

**Mario Llanos** joined the Natural Resources Agency's Salton Sea Management Program team as a Deputy Assistant Secretary on September 27, 2021. Mario provides leadership and interfaces with partners and local leaders to advance projects at the Salton Sea that improve ecosystem health and protect air quality. Originally from Imperial County, Mario is excited to return home to make a positive impact in the community he grew up in.

Mario has led high-performing teams for over 15 years. Before his current position, Mario served as a Horticulturist and District Manager for the Department of Parks and Recreation at the City of San Diego. As District Manager, he administered maintenance operations and budget, oversaw a Park Ranger Program, and led project management and coordination in historically and culturally significant parks, like Balboa Park and Presidio Park in San Diego. Mario has worked on significant projects in these parks collaborating with the City's Capital Improvements team, community leaders, philanthropic stakeholder groups, and various museums and institutions.

Mario earned an A.S. in Ornamental Horticulture from Cuyamaca College in San Diego and a B.S. in Environmental Horticultural Science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.