



MEMO

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O’Dowd
FROM: Lisa Moore
RE: **Federal Report**
DATE: April 16, 2024

Now that we have secured the legislative fix enabling us to seek additional funding for the Salton Sea Feasibility Study (study), we have 3 priorities: (1) secure an exception from Corps HQ from their policy that all studies be completed within 3 years and for \$3 million; (2) secure some bridge funding (\$400k) from the Corps HQ to the Corps Los Angeles District to enable the study to proceed without delay during FY24; and (3) secure additional appropriations for FY25 to cover Los Angeles District study costs.

I met this past month with our Congressional delegation to take steps to secure these priorities. These steps included drafting a letter for Directors to the Corps conveying these needs, which was also provided to our delegation to help them frame their own outreach to the Corps. The delegation, in follow up, planned to convey support for these requests. Of note, Senator Padilla (D-Calif.) planned to meet with the Corps Los Angeles District and we asked that he personally convey these requests.

With respect to priority (3), I also submitted our formal Energy and Water Appropriations FY25 congressionally directed funding request for the study to both Senators Butler and Padilla.

The process for such requests is that we submit our request to our Senators. If the Senators support the request, Senators must then work with the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee to secure inclusion of that request in the funding bill. (In the past, this process was a bit more assured for California requests as Senator Feinstein was the Chair of the Energy and Water Appropriations subcommittee and as such wrote the bill. California at present has no Senator on the appropriations committee.) I am also working with our House delegation on the parallel house process.