

**Questions for the Record**  
**Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations**  
**Oversight Hearing on “The Status of the Reclamation Fund and the Bureau of**  
**Reclamation’s Future Infrastructure Funding Needs”**  
**July 24, 2019**

**Questions from Chairman TJ Cox:**

1. I understand that in 2016, Reclamation began to estimate major repair and rehabilitation needs over the next 30 years. What is the most recent current estimate?
2. What is the level of uncertainty about this 30-year estimate? Is it possible that the funding needs for major repair and rehabilitation are much higher?

**Questions from Representative Jim Costa:**

1. Without direct access to the Reclamation Fund, the Bureau of Reclamation relies on annual funding from congressional appropriations. Given the current congressional earmark ban, Reclamation must make a budget request for funding for certain extraordinary maintenance or rehabilitation construction activities on federally-owned projects. As I understand it, the cost of these projects is typically charged to either the federal (paid for by Reclamation) or non-federal (paid for or reimbursed by project water contractors) portions of the total project costs. Does Reclamation routinely request funding for such projects from appropriations? If so, does Reclamation request both federal and non-federal shares or just the federal share? How is the non-federal share funded if Reclamation does not provide such funding through appropriations? Do the non-federal entities responsible for their share of these costs have any difficulties or experience challenges in obtaining such funding? Are there projects that simply don’t get done due to the lack of non-federal funding?
2. At the hearing, restoring the capacity of the Friant Kern Canal in California’s Central Valley that has been lost to subsidence came up several times as a project that could benefit from direct access to the Reclamation Fund. Since the Reclamation Fund currently cannot be directly accessed by Reclamation for such purposes, the Friant Kern Canal has been chosen as a project eligible for funding under the Water Infrastructure Investments for the Nation (WIIN) Act, but Congress must approve the WIIN Act projects in an appropriations bill, a process that until recently has stalled for FY 2020. If for some reason the Friant Kern Canal is not approved to receive funding on a timely basis by Congress as a WIIN Act project in the FY 2020 appropriations process, what is Reclamation prepared to do to ensure federal funding to move this crucial rehabilitation project forward in the near-term?