

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
OF**

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FOR CIVIL WORKS**

**BEFORE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT
AND RELATED AGENCIES
UNITED STATES SENATE
ON**

**REVIEW OF THE FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST FOR
THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

JUNE 11, 2025

Chairman Kennedy, Ranking Member Murray, and distinguished members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today to discuss the President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for the Army Civil Works program.

The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget includes nearly \$6.7 billion for the Army Civil Works program, with a focus on the Corps' primary missions of commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration. The Budget focuses on opportunities to support these missions that provide a high return to the American public, such as by facilitating maritime commerce, addressing the most significant flood risks facing communities, and restoring the highest priority aquatic ecosystems.

In total, the FY 2026 Construction program is funded at more than \$1.6 billion. The majority of that amount is provided in the Construction account, but also \$43 million from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, and \$55 million from the Mississippi River and Tributaries account. The Construction program uses

objective, performance-based criteria to give priority to the projects with the highest economic, environmental, and safety returns.

The President's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget focuses on commercial navigation, which is a key pillar in our nation's economic strength. In support of our nation's manufacturing supply chain and the Administration's commitment to our nation's coastal ports and inland waterways, the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget includes \$379 million in construction funding including \$161.591 million for the Houston Ship Channel, Texas project and \$176.6 million to continue construction of the Sault Ste Marie (Replacement Lock), Michigan project to provide efficiency and redundancy for a critical trade route for iron ore in the Great Lakes region. Also included in the Budget is \$1.1 billion to operate and maintain the top 50 U.S. coastal ports, which handle around 90 percent of the nation's waterborne cargo that is shipped to or from the United States in foreign commerce.

Flood and storm damage reduction is at the center of the Civil Works program's actions to support the Administration's goal of addressing the most significant flood risks facing communities. Accordingly, the Budget contains over \$1.7 billion for flood and storm damage reduction. Of this amount, the Budget includes \$571 million in funding to address dam safety at the Whittier Narrows, CA project.

The Budget includes \$650 million for the aquatic ecosystem restoration mission. The Budget supports the high-priority environmental restoration priorities of the Administration with the inclusion of \$446 million for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration program, which will enable significant progress to continue in restoring America's Everglades.

Of course, in addition to construction projects, the Budget focuses on maintaining the key features of the vast water resources infrastructure that the Corps owns and manages. Specifically, the FY 2026 Budget funds the Operation and Maintenance program at over \$4.1 billion, consisting of just over

\$2.3 billion from the Operation and Maintenance account, nearly \$1.7 billion from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, and nearly \$192 million from the Mississippi River and Tributaries account. For Operation and Maintenance, the Budget prioritizes the maintenance of commercial navigation on Federal channels over spending on projects that are not a Federal responsibility. The allocation of funding among projects for maintenance reflects a risk-informed approach that considers both project and project component conditions and the potential consequences of a failure. The Budget also gives priority to the maintenance of coastal ports and inland waterways with the highest commercial traffic.

As I wrap up, I'll note the FY 2026 Budget provides \$139 million for the Investigations program, consisting of \$130 million from the Investigations account and \$9 million from the Mississippi River and Tributaries account. This includes preconstruction engineering and design work for dam safety modification projects with high risk of failure, including \$18.5

million for Garrison Dam, Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota and \$26 million for Keystone Lake, Oklahoma.

Additionally, the FY 2026 Regulatory Program is funded at \$221 million to provide efficiency in permit processing.

Lastly, I would like to note that \$7 million is included for the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Since 2009, my office has never received an appropriation larger than \$5 million, and some years less. However, our costs — salaries and retirement, services and rent, and travel and supplies — have all continued to rise over the past 15 years. Using the latest U.S. government Consumer Price Index data (at a 44.6% cumulative rate of inflation), the \$5 million my office received in 2009 equates to over \$7 million in today's dollars. However, this funding has remained flat. Full funding is critical to provide effective oversight of the Army Civil Works program.

To summarize, the Budget makes critical investments in water resources that will benefit the American people and promote greater prosperity and economic growth for decades to come.

I am very honored to implement the President's priorities for the Army Civil Works program and excited to be a part of a great team — serving our Nation.

Thank you for inviting me here today. I look forward to your questions.