



Cultivating Conservation

MEMO

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O'Dowd
FROM: Lisa Moore
RE: Federal Report
DATE: March 16, 2026

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Salton Sea Feasibility Study is funded 50% federally and 50% by local sponsors. Earlier this month, the Authority submitted appropriations requests and support letters to our Congressional delegation (Sens. Padilla and Schiff; Reps. Ruiz and Calvert) to support the Corps work for FY27 in the amount of \$2.146 million. This process requires submission of various budget materials to each office, which have their own particular requirements, along with letters of support. All requests were submitted in advance of the deadlines.

Background: The Authority and CA DWR are joint local sponsors of the Feasibility Study. In order to ensure the Corps has the resources to undertake and complete the Feasibility Study, the Authority has led the advocacy to direct federal funding to the Corps. The Authority's work in this space has secured **\$7.2 million** for this work through Congressional appropriations and directed work plan funding. The total federal cost for the Feasibility Study is \$11,389,500. Completing the Feasibility Study and securing a Chief's Report is a prerequisite to securing federal funds for project implementation at 65% federal share.

The Corps projected budget need for FY27 work is \$2.146 million. During the month and a half preceding the FY27 appropriations deadlines, we (Authority and DWR) conducted a number of meetings with the Corps to determine how new Corps policies could affect the previously identified FY27 budget number. In particular, the Corps is instituting a 35% design requirement and a new RAPID policy intended to accelerate projects. Giving the evolving nature of those policy changes and no new FY27 budget from the Corps, the Authority and DWR submitted the existing approved FY27 budget request for the federal appropriations process.