



## **UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – Civil Works**

The President's 2016 Budget is designed to bring middle class economics into the 21st Century. This Budget shows what we can do if we invest in America's future and commit to an economy that rewards hard work, generates rising incomes, and allows everyone to share in the prosperity of a growing America. It lays out a strategy to strengthen our middle class and help America's hard-working families get ahead in a time of relentless economic and technological change. And it makes the critical investments needed to accelerate and sustain economic growth in the long run, including in research, education, training, and infrastructure.

These proposals will help working families feel more secure with paychecks that go further, help American workers upgrade their skills so they can compete for higher-paying jobs, and help create the conditions for our businesses to keep generating good new jobs for our workers to fill, while also fulfilling our most basic responsibility to keep Americans safe. We will make these investments, and end the harmful spending cuts known as sequestration, by cutting inefficient spending and reforming our broken tax code to make sure everyone pays their fair share. We can do all this while also putting our Nation on a more sustainable fiscal path. The Budget achieves about \$1.8 trillion in deficit reduction, primarily from reforms to health programs, our tax code, and immigration.

The Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program is charged with developing, managing, restoring and protecting water resources primarily through the construction, operation and maintenance of projects, 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. The Budget provides \$4.7 billion for this program. The Budget focuses on the highest priority work within the agency's three main missions of flood and storm damage reduction, commercial navigation, and aquatic ecosystem restoration, provides related benefits such as hydropower, recreation, and water supply, and cleans up certain lands contaminated during the early years of the development of the Nation's nuclear weapons program.

### **Funding Highlights:**

Provides \$4.7 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program, focusing on investments that will yield high economic and environmental returns or address a significant risk to public safety. This includes:

- Investing in restoring significant aquatic ecosystems to help make them sustainable.
- Supporting investment in maintenance and related activities at the Nation's most heavily used coastal ports and inland waterways.
- Investing in the Corps' ability to respond to natural disasters.
- Improving the resilience of Federally-developed and managed water resources infrastructure to address climate change impacts.
- Increasing investment in on-the-ground programs that help local communities better prepare for risks associated with climate change.
- Supporting the Corps' role in regulating activities affecting the Nation's waters.

### **Reforms:**

- Reforms how the Federal government finances capital investments in support of navigation on the inland waterways, including a new user fee.
- Improves the management, oversight, and performance of ongoing programs to efficiently meet water resources needs.

### ***Invests in Water Resources to Support Economic Growth and the Environment***

**Emphasizes Investments in Construction Projects with High Economic and Environmental Returns While Addressing Public Safety.** The Budget provides \$1.17 billion for Corps construction projects, emphasizing projects that provide high economic and environmental returns to the nation, and those that address a significant risk to public safety. This includes the initial Federal funding for construction work on four projects, as well as a sustained commitment to provide the resources – taken together with prior year balances - needed to allow the Corps to address priority dam safety work efficiently and effectively.

**Restores High Priority Aquatic Ecosystems.** The Budget provides \$411 million to restore significant aquatic ecosystems based on sound science and adaptive management; it also supports mitigation for the impacts of Corps projects and compliance with biological opinions. Priority aquatic ecosystems supported in the Budget include the California Bay-Delta, the Chesapeake Bay, the Everglades, the Great Lakes, and the Gulf Coast. Other funded aquatic

ecosystem efforts include work in the watersheds of the Columbia River, Puget Sound, and the Upper Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.

**Operates and Maintains Existing Water Resources Infrastructure.** The Budget includes \$2.71 billion to operate and maintain existing infrastructure with emphasis on the key features such as the inland waterways with a high level of commercial use and the Federal navigation channels that serve the Nation’s largest coastal ports.

**Strengthens Corps Ability to Respond to Natural Disasters.** The Budget provides \$39 million for the Emergency Management program, a \$9 million increase above the 2015 enacted level. This increase will facilitate the readiness of the Corps to respond to natural disasters.

**Supports Needed Regulatory Activities.** The Budget supports Corps implementation of its regulatory responsibilities, including providing timely and sound decisions on proposed uses affecting the Nation’s waters under the Clean Water Act, the Rivers and Harbors Appropriation Act of 1899, and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

**Promotes Sustainable and Resilient Flood Risk Management.** The Budget seeks to strengthen local partners, by investing \$31 million to provide communities with technical and planning assistance needed to develop and implement nonstructural approaches to manage and reduce flood risk. This investment builds on successful programs such as the Silver Jackets program, a critical link in helping the Corps partner with Federal, State, Local, and Tribal communities to encourage a better understanding of and more comprehensive approach to addressing flood risks. Building on significant collaboration with other Federal agencies and State and local governments, the Budget also invests in tools that promote sustainable and resilient coastal management in light of climate change.

**Promotes Sustainability and Stewardship and Protects Cultural Heritage.** The Budget advances Corps efforts to be a responsible steward of natural resources on Corps lands by funding improved management of the 103,000 acres of native habitat for special status species, including \$5 million to update land management plans and \$9 million to combat invasive species which improve pollinator habitat, increase resiliency of natural communities to climate change and reduce risk of invasive species impacts on other missions.

The Corps continues to improve the sustainability and reduce the greenhouse gas impact of its facilities by pursuing creative investments to more efficiently use the water and power needed to run Corps facilities. The Budget also provides \$10 million to protect vulnerable and threatened cultural resource sites on Corps lands, and \$6 million for the Corps’ Veterans Curation Program, which provides veterans with tangible work skills and experience through the rehabilitation and preservation of Federally-owned or administered archaeological collections.

### ***Reforms Funding, Management, and Analysis***

**Reforms Inland Waterways Financing.** The Budget includes the Administration’s legislative proposal to reform the laws governing the Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF), including an annual per vessel fee to increase the amount paid by commercial navigation users enough to

meet their share of IWTF-funded activities. The additional revenue would help finance future capital investments in these waterways, which are part of the Nation's freight transportation infrastructure.

**Increases Organizational Efficiency and Effectiveness.** The Corps continues efforts to improve organizational effectiveness by proposing continued investment in information technology that manages project data and supports budget decisions.