



Cultivating Conservation

MEMO

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O'Dowd
FROM: Lisa Moore
RE: Federal Appropriations Report
DATE: June 15, 2026

The Salton Sea Feasibility Study was initiated by and is sustained through the Authority's federal advocacy and engagement. One of the few mega projects in the nation, the total funding estimate to arrive at a full basin wide Corps project is approximately \$22 million to be divided equally between the Corps and joint local sponsors.

In order to ensure the Corps has the funding to undertake this work, the Authority advocates for funding through the federal appropriations process and has thus far secured over \$7 million in federal funds. This work is required to keep the project moving forward.

Beginning in February, the Authority began working with the Corps to determine their funding needs for FY27 so that we could put in a formal request for federal appropriations with our Congressional delegation, a process which begins in March. While our projected need for FY27 in our official Corps estimate is \$2.146 million, the Corps supplied a smaller revised estimate of funding need of roughly \$700k. This estimate concerned us given new requirements the Corps has instituted that are likely to increase costs, the importance of the work and our desire to accelerate it.

In our discussions with our Congressional delegation and our joint sponsor DWR, we decided to request the larger \$2.146 million amount in funding from the FY27 Energy and Water Appropriations bill.

Typically, Congressional staff will only request the amount of funding the Corps provides (in this case, about \$700k). However, given the importance of the work and the overall situation on the Colorado River, **both Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff requested the full \$2.146 million the Authority requested.** This is a sign of the importance of this work to our Senators.

The Senators' request is now in the hands of the Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. This legislation is typically introduced in July for subcommittee and then full committee consideration.