

on the budget. Further, outright earmarks to projects specifically named are generally prohibited under Senate reconciliation rules.

As described below, the House has passed its version of the BBB Act, which includes a measure specifically for the Salton Sea and funding for Reclamation designated for the Lower Colorado River basin states to address the impact of Colorado River drought and the 2019 Drought Contingency Plan agreement. The Senate is making modifications to the House-passed BBB Act.

a. Reclamation Salton Sea Funding

The BBB Act passed by the House includes section 70803, advanced by Congressmen Ruiz and Vargas. The Authority advocated for the inclusion of Salton Sea funding in the BBB Act via letter and direct advocacy. Because the bill will need to pass the Senate, and Senate reconciliation rules do not allow the specific, by name earmarking, the House Sea provision was written to avoid violating this Senate rule (and thereby avoid being stripped from the bill in the Senate). Section 70803 provides \$100 million in actual funding for Reclamation to provide grants and to enter into cooperative agreements with partners (State or subdivision, Tribe irrigation district, municipality, water district, non-profit, institution of higher learning or an agency established under state law [like the Authority]) to mitigate the impacts of drought/reduced water inflows.

b. Drought Contingency Plan and other Interior Funding

The BBB Act also includes specific funding for Reclamation to implement the 2019 Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) which is designed to bolster lake levels in Lake Mead and Lake Powell through voluntary water conservation efforts and/or otherwise improve the long-term efficiency of operations. The BBB Act specifically authorizes \$300 million for such efforts, reserving \$50 million of this amount for the Upper Basin. The bill also provides \$100 million for watershed health projects to be implemented as a grants program by the Secretary of the Interior to design, implement and monitor conservation outcomes of habitat restoration projects that improve watershed health in a river basin affected by a Bureau of Reclamation project.

