



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

Customer Guide to Corps Participation in Water Resources

February 2005



*Final gate installation at the Old River
Control Auxiliary Structure, April 1985.*

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Vision Statement

The world's premier engineering organization responding to our nation's needs in peace and war.

A full spectrum Engineer Force of high quality, dedicated soldiers and civilians:

Trained and ready,

- *A vital part of the Army,*
- *Dedicated to public service,*
- *An Army values-based organization.*

Strategic Goals

***People.** Be recognized for the technical and professional excellence of our world-class workforce, functioning as teams delivering projects and services.*

***PROCESS.** Use the Project Management Business Process to operate as One Corps, regionally delivering quality goods and services.*

***Communication.** Communicate effectively to build synergistic relationships that serve the nation.*

Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans and develops water resources projects nationwide, typically on a large scale. These large-scale projects are specifically authorized by Congress.

However, the Corps also helps states, local governments and Indian tribes prepare plans and initiate actions on their own to manage water and land resources.

This booklet describes programs offered by the Corps to meet the needs of the customers.

- ✓ Specifically Authorized Projects, General Investigation (GI)
- ✓ Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)
- ✓ Floodplain Management Services (FPMS)
- ✓ Planning Assistance to States (PAS)
- ✓ International Interagency Support (IIS)
- ✓ Wetlands Permitting and Delineation (Regulatory)

Additional information on projects, news, organizations, and an electronic version of this document can be found on our district web site at
www.mvn.usace.army.mil

Overview

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the nation's oldest and largest water resources development and management agency. As a major command of the U.S. Army in the executive branch of the federal government, the Corps has both a military mission to provide engineering services to the Army, and a civil mission to help local communities with solutions to water resource problems where there is both a local and national interest.

The Corps began its water resources program in 1824 when Congress, for the first time, provided money for improving river navigation. Since then, the Corps has been involved in improving commercial navigation and reducing flood damage. The Corps also generates hydropower, supplies water to cities and industry, regulates development in navigable waters, controls beach erosion, and constructs and manages recreation facilities. Today, the Corps manages nearly 2,000 water resource projects for:

- * Navigation
- * Flood Damage Reduction
- * Hydroelectric Power
- * Fish and Wildlife Conservation
- * Environmental Quality
- * Recreation
- * Water Supply

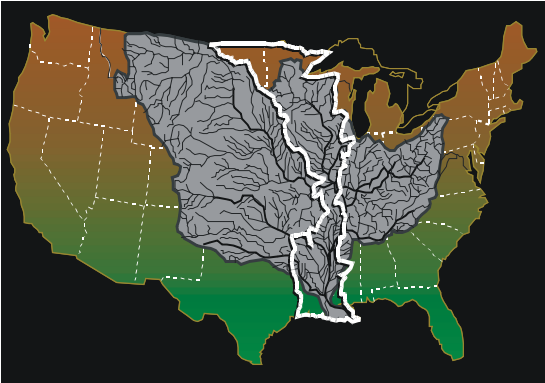
Water resources activities are initiated by local interests, authorized by Congress, funded by federal and non-federal sources,



constructed by private contractors, and supervised by the Corps under the Civil Works program. State agencies, local governments and other civic organizations act as sponsors of projects that address water resource and related land problems. Sponsors play a key role in project planning and design and must also share in the financial costs of studies and projects.

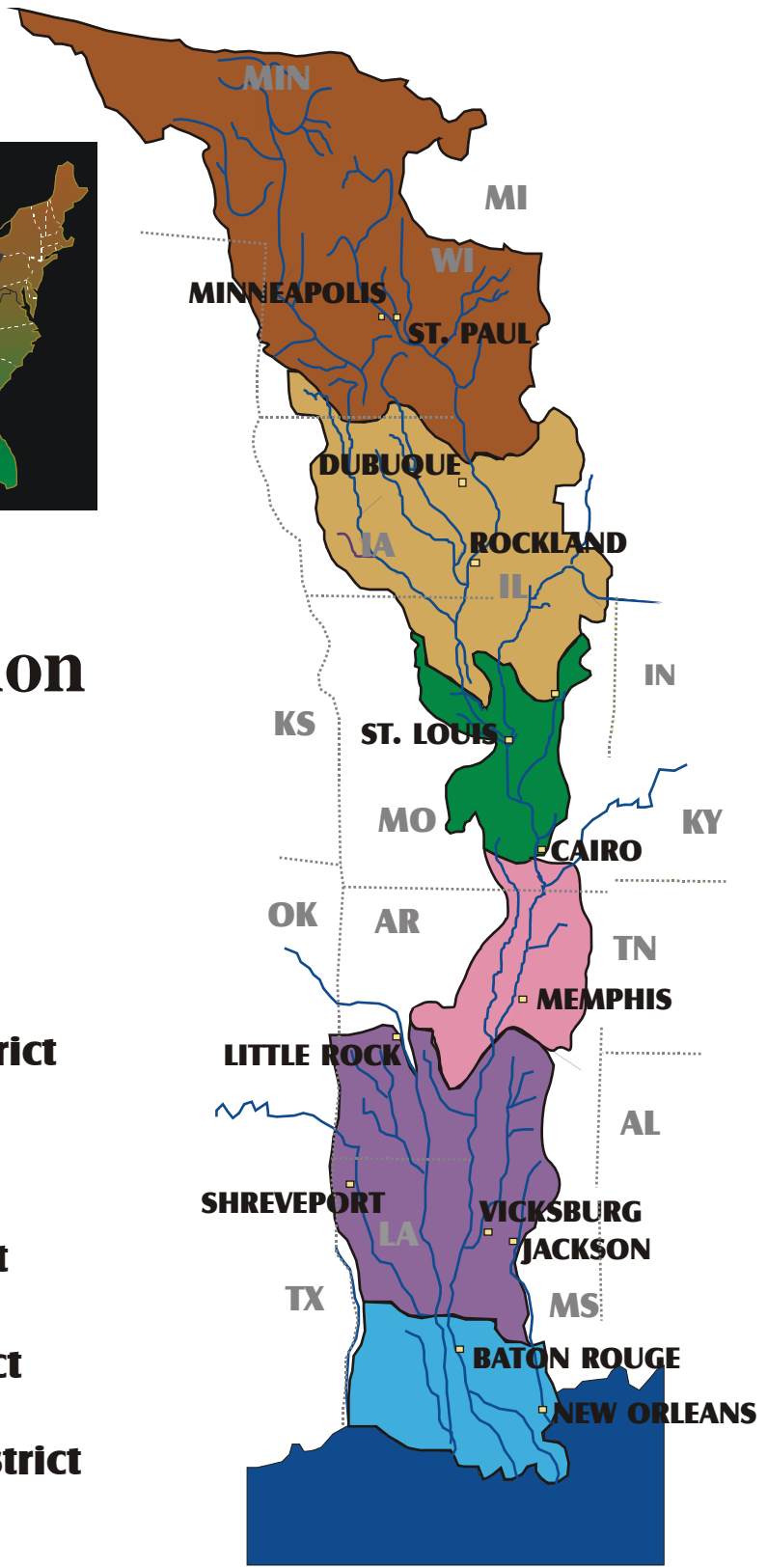
The Corps works hand-in-hand with sponsors throughout the country to investigate water resource problems and opportunities, and develop projects that would otherwise be beyond the reach of local financial or technical resources. This document has been prepared as a convenient reference to assist potential sponsors.

The Corps has 47 division and district offices located throughout the country. The Mississippi Valley Division encompasses six districts: St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg and New Orleans. Each district has program coordinators who draw on the planning and technical resources of the Corps to provide a full range of services and guidance on water resource matters. The New Orleans District coordinators are listed on page 4.



Mississippi Valley Division

- St. Paul District**
- Rock Island District**
- St. Louis District**
- Memphis District**
- Vicksburg District**
- New Orleans District**



PROGRAM	COORDINATOR	PHONE
GI	Falcolm Hull falcolm.e.hull@mvn02.usace.army.mil	(504) 862-2539
CAP	Chris Gilmore christophor.e.gilmore@mvn02.usace.army.mil	(504) 862-1961
FPMS	Katelyn Ermon Schneida katelyn.e.schneida@mvn02.usace.army.mil	(504) 862-2556
PAS	Mark Wingate mark.r.wingate@mvn02.usace.army.mil	(504) 862-2512
IIS	Larry Poindexter larry.poindexter@mvn02.usace.army.mil	(504) 862-2937
Regulatory	Ronald Ventola ronald.j.ventola@mvn02.usace.army.mil	(504) 862-2255

ADDRESS: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 New Orleans District
 P.O. Box 60267
 New Orleans, LA
 70160-0267

The program coordinators pull together a multi-disciplined project delivery team to respond to the customer's needs.

Specifically Authorized Projects General Investigations

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers studies water and related land problems in response to Congressional directives, called authorizations.

Congressional authorizations are contained in public laws or resolutions of either the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, or the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Study authorities are either one of a kind, study-specific authorities or standing program authorities. Studies specifically authorized by Congress are normally required for large-scale, complex water resource problems. This General Investigation (GI) process is described below. Smaller, less complex problems are best addressed by one of the standing program authorities discussed in detail in this brochure.

The six major steps in the planning, design, and implementation of a water resources project:

1. Problem Identified - Local citizens or local government perceive or experience a water resources problem such as flooding, erosion, navigation restriction, etc., that is beyond the ability of local government to solve.

2. Federal Action Requested

- Local government officials contact their congressman or senator to request a study authorization.

3. Study and Report Prepared -

In addition to authorizing the study, Congress must also appropriate funds. This is normally done when the study is included in the President's Budget. This process can take 18-36 months. Once funded, the Corps conducts a two-phased planning study: a reconnaissance phase, generally completed in 12 months, and feasibility phase, usually completed in 24-36 months depending on the complexity.

a. The reconnaissance phase determines whether planning should continue into the feasibility phase, and whether there is non-federal sponsor interest and support for a potential project. It also estimates the time and cost for the feasibility phase.

b. The purpose of the feasibility phase is to explain and evaluate alternative plans and to fully describe a plan to be recommended to Congress for authorization. Feasibility phase investigations must be cost shared equally between the Corps and a non-federal sponsor such as a city, parish, or state agency. The non-federal share may consist of in-kind services instead of cash. The federal and non-federal sponsor sign a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement that details the responsibilities.

4. Report Reviewed and Approved-

The Feasibility report is submitted to Headquarters for review to determine if its recommendations are in accord with current administration policies. After the feasibility phase, detailed design of the recommended project begins. This phase is called Pre-construction Engineering Design and is cost-shared in the same proportion as the project itself. It concludes with detailed construction drawings and specifications called "plans and specs."

5. Congressional Authorization-

Following a successful review and coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works transmits the report

to Congress, which must authorize the recommended project in a Water Resources Development Act.

6. Project Implemented -

Once Congress authorizes the project and "plans and specs" are complete, construction may begin. For most water resources projects, construction costs are shared between the federal government and a non-federal sponsor. Before construction, a Project Cooperation Agreement must be signed describing the responsibilities of both parties. When the project is completed, the non-federal sponsor in some cases is responsible for maintaining it.

Open cells of earthen material at Brown Lake create sediment traps to rebuild marsh.



Marsh is restored at Wine Island, in the Barataria Estuarine area.

Continuing Authorities Program

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' missions, include flood damage reduction, improvements to river navigation, and environmental restoration.

At the request of the local interests, the Corps can provide assistance in solving water resource problems. Problems that are large in scope require specific Congressional authorization and follow the General Investigations process described previously. However, for smaller problems the Corps may act directly under its Continuing Authorities Program (CAP).

The Continuing Authorities Program allows the Corps to respond more quickly since Congress has delegated general authority to study, and if proven feasible, approve and construct water resources development projects.

The program is comprised of nine different types of projects, each with its own project authority and strict limit of the federal contribution. As favorable studies progress toward more detailed design and construction, certain project costs must be shared with the local sponsor, including any and all costs in excess of federal project limits. For this reason, the local sponsor must be a non-federal entity with the power to raise revenue.

The New Orleans District begins its planning process first by identifying the problems; then it examines the alternatives and finally proposes solutions. Four questions must be answered favorably in the process:

1. Is the solution feasible from an engineering standpoint?

This includes engineering considerations such as materials, soils, hydrology, hydraulics, and structural design. Alternatives that present serious technical problems are usually eliminated from consideration.

2. Is the solution economically justified?

A project must have more benefits than costs, or, for ecosystem restoration projects, the unit cost for the environmental benefits must be reasonable. With few exceptions, all federal civil works projects must be economically justified.

3. Is the solution environmentally sound?

Environmental analysis involves a thorough review of environmental conditions and possible impacts. In general, adverse impacts must be mitigated and the cost for mitigation is included in the project implementation costs. An environmental assessment is required for all continuing authority projects.

4. Is the local sponsor willing and able to share in the costs?

If a feasible solution is identified and the project advances, the local sponsor may be required to provide certain items of local cooperation. These include funds for project planning and construction, as well as all lands, easements, right-of-way, relocation costs (utilities, streets, buildings, etc.), and disposal areas. Specific cost-sharing requirements are discussed early in the planning process.

How to request assistance:

A more detailed description of each Continuing Authority is presented in the following sections. After determining which authority addresses their problem or for assistance in making this determination, potential local sponsors should contact the CAP coordinator for more specific requirements.

The Corps can initiate an investigation of a prospective small project when it receives a request from a sponsoring agency fully empowered under state law to provide the required local cooperation. A sample Continuing Authorities letter is enclosed following the detailed descriptions of the authorities.

Contact the New Orleans District by writing:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
ATTN: CEMVN-PM-W
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA
70160-0267

Or, call the Continuing Authorities Program Coordinator:

Mr. Chris Gilmore
(504) 862-1961
christophor.e.gilmore@mvn02.usace.army.mil



The New Orleans District main headquarters building.

Summary of Continuing Authorities

Project	Authority	Implementation Cost Share Fed / Non-Fed	Federal Project Limit
Flood Control	Section 205, 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended	65% / 35%	\$ 7,000,000
Emergency Stream Bank and Shoreline Protection	Section 14, 1946 Flood Control Act, as amended	65% / 35%	\$1,000,000
Snagging and Clearing for Flood Control	Section 208, 1954 Flood Control Act, as amended	65% / 35%	\$ 500,000
Navigation	Section 107, 1960 River and Harbor Act, as amended	Varies	\$ 4,000,000
Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction (Beach Erosion)	Section 103, 1962 River and Harbor Act, as amended	65% / 35%	\$ 3,000,000
Mitigation to Shore Damage Attributable to Navigation Works	Section 111, 1968 River and Harbor Act, as amended	65% / 35%	\$ 5,000,000
Project Modifications for Improvements to the Environment	Section 1135, 1986 Water Resources Development Act, as amended	75% / 25%	\$ 5,000,000
Ecosystem Restoration Projects in Connection with Dredging	Section 204, 1992 Water Resources Development Act, as amended	75% / 25%	NONE
Aquatic Ecosystems	Section 206, 1996 Water Resources Development Act, as amended	65% / 35%	\$ 5,000,000

Small Flood Control Projects Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act

Authority and Scope

Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act gives the Corps of Engineers authority to develop and construct small flood control projects. A project is adopted for construction only after detailed investigations clearly show the engineering feasibility and economic justification for the improvement. Each project is limited to a federal cost share of not more than \$7 million. This federal limitation includes all project-related costs for feasibility studies, detailed planning, engineering, construction, supervision and administration.

Division of Responsibility

A federal flood control project reduces flood damages by means of reservoirs, local protection works, or combinations of both. A flood protection project may consist of one or more of the following: channel enlargement, realignment or paving, removal of obstruction, levee and wall construction, and bank stabilization. The Corps oversees project construction. Maintenance and operation are the responsibility of the local sponsor. The sponsor must also provide all lands, easements, right-of-way, relocations and disposal areas for the project.

Cost Sharing

The sponsor must contribute five percent of the total project cost in cash. If the value of lands, easements, right-of-way, relocations and disposal areas plus the cash contribution do not amount to 35 percent of the project cost, the sponsor must pay the additional funds necessary to make its total contribution 35 percent. Specific requirements will be documented in the Project Cooperation Agreement, which must be executed prior to construction.



Rosethorne Basin, located in the town of Jean Lafitte in Jefferson Parish, is the subject of a Section 205 Study to reduce tidal flooding.

Emergency Stream Bank and Shoreline Protection Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act

Authority and Scope

Section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act gives the Corps of Engineers authority to develop and construct emergency stream bank and shoreline protection projects to prevent erosion damages to endangered highways, highway bridge approaches, public and private non-profit schools and hospitals, and other non-profit public facilities. Each project is limited to a federal cost of \$1 million.

Cost Sharing

The sponsor must contribute in cash, five percent of the total project cost. If the value of lands, easements, right-of-way, relocations and disposal areas plus the cash contribution do not amount to 35 percent of the project cost, the sponsor must pay the additional funds necessary to make a total 35 percent contribution. Specific requirements will be documented in the Project Cooperation Agreement, which must be executed prior to construction.



The banks of a bayou are overgrown and flood waters are slowly eroding the bank and endangering the highway.



The bayou's banks are cleared and graded.



Rock is placed to prevent further erosion.



The completed job is attractive and the highway is now safe.

Snagging and Clearing

Section 208 of the 1954 Flood Control Act

Authority and Scope

Section 208 of the 1954 Flood Control Act gives the Corps of Engineers authority to provide flood damage reduction by removing accumulated snags and other debris, and clearing and straightening channels. Each project is limited to a federal cost of not more than \$500,000. This federal cost limitation includes all project-related costs for feasibility studies, detailed planning, engineering, construction, supervision and administration.

Cost Sharing

Costs for such projects will be shared the same as for small flood control projects. Specific requirements will be documented in the Project Cooperation Agreement, which must be executed prior to construction.



Snagging and clearing can reduce flood damages along a channel.

Small Navigation Projects

Section 107 of the 1960 River and Harbor Act

Authority and Scope

Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960 provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to develop and construct small navigation projects. The Corps recommends a project for construction after detailed investigation clearly shows its engineering feasibility and economic justification. Each project is limited to a federal cost of not more than \$4 million. This federal cost limitation includes all project-related costs for feasibility studies, planning, engineering, construction, supervision and administration.

Division of Responsibility

The federal project can provide only general navigation facilities. These may include a safe entrance channel protected by breakwaters or jetties if needed; anchorage basin; turning basin; and a major access channel leading to the anchorage basin or locally provided berthing area. General navigation facilities are constructed and maintained by the Corps of Engineers. Construction and maintenance of docks, landings, piers, berthing and fleeting areas, boat stalls, slips, mooring facilities, launching ramps, access roads, parking areas, and interior access channels needed for maneuvering into berths, are entirely a local responsibility, provided at non-federal expense. The project sponsor also provides all lands, easements, right-of-way, relocations, and dredged material disposal areas including dikes, alterations, as well as all servicing facilities, including policing and other services. The project sponsor must also assure availability of a public landing or wharf.

Cost Sharing

The cost-share depends upon the depth of the project. The non-Federal share of the costs of deepening from zero to 20 feet below mean low water (mlw) is ten percent; over 20 feet below mlw to 45 feet below mlw, the non-Federal share is 25 percent; and for depths in excess of 45 feet below mlw, the non-Federal share is 50 percent. The sponsor must pay an additional 10 percent of the general navigation features costs following the period of construction. This cost may be paid over a 30-year period with interest. The value of lands, easements, right-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas shall be credited toward this payment. Specific requirements will be documented in the Project Cooperation Agreement, which must be executed prior to construction.

Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction

Section 103 of the 1962 River and Harbor Act

Authority and Scope

Section 103 of the 1962 River and Harbor Act provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to develop and construct projects to protect the shores of publicly owned property by constructing revetments, groins and jetties, to include periodic sand replenishment. Each project is limited to a federal cost of not more than \$3 million.

Limitations of Authority

This authority may not be used for recreational purposes. Recreation benefits achieved with the project are considered incidental and may not be included in the economic analysis. Any additional beach fill over that required for the project, to satisfy recreational demand, is a separable recreation feature with all costs assigned to the non-federal sponsor.

Criteria for a Favorable Recommendation

A recommendation to construct a project to protect the shores of publicly owned property may be considered under these conditions:

- a. The shore line has been determined to be unstable, and abandoning the public or private property is not the most viable solution.
- b. Analysis, based on sound engineering and economic principles, clearly demonstrates the feasibility of the proposed work.

Cost Sharing

All projects must be formulated for hurricane and storm damage reduction with typical cost sharing of 65 percent federal and 35 percent non-federal. Specific requirements will be documented in the Project Cooperation Agreement, which must be executed prior to construction.

Highway 70 bank stabilization and restoration at Lake Palourde.

Shore Damage Attributable to Federal Navigation Work Section 111 of the 1968 River and Harbor Act

Authority and Scope

Section 111 of the 1968 River and Harbor Act provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to develop and construct projects to prevent or mitigate damages caused by federal navigation work. This applies to both publicly and privately owned shores located along the coastal and Great Lakes shorelines. Each project is limited to a federal cost of not more than \$5 million.

Limitations of Authority

This authority may not be used to:

- a. construct works to prevent or mitigate shore damage caused by riverbank erosion or vessel-generated wave wash, or
- b. prevent or mitigate shore damage caused by non-federal navigation projects.

Criteria for a Favorable Recommendation

A recommendation to construct a project to prevent or mitigate shore damage attributable to a federal navigation project can be considered with these conditions:

- a. The navigation project is determined to be the cause of the damage, and abandoning the navigation project is not the most viable solution.
- b. Analysis, based on sound engineering and economic principles, clearly demonstrates the feasibility of the proposed work.

Cost Sharing

Requirements for Federal Cost Sharing:

If the work recommended is confined to mitigation where erosion is totally caused by the federal navigation works, costs are shared in the same manner as the cost of the project that caused the erosion or shoaling. If the work recommended is a combination of mitigation and restoration of beaches eroded due to other causes, mitigation work will be shared in the same manner as the project causing the erosion or shoaling, and remaining work will be 100 percent local, unless it qualifies as a federal beach erosion control project. Specific requirements will be documented in the Project Cooperation Agreement, which must be executed prior to construction.

Project Modifications for Improvements to the Environment Section 1135 of the 1986 Water Resources Development Act

Authority and Scope

Section 1135 of the 1986 Water Resources Development Act provides authority to restore degraded ecosystems, if the construction or operation of a Corps of Engineers project contributes to the degradation of the quality of the environment. Measures for restoration through modifications of the structure or operation of the structure can be undertaken. Measures at other locations affected by the construction or operation of the project can also be undertaken if they do not conflict with the authorized project purposes.

Cost Sharing

The sponsor must contribute lands, easements, right-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas required for the restoration project. The sponsor may also perform work-in-kind up to 80 percent of their cost share. If the value of these does not equal 25 percent of the restoration project cost, the sponsor must provide the additional amount necessary so that the sponsor's total contribution equals 25 percent of the project cost. Specific requirements will be documented in the Project Cooperation Agreement, which must be executed prior to construction.



Material dredged from Baptiste Collette Bayou is used to restore and create marsh islands. Many birds, including the Brown Pelican use these islands for nesting.

Ecosystem Restoration Projects in Connection with Dredging

Section 204 of the 1992 Water Resources Development Act

Authority and Scope

Section 204 of the 1992 Water Resources Development Act provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to restore, protect and create aquatic and wetland habitats in connection with construction or maintenance dredging of an authorized project.

Cost Sharing

The sponsor must contribute all lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas required for the project. The sponsor must pay any additional amount necessary to equal 25 percent of the project cost in cash. Specific requirements will be documented in the Project Cooperation Agreement, which must be executed prior to construction.

Marsh creation restores many areas of land in the Barataria Basin.



Queen Bess Island is a Section 204 project that has successfully created nesting habitat for the Louisiana Brown Pelican.

Aquatic Ecosystems

Section 206, 1996 Water Resources Development Act

Authority and Scope

Section 206, of the 1996 Water Resources Development Act provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to restore degraded ecosystems. This authority is similar to Section 1135, but a Corps project need not be a contributor to the degradation of the quality of the environment.

Cost Sharing

The sponsor must contribute all lands, easements, right-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas required for the project. If the value of these does not equal 35 percent of the project cost, the sponsor must provide the additional amount in cash or work-in-kind. Specific requirements will be documented in the Project Cooperation Agreement, which must be executed prior to construction.



*Blackwater Bayou Conservation Area was dedicated and opened to the public
on March 26, 2002*

Example CAP Study Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-PM-W
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Sir:

(Briefly discuss need for study and nature, extent, and source of problem. Provide any other available information such as number of impacted structures or citizens, estimated dollar damage, etc.)

I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, undertake an investigation of _____ problems under the authority of Section ____ of the _____ Act of _____, as amended. (*Local official government entity*) hereby expresses our willingness to serve as the study sponsor.

I understand that initial investigations would be Federally financed. If studies indicate a viable solution, our objective will be to proceed with _____ construction. We are capable of fulfilling our financial obligations for further study, design, construction, operation, and maintenance: in general, providing a minimum of ____¹ percent of the total project costs, including furnishing lands, easements, right-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas². We are also aware that the Corps' and our responsibilities will be delineated in the Project Cooperation Agreement, which both parties will execute before construction commences.

If you need additional information, please contact:

_____ at _____

Sincerely,
Local Official

1 Use percentages from summary table on page 11. For Section 111, use percentage of existing federal navigation project

2 Insert "and berthing and fleeting areas." for Section 107.

Floodplain Management Services

Authority and Objective

The program's authority is provided by Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960. Its objective is to inform the public of their options for dealing with flood hazards and to promote prudent use and management of floodplains. Proper land use planning and techniques for reducing flood damages provide a way to balance the impacts of human development on floodplains.

Types of Assistance

The Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) Program provides technical services and planning guidance needed to support effective floodplain management.

A. General Technical Services

This program develops or interprets site-specific data on obstructions to flood flows, flood formation and timing; flood depths or stages; floodwater velocities; and the extent, duration and frequency of flooding. It also provides information on natural and cultural floodplain resources before and after the use of floodplain management measures.

B. General Planning Guidance

On a larger scale, this program provides assistance and guidance in the form of "special studies" on all aspects of floodplain management planning, including the possible impacts of off-floodplain land use changes on the physical, socioeconomic, and environmental conditions of the floodplain.

Study scopes range from helping a community identify present or future floodplain areas and related problems, to a broad assessment of the various remedial measures that can be effectively used. Some of the most common types of special studies include:

- ❖ **Floodplain Delineation / Flood Hazard Evaluation Studies**
- ❖ **Hurricane Evacuation Studies**
- ❖ **Flood Warning / Preparedness Studies**
- ❖ **Regulatory Floodway Studies**
- ❖ **Flood Proofing Studies**

The program also provides guidance and assistance for meeting standards of the National Flood Insurance Program and helps conduct workshops on non-structural floodplain management measures, such as flood proofing

C. Pamphlets, and Supporting Studies

Pamphlets are available on flood proofing and various related aspects of floodplain management. Supporting studies are conducted under the program to improve the methods and procedures for mitigating flood damages. The study findings and pamphlets are provided free to federal agencies, Indian tribes, state, regional and local governments, and private citizens for their use in addressing the flood hazard.

Charges for Assistance

Program services are provided free to state, regional and local governments, Indian tribes, and other non-federal public agencies.

Program services also are offered to non-water resource federal agencies and to the private sector on a 100 percent cost-recovery basis. For most of these requests, payment is required before services are provided. A schedule of charges is used to recover the cost of services that take up to one day to provide. Negotiated agreements are required for services that take longer.

All requesters are encouraged to furnish available field survey data, maps, historical flood information and the like to help reduce the cost of services.

How to Request Assistance

Information that is readily available will be provided in response to a telephone request. A letter request is required for assistance that involves developing new data, making a map or preparing a report.

Government agencies and individuals interested in flood-related information or assistance should contact the New Orleans District's FPMS Program Coordinator, Katelyn Ermon Schneida, at (504)-862-2556, or e-mail her at:

katelyn.e.schneida@mvn02.usace.army.mil

You can also write to the address in the following sample letter.

Example Flood Plain Management Services Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-PM-W
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Sir:

This is in reference to your Flood Plain Management Services Program. We understand that Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960, as amended, authorizes the Corps to help others mitigate flood losses. The (*requesting agency or private entity*) requests assistance for (*body of water or waterway*), located in (*City, and / or Parish and State*).

(Add brief paragraph describing problem or need).

Property descriptions, (*site plans, maps, and / or photographs*) are enclosed. Upon your review of this initial request, we would like to discuss the availability of information, required schedule, and level of effort required (*to negotiate the appropriate charge if applicable*). Please contact [*Name, title, and phone number*] to arrange further discussion of this request.

Signature of Cooperating Agency or Individual

Planning Assistance to States



Planning Assistance to States (PAS) includes performance evaluations of water treatment plants.



Thanks to PAS, bike paths like this run along 11 miles of Mississippi River levee in New Orleans, with more planned for the future.

Authority and Scope

Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1974 provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to assist the states, local governments and other non-federal entities in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization and conservation of water and related land resources. Section 208 of WRDA of 1992 amended the WRDA of 1974 to include federally recognized Native American Tribes as equivalent to a state.

Funding

The Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program is funded annually by Congress. Federal allotments for each state and tribe from the nation-wide appropriation are limited to \$500,000 annually, but typically are much less. Individual studies, of which there may be more than one per state or tribe per year, generally cost \$25,000 to \$75,000. These studies are cost-shared on a 50 percent federal and 50 percent non-federal basis. The non-federal sponsor can provide half of their share as work-in-kind. A cost sharing agreement documents the specific scope of work and responsibilities of the Corps and the sponsor.

Program Development

The need for planning assistance is determined by the states and tribes. Every year, each state and Indian tribe can provide the Corps of Engineers its request for studies, and the Corps then accommodates as many studies as possible within the funding allotment. Studies usually provide a planning level of detail; and do not typically include design for project construction. The studies generally involve analysis of existing data for planning purposes using standard engineering techniques although some data collection may be necessary. Most studies become the basis for local planning decisions.

Typical Studies

The program can encompass many types of studies dealing with water and land related resources issues. Studies conducted in recent years, as examples, include the following:

- * **Water Supply and Demand**
- * **Water Quality**
- * **Environmental Conservation / Restoration**
- * **Wetlands Evaluation**
- * **Flood Damage Reduction**
- * **Floodplain Management Studies**
- * **Coastal Zone Management / Protection Studies**
- * **Harbor / Port Development**
- * **Master Planning**
- * **Levee Top Improvement Planning**



More bike paths are being planned for the west bank of the Mississippi River.

How to Request Assistance

State, local government and tribal officials who are interested in obtaining planning assistance can contact the New Orleans District PAS Coordinator, Mark Wingate, at (504) 862-2512, or e-mail him at:

mark.r.wingate@mvn02.usace.army.mil

or contact Mireya Laigast, at (504) 862-2447, or e-mail her at:

mireya.l.laigast@mvn02.usace.army.mil

You can also write to the address in the following sample letter request.

Example Planning Assistance to States Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
New Orleans District
Attention: CEMVN-PM-W
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Sir:

This is in reference to the Corps of Engineers' Planning Assistance to States Program. We understand that the provisions of Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, as amended, provide authority for the Corps to assist in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. The (*name of State, Indian Tribe, local government, or other non-Federal entity*) requests planning assistance for (briefly describe problem or need, including if appropriate, the name of the body of water or waterway, and / or Parish and State).

We would like to discuss the availability of information, schedule, and level of effort required in order to negotiate the appropriate agreement to initiate a Section 22 study. Please contact [*Name, title, and phone number*] to arrange further discussion of the inquiry.

Signature and Title of Cooperating Agency

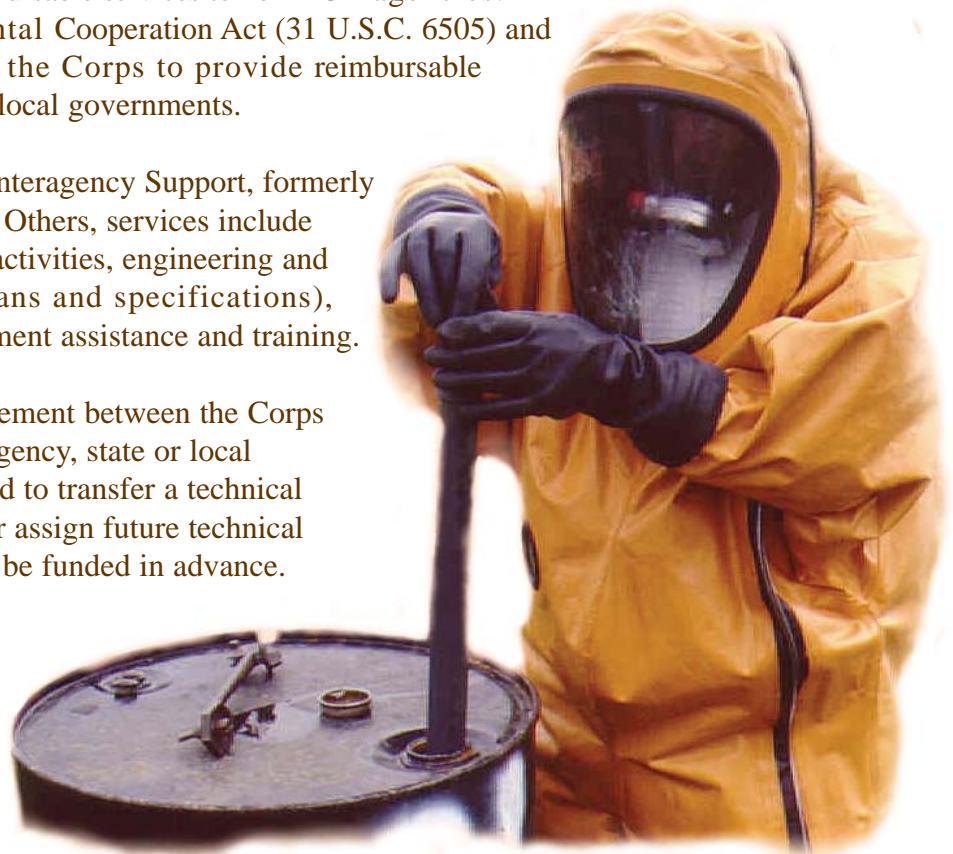
International Interagency Support (IIS)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performs work for non-Department of Defense Federal agencies, states, commonwealths, territories, and local governments of the United States in accordance with Engineer Regulation (ER) 1140-1-211.

The Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 1535) and 10 U.S.C. 3036(d) authorize the Corps to provide reimbursable services to non-DOD agencies. The Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (31 U.S.C. 6505) and 10 U.S.C. authorize the Corps to provide reimbursable services to states and local governments.

International Interagency Support, formerly known as Support for Others, services include studies and planning activities, engineering and design (including plans and specifications), construction management assistance and training.

A written agreement between the Corps and another Federal agency, state or local government is required to transfer a technical mission to the Corp or assign future technical work. The work must be funded in advance.



Specialists at the Corps of Engineers are trained to deal with hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste.



The Bayou Bonfouca Project, near Bayou Liberty, is only one of the many Super Fund sites cleared by the New Orleans District



For additional information contact the New Orleans District's IIS Coordinator, Mr. Larry Poindexter, at (504) 862-2937, or e-mail him at:

larry.poindexter@mvn02.usace.army.mil

Wetlands Permitting and Delineation (Regulatory)

Forty percent of the nation's coastal wetlands and several million acres of non-coastal wetlands come under the jurisdiction of the Regulatory Program of the New Orleans District Operations Division. Botanists, biologists and engineers evaluate Department of the Army permit applications for activities in wetlands and water bodies, including navigable waters.



Activities for which permits may be required include, but are not limited to, mechanized land clearing, the placement of fill material, construction of wharves and bulkheads, drilling of oil wells, and construction of homes. The final determination of whether an area is a wetland and whether the activity requires a permit is made by the Corps of Engineers.

Operations Division botanists with expertise in wetland delineation identify and locate wetlands for small landowners and individuals wishing to construct homes. Before working in wetlands, a permit must be obtained from the Corps. More than 4,000 permits are issued annually by the Operations Division.



Wetlands provide habitat for fish, shrimp, crabs and oysters. Threatened and endangered species like the Bald Eagle and the Louisiana Black Bear live and breed in Louisiana's wetlands. Wetlands also act as buffers protecting vulnerable coastal communities from damaging storm surges and devastating hurricanes.



For additional information on wetland delineations, wetland permitting and other information on the Regulatory Program, you may visit our website at:

www.mvn.usace.army.mil/ops/regulatory

or contact Mr. Ronald Ventola, at (504) 862-2255, or e-mail him at:
ronald.j.ventola@mvn02.usace.army.mil



**More information about the
New Orleans District (504) 862-2201**

or write to:

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA
70160-0267**

or visit our website:

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

Updates of this guide will be posted at

www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/PPMDCustomerGuide.pdf