

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
OF**

**MR. MICHAEL L. CONNOR
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
FOR CIVIL WORKS**

**BEFORE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
AND RELATED AGENCIES
UNITED STATES SENATE
ON**

**THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET
FOR THE CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM
OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

April 26, 2023

Chairman Feinstein, Ranking Member Kennedy, and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today to discuss the President's Budget request for the Army Civil Works program.

The Fiscal Year 2024 Budget request includes over \$7.4 billion for the Army Civil Works program — which is the largest request in history — complemented by an additional \$1.05 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act — or IIJA. These investments demonstrate President Biden's ongoing commitment to funding the construction of critical infrastructure projects that will strengthen our economy, protect people and property, and restore key ecosystems. It will also create good paying jobs that provide the free and fair chance to join a union and collectively bargain. Overall, we believe in smart investments that yield high economic and environmental returns, while, also reducing deficits and improving our country's long-term fiscal outlook.

It's important to note that the water resources challenges of today and tomorrow are not like yesterday's. Weather extremes

are increasingly the norm, creating risk to communities, the economy, and natural systems. As a result, understanding vulnerabilities and increasing our preparedness is of paramount importance. For that reason, the Budget provides \$86 million — the largest request in Corps' history — for research and development. The focus of this work will be on innovative solutions that would help achieve significant cost savings in the civil works program and address the emerging water resources challenges of the 21st Century, including climate change.

The Army Civil Works Budget focuses on the highest performing work within the three main missions of the Civil Works program:

- commercial navigation,
- flood and storm damage reduction, and
- aquatic ecosystem restoration.

In developing the Budget, consideration was also given to advancing three key objectives that reflect the Administration's priorities: 1) decreasing climate risk for communities and

increasing ecosystem resilience to climate change based on the best available science; 2) promoting environmental justice in underserved and marginalized communities and Tribal Nations in line with the Justice40 Initiative; and 3) strengthening the supply chain.

With respect to the first Administration priority, climate-focused investments include more than \$1.4 billion for construction of flood and storm damage reduction and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, over \$64 million to improve climate resiliency and/or sustainability at existing Corps-owned projects, and \$35.5 million for technical and planning assistance programs with an emphasis on actions to help local communities identify, understand, and address their flood risks including work that would directly benefit disadvantaged communities by improving their resilience to climate change. The Budget also funds the continuation of studies to investigate climate resilience along the Great Lakes coastlines as well as in Central and Southern Florida.

For priority two, the Budget supports the Administration's Justice40 Initiative through investments in 23 studies, and in the construction of 33 projects to help disadvantaged and tribal communities address their water resources challenges—including funding for the Tribal Partnership Program. The Army is committed to helping to achieve the broader goals of the Administration regarding equity and environmental justice and will continue to improve outreach and access to Civil Works information and resources, including technical and planning assistance programs; maximizing the reach of Civil Works projects to benefit disadvantaged communities; and, ensuring that updates to Civil Works policies and guidance will not result in a disproportionate negative impact on disadvantaged communities.

Supply chains remain a priority, which the Civil Works supports through its Commercial Navigation program. The Budget facilitates safe, reliable and sustainable commercial navigation to support U.S. competitiveness and improve the resilience of our nation's manufacturing supply chain to support American jobs and

the economy. In support of the Administration's commitment to our nation's coastal ports and inland waterways, the FY 2024 Budget includes over \$3.4 billion for the study, design, construction, operation and maintenance (O&M) of inland and coastal navigation projects. Of this amount, over \$1.7 billion is derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for eligible projects with an emphasis on operation and maintenance, including dredging, of completed projects and over \$1 billion will be used to maintain and improve navigation on the inland waterways.

Flood and storm damage reduction is at the center of the Civil Works program's actions to support the Administration's goal of tackling the climate crisis. Accordingly, the Budget contains nearly \$2 billion for flood and storm damage reduction, including funding to provide technical and planning assistance to local communities to enable them to understand and better manage their flood risks. The Budget proposes to assist these local efforts, with emphasis on non-structural approaches.

Equally important to building community resilience is the work of the aquatic ecosystem restoration mission (AER). The Budget includes \$653 million for AER, including \$415 million for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) program, which will enable significant progress in restoring America's Everglades while building ecosystem resilience to climate change in South Florida. The Budget also includes \$93 million to support salmon recovery efforts in the Columbia River basin, another priority within the AER program.

Other significant initiatives include \$655 million for construction of a critical dam safety project at Prado Dam, and \$350 million for replacement of the Cape Cod Canal Bridges. Additionally, to facilitate action on Cape Cod, the Budget includes a legislative proposal that would allow the Corps to transfer funds to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to design and construct the replacement bridges. Ultimately, the ownership of these bridges will be conveyed to Massachusetts, which will be responsible for future operation and maintenance. Also, of significant note, the

Budget includes \$235 million to continue construction of the Sault Ste. Marie (Replacement Lock) project in Michigan.

In total, the FY 2024 Construction program is funded at more than \$2 billion. While most of this funding is in the Construction account, over \$37 million is in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund account, and nearly \$64 million is in the Mississippi River and Tributaries account. By significantly increasing funding of construction for crucial infrastructure projects, this budget will help us get things done and ensure momentum on much needed infrastructure improvements across the nation. The Army also has allocated the \$50 million provided for construction in 2024 in the IIJA for shore protection projects that will support coastal communities and improve their resilience to storm and climate change impacts.

As I wrap up the discussion on construction, I want to acknowledge that there is no funding proposed from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) in this year's budget in view of the \$2.5 billion made available in the IIJA for construction,

replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects. The IWTF is a very valuable funding source and I anticipate there will be ongoing and significant use in the future beyond the investments provided by the IIJA.

Of course, in addition to new projects, the Budget focuses on maintaining the key features of the vast water resources infrastructure that the Corps owns and manages, and on finding innovative ways to rehabilitate it or divest it to others. The Budget invests in operating and maintaining the Corps' existing infrastructure and improving its reliability and performance. Specifically, the FY 2024 Budget funds the Operation and Maintenance program at over \$4.4 billion, consisting of over \$2.6 billion in the Operation and Maintenance account, nearly \$1.7 billion in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund account, and nearly \$154 million in Mississippi River and Tributaries account. The allocation of funding among projects for maintenance reflects a risk-informed approach that considers both project and project component conditions and the potential consequences of a

failure. The Budget also gives priority to the maintenance of coastal ports and inland waterways with the highest commercial traffic. Additionally, the Budget is complemented by \$1 billion for operation and maintenance in 2024 from the IIJA.

For the Investigations program, the FY 2024 Budget provides \$139 million, consisting of nearly \$130 million from the Investigations account and over \$9 million in Mississippi River and Tributaries. Within those amounts, the Budget includes \$35.5 million for technical and planning assistance programs. These programs help local communities, including disadvantaged communities, identify and address their flood risks, including flood risks associated with climate change.

Continuing with the budget summary, it's significant that the FY 2024 Regulatory Program is funded at \$221 million to protect the nation's waters and wetlands and provide efficiency in permit processing. And the Recreation program is funded at \$275 million to ensure the Corps — one of the nation's leading Federal

providers of outdoor recreation — can continue to effectively serve the public's desire to experience the great outdoors.

To summarize, the Budget makes critical investments in water resources that will benefit the American people and promote greater prosperity and economic growth for decades to come. From solving water resources challenges facing communities, to nurturing sustainable aquatic ecosystems, the Corps is delivering on its mission to serve the public.

I am very honored to implement the President's priorities for the Army Civil Works program and excited to be a part of a great team — serving our Nation.

Thank you for inviting me here today. I look forward to your questions.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

COMPLETE STATEMENT OF

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL SCOTT A. SPELLMON
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS**

**BEFORE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
UNITED STATES SENATE**

ON

**THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET
FOR THE CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM
OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
“A Review of the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Submission for the U.S.
Army Corps Of Engineers and the Bureau Of Reclamation”**

APRIL 26, 2023

Chair Feinstein, Ranking Member Kennedy, and Members of the Subcommittee, I am honored to testify before your committee today, along with the Honorable Michael Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, regarding the President's Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024) Budget (Budget) for the Army Civil Works Program.

Through the Civil Works program, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) works with other Federal agencies, and with state, tribal, and local agencies, as well as others, to develop, manage, restore, and protect water resources, primarily through the study, construction, and operation and maintenance of water-related infrastructure projects. The Corps focuses on work that provides the highest economic, environmental, and public safety returns to the Nation. The Corps also regulates development in waters of the United States and works with other Federal agencies to help communities respond to, and recover from, floods and other natural disasters.

The Corps uses its engineering expertise and its relationships with project sponsors and stakeholders to develop innovative approaches to address some of the most pressing water resources challenges facing the Nation. I am committed to the Secretary's priorities for the Army Civil Works program, including investing in the Nation's coastal ports and inland waterways to facilitate waterborne transportation and strengthen economic growth; helping communities to manage their flood risks and adapt to climate change; restoring aquatic ecosystems in ways that will make them more sustainable and more resilient to climate change; ensuring that the Civil Works program will better serve the needs of disadvantaged communities; investing in science, research, and development to deliver enduring water-resources solutions; and strengthening communications and relationships to solve water resources challenges. I am absolutely focused on ensuring that we deliver studies and finish quality projects safely, on time, and within budget. These priorities will ensure a better return on taxpayer investment and improve the lives of all Americans. Under my oversight and direction, and with the leadership of Assistant Secretary Connor and his team, the Corps is committed to efficiently and effectively executing the Civil Works program.

SUMMARY OF FY 2024 BUDGET

The Civil Works program is performance-based and focuses on high-performing projects and programs within its three main water resources missions: commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration. It uses a targeted approach to invest in our water resources and promote climate resilience, which will benefit the Nation's economy, environment, and public safety – now and in the future. This Budget invests in Tribal Nations, as well in economically disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, or overburdened by pollution, including those in rural areas.

The Budget includes \$7.413 billion in discretionary funding for Civil Works activities throughout the Nation, the largest budget in history.

INVESTIGATIONS

For the Corps Investigations program, the FY 2024 Budget includes \$130 million in the Investigations account and \$9 million in the Mississippi River and Tributaries account. The Corps uses these funds to evaluate water resources problems and opportunities, design projects within the three main Civil Works mission areas, and support related work. The Budget includes \$35.5 million for planning and technical assistance programs, where the Corps shares its expertise with local communities including disadvantaged communities to help them identify and understand their water resources problems and increase their resilience to, and preparedness for, flood risks.

CONSTRUCTION

For the Corps Construction program, the Budget includes \$2.015 billion in the Construction account, \$37.152 million in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund account, and \$64 million in the Mississippi River and Tributaries account.

The goal of the Civil Works program is to produce as much value as possible for the Nation from the available funds. Projects are primarily funded based on their economic, environmental and safety returns. The selection process includes giving priority to investments, on a risk-informed basis, in dam safety assurance, seepage control, and static instability correction work at dams that the Corps owns and operates, and work to address significant risk to human safety, as well as construction of dredged material disposal facilities for high and moderate use segments of commercial deep-draft, shallow-draft, and inland waterways projects.

In developing the FY 2024 Budget, we also gave consideration to projects that provide climate change benefits to disadvantaged communities. To advance priorities in community resilience, environmental justice, and with Tribal Nations, FY 2024 is the first time construction funding for Environmental Infrastructure and the Tribal Partnership Program has been included in the Budget .

The Budget provides \$415 million for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) program, the Everglades, as well as \$93 million to support salmon recovery efforts in the Columbia River basin and \$235 million for the Sault Ste. Marie (Replacement Lock) project in Michigan. The largest request within the Construction Account is for \$655 million for the construction of a critical dam safety project at Prado Dam in California.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)

All structures age and can deteriorate over time, causing a potential decline in reliability. As stewards of a large portfolio of water resources projects, the Corps is working to sustain the benefits that the key features of this infrastructure provide.

The Corps continues to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation and maintenance of its large portfolio of water resources projects. The Corps does so by

targeting its investments in infrastructure maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation on a risk-informed basis. It invests in the highest priority needs with emphasis on the key features of the infrastructure that the Corps owns and operates, and in work that will reduce long-term O&M costs in real terms.

Generally, the O&M program supports completed works owned or operated by the Corps, including operation and maintenance of locks and dams along the inland waterways; maintenance dredging of inland and coastal Federal channels; operation and maintenance of multi-purpose dams and reservoirs for flood risk reduction and related purposes such as hydropower; monitoring of completed navigation and flood damage reduction projects; and management of Corps facilities and associated lands, including serving as a responsible steward of the natural resources on Corps lands.

For the Corps O&M program, the Budget includes \$2.630 billion in the Operation and Maintenance account, \$1.688 billion in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund account, and \$154 million in the Mississippi River and Tributaries account. These funds will be used in conjunction with the \$1 billion provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for operation and maintenance work in FY 2024.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Through the research and development program, we are making investments to tackle future challenges and advance technological development in support of the Corps Civil Works mission. The Budget includes a historic \$86 million investment in research and development activities, or over \$100 million including technology transition and data collection. This investment demonstrates the Administration's commitment to engineering innovation to deliver enduring water resource solutions for the Nation. This investment will allow the Corps to continue addressing the most pressing knowledge gaps practitioners face while doing their jobs in the field, such as operational, data-driven methods to improve navigation channel maintenance, the beneficial use of dredged material, and flood and storm risk management modeling. This investment also includes funding to advance longer-term research and development needs including: \$10 million to accelerate the Forecast-Informed Reservoir Operations Assessment, which will further our understanding of atmospheric river impacts on flood risk management, water supply, and other water uses; and \$25.5 million to inform and improve our overall asset management strategy, with a focus on work that has the potential to achieve significant cost savings in the civil works program.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

Through the Regulatory program, the Corps protects the Nation's waters including wetlands, and regulates development that could impede navigation, while allowing reasonable development to proceed. The Budget proposes funding for the Regulatory program to enable the Corps to protect and preserve these water resources. The FY 2024 Budget provides \$221 million for this program.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The FY 2024 Budget includes \$40 million in funding for the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies account to enable the Corps to prepare for emergency operations in response to natural disasters. The Budget for the emergency management program also includes \$5.5 million for the National Emergency Preparedness Program.

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

The FY 2024 Budget provides \$200 million to clean up specific sites contaminated as a result of the Nation's early atomic weapons development program.

CONCLUSION

The FY 2024 President's Budget for the Army Civil Works Program represents a continuing, fiscally prudent investment in the Nation's water resources infrastructure and restoration of aquatic ecosystems. The Army is committed to a performance-based Civil Works program, based on innovative, resilient, and sustainable risk-informed solutions.

Thank you, Chair Feinstein and Members of Subcommittee. This concludes my statement. I look forward to answering any questions you and other Members of the Subcommittee may have.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, D.C. 20240

**Statement of Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Before the
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
on the President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget
April 26, 2023**

Thank you, Chair Feinstein, Ranking Member Kennedy, and members of the Subcommittee for the opportunity to discuss with you the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget for the Bureau of Reclamation. I am Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation.

The issues we face today are unprecedented as we experience the worst drought in the 120-year history of this organization. This challenges Reclamation's ability to deliver water and produce hydropower in the way we have in the past. Climate change has made it likely that we will continue to experience the same, or worse, hydrology in the future. Record snowfall and rain across parts of the West – and particularly California – have brought some relief. While we are thankful for the benefits, we must not forget the cyclical nature of western hydrology. Therefore, this is not a time for Reclamation, the States and Tribes to take our foot off the gas. It is an opportunity to get ahead of the planning. Reclamation will continue to manage the drought in real time, focusing on our enduring priorities of People, Partnerships, Investments – and Hydrology in the West.

Reclamation manages water for agriculture, municipal and industrial use, the environment, and provides flood control and recreation for millions of people. Reclamation's projects and programs serve as the water and power infrastructure backbone of the American West, constituting an important driver of economic growth in hundreds of basins through the Western States. Reclamation's activities support economic activity valued at \$66.6 billion, and support approximately 472,000 jobs.¹ Reclamation delivers 10 trillion gallons of water to millions of people each year and provides water for irrigation of 10 million farmland acres, which yields approximately 25 percent of the Nation's fruit and nut crops, and 60 percent of the vegetable harvest.

Reclamation's fundamental mission and programs – modernizing and maintaining infrastructure, conserving natural resources, using science and research to inform decision-making, serving underserved populations, and staying as nimble as possible in response to the requirements of drought and a changing climate – position it as an exemplar for the Biden-Harris Administration's core tenets. The Bureau of Reclamation's FY 2024 budget provides the foundation to meet our mission, and to manage, develop, and protect water resources, consistent with applicable State and

^{1/} U.S. Department of the Interior Economic Contributions Report – Fiscal Year 2019.

Federal law, and in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner in the interest of the American public. Reclamation remains committed to working with a wide range of stakeholders, including water and power customers, Tribes, State and local officials, and non-governmental organizations, to meet its mission.

Reclamation is requesting a gross total of \$1,449,314,000 in Federal discretionary appropriations, which is anticipated to be augmented by over \$2.4 billion in other Federal and non-Federal funds for FY 2024. Of the total, \$1,301,012,000 is for the Water and Related Resources account, which is Reclamation's largest account, \$66,794,000 is for the Policy and Administration account, and \$33,000,000 is for the California Bay Delta account. A total of \$48,508,000 is budgeted for the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund.

Activities to Support Tribal Programs & Tribal Water Rights Settlements: Reclamation tackles the challenges of racial equity and underserved communities through investments in Tribal water rights settlements, continuation of the Native American Affairs technical assistance program, rural water projects, and investments in specific projects for underserved communities through programs such as WaterSMART. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law PL 117-58 (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act appropriations both invest substantial portions of its funding to underserved populations, and rural and Tribal communities.

The FY 2024 discretionary request also includes \$35.5 million for the Native American Affairs program to improve capacity to work with and support Tribes in the resolution of their water rights claims and to develop sustainable water sharing agreements and management activities. This funding will also strengthen Department-wide capabilities to achieve an integrated and systematic approach to Indian water rights negotiations to consider the full range of economic, legal, and technical attributes of proposed settlements. Finally, funding also supports Reclamation efforts for Tribal nations by supporting many activities across the Bureau, including some rural water projects, the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, the Klamath Project, and the Lahontan Basin project, among others.

Conservation and Climate Resilience: Reclamation's projects are able to address the Administration's priorities to address conservation and climate resilience through funding requests for the WaterSMART program, funding to secure water supply to our refuges, and proactive efforts through providing sound climate science, research and development, and clean energy.

The WaterSMART Program serves as the primary contributor to Reclamation's and the Department of the Interior's Water Conservation Priority Goal. Since 2010, projects funded under contributing programs, including WaterSMART Grants, Title XVI (Water Recycling and Reuse Program), California Bay-Delta Program, Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, and Desalination construction projects have achieved a total of 1,682,005 acre-feet water savings.

Through WaterSMART, Reclamation works cooperatively with States, Tribes, and local entities as they plan for and implement actions to address current and future water shortages, including drought; degraded water quality; increased demands for water and energy from growing populations; environmental water requirements; and the potential for decreased water supply availability due to climate change, drought, population growth, and increased water requirements for environmental purposes. This includes cost-shared grants for water management improvement projects; water reclamation and reuse projects; watershed resilience projects; the Basin Study

Program; and drought planning and implementation actions to proactively address water shortages. The FY 2024 request includes \$62.9 million for the WaterSMART Program.

Climate Science: Reclamation’s FY 2024 budget for Research and Development (R&D) programs includes \$22.5 million for the Science and Technology Program, and \$7.0 million for Desalination and Water Purification Research—both of which focus on Reclamation’s mission of water and power deliveries. Climate change adaptation is a focus of Reclamation’s R&D programs, which invests in the production of climate change science, information and tools that benefit adaptation, and by yielding climate-resilient solutions to benefit management of water infrastructure, hydropower, environmental compliance, and water management.

The Desalination and Water Purification Research program addresses drought and water scarcity impacts caused by climate change by investing in desalination and water treatment technology development and demonstrations for the purpose of more effectively converting unusable waters to useable water supplies. The Science and Technology program invests in innovation to address the full range of technical issues confronting Reclamation water and hydropower managers and includes the Snow Water Supply Forecasting Program that aims to improve water supply forecasts through enhanced snow monitoring and water management to address the impacts of drought and a changing climate.

Modernizing and Maintaining Infrastructure: Reclamation’s water and power projects throughout the western United States provide water supplies for agricultural, municipal, and industrial purposes. Reclamation’s projects also provide energy produced by hydropower facilities and maintain ecosystems that support fish and wildlife, hunting, fishing, and other recreation, as well as rural economies.

Dam Safety: Reclamation manages 489 dams throughout the 17 Western States. Reclamation’s Dam Safety Program has identified 361 high and significant hazard dams at 241 facilities, which form the core of the program. Through constant monitoring and assessment, Reclamation strives to achieve the best use of its limited resources to ensure dam safety and maintain our ability to store and divert water and to generate hydropower.

The Dam Safety Program helps ensure the safety and reliability of Reclamation dams to protect the downstream public. Approximately 50 percent of Reclamation’s dams were built between 1900 and 1950, and approximately 90 percent of the dams were built before adoption of currently used, state-of-the-art design and construction practices. Reclamation continuously evaluates dams and monitors performance to ensure that risks do not exceed the Federal Guidelines for Dam Safety Risk Management and the Public Protection Guidelines. The Dam Safety Program represents a major funding need over the next 10 years, driven largely by necessary repairs at B.F. Sisk Dam in California. The B.F. Sisk Dam is a key component of the Central Valley Project, providing 2 million acre-feet of water storage south of the California Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Reclamation is modifying the dam to reduce the risk of potential failure resulting from potential overtopping in response to a seismic event, using the most current science and technology to develop an adaptive and resilient infrastructure. In addition to B.F. Sisk, Reclamation has identified 12 projects with anticipated modification needs through 2030, as well as 5 additional projects that will be assessed for potential risk reduction efforts prior to 2025.

The proposed budget also requests \$105.3 million for specific Extraordinary Maintenance (XM) activities across Reclamation in FY 2024. This request is central to mission objectives of operating

and maintaining projects to ensure delivery of water and power benefits. Reclamation's XM request relies on condition assessments, condition/performance metrics, technological research and deployment, and strategic collaboration to better inform and improve the management of its assets and deal with its infrastructure maintenance challenges. Reclamation was also appropriated \$3.2 billion in the BIL, and the allocation plan for FY 2024 funding has been provided to Congress as mandated.

Renewable Energy: Reclamation owns 78 hydroelectric power plants. Reclamation operates 53 of those plants to generate approximately 15 percent of the hydroelectric power produced in the United States. Each year on average, Reclamation generates about 40 million megawatt hours of electricity and collects over \$1.0 billion in gross power revenues for the Federal Government.

Reclamation's FY 2024 budget request includes \$3.5 million to increase Reclamation hydropower capabilities and value, contributing to Administration clean energy and climate change initiatives and enhancing water conservation and climate resilience within the power program.

Section 70101 of the BIL established the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund (Completion Fund), making \$2.5 billion available to the Secretary of the Interior to satisfy Tribal settlement obligations as authorized by Congress prior to enactment of the BIL. In FY 2022 and FY 2023, the Department allocated \$2.26 billion of those funds, \$608.5 million of which supported Reclamation's Tribal settlement implementation actions. Additional funding from the Completion Fund will be allocated in FY 2024. In addition to the Completion Fund, FY 2024 represents the fifth year of Reclamation Water Settlements Fund (RWSF) allocations, which provide \$120 million in annual mandatory authority for Reclamation Indian water rights settlements. Funding made available by previous mandatory authorities, such as that authorized in the Claims Resolution Act, remain available for settlement implementation, while the ongoing operations and maintenance requirements of the Arizona Water Settlement Act are expected to continue to be supported within the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund.

The investments described in Reclamation's FY 2024 budget, in combination with BIL and the Inflation Reduction Act implementation and prior year efforts will ensure that Reclamation can continue to provide reliable water and power to the American West. Water management, improving and modernizing infrastructure, using sound science to support critical decision-making, finding opportunities to expand capacity, reducing conflict, and meeting environmental responsibilities are all addressed in this FY 2024 budget request. Reclamation continues to look at ways to plan more efficiently for future challenges faced in water resources management and to improve the way it does business.

Thank you for the opportunity to summarize the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the Bureau of Reclamation.