



MEMO

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O’Dowd
FROM: Lisa Moore
RE: **Federal Report**
DATE: June 17, 2024

I reported last meeting that through our work with our Congressional delegation, the Authority secured the required funding to advance a full Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Salton Sea Feasibility Study through the USACE FY24 work plan. The work plan included \$3.8 million in funding to advance a full study. This was the largest allocation for any study across the nation the USACE made in the work plan. It is a sign of USACE’s commitment to the Salton Sea.

The other avenue open to us to secure funding for the full study was by seeking a direct Congressional appropriation. Since we were unsure whether the USACE would provide funding for the study through its internal, administrative work plan process, we also submitted requests for FY25 Congressional appropriations this past March to cover USACE’s then-estimated FY24 an FY25 funding needs for the full study.

As Patrick will report in his update, we met with USACE leadership including Assistant Secretary for Civil Works Mike Connor this past month to discuss the process for moving forward with the study. In particular, we discussed the opportunity to also advance interim projects while the larger feasibility study is conducted.

As undertaking interim projects would require additional planning funds for USACE beyond those secured for the full USACE study in the work plan, we determined to continue to advocate for the FY25 Congressional funding we began seeking in March. In order for us to be successful at securing such funds, USACE will need to convey to Congress that they can put FY25 appropriated funds to use should they be secured for this purpose. Patrick is working with USACE on that messaging, while I am discussing this course with our Congressional delegation.