

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

COMPLETE STATEMENT OF

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

**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**

24 JUNE 2021

Chairwoman Napolitano, Ranking Member Rouzer, and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am honored to testify before your committee today, along with Mr. Jamie Pinkham, the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, in regard to the President's Fiscal Year 2022 (FY 2022) Budget for the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Civil Works Program.

Through its Civil Works Program, the Corps works with other Federal agencies, and with State, Tribal, and local agencies and others, to develop, manage, restore, and protect water resources, primarily through the construction, operation and maintenance, and study 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 FY 2022 Budget invests in improving the Nation's water infrastructure, including U.S. coastal ports, while incorporating climate resilience efforts into the Corps' commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration work.

The Corps' Military program also continues our work across the globe with presence in more than 110 countries supporting national security and our Combatant Commanders.

OVERVIEW

The Civil Works Program is performance-based. It uses a targeted approach to invest in our water resources and promote climate resiliency, which will benefit the Nation's economy, environment, and public safety – now and in the future. With the requested funds, the Corps will emphasize: Investments in High Return Projects; Increasing Resiliency to Climate Change; Facilitating Safe, Reliable and Sustainable Commercial Navigation; and Accelerating and Improving Delivery of Water Resource Projects.

The Corps 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. The Budget includes \$6.8 billion for these Civil Works activities throughout the Nation. The American Jobs Plan includes an additional \$8 billion over five years for the Corps to improve ports and waterways.

INVESTIGATIONS PROGRAM

The Investigations program of the Corps is funded both in the Investigations account and in the Mississippi River and Tributaries account. The Corps uses these funds to evaluate water resources problems and opportunities, design projects within the Corps three main mission areas, and support related work. The Investigations program includes the Corps planning assistance and technical assistance programs, where the Corps shares its expertise with local communities to help them identify and understand their water resources problems, and helps them to develop options including ways that

they can increase their resilience to, and preparedness for, flood risks. In addition to ongoing efforts, the FY 2022 Budget supports starting seven new studies of problems and opportunities associated with the commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration missions of the Corps.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The Construction program of the Corps is funded both in the Construction account and in the Mississippi River and Tributaries account.

The goal of the construction program is to produce as much value as possible for the Nation from the available funds. The Corps also gives priority to investments, selected on a risk informed basis, in dam safety assurance, seepage control, and static instability correction work at dams that the Corps owns and operates.

The Budget provides \$350 million for the South Florida Everglades Restoration (SFER) program, which includes the everglades. This is \$100 million above the enacted level for FY 2021, an increase of 40 percent. Additional SFER funding is included in the American Jobs Plan. Taken together, these funds would enable the Corps to make significant progress on this restoration program.

The Budget also invests in four previously unfunded construction projects: West Sacramento, California, a flood and storm damage reduction project; McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, Three Rivers, Arkansas, and Norfolk Harbor and Channels, Virginia (Deepening), which are commercial navigation projects; and Anacostia Watershed Restoration, Prince George's County, Maryland, an aquatic ecosystem restoration project.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) PROGRAM

The O&M program of the Corps is funded both in the O&M account and in the Mississippi River and Tributaries account, with the Budget providing over \$4 billion.

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 its operation and maintenance program. 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 administrative buildings and laboratories. Work to be accomplished includes: 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.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

Through its Regulatory Program, the Corps protects the Nation's waters including wetlands, and regulates development that could impede navigation, while allowing reasonable development to proceed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) account funds the planning, training, exercises, and other preparedness measures that help the Corps respond to floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters, and to support emergency operations in response to such natural disasters, including advance measures, flood fighting, providing potable water, and the repair of certain damaged flood and storm damage reduction projects. The FCCE funding proposed in the Budget is for preparedness work. The Corps also prepares for emergencies through funding provided under the National Emergency Preparedness program, an O&M account remaining item.

REIMBURSABLE PROGRAM

Through the Interagency and International Services (IIS) Reimbursable Program, the Corps assists other Federal agencies, state, local, tribal governments, and those of other countries with timely, cost-effective solutions. These agencies can turn to the Corps, which already has these capabilities, rather than develop their own internal workforce and expertise to act as their design and construction agent. The work is principally technical oversight and management of engineering, environmental, and construction projects. The work itself is typically performed by private sector firms and is financed by the agencies we service. We only accept agency requests that are consistent with our core technical expertise, in the national interest, and that can be executed without impacting our primary mission areas.

CONCLUSION

The FY 2022 Budget for the Corps represents a continuing, fiscally prudent investment in the Nation's water resources infrastructure and the restoration of aquatic ecosystems. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to a performance-based Civil Works Program, based on innovative, resilient, and sustainable risk-informed solutions.

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