

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

COMPLETE STATEMENT OF

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL WILLIAM H. "BUTCH" GRAHAM, JR.
CHIEF OF ENGINEERS**

**BEFORE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT**

ON

**THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET
FOR THE CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM
OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AND THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

APRIL 16, 2026

Chairman Fleischmann, Ranking Member Kaptur, and Members of the Subcommittee, I am honored to testify before your committee today, along with the Honorable Adam Telle, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, regarding the President's Fiscal Year 2027 (FY 2027) Budget request for the Army Civil Works Program.

Through the Civil Works Program, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) works with other Federal agencies, and with State, Tribal, and local entities and others, to develop, manage, restore, and protect water resources, primarily through the construction, operation and maintenance, and study of water-related infrastructure projects. The Corps focuses on work that provides high economic, environmental, and public safety returns to the Nation. The Corps also regulates development in waters of the United States and works with other Federal agencies to help communities respond to, and recover from, floods and other natural disasters.

SUMMARY OF FY 2027 BUDGET

The Civil Works program is performance-based and focuses on high-performing projects and programs within its three main water resources missions: commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration. It uses a targeted approach to invest in our water resources, which will benefit the Nation's economy, environment, and public safety – now and in the future.

The FY 2027 Budget includes \$6.663 billion in discretionary funding for Civil Works activities throughout the Nation, including \$2.06 billion for commercial navigation, \$931 million for flood and storm damage reduction, and \$410 million for aquatic ecosystem restoration.

INVESTIGATIONS

The Budget includes \$61 million for the Corps' Investigations program, consisting of \$38 million from the Investigations account and \$23 million from the Mississippi River and Tributaries account. The Budget focuses on ongoing work and promoting efforts to provide local communities with technical and planning assistance to enable them to reduce their flood risk. The Budget funds 26 individual efforts including feasibility studies, dam safety modification studies, and preconstruction engineering and design (PED). The 2027 Budget allocates funding for two new studies, South River and Intrenchment Creek in Georgia and Chincoteague Inlet in Virginia and provides funds to bring four ongoing Investigations efforts to completion including PED efforts for Tampa Bay Harbor in Florida and Port Fourchon Belle Chase Pass Channel in Louisiana.

CONSTRUCTION

The goal of the Army Civil Works program is to produce as much value as possible for the Nation from available funds. We continue to take bold actions to improve our performance, and engineer solutions for the Nation's toughest water resources engineering challenges. Projects are primarily funded based on their economic, environmental and safety returns. The selection process includes prioritizing investments in, on a risk-informed basis, dam

safety assurance, seepage control, and static instability correction work at dams that the Corps owns and operates; work that addresses significant risk to human safety; as well as constructing dredged material disposal facilities for high and moderate use segments of commercial deep-draft, shallow-draft, and inland waterways projects.

The Budget includes \$1.301 billion for the Construction program, consisting of \$1.166 billion from the Construction account, \$70 million from the Mississippi River and Tributaries account, \$33 million from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and \$31 million from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. This Construction funding level ensures momentum on critical infrastructure projects across the Nation.

For commercial navigation, the top three funded Construction projects are: \$134 million for Upper Ohio, Allegheny and Beaver Counties in Pennsylvania; \$67 million for the Soo Lock Replacement Project at Sault Ste. Marie in Michigan; and \$30 million for the Sabine-Neches Waterway in Texas.

For flood and storm damage reduction, the top three funded Construction projects are: \$420 million for Prado Dam Safety in California; \$80 million for American River Common Features, Natomas Basin in California; and \$46 million for the Rough River Lake in Kentucky.

For aquatic ecosystem restoration, the top three funded Construction projects are: \$296 million for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Program that focuses on restoring the Everglades; \$55 million for the Upper Mississippi River Restoration spanning multiple states; and \$18 million for Poplar Island in Maryland.

There are two flood and storm damage reduction Construction projects budgeted for completion in 2027: Little Wood River, Idaho and Covington, Kentucky.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)

The O&M program supports completed works owned or operated by the Corps, including operation and maintenance of locks and dams along the inland waterways; maintenance dredging of inland and coastal Federal channels; operation and maintenance of multi-purpose dams and reservoirs for flood risk reduction and related purposes such as hydropower; monitoring of completed navigation and flood damage reduction projects; and management of Corps facilities and associated lands, including serving as a responsible steward of the natural resources on Corps lands.

The Budget provides a total of \$2.178 billion for the Operation and Maintenance program, consisting of \$760 million from the Operation and Maintenance account, \$1.355 billion from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, and \$63 million from the Mississippi River and Tributaries account. Of that amount, the Budget provides \$415 million for specific projects to maintain and improve navigation on our inland waterways and gives priority to those waterways with the most commercial traffic. The Budget includes \$933 million to operate and maintain the top 50 U.S. coastal ports across the Nation, which handle around 90 percent of the waterborne cargo that is shipped to or from the United States in foreign

commerce.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

The Regulatory Program is committed to protecting the Nation's aquatic resources and navigation capacity, while allowing reasonable development through fair and balanced decisions. The Corps evaluates permit applications for construction activities that occur in or affect the Nation's waters, including wetlands. The Corps continues to streamline the permitting processes to eliminate duplicative reviews and expedite permitting decisions for infrastructure projects while continuing to protect the environment. The Budget provides \$223 million for this program, which is the necessary level of funding to enable the Corps to protect and preserve these water resources.

FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

The FY27 Budget provides \$200 million for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). This funding will continue ongoing investigations, remediation, and oversight activities in eight states at 19 sites contaminated as a result of the Nation's early atomic weapons development program. FUSRAP focuses on protecting human health, public safety, and the environment at these sites, which are contaminated with low-level radioactive materials, throughout the investigation and remediation phases.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

The Nation continues to face extreme weather events including hurricanes, fires, drought, and flooding. Some of these events have significantly impacted communities and the economy. Over the past year, as part of the Federal response team working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Corps provided disaster assistance in a number of states and U.S. territories. The Budget provides \$40 million for preparedness and training activities of Corps staff to enable them to assist communities during floods, hurricanes, or other natural disasters.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

This year's budget introduces the District Salary Transparency initiative to improve how the Corps manages and reports project costs. It separates the costs of employee salaries and general overhead from the direct costs of a specific project. This change creates a clearer picture of how money is being spent. The initiative aims to increase transparency and accountability, with the goal of ensuring that infrastructure projects are delivered on time and within budget.

The Budget provides \$2.429 billion for the District Salaries and Expenses Account, which funds the salaries of Corps' district and field office employees, plus other operational costs. Of this amount, \$8 million is derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and \$307 million is derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The amount proposed in the District Salaries and Expenses account in this Budget is similar to the amount that would have been spent on district salaries and expenses under previous Budget requests.

CONCLUSION

The FY 2027 President's Budget for the Army Civil Works Program represents a continuing, fiscally prudent investment in the Nation's water resources with a strong emphasis on completing ongoing projects efficiently and increasing financial transparency. The Army is committed to a performance-based Civil Works program, based on innovative, resilient, and sustainable risk-informed solutions.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a world-class organization offering one of the most diverse mission sets in the federal government — delivering vital engineering solutions to address water resources challenges.

Thank you, Chairman Fleischmann, Ranking Member Kaptur, and Members of the Subcommittee. This concludes my statement. I look forward to answering any questions you and other Members of the Subcommittee may have.