

**WASHINGTON OFFICE:**  
324 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3361  
FAX: (202) 225-3462



**FLAGSTAFF OFFICE:**  
405 N. BEAVER ST., SUITE 6  
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001  
(928) 286-5338  
FAX: (928) 779-6310

**CASA GRANDE OFFICE:**  
211 N. FLORENCE ST., SUITE 1  
CASA GRANDE, AZ 85122  
(520) 316-0839  
FAX: (520) 316-0842

## **TOM O'HALLERAN**

1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member, Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

Thank you for hosting this Member Day and providing an opportunity for Members to speak about the importance of Army Corps of Engineers projects and policies.

I strongly support the work that the Army Corps does to protect communities across our nation from catastrophic flooding. This work requires that Investigations and constructions accounts be funded sufficiently. Specifically, I ask that the Army Corps General Investigations account receive at least \$125 million in funding and the Construction account receives at least \$2.183 billion.

In addition to these funding changes, I ask that the committee consider removing language that has been included in the Energy & Water Appropriations bill for the last six years that prevents the Army Corps from implementing new Principles, Requirements, and Guidelines (PR&Gs), which has lowered the priority of rural projects.

This policy has the effect of lowering the competitiveness of rural projects by keeping their BCR scores lower than those of urban projects. For example, Winslow, Arizona is a rural community in my district, which, at a population of just under 10,000 people, is disadvantaged in the current system. A major flood would devastate the downtown area and the homes of nearly 700 Native Americans who were forcibly relocated by the government under Public Law 93-531. Allowing an update of the PR&Gs would provide parity for rural communities, like Winslow, across the country

Providing the Construction account funding of at least \$2.183 billion would allow for the completion of many projects which are nearly finished, and in which the federal government has already made significant investments.

For example, for the last 30 years, the City of Flagstaff's top priority has been to mitigate potential flood damage caused by the Rio de Flag. Since fiscal year (FY) 2002, the Rio de Flag flood control project has received more than \$26 million in federal appropriations for various phases of the project. With these resources, the USACE has conducted the reconnaissance and feasibility studies, completed the pre-construction engineering and design (PED), and begun the construction phase. Slowing this project could result in huge losses of property and increase the risk of the loss of life, as well as create significant public health and safety issues. A robust construction account with at least \$2.183 billion in funding would allow projects like this to proceed nationwide.

Providing at least \$125 million is dedicated to the General Investigations account will allow the Army Corps to continue their work on projects that have already begun and are important to protecting many growing communities in rural Arizona.

For example, the Lower Santa Cruz River watershed project is critical for residents of Pinal County, Arizona--one of the fastest growing counties in the U.S. Last year, the project received \$1.070 million in General Investigations work plan funds that will help complete the feasibility portion of the project.

Completing feasibility studies will allow the Army Corps to move on to other projects and ensure that other communities receive the attention that they need.

Thank you for hosting this Member Day and providing an opportunity for Members to speak about the importance of Army Corps of Engineers projects and policies.

I would like to reiterate my support for the work that the Army Corps does to protect communities across our nation and to emphasize my support for funding the General Investigations account with at least \$125 million and the Construction account with at least \$2.183 billion. Additionally, I would like to reiterate the importance of removing language that prevents the Army Corps from implementing new PR&Gs, so that rural communities have parity in the process.

Sincerely,

**TOM O'HALLERAN**  
Member of Congress