



## CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL WORKS

### **Funding Highlights:**

- Provides \$4.5 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers civil works program, focused on investments in areas that will yield high economic and environmental returns or address a significant risk to public safety. This includes:
  - Investing in restoring significant aquatic ecosystems to help promote their ecological sustainability and resilience; and
  - Supporting investment in maintenance work and related activities at the most heavily used coastal ports and inland waterways in the Nation.

### **Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative:**

- Through the Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative, supports:
  - Improvements in the resiliency of federally developed and managed water resources infrastructure to address a changing climate.

### **Reforms:**

- Reforms how the Federal Government finances capital investments in support of navigation on the inland waterways, including a new user fee.
- Increases the organizational efficiency of the Corps and improves the management, oversight, and performance of ongoing programs to meet water resources needs and achieve savings.

The Army Corps of Engineers civil works program (Corps) develops, manages, and restores water resources to promote economic growth, increase public safety, and protect the environment. The Corps work focuses primarily on the construction, operation and maintenance of water resources projects, studies of potential new projects, and its regulatory program. The Corps also works with other Federal agencies to help

States and communities respond to and recover from floods and other natural disasters. To support this work, the Budget provides \$4.5 billion, a \$934 million, or 17 percent, decrease from the 2014 enacted level. The Budget focuses resources on the highest priority work within the agency's three main missions: flood and storm damage reduction; commercial navigation; and aquatic ecosystem restoration. In addition, the Budget

supports reforms within the Corps that will improve its efficiency and ensure projects deliver the highest return for taxpayers.

### ***Invests in Water Resources to Support Economic Growth and Protect the Environment***

**Emphasizes Investments in Construction Projects with High Economic and Environmental Returns While Addressing Public Safety.** The Budget provides \$1.1 billion for Corps construction projects with an emphasis on projects that provide high economic and environmental returns to the Nation or address a significant risk to public safety. The Administration's Task Force on Ports continues to develop a national strategy for investment leading to a network of ports and related infrastructure that is more efficient, safe, secure, resilient, and environmentally sustainable. The strategy will be informed by stakeholder input.

**Restores High Priority Aquatic Ecosystems.** The Budget provides funding to restore significant aquatic ecosystems based on sound science and adaptive management. Funds are provided for work on priority aquatic ecosystems, including the California Bay-Delta, Chesapeake Bay, Everglades, Great Lakes, and Gulf Coast. Funds are also provided for other aquatic ecosystem restoration efforts, such as endangered species recovery in the Columbia River, restoring Puget Sound, and improving environmental outcomes in the Upper Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

**Invests in Existing Water Resources Infrastructure.** The Budget includes funding for the operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure and improving its reliability. The Budget prioritizes the operation and maintenance of key infrastructure, including navigation channels that serve the Nation's largest coastal ports and the inland waterways with the most commercial use, such as the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and the Illinois Waterway.

### ***Improves Funding and Management***

**Reforms Inland Waterways Funding.** The Administration has proposed to reform the laws governing the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, including an annual per vessel fee to sufficiently increase the amount paid by commercial navigation users to meet their share of the costs of activities financed from this fund. The additional revenue would help finance future capital investments in these waterways. The amounts collected would reflect the actual costs incurred, so any cost savings would translate over time directly into lower fees.

**Enhances Non-Federal Leadership in Water Resources.** Building and maintaining U.S. water resources infrastructure is a shared responsibility between Federal and non-Federal beneficiaries. The Administration supports efforts to encourage States and communities to assume responsibility for the development, management, restoration, and protection of water resources, including two new navigation studies that will allow local sponsors to assume greater ownership. This includes removing unnecessary obstacles and streamlining procedures for non-Federal parties to pursue investments independently that are important to their communities, while ensuring appropriate Federal interests are maintained.

**Increases Organizational Efficiency.** The Administration continues to work to improve the responsiveness, accountability, and operational oversight of the civil works program in order to best meet current and future water resources challenges. For example, as part of the President's Executive Order on Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects, the Corps is working to promote early collaboration and partnership among agencies, project sponsors, affected stakeholders, and the public in project planning, development, and permitting processes. These efforts are intended to lead to more timely decisions while also reducing adverse impacts to communities and the environment or to mitigate effects that may occur. In addition, the Corps is implementing steps to reduce cost overruns and achieve efficiencies through life cycle project cost management.