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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS | JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM
and Other Special Authorities

BEACH EROSION AND HURRICANE
AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION

FLOOD CONTROL

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENTS

FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

EMERGENCY STREAMBANK
AND SHORELINE PROTECTION

BUILDING STRONG
ABOUT US

JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the nation’s primary water resources development agency. Its water resources program began in 1824 when Congress provided funds for improving river navigation. USACE is a major command in the U.S. Army, with more than 34,000 civilians and more than 650 soldiers, dedicated to delivering engineering services to customers in 90 countries worldwide.

Jacksonville District, established in 1884, is the second largest civil works district in USACE, with an area of responsibility encompassing Florida, Puerto Rico and the Antilles. Our district provides quality planning, engineering, construction, and operations products and services to meet the needs of the Armed Forces and the nation.

Our missions include five broad areas:
- Water resources
- Environment
- Infrastructure
- Homeland security
- Warfighting

Within these mission areas, our programs and projects:
- Ensure navigable harbors and channels
- Provide for flood damage reduction
- Restore ecosystems
- Protect wetlands
- Stabilize shorelines
- Provide recreational opportunities
- Respond to natural disasters and emergency situations, and
- Provide technical services to other local, state, federal and international agencies on a reimbursable basis.

For more information regarding U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authority and Other Special Authorities Programs, please contact:

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The purposes of the Estuary Habitat Restoration Program (EHRP) are to promote restoration of estuarine habitat; to develop a national Estuary Habitat Restoration Strategy to provide federal assistance for estuary habitat restoration projects; and to develop and enhance monitoring, data sharing, and research. USACE and four other federal agencies created a council under the ERHP responsible for soliciting and evaluating project proposals, and submitting a prioritized list of recommended projects for funding. These projects are to advance the federal goal of restoring 1 million acres of estuarine habitat.

While several federal agencies may fund approved projects, USACE projects are funded based on prioritization under the USACE national program managed by our Headquarters. EHRP projects are similar to Continuing Authorities Program projects in scale. USACE works in partnership with proponents to develop a project management plan with a schedule of deliverables and identification of reimbursements.

Federal funding is provided through a cooperative agreement (CA) overseen by a grants officer and the federal funding share, from all sources, is generally not to exceed 65 percent of total costs, or the CA award amount, whichever is less. However, the federal share of an additional cost that includes a project pilot test or demonstrates innovative technical approaches may be increased to 85 percent of the total. The non-federal sponsor is responsible for all operations and maintenance of any implemented project.
INTRODUCTION

CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM AND OTHER SPECIAL AUTHORITIES

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a wide range of legislative authorities allowing us to assist the nation. Our programs range from large, multi-year regional civil works studies and projects, as well as smaller, locally focused projects to meet special needs.

This booklet describes some of the lesser known, smaller authorities and programs we can use to partner with state, local, tribal and nongovernmental agencies to address issues of concern.

USACE Civil Works authorities require local sponsor support, usually financially, to complete a project or study under one of our programs. Typically, a cost-sharing agreement is executed at the start of each project’s major phase and requires financial contributions from sponsors upfront. Cost-share requirements vary from authority and phase to phase.

Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)

The Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) authorizes USACE to plan, design and construct small scale projects under existing program authority from Congress. Local governments and agencies seeking assistance may request USACE to investigate potential water resource issues that may fit a particular authority.

A CAP project is conducted in two phases: a feasibility phase and a design and implementation phase. Both phases of a CAP project are cost-shared between the federal government and the non-federal sponsor. Certain territories of the United States (including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) are eligible for a reduction of the CAP Program non-federal cost-sharing requirement (based on the Water Resources Reform Development Act of 2018 applicable CAP projects are eligible for waivers of $484,000 in the feasibility phase and the design & implementation phase).

For specific information, contact the CAP Program Manager.
PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES & TRIBES

Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974

What USACE Can Do

Typical studies are only at the planning level of detail; they do not include detailed design for project construction and do not include any construction funding. The studies generally involve the analysis of existing data for planning purposes, using standard engineering techniques, although some data collection is often necessary. Most studies become the basis for state, Tribal, and local planning decisions.

Funding

Federal allotments for each state or Tribe are limited to $500,000 federal funds annually, but typically are much less. Individual studies, of which there may be more than one per state or Tribe per year, generally range in cost from $25,000 to more than $100,000. The cost share ratio for these studies is 50 percent federal and 50 percent non-federal funding.

The first $100,000 for studies in Puerto Rico and $200,000 for studies in the U.S. Virgin Islands is 100 percent federal per Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974. Costs above these amounts are shared at 50 percent federal and 50 percent non-federal funding.

Under Water Resources Development Act of 2018, certain territories of the United States (including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and federally-recognized Tribal organizations, are eligible for a reduction of the PAS Program non-federal cost-sharing requirement (projects with study agreements are eligible for waivers up to $484,000).

Typical Studies

The program can encompass many types of studies dealing with water resource issues. Types of studies conducted in recent years under the program include:

- Water Supply and Demand
- Water Quality
- Environmental Conservation
- Environmental Restoration
- Wetland Evaluation
- Dam Safety and Failure
- Coastal Erosion Assessment
- Flood Risk Management
- Floodplain Management
- Land Use
- Master Planning
- Economic
- GIS Development

Live Oak, Florida Flood Management Planning Assistance

CONTINUING AUTHORITY PROGRAM

Feasibility Phase: The first phase includes a two-step feasibility study. Initially, up to $100,000 of federal funding is available to determine if a federal interest can be established for the proposed project. Secondly, if there is federal interest established, the remaining portion of the feasibility study is cost shared at a ratio of 50 percent federal funding and 50 percent non-federal funding. Typically, these efforts result in a report documenting the issues, objectives, recommended alternatives, and environmental compliance required for the project.

Design and Implementation Phase: Once the feasibility phase is complete and USACE has approved the project, the design and implementation phase is initiated. The non-federal sponsor must agree to the following before a project will enter the design and implementation phase:

- Provide all Lands, Easements, Rights-of-Way, Relocations and Disposal areas (LERRD) necessary for construction and maintenance. The cost of LERRD is applied toward the non-federal sponsor’s cost share.
- Maintain and operate the project after completion without cost to the federal government (most projects).
- Prevent future encroachment, which might interfere with proper functioning of the project.
- Assume responsibility for any cash requirements including costs in excess of applicable federal limitations.

The design and implementation phase includes completion of design, plans and specifications, and construction. This phase is cost shared, typically at 65 percent federal funding and 35 percent non-federal funding.
CONTINUING AUTHORITY PROGRAM

SECTION 14 – EMERGENCY STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE PROTECTION
Flood Control Action of 1946, as amended

USACE is authorized to construct bank stabilization and protection projects to protect endangered public and non-profit infrastructure from flood and storm damages due to erosion. Examples of protected infrastructure include highways, bridges, approaches, cultural sites, and essential public services such as hospitals and water supply systems. Privately owned property and facilities are not eligible for protection under this authority. The maximum federal limit is $5 million per project.

Left: Police Station, Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico Section 14 Project
Right: Las Carolinas, Puerto Rico Bridge Revetment Section 14 Project

Fort San Geronimo, San Juan, Puerto Rico Section 103 Project
HURRICANE EVACUATION STUDIES

The purpose of a Hurricane Evacuation Study (HES) is to provide emergency management officials with information that could assist them in hurricane evacuation decision-making. The technical data can be used by county and state agencies to supplement their hurricane evacuation plans and operational procedures in response to future hurricane threats.

An HES consists of several related analyses that develop technical data concerning hurricane hazards, vulnerability of the population, public response to evacuation advisories, timing of evacuations, and sheltering needs for various hurricane threat situations.

SECTION 107 – NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENTS
River and Harbor Act of 1960, as amended

This authority allows USACE to plan, design, and construct small projects for commercial navigation purposes such as channels, breakwaters, and jetties to ensure safe and efficient use of the nation’s navigable waterways. The maximum federal limit is $10 million per project.

SECTION 103 – BEACH EROSION AND HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION
River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended

This authority allows USACE to assist in the protection of public infrastructure on small beaches against erosion and damages caused by natural storm driven waves and currents. Typical projects include protecting utilities, roadways, and other public infrastructure systems. The maximum federal limit is $10 million per project.
EMERGENCY READINESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PROGRAM

What the Corps of Engineers Can Do

Through the Emergency Readiness, Response, and Recovery Program, USACE can undertake activities necessary to ensure that a knowledgeable and experienced work force is always available to respond to natural disasters such as floods, tropical storms, and hurricanes.

Readiness and Response

Readiness and Response includes development of an emergency management organization, planning, training, and maintaining adequate supplies. USACE maintains an inspection program for federal and non-federal flood control works and shore protection systems to monitor their status and notify sponsors of potential issues and concerns. USACE may also provide emergency assistance during a disaster in the form of personnel, material, and technical advice. Emergency Readiness and Response is 100 percent federally funded and includes activities such as search and rescue operation, technical advice, emergency repairs, and flood-fight material such as sandbags, pumps, or rocks.

Recovery

Post-disaster response activities are intended to save lives and protect property (public facilities/services and residential/commercial developments) following a major event. Assistance to individual homeowners and businesses is not permitted. Authority to perform activities immediately after a disaster is provided by Public Law 84-99 as amended, along with Public Law 93-288 as administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Work under this authority can include repairs to federal flood control works and hurricane shore protection projects.

CONTINUING AUTHORITY PROGRAM

SECTION 111 – SHORE DAMAGE PREVENTION OR MITIGATION OF DAMAGES CAUSED BY FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECTS

River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended

USACE is authorized to investigate and construct projects for prevention or mitigation of shore damages to public and privately owned shores along coastlines that are attributable to federal navigation. The maximum federal limit is $12.5 million per project.

SECTION 204 – BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL

Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended

USACE can restore, protect or create aquatic and wetland habitats in connection with construction maintenance dredging of an authorized federal navigation project. The cost share under this program is 65 percent federal and 35 percent non-federal for all costs above the base disposal plan, where the base disposal plan is the least costly for typical disposal of dredged material. The federal government pays 100 percent up to the cost of the base disposal plan. The maximum federal limit is $10 million per project.
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT SERVICES
Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960, as amended

What USACE Can Do
The Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) Program provides the full range of technical services and planning guidance needed to support effective floodplain management. Funding cannot support construction. FPMS are 100 percent federally funded.

General Technical Services
The program develops or interprets site-specific data on obstructions to flood flows; flood formation and timing; flood depths or stages; floodwater velocities; and the extent, duration, and frequency of flooding. It also provides information on natural and cultural resources before and after the use of floodplain management measures.

Special Studies
Special studies can range from helping a community identify present or future floodplain areas to a broad assessment of the various floodplain management alternatives. Some of the most common types of Special Studies include:
- Floodplain Delineation and Flood Hazard Evaluation
- Dam Break Analysis
- Flood Warning/Preparedness
- Regulatory Floodway
- Comprehensive Floodplain Management
- Urbanization Impact
- Storm Water Management
- Hydrologic, Hydraulic and Sediment Transport Modeling

SECTION 205 – FLOOD CONTROL
Flood Control Act of 1948, as amended

USACE is authorized under this authority to investigate and construct local flood control projects by construction or improvement of flood control works. Typical flood control projects include levees, floodwalls, channel modifications, pumping stations, or non-structural measures. The maximum federal limit is $10 million per project.
CONTINUING AUTHORITY PROGRAM

SECTION 206 – AQUATIC HABITAT ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
Water Resources Development Act of 1996, as amended

USACE is authorized to restore and protect aquatic ecosystems and wetland habitats to improve the quality of the environment. Examples of projects include channel modifications and wetland restoration. The maximum federal limit is $10 million per project.

Rose Bay, Florida Section 206 Project

SECTION 1135 – PROJECT MODIFICATIONS
Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended

USACE is authorized to assist in the restoration of degraded ecosystems through the modification of USACE structures, operations, or implementation of measures in affected areas. The maximum federal limit is $10 million per project.

Virginia Beach Key, Florida Section 1135 Project

Planting native vegetation
Multi-use trail

Rose Bay, Florida Section 206 Project