



Cultivating Conservation

MEMO

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

Appropriations

The House Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations took up and approved at the subcommittee level its FY26 appropriations legislation. The legislation includes an additional \$2 million to the Bureau of Reclamation's Salton Sea account, bringing it to total of \$4 million. This increases Reclamation's capacity to facilitate work at the Salton Sea. The legislation also includes funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The bill includes \$200 million for Corps investigations which is the account from which the Corps funds the Salton Sea Feasibility Study.

We have secured funding for the study both through appropriations and through the Corps designating unallocated funding from this account to our project through its annual work plan. While we have secured funding for the study for FY26, the Corps recently indicated it had an additional capability (ability to spend) of \$1.76 million which we are pursuing through these two avenues (appropriations and work plan). The Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations has not yet taken up the companion legislation. It is slated to do so August 1, 2025.

Department of the Interior Meeting

Patrick, Lisa and Lowry Crook met with the Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Scott Cameron and Dustin Sherer, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the meeting was to brief them on the Corps study, relate it to the Department's own interests as a major landowner in the region, and ask that Interior consider relating support for the Corps engagement at the Sea to the Corps HQ, particularly as the Corps formulates its FY26 work plan (which occurs after FY26 appropriations legislation is enacted). Assistant Secretary Cameron indicated that he coordinates weekly with Robyn Colosimo, the Corps Director for Policy and Legislation we work with and indicated he would discuss the work with her. We also discussed that there will be need for Interior to facilitate the Corps work at the Sea as the Corps project/s will involve/impact federal lands owned by Interior.

Nominations

The Senate nomination of Adam Telle to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Civil Works (Corps of Engineers) is still pending on the Senate Calendar for full Senate consideration. Likewise, the Senate nomination of Andrea Travnicek to serve as Assistant Secretary of Interior for Water and Science, a key official with jurisdiction over the Colorado River, remains pending on the Senate Calendar awaiting full Senate consideration. Ted Cooke, formerly General Manager of the Central Arizona Project, has been nominated to serve as Reclamation Commissioner. The nomination has been referred to the Senate Energy Committee for consideration. No hearing has been scheduled as yet.