



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

JAN 28 2015

CECW-ZA

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, North Atlantic Division

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 3026 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014) – Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Study

1. Section 3026 of WRRDA 2014 directs that as part of the study for flood and storm damage reduction related to natural disasters carried out by the Secretary under the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-2), the Secretary shall make specific project recommendations. Section 3026 identifies entities for consultation and provides that any recommendations under this section shall be included in the annual report to Congress required by section 7001 of WRRDA 2014. A copy of Section 3026 is enclosed. Schedule and budget guidance related to this study provided in paragraph 4.b. of CECW-ZA Memorandum, Subject: Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, Policy Guidance Memorandum Expenses and Investigations Account, dated 9 July 2013, remains in effect.
2. The Joint Explanatory Statement of the Committee of Conference accompanying the Conference Report for WRRDA 2014 clarifies that the referenced study shall include in the recommendations regional and watershed level actions that could be taken, including the development of coastal wetlands to serve as protective surge reduction areas to reduce shoreline impacts from storm surges. Additionally, it notes that the intent is to provide direction on the development of a recommended step down approach that local and regional governments could collaborate on to improve coastal storm damage reduction.
3. Section 3026(a) references the study directed by P.L.113-2 that is currently underway. P.L.113-2 directs the Secretary to conduct a study that is to be provided to Congress within 24 months of the date of enactment of P.L.113-2 and that (1) addresses the flood risks of vulnerable coastal populations in areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy, (2) identifies those activities that warrant additional analysis by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and, (3) identifies institutional and other barriers to protection to the affected coastal areas. This study is titled the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study: Resilient Adaptation to Increasing Risk and is commonly called the NACCS report. The purpose of the NACCS report is to provide a framework from which more detailed evaluations can be pursued, including collaboration at the

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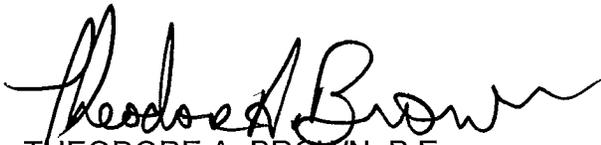
local, state, and Federal level. The North Atlantic Division shall submit the final draft NACCS report to HQUSACE so the report can be transmitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

4. The opportunities for collaboration identified in the NACCS report include nine locations, or Focus Areas, which did not have USACE-Partnered projects or studies in place or underway at the time of Hurricane Sandy. The Focus Areas are: (1) Rhode Island Coastline; (2) Connecticut Coastline; (3) Nassau County Back Bays, NY; (4) New York Bay–New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries; (5) New Jersey Back Bays; (6) Delaware Inland Bays and Delaware Bay Coast; (7) City of Baltimore, MD; (8) Washington, D.C. and (9) City of Norfolk, VA. USACE shall develop integrated strategies for each of the nine areas applying the NACCS precepts in order to: (1) assess accomplished and ongoing Sandy rebuilding efforts from a systems perspective; (2) determine the analysis needed to create a comprehensive coastal risk management plan for each focus area, and (3) define in greater detail the additional analyses that could be undertaken by USACE. The integrated strategies shall include a description of the analyses necessary to evaluate the full array of coastal storm risk reduction measures: programmatic, non-structural, and structural, including natural and nature-based features, as integrated systems to manage coastal storm risk for implementation by a range of stakeholders as well as by USACE.

5. In developing recommendations pursuant to Sections 3026(b and c), USACE may consult with key stakeholders, including state, county, and city governments, and as applicable, state and local water districts, and in the case of recommendations concerning projects that substantially affect communities served by Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions, USACE shall consult with the aforementioned colleges, universities, and institutions. Any recommendations in the NACCS report requiring authorization shall be included in the annual report required by Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014 consistent with published implementation guidance for that provision.

6. Once the NACCS report is submitted to Congress, any further development of the integrated strategies or additional study must be separately authorized and would be subject to applicable cost sharing, policy, and budgetary requirements.

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SEC. 3026. HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As part of the study for flood and storm damage reduction related to natural disasters to be carried out by the Secretary under title II of division A of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013, under the heading “Department of the Army—Corps of Engineers— Civil—Investigations” (127 Stat. 5), the Secretary shall make specific project recommendations.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In making recommendations pursuant to this section, the Secretary may consult with key stakeholders, including State, county, and city governments, and, as applicable, State and local water districts, and in the case of recommendations concerning projects that substantially affect communities served by historically Black colleges and universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions, the Secretary shall consult with those colleges, universities, and institutions.

(c) REPORT.—The Secretary shall include any recommendations of the Secretary under this section in the annual report submitted to Congress by the Secretary in accordance with section 7001.