

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

**WRITTEN STATEMENT  
OF**

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

**ON**

**THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET  
FOR THE CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM  
OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**9 June 2021**

Chairwoman 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 Civil Works program of the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Fiscal Year 2022 Budget request provides roughly \$6.8 billion for the Army Civil Works program, which is the highest annual budget ever proposed, with a focus on investments that will yield high economic and environmental returns, increasing resiliency to climate change; facilitating safe, reliable and sustainable commercial navigation; and accelerating and improving the delivery of water resources projects. This Budget relies on a foundation of strong relationships between the Corps and local communities, which allow us to work together to help develop, manage, restore, and protect the Nation's water resources.

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

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

In developing the Budget, consideration was given to advancing two key objectives including: 1) increasing infrastructure and ecosystem resilience to climate change and decreasing climate risk for communities based on the best available science; and 2) promoting environmental justice in disadvantaged communities in line with Justice40 and creating good paying jobs that provide the free and fair chance to join a union and collectively bargain.

The Budget supports a Corps program that has a diverse set of tools and approaches to working with local communities, whether this means funding projects with our cost-sharing partners, providing planning assistance and technical expertise to help communities make better risk-informed decisions, or participating in the national and international conversations on how to best address our water resources challenges. The Budget also focuses on maintaining the vast water resources infrastructure that the Corps owns and manages, and on finding innovative ways to rehabilitate it or transfer ownership to willing recipients. For example, the Budget includes \$13 million to complete six new major rehabilitation studies for inland waterways locks and dams and \$2 million to investigate disposition of completed projects.

The FY 2022 Investigations account is funded at \$106 million, the Construction account at \$1.8 billion, the Operation and Maintenance account at \$2.5 billion, the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund at \$1.6 billion, the Inland Waterways Trust Fund at \$52 million, and the Mississippi River and Tributaries account at \$270 million. Other accounts include the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies account at \$35 million, the Regulatory Program account at \$204.4 million, the Expenses account at \$199.3 million and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works account at \$5 million.

The Army Corps will use \$3.4 billion of these funds to invest in projects and activities that will facilitate commercial navigation, \$1.7 billion to help reduce the risk of damages from floods and storms, and \$501 million to restore aquatic ecosystems to a more natural condition. These amounts include:

- \$75 million to increase the resilience of Corps infrastructure to climate change, including \$38 million for energy and water conservation measures at Corps projects, \$23 million for updates to water control manuals at Corps projects that will account for a changing climate, \$8 million for the charging infrastructure needed to support a Federal fleet of Zero Emission Vehicles, and \$6 million to evaluate ways to increase the resilience of Corps infrastructure over the longer term; and
- \$29 million for Corps technical and planning assistance programs, through which the Corps is able to enable states and local communities to take steps to reduce their flood risks including risks associated with climate change. For example, the Budget supports Corps participation in joint Federal-State interagency teams known as the Silver Jackets, which work at the state level to help local communities to understand their flood risks and identify options to help them manage those risks, with emphasis on non-structural approaches.

The American Jobs Plan also includes an additional \$8 billion over five years for the Corps to improve ports and waterways.

The Budget includes \$350 million for the South Florida Everglades Restoration (SFER) program. The SFER request of \$350 million is a \$100 million increase, or 40 percent, to the 2021 enacted level. SFER funding is also included in the American Jobs Plan. Taken together, a robust amount of funding is proposed for SFER, enabling significant progress on this ecosystem restoration program.

The FY 2022 Budget includes funding to initiate seven new studies – Central & Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 216), FL; Boise River, Garden City, Ada County, ID; Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study, IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, PA, NY & WI; Spring Creek South, Jamaica Bay (Howard Beach), Queens, NY; Little Narragansett Bay, RI; Waccamaw River, Horry County, SC; and Little Goose Creek, Sheridan, WY.

The FY 2022 Budget also includes funding to initiate construction at four new projects – McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, Three Rivers, AR; West Sacramento, CA; Anacostia Watershed Restoration, Prince George's County, MD; and Norfolk Harbor and Channels, VA (Deepening) as well as to complete three construction projects – Calumet Harbor and River, IL & IN; Columbia River at the Mouth, OR/WA; and Anacostia Watershed Restoration, Prince George's County, MD.

Within the \$1.6 billion proposed in the FY 2022 Budget to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, \$787 million would be used to support commercial

navigation at the top 50 U.S. coastal ports across the Nation, which handle around 90 percent of the waterborne cargo that is shipped to or from the United States in foreign commerce; \$252 million for operation and maintenance of Great Lakes projects; \$58 million for projects that support access by Native American tribes to their legally recognized historic fishing areas; and \$63 million for five construction projects that will accommodate disposal of material dredged from coastal navigation projects.

The FY 2022 Budget proposes \$10 million for a new Innovative Funding Partnership program, which supports Corps efforts to accelerate and improve the delivery of water through greater non-Federal participation, and by removing barriers that prevent State, local, and private parties from moving forward with investments that they deem priorities. In addition, the Budget also proposes to return responsibility for management of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) back to the Department of Energy (DOE). Consolidation of FUSRAP with the other DOE cleanup programs under a single agency will allow DOE to consider a broader range of federal cleanup responsibilities in prioritizing work each fiscal year and result in efficiencies for taxpayers and the Army Corps would continue to perform cleanup of FUSRAP sites on a reimbursable basis with DOE.

The FY 2022 Budget begins the process of addressing the climate crisis. As outlined in Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, the Army will evaluate the Civil Works program to identify the appropriate actions the agency can take to support this policy objective in the FY 2023 Budget. The Army is also committed to securing environmental justice and spurring economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and experience underinvestment in essential services. The Army will actively work towards ensuring 40 percent of the benefits of climate and clean energy investments are directed to disadvantaged communities. These actions will include an examination of the activities of key programs to determine whether those programs' benefits have accrued to disadvantaged communities. The Army will also begin to track program expenditures that impact disadvantaged communities and consider metrics that will help track how applicable covered program benefits accrue at specific disadvantaged communities.

Finally, I would like to highlight one of the initiatives proposed in the Budget – an important technical change to the account structure of the Corps, which would improve our ability to oversee the spending financed through our two navigation trust funds. This proposal involves changes to the appropriations language for the Construction, Operation and Maintenance, and Mississippi River and Tributaries accounts, as well as the adoption of appropriations language for the Harbor Maintenance and Inland Waterways Trust Funds. It is needed and would enable greater transparency and accountability in how these funds are budgeted and spent.

I am very honored to have been selected for this position, to help implement the President's priorities for the Army Civil Works program. I have been on-board for just a month or so. And, I've had the opportunity to make two short trips — one to Tacoma

Harbor in Washington State, and another to multiple sites throughout West Virginia and northern Ohio. I have been very impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the Corps of Engineers employees, who build and maintain water resources facilities for our primary Civil Works missions. There is much work to be done, I'm excited to be a part of this great team — serving our Nation.

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