CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL WORKS

The Army Corps of Engineers—Civil Works program (Corps) is responsible for: developing, managing, restoring, and protecting water resources primarily through the construction, operation and maintenance, and study of water-related infrastructure projects; regulating development in waters of the United States; and working with Federal agencies to help communities respond to and recover from floods and other natural disasters. The President's 2024 Budget for the Corps invests in high return projects, promotes environmental justice, increases climate resilience, and improves the supply chain at the Nation's coastal ports and on the inland waterways.

The Budget requests $7.4 billion in discretionary budget authority for 2024. The Budget is complemented by $1 billion for operation and maintenance and $50 million for construction in 2024 from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The President's 2024 Budget:

- **Invests in High Return Projects.** The Budget invests in projects and programs within the main mission areas of the Corps, which are commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration, that provide a high economic or environmental return, increase resilience to climate change, promote environmental justice, or address a significant risk to public safety. For example, the Budget addresses high priority dam safety risks and facilitates safe and efficient navigation on the highest use inland waterways.

- **Improves the Nation's Infrastructure.** The Budget: invests in operating and maintaining the Corps' existing infrastructure and improving its reliability; and builds on $1 billion provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for 2024 for operating and maintaining Corps' infrastructure. The Budget supports more efficient investment in infrastructure by proposing to transfer ownership from the Corps to parties that are better suited to maintain it, where appropriate. For example, the Budget includes an initial $350 million for replacement of the Cape Cod Canal bridges, toward a commitment of $600 million, and a legislative proposal that would allow the Corps to transfer those funds to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which is better suited to design and construct the replacement bridges. The Budget proposes authorizing the Corps to transfer ownership of these bridges to the Commonwealth, which would be responsible for their future operation and maintenance.

- **Strengthens Supply Chains at Coastal Ports and Inland Waterways.** The Budget invests in five projects that facilitate safe, reliable, and environmentally sustainable navigation at the Nation's coastal ports and on the inland waterways. The Budget also includes over $1.7 billion in spending from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund to support commerce through U.S. coastal ports and over $1 billion to maintain and improve navigation on the inland waterways.

- **Increases Climate Resilience.** The Budget invests in 45 projects and programs that would decrease climate risks facing communities and to increase ecosystem resilience to climate change based on the best available science. The Budget would improve reservoir operations through updates to water control operating manuals and drought contingency plans and would promote healthier downstream ecosystems through reoperation of Corps' reservoirs under the sustainable rivers program. The Budget also invests in helping local communities identify and address their risks associated with climate change and takes climate change into account in developing options and selecting projects.

  As part of a long-term strategy to reduce repetitive flood losses, the Administration will convene an interagency working group, including the Corps, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to develop and propose an objective methodology that Federal agencies could use to identify the 10-20 communities across the Nation that are likely to have the highest risk of repetitive storm-related flooding over the next 50 years—in the absence of further measures to reduce this risk and with the intention of informing future Federal investments in these areas. The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress on bipartisan principles for these and other flood risk management investments.

- **Promotes Environmental Justice.** The Budget invests $35 million in technical and planning assistance, in 23 studies, and in the construction of 33 projects to help disadvantaged and tribal communities address their water resources challenges in line with the President's Justice40 Initiative—including funding for the Tribal Partnership Program. In addition, the Corps is considering revising its benefit-cost analyses for proposed flood and storm damage reduction projects and related investment decisions to provide a more equitable way to account for the welfare benefits of these projects in disadvantaged communities.

- **Restores Aquatic Ecosystems.** The Budget invests in the restoration of some of the Nation's most unique aquatic ecosystems, such as the Chesapeake Bay, the Upper Mississippi River, the Great Lakes, and the Louisiana Coast. The Budget includes $415 million for Florida's Everglades restoration program and $93 million to support salmon recovery efforts in the Columbia River Basin. In addition, the Corps is undertaking an analysis of how aquatic ecosystem restoration projects can offset greenhouse gases emissions by promoting carbon sequestration on a carbon lifecycle basis for each project.

- **Invests in Research and Development (R&D).** The Budget includes $86 million for R&D, with a focus on innovative solutions that would help achieve significant cost savings in the civil works program and address the emerging water resources challenges of the 21st Century, including climate change. For example, this investment would help reduce the cost to maintain existing water resources infrastructure and improve its reliability, safety, and environmental sustainability—including through more effective water management at certain dams and innovative methods to identify risks to existing infrastructure.