4. In 30 years, what do you think the landscape of this valley will look like?
5. What do you think is the future of agriculture in this valley?
6. What new technologies do you think will affect life in this valley in 2050?
7. What are your main concerns about the environment in the future?
  - a. Whose responsibility is it to deal with these concerns?
  - b. How do you plan to cope or take action about them?

**Salton Sea Questions:** *In this second part of the interview, I'd like to hear your thoughts on the Salton Sea.*

1. How concerned are you about the situation at the Salton Sea?
2. Do you expect the shrinking of Salton Sea to personally affect you in the future?

[If yes] How will it affect you?
3. What do you think is the best option for the Salton Sea?
4. Have you seen this option discussed? [If yes] Where? [If no] Why do you think it has not been discussed?
5. How should decisions about Salton Sea management or restoration be made?
6. What do you see as the obstacles for making progress at the Salton Sea?
7. Has the lack of action at the Salton Sea changed your opinion about our ability to solve environmental challenges?

## **Supplemental questions asked of respondents with particular climate or agriculture expertise**

### **Climate change questions:**

1. How concerned are you about climate change?
2. Do you expect climate change to personally affect you in the future?  
[If yes] How will it affect you?
3. What do you think is the best option for dealing with climate change?
4. Have you seen this option discussed? [If yes] Where? [If no] Why do you think it has not been discussed?
5. Why do you think there has been so little action to date?

### **Future of Agriculture Questions:**

1. What kind of agricultural production do you expect to see here in 2050?
  - a. What crops are grown?
  - b. Where will they be sent?
  - c. What techniques will be used to cultivate them?
  - d. Who will be growing them?
2. What factors or trends do you think will impact this production?
3. What would make your life and work better right now?
4. Can you describe what a healthy, best-case, thriving community here in 2050 would look like?
5. What are the obstacles to this vision?
6. What tools or conditions would you need to make this best-case vision a reality?