

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

**WRITTEN STATEMENT
OF**

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

ON

**THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET
FOR THE CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM
OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

April 6, 2022

Chairwoman Feinstein, Ranking Member Kennedy and distinguished members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today to discuss the transformational investments of the President's Budget request for the Army Civil Works program.

The Fiscal Year 2023 Budget request includes \$6.6 billion for the Army Civil Works program. These investments continue to focus on yielding high economic and environmental returns; helping communities to reduce their risks and adapt to climate change, and restoring aquatic ecosystems in ways that will make them more sustainable and more resilient to climate change, based on the best available science; supporting a strong economy by facilitating safe, reliable and sustainable commercial navigation; and promoting environmental justice and investing in disadvantaged communities that have too often been left behind. The Army will continue working with community partners to develop, manage, restore, and protect our Nation's precious water resources.

We believe in smart investments that improve the durability of our water management resources; and moving to a more sustainable posture for our water resources all across America.

The Administration has also set a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits of Federal investments in climate, flow to disadvantaged communities – the Justice40 Initiative. The Justice40 Initiative is a critical part of the Administration’s whole-of-government approach to advancing environmental justice.

The Budget focuses on the highest performing work within the three main missions of the Army Civil Works program:

- commercial navigation,
- flood and storm damage reduction, and
- aquatic ecosystem restoration.

In developing the Budget, we gave consideration to advancing two key objectives including: 1) increasing infrastructure and ecosystem resilience to climate change and decreasing climate risk for communities based on the best available science; and 2) promoting environmental justice in disadvantaged communities in

line with Justice40 and creating good paying jobs that provide the free and fair chance to join a union and collectively bargain.

The FY 2023 Budget continues the process of addressing the climate crisis and evaluating the Civil Works program to identify appropriate actions to support the Administration in tackling the climate crisis at home and abroad. The Budget includes over \$1 billion to support U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) climate resiliency efforts and reduce the risk of damages from floods and storms and restore the Nation's aquatic ecosystems. Investments include \$974 million for construction of flood and storm damage reduction and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, over \$90 million to contribute to climate resilience efforts such as improving the resilience of Corps infrastructure to climate change, and \$37.4 million for technical and planning assistance programs with emphasis on work to help local communities identify, understand, and address their flood risks including work that would directly benefit disadvantaged communities by improving their resilience to climate change. The Budget also includes funding to continue

studies intended to investigate climate resilience along the Great Lakes coast as well as in Central and Southern Florida.

The Army is also committed to securing environmental justice and spurring economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities that have been historically marginalized and overburdened by pollution and experience underinvestment in essential services.

The Army is actively working, along with other Federal agencies, towards ensuring 40 percent of the benefits of climate and clean energy investments are directed to disadvantaged communities.

These actions include an examination of the activities of key programs to determine whether those programs' benefits have accrued to disadvantaged communities. The FY 2023 Budget includes funds to — 1) improve outreach and access to Civil Works information and resources; 2) improve access to Civil Works technical assistance programs (e.g., Planning Assistance to States and Floodplain Management Services) and maximize the reach of Civil Works projects to benefit disadvantaged communities, in particular as it relates to climate resiliency; and,

3) ensure any updates to Civil Works policies and guidance will not result in a disproportionate negative impact on disadvantaged communities.

The Administration's America the Beautiful initiative sets a goal of conserving at least 30 percent of America's lands and waters by 2030. The FY 2023 Budget includes funds to advance this goal at Army Corps-owned projects by creating safe outdoor opportunities in nature-deprived communities, supporting Tribally led conservation and restoration priorities, expanding collaborative conservation of fish and wildlife habitats and corridors, and increasing access for outdoor recreation.

In support of this Administration's commitment to our Nation's coastal ports and inland waterways, the FY 2023 Budget includes over \$3 billion for the study, design, construction, operation and maintenance (O&M) of inland and coastal navigation projects. These funds will be used in conjunction with the \$465 million provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal Spend Plan for FY 2023 for the maintenance and repair of existing navigation

harbors, channels, and navigation locks and dams on the Nation's ports and waterways that support commercial navigation. The Budget proposes to derive over \$1.7 billion from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for eligible projects with an emphasis on operation and maintenance, including dredging, of completed projects.

The Budget contains over \$1.5 billion for flood and storm damage reduction, including an increase in funding for technical and planning assistance to local communities to enable them to understand and to better manage their flood risks. The Budget proposes to assist these local efforts, with emphasis on non-structural approaches.

The Budget includes \$624 million for aquatic ecosystem restoration, including \$407 million for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (SFER) program, in addition to the \$1.1 billion allocated to the SFER program in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal Spend Plan, which together will enable significant progress in restoring this valuable ecosystem.

The Budget supports a Civil Works program that has a diverse set of tools and approaches to working with local communities, whether this means funding projects with our cost-sharing partners, providing planning assistance and technical expertise to help communities make better risk-informed decisions, or participating in the national and international conversations on how to best address our water resources challenges.

The Budget also focuses on maintaining the vast water resources infrastructure that the Corps owns and manages, and on finding innovative ways to rehabilitate it or divest it to others.

The FY 2023 Budget provides more than \$1.2 billion in the construction account. The construction program uses objective, performance-based guidelines to allocate funding toward the highest performing economic, environmental, and public safety investments.

The FY 2023 Budget includes \$50 million in Construction funds for the Innovative Funding Partnership program, which supports Corps efforts to accelerate and improve the delivery of

water resources projects through greater non-Federal participation, and by removing barriers that prevent State, local, and private parties from moving forward with investments that they deem priorities.

The FY 2023 Budget provides nearly \$2.6 billion in the O&M account. For O&M, the Budget emphasizes maintaining and improving the performance of existing projects. 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 gives priority to the maintenance of coastal ports and inland waterways with the highest commercial traffic. The Budget also includes \$60 million for operation and maintenance work to mitigate for adverse impacts from the operation of existing Army Corps-owned projects and \$20 million to install the necessary refueling infrastructure to support zero-emission vehicles at existing Army Corps-owned projects.

The FY 2023 Budget includes \$106 million in the Investigations account.

The FY 2023 Regulatory Program is funded at \$210 million to protect the nation's waters and wetlands and provide efficiency in permit processing.

I am very honored to implement the President's priorities for the Army Civil Works program. I'm 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.