



## CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL WORKS

### Funding Highlights:

- Provides \$4.7 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers civil works program, a 5.5 percent decrease from the 2012 enacted level. The Budget achieves savings by focusing on investments that will yield high economic and environmental returns or address a significant risk to public safety.
- Continues efforts to restore significant aquatic ecosystems such as the California Bay-Delta, the Chesapeake Bay, the Everglades, the Great Lakes, and the Gulf Coast, helping to promote their ecological sustainability and resilience.
- Continues to provide priority funding for the operation and maintenance of high performing projects, such as navigation on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers and the Illinois Waterway.
- Reforms the way that the Federal Government finances capital investments in support of navigation on the inland waterways including a new user fee.
- Supports a high level of investment in maintenance work and related activities at the most heavily used commercial harbors in the Nation.
- Increases the organizational efficiency and improves the management, oversight, and performance of ongoing programs to meet water resources needs and achieve additional savings.

The Army Corps of Engineers civil works program (Corps) develops, manages, restores, and protects water resources primarily through construction of projects, operation and maintenance, studies of potential projects, and its regulatory program. Working with other Federal agencies, the Corps also helps communities respond to and recover from floods and other natural disasters.

To support this work, the President's 2014 Budget provides \$4.7 billion, a \$276 million, or 5.5 percent decrease from the 2012 enacted level. The Budget focuses on the highest priority work within the agency's three main missions—flood and storm damage reduction, commercial navigation, and aquatic ecosystem restoration.

### ***Invests in Our Water Resources to Spur Competitiveness and Protect the Environment***

**Emphasizes Investments in Construction Projects with High Economic and Environmental Returns While Addressing Public Safety.** The Budget proposes \$1.35 billion for high-return construction projects in the three main mission areas of the Corps: flood and storm damage reduction; commercial navigation; and aquatic ecosystem restoration. The Budget emphasizes funding for projects that address a significant risk to public safety, including investments to repair high-risk dams. The Administration's Task Force on Ports is developing 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. As a first step, the Task Force is proposing a set of principles to guide investment decisions. The principles envision a series of targeted investments over time that would be highly cost-effective when viewed together, and would encourage better alignment of investment decisions.

**Restores High-Priority Aquatic Ecosystems.** The Budget proposes 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 efforts, such as restoring Puget Sound and improving environmental outcomes in the Upper Mississippi River and the Missouri River.

**Invests in Existing Water Resources Infrastructure.** The Budget focuses on the operation of existing infrastructure and improving its reliability. The Budget gives priority to funding the operation and maintenance of key infrastructure, including navigation channels that serve our largest coastal ports and the inland waterways with the most commercial use.

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

**Reforms Inland Waterways Financing.** The Administration has proposed legislation to reform the laws governing the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, including establishing an annual per vessel fee to increase the amount paid by commercial navigation users sufficiently 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 to support economic growth. The amounts collected would reflect the actual costs incurred, so any cost savings would translate over time directly into lower fees.

**Modernizes Federal Water Resources Management.** The Administration has already proposed several major actions to modernize the policies and procedures of the Army Corps of Engineers, and other Federal water resources agencies, so that the Federal Government, in partnership with its non-Federal partners, can make better use of our Nation's water resources to generate economic growth, environmental improvements, and social benefits. These include revising the 25-year old principles and guidelines for planning water resources projects, proposing a user fee to help finance inland waterways capital investments, and establishing an Infrastructure Bank that would help finance port deepening, levees, and other major water resources development activities. The Administration is also considering proposals to improve the ability of the Corps to invest in and manage its assets and to enhance non-Federal leadership in water resources, including removing unnecessary obstacles and streamlining procedures for non-Federal parties to move forward on their own with important water resources activities, while ensuring appropriate Federal interests are maintained.

**Increases Organizational Efficiency.** The Administration is also working to improve the responsiveness, accountability, and operational oversight of the civil works program in order to best meet current and future water resources challenges. This effort will improve performance and free up resources for other uses and deficit reduction.