



Cultivating Conservation

MEMO

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O'Dowd
FROM: Lisa Moore
RE: Federal Report
DATE: May 19, 2025

Army Corps of Engineers/Salton Sea Imperial Streams Feasibility Study

As noted in my last update, we have been engaged with the Army Corps leadership concerning our partnership with the Corps as joint sponsors of the Salton Sea Imperial Streams Feasibility Study 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 for this work.

While it was originally indicated that this amount would provide sufficient funding of this work through FY26, we conducted several calls with the Corps LA District this month wherein they indicated they have the capability to spend an additional \$1.76 million in FY26. Learning of that, the Authority submitted FY26 appropriations requests for this amount in the Senate and House.

As part of this process, formal expressions of community support are required, which may take the form of resolutions or letters. The draft resolution provided in your packet is needed to further this appropriations request.

Relevant Nominations

The Senate Energy Committee considered the nomination of Andrea Travnicek for Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, the lead political appointee at the Department of the Interior with responsibility for Colorado River matters. Ms. Travnicek served as the Director of Water Resources in North Dakota for then-Governor Burgum (now Interior Secretary), as well as serving at Interior in the first Trump administration. In her nomination hearing, Ms. Travnicek indicated the Colorado River guidelines will be top priority for her once confirmed. Her nomination was approved by the Committee and her nomination now awaits full Senate consideration. Confirmation is expected.

The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) considered the nomination of Adam Telle to serve as the Army Assistant Secretary for Civil Works, the lead political appointee for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Senator Padilla's staff requested and we provided background on our Corps study to inform the Senator's engagement with the nominee. Telle is Chief of Staff to Senator Hagerty (R-Tenn.). Telle's nomination awaits further EPW consideration and full Senate consideration.