

July XX, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senator
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
United States Senator
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
United States Congressman
2342 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
United States Congressman
2205 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Padilla, Senator Schiff, Congressman Calvert, and Congressman Ruiz:

The [name of entity] strongly supports the Salton Sea Imperial Streams Feasibility Study (USACE study) being undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Salton Sea Authority (Authority) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). We urge you to provide the Corps with the financial resources necessary to ensure this critical work proceeds without delay.

The USACE study will ultimately authorize the provision of 65% federal cost share funding to address the near and long-range public health and environmental challenges in the Salton Sea region. The federal government has significant interests in the Salton Sea region justifying federal investment, including in federally protected endangered species; in the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge; in major additional federal landholdings; and in our region's renewable energy and lithium stores.

Moreover, the Department of the Interior (Interior) has acknowledged that it has major landownership liability associated with Salton Sea playa exposure, which Interior has conservatively estimated at \$330 million with an annual operations and maintenance cost of \$4.5 million.

The USACE study was authorized in section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 and signed into law by President Trump. Since the signing of the required cost sharing agreement in December 2022, USACE study cosponsors -- the Corps Los Angeles District, the Authority and DWR -- have refined both near and long-term alternatives for improving public health and air quality and restoring the degraded ecosystem and function.

The USACE has determined that \$1.76 million in funding will be needed in FY26 for USACE to ensure that this critical work continues without delay. In particular, the requested funds will progress the study from currently scoped alternatives into the development of the tentatively selected plan. Embedded within this work will be continued public outreach for local communities and required hydrologic modeling to aid in this refinement and ultimate TSP selection.

The federal government may soon require additional water conservation from the Salton Sea region related to Colorado River water management. The Bureau of Reclamation has acknowledged that such conservation will accelerate Salton Sea playa exposure. The USACE study will provide the federal government with a vehicle to channel investment into the health, safety, and environment of the Salton Sea region to address these challenges.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,