



## Cultivating Conservation

### MEMO

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O'Dowd  
FROM: Lisa Moore  
RE: Federal Report  
DATE: March 15, 2025

On February 24 and 25, Authority President Dockstader, Executive Director O'Dowd and I met in Washington, DC with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and our Congressional delegation — Senators Schiff and Padilla and Congressmen Ruiz and Calvert.

#### **Army Corps**

We met with the Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Works Robyn Colosimo. Colosimo previously served as the Director of Policy and Legislation to the Assistant Secretary for Civil works. Colosimo has been actively and positively engaged on the Salton Sea Feasibility Study. We had a very positive discussion concerning our partnership with the Corps as joint sponsors of this work which will enable the Corps to fund 65% of long-range Salton Sea management. The Authority secured \$3.8 million in the Corps' most recent funding work plan which will fund the Corps' portion of the project through FY26. We will be working with the Corps and Congress to secure funding for FY27 through administrative and/or congressional appropriations.

#### **Congressional Meetings**

We met with Congressman Ruiz and staffer Ale D'Agostino to discuss the Corps work. The Congressman underscored that it is his priority to ensure that the Corps and our work ultimately addresses the public health concerns at the Sea. We discussed whether the Corps would need additional direction to this effect and legislative vehicles to accomplish such prioritization. We also discussed the potential need for legal authority for the Corps and joint sponsor work on federal lands for feasibility projects.

We also met with Jack Lincoln, Congressman Calvert's legislative director. We likewise briefed Jack on the status of the Corps work and the importance of ensuring the Congressman's assistance in future funding needs for that work, as well as enhancing Corps' authority to undertake such work on federal lands. Patrick has met in person with Congressman Calvert in state to further develop that support.

On the Senate side, we met with Senator Padilla's Senate Energy Committee and Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) staff, Angela Ebiner and Sarah Swig. We thanked them for the Senator's help in putting the Corps work on a financially stable path at the end of the last administration. We discussed the priorities above and WRDA 2026 as a vehicle for such measures. Senator Padilla, as a member of Senate EPW, will help to write that legislation in committee. Finally, we met with Senator Schiff and the Senator's environment staff Michael Harris, his agriculture and water staff Caitlin Balagula. Schiff is likewise on Senate EPW and in a position to advance the Authority's Corps priorities.