



Washington, D.C. Metro Backup Water Source Study

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FACT SHEET as of February 1, 2026

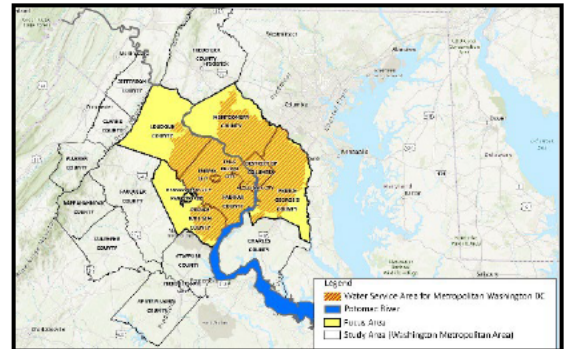
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AUTHORIZATION: Section 8201(a)(14) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2022 and Section 1351 of WRDA 2024

TYPE OF PROJECT: Water Supply

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Van Hollen and Alsobrooks (MD), Warner and Kaine (VA); Representatives Ivey (MD-04), Hoyer (MD-05), Delaney (MD-06), Raskin (MD-08), Vindman (VA-07), Beyer (VA-08), Subramanyam (VA-10), and Walkinshaw (VA-11); and Delegate Homes Norton (DC)

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)



Map depicting the total Study Area, the Focus Area, and the Water Service Area for metropolitan Washington, D.C.

BACKGROUND: A majority of the 4.6 million people residing in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area (WMA) depend on the Potomac River for their potable water supply. Additionally, the Potomac River is the sole source of water supplied to many federal critical infrastructure assets within the WMA. If withdrawals from the Potomac River cease, resulting from river contamination, drought, or other event, most of the WMA would be without potable water within a matter of hours. The purpose of the study is to identify a secondary source of water and options for additional water storage for the water supply providers within the WMA in the event that the water supply from Potomac River becomes unusable.

STATUS: The Baltimore District signed the Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) with MWCOG for the cost-shared 50-percent federal and 50-percent non-federal study on September 30, 2024. The Baltimore District amended the FCSA with MWCOG, effective August 09, 2025, to reflect the new 90-percent Federal, 10-percent Non-Federal cost share requirement stipulated in WRDA 2024. The team is evaluating alternatives that comply with guidance from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (OASA) for Civil Works and new requirements issued by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers leadership to progress to the recommended plan.

BUDGET (\$):

	<u>Feasibility</u>
<u>Total Estimated Cost</u>	\$3,200,000
Federal Cost Estimate ¹	2,725,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	475,000
<u>Federal Funds Data</u>	
Allocation thru FY 2024	500,000
Allocation for FY 2025	0
Allocation for FY 2026 ²	1,800,000

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Balance to Complete 425,000

NOTES:

¹\$200,000 estimated for independent external peer review is not cost shared.

² The allocation amount is subject to change during the FY given any appropriations, an approved FY work plan using programmatic funds, and any reprogramming actions.

SCHEDULE:

FY 2025 Completed Work: The Vertical Team Alignment Memorandum was submitted to USACE leadership in July 2025.

FY 2026 Scheduled Work: The team is working to refine the alternatives to move forward with the recommended plan. This work will include economics/benefits analyses, impact modeling, and environmental assessments.

COMPLETION: The feasibility study is scheduled for completion in September 2027.

For more information contact Lakia Barnes at (410) 688-1478, email Lakia.d.barnes@usace.army.mil.