



Cultivating Conservation

MEMO

TO: Salton Sea Authority Board of Directors and G. Patrick O'Dowd
FROM: Lisa Moore
RE: **Federal Appropriations Report**
DATE: September 14, 2026

I. Federal Appropriations

The Authority asked our delegation to request \$2.146 million in FY27 for the Army Corps of Engineers to continue work on the Salton Sea Feasibility Study. In order for the Corps to continue its work, it must receive funding from Congress or through the Corps administrative budgeting to do so. Our Senators submitted this request to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations. This sends an important message to the Corps that the delegation prioritizes our Corps work at the Sea.

FY27 appropriations are currently stalled in the Senate over disputes concerning top line funding levels so the status of this funding remains unclear. Typically, however, we have been successful in this arena where our Senators have requested funding to support our work with the Corps. The House and Senate have agreed to a continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government through December 11, 2026. This is not an unusual circumstance. Progress forward on the bills will likely await the resolution of the November elections where the House and/or Senate may shift and affect the willingness of each party to negotiate on the legislation.

II. Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Legislation

The Authority submitted requests to our delegation in WRDA to clarify that the Corps Salton Sea Feasibility Study may both consider measures that would take place on federal land and undertake work on other federal lands. This language (reproduced below) was included in the legislation, which was favorably reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and now awaits floor action. We requested this language because Corps policy does not favor this approach. Given the extent of federal land holdings in and around the Salton Sea we want to ensure that this policy does not limit our work. WRDA legislation is typically written every two years and contains modifications to Corps policy, study authorizations and the like. It is not a funding bill.

Salton Sea Language in S. 4949, as reported, reads:

SEC. 1227. IMPERIAL STREAMS SALTON SEA, CALIFORNIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the study for ecosystem restoration, Imperial Streams Salton Sea, California, authorized by resolution of the Committee on Environment and Public Works of

the Senate on April 28, 6 2016 (114th Congress, 2d Session), the Secretary shall not exclude a measure or alternative from consideration or selection solely because the measure or alternative is located on land under the jurisdiction of another Federal agency.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—Nothing in this section—

(1) precludes—

(A) a Federal agency with administrative jurisdiction over Federal land in the study area from contributing funds for any portion of the cost of analyzing a measure as part of the study described in subsection (a) that benefits that land; or

(B) the Secretary, at the request of the non-Federal interest for the study described in subsection (a), from using funds made available to the Secretary for water resources development investigations to formulate measures to restore such Federal land, if the non-Federal interest shares in the cost to formulate those measures to the same extent that the non-Federal interest is required to share in the cost of the study; or

(2) waives the cost-sharing requirements of a Federal agency for the construction of an authorized water resources development project or a separable element of that project that results from the study described in subsection (a).