

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
OF**

**MR. JAIME A. PINKHAM
ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
FOR CIVIL WORKS**

**BEFORE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

ON

**PRESIDENT BIDEN'S FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET REQUEST:
AGENCY POLICIES AND PERSPECTIVES**

June 24, 2021

Chairwoman Napolitano, Ranking Member Rouzer 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 the Justice40 Initiative 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 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 the 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, consisting of \$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 the 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 assist states and local communities with taking 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 an 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 or 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 will be used to support commercial navigation at the top 50 U.S. coastal ports across the Nation, which handle an estimated 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 the DOE to consider a broader range of federal cleanup responsibilities in prioritizing work each fiscal year and will result in efficiencies for taxpayers. The Army

Corps will continue to perform cleanup of FUSRAP sites on a reimbursable basis with the 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.

I would also like to highlight one of the initiatives proposed in the Budget – an important technical change to the account structure of the Corps, which will 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.

Lastly, when the Water Resources Development Act 2020 was enacted in December 2020, we immediately moved to begin

implementation. As required by the Water Resources, Reform Development Act of 2014, a public comment period was conducted from March 8 to May 7, 2021. During the public comment period, the Army Corps held five listening sessions to hear directly from stakeholders. A total of 517 stakeholders participated and submitted 148 written comments. We are now drafting guidance for many of the WRDA 2020 provisions to provide clarification on their implementation. Other provisions may warrant a rulemaking.

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 over two months, and I've had the opportunity to make a few short trips to Tacoma Harbor in Washington State and multiple project sites throughout West Virginia, northern Ohio, Maryland and Delaware. I have been very impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the Army 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.