StrongPoint

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS February 13, 2012 BUILDING STRONG®

Maintaining and Improving Infrastructure To Maintain Economic Prosperity, National Security and Social Well Being

"America's streams, rivers, wetlands, estuaries, lakes and coasts support billions of dollars in commerce, provide drinking water for millions of Americans, help protect communities from the effects of floods and storms, and supply needed habitat for fish and wildlife, among other benefits. … The proposed new approach calls for development of water resources projects based on sound science that maximize net national economic, environmental, and social benefits, which is critical for future generations."

— Nancy Sutley, Chair, White House Council on Environmental Quality

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) managed water resources are an immense accumulation of assets found in all 50 states. Corps' infrastructure provides 24 percent of U.S. hydropower, 11,000 miles of levees for flood damage reduction, 329 million acre-feet of water storage capacity that meets 18 percent of the nation's household water consumption, 343 recreation projects in 43 states that serve 370 million visits a year, and facilitate the effective and efficient transportation of 78 percent of the U.S. domestic and international cargo.

The majority of the Army Civil Works program today is focused on the operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of major navigation, flood risk management and hydropower infrastructure systems, as well as on the environmental mitigation and restoration of natural resources affected in the past by these systems. As the infrastructure that the Corps operates ages, it often becomes more difficult and more expensive to maintain these systems to meet performance goals and efficiently provide the economic and environmental benefits for which they were designed and constructed. The Army is adopting new practices to improve management of large and costly projects and is considering additional proposals to advance those efforts.

The Corps' plan for maintaining and improving infrastructure outlines specific actions to communicate a vision for synchronized investment in critical waterway and other infrastructure construction and maintenance that will help the U.S. maintain global competitiveness.

Protecting Communities

The Corps flood risk management program is focused on reducing risk to life and public safety from inland and coastal flooding across the Nation. The flood risk management systems are complex collections of levees, reservoirs, floodways, and water control structures that enable the Corps to control, mitigate, and anticipate flood waters, and reduce the risk of levee failures and flood damages in communities near those levees.

Assuring Efficient Completion of Projects

Funding fewer projects more efficiently and placing the remaining projects on a prioritized list will allow the Corps to complete some projects sooner and at a lower overall cost than trying to divide appropriations among many projects. For example, the budget contains $144 million for Olmsted Lock and Dam to support construction efficiency to the greatest extent possible. The Corps is committed to evolving to a more effective project delivery model. In doing so, it will be transparent, sharing its future plans and direction, and collaborate with interested stakeholders.

Exploring Public-Private Partnerships

The Corps will continue to seek public-private partnerships to finance the modernization of our nation's navigation, hydropower and flood control infrastructure.

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Key Messages

- The Corps' water resources program is an immense accumulation of assets found in all 50 states.
- The Corps will develop a list of major projects in major program areas in an effort to complete projects within cost and on schedule.

Facts & Figures

- The Corps owns and operates 692 dams.
- The Corps operates and maintains 12,000 miles of commercial inland navigation channels, and owns and/or operates 238 lock chambers at 192 sites.
- During the period FY 2006 through FY 2011 about 29,000 restored acres were produced by Corps water resources projects.
- For more information about the Corps' efforts, visit http://www.usace.army.mil/