



# AMERICA'S WATER

# INFRASTRUCTURE ACT



# TITLE I: THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

The Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (WRDA) represents Congress' continued investment in vital American infrastructure. Our ports, inland waterways, locks, dams, flood protection, ecosystem restoration, and other water infrastructure are essential to generating economic growth, moving goods throughout the country and beyond our borders, and protecting our communities.

Through the regular consideration of WRDA legislation and by providing direction and reforms to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Congress enables locally driven, but nationally important, federal investments in water resources infrastructure.

Prior to 2014, Congress had not passed a WRDA in seven years. As a result, many improvements languished while project costs rose and regulatory burdens remained unaddressed. With WRDA 2018, following the successful passage of the 2014 and 2016 laws, Congress is now back on track. **Simply put, WRDA works.**

## WRDA 2018:

- Authorizes locally driven, but nationally vital, investments in our Nation's water resources infrastructure.
- Strengthens economic growth and competitiveness, helps move goods throughout the country and abroad, and protects our communities.
- Follows the transparent process Congress established under the 2014 reforms for considering proposed Army Corps of Engineers activities.
- Builds upon previous reforms of the Corps to further accelerate the process for moving projects forward more efficiently and at lower cost.
- Upholds Congress' constitutional duty to provide for infrastructure and facilitate commerce for the Nation.

## IMPROVES AMERICA'S WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Provides for needed investment in our ports, channels, locks, dams, and other infrastructure that supports the maritime and waterways transportation system and provides flood protection for homes and businesses.
- Authorizes Army Corps of Engineers Chief's Reports received since the last WRDA law of 2016.
  - » Chief's Reports are the final recommendations to Congress by the Corps' Chief of Engineers for thoroughly studied water resources infrastructure priorities.
  - » These infrastructure improvements have been proposed at the local level, in cooperation and consultation with the Corps, and provide national economic and environmental benefits.
  - » All Chief's Reports have been fully vetted by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee at hearings this Congress.
- Authorizes studies for future water resources improvements included in the Corps' 2017 and 2018 annual reports to Congress.
- Reauthorizes the Levee Safety Initiative, and the National Dam Safety Program through 2023 to help protect American communities from flooding.
- Keeps American jobs in America by strengthening our competitiveness and ensuring that our transportation system remains attractive to private sector job creators.

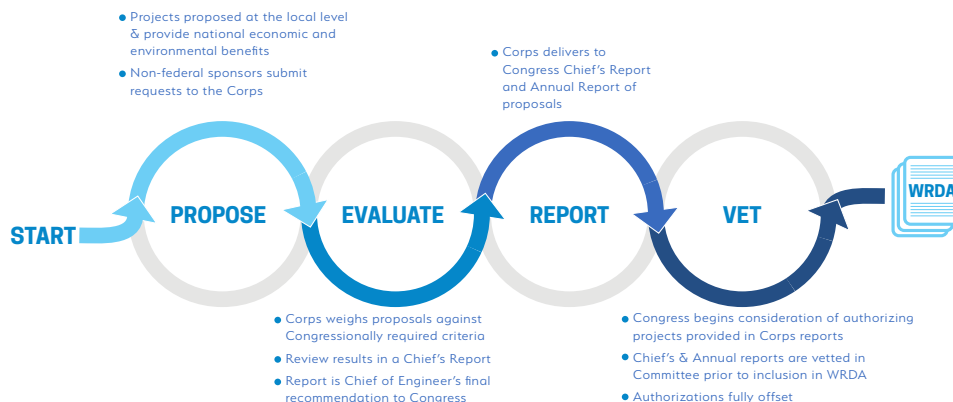
## BUILDS UPON WRDA REFORMS:

- Eliminates barriers that result in project delays and improves the utility of the contributed and advanced funds provisions from previous WRDA laws. This allows the Corps to accept funds from non-federal sponsors to advance studies and project elements.
- Maintains and builds upon process reforms established under WRRDA 2014 that allow greater local

- participation in project selection.
- Directs the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the current organizational structure of the Corps' civil works functions, identify impediments to efficient project delivery, and provide recommendations to Congress.
- Requires the Corps to directly engage stakeholders in the development of implementation guidance.

### WRDA Follows an Approval Process Established by Congress

In 2014, Congress passed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) and established a new, transparent, locally driven process for Congressional review and approval of Army Corps water resources development activities. WRDA 2018 follows this established process, and also continues the two-year cycle of addressing infrastructure that is vital to America's economy and job growth.



### PROMOTES FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:

- Fully offsets new authorizations with deauthorizations.
- Sunsets inactive project authorizations to prevent future project backlogs.
- Reduces the inventory of projects that are not needed for the missions of the Corps.

### ENHANCES OVERSIGHT, TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Follows the transparent process established by Congress in WRRDA 2014 to review and prioritize water resources development activities with strong Congressional oversight.
- Improves transparency for non-federal partners by requiring the Secretary to support greater awareness of the Corps' Annual Report process established in WRRDA 2014.
- Requires added transparency with Army Corps reports on maintenance backlog obligations.

### MAINTAINS REGULAR ORDER:

- Ensures proper Congressional oversight of the Army Corps of Engineers, provides regular opportunity for reform, and enables Congress to address infrastructure needs by maintaining the two-year cycle of considering WRDA legislation.
- Saves money by allowing needed infrastructure improvements and project modifications to move toward completion, preventing unnecessary project cost increases that occur with delays.

## TITLE II: DRINKING WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

### MODERNIZES OUR DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Brings greater investment in and modernization of the country's aging drinking water infrastructure.
- Authorizes more than \$4.4 billion over three years for the state drinking water revolving loan fund program.
- Improves accountability by aiding states and utilities with compliance and asset management.
- Protects communities by updating antiterrorism and resilience measures at public water systems.
- Enhances transparency for consumers about the quality of their drinking water.
- Authorizes \$100 million over the next two fiscal years for areas affected by natural disasters that need help repairing their drinking water systems or hooking up to other ones to obtain potable drinking water.

## TITLE III: ENERGY

### PROMOTES HYDROPOWER DEVELOPMENT AND INCREASES FERC TRANSPARENCY:

- Encourages the use of clean, baseload hydropower by streamlining the regulatory permitting process.
- Gets new hydropower projects to market faster, saving time and money.
- Removes barriers to investments in hydropower, which creates jobs and provides low-cost, emissions-free electricity to consumers.
- Strengthens consumers' participation in the FERC rate process by increasing transparency.

## TITLE IV: OTHER MATTERS

### STORMWATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS & LEGISLATIVE REAUTHORIZATIONS:

- Reauthorizes the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) through 2021.
- Eases administrative burdens and provides additional sources of funding for State Infrastructure Financing Authorities when applying for WIFIA loans, and makes other improvements to the program.
- Assists small, rural, Tribal communities and low income households with technical assistance in meeting their clean water needs.
- Provides communities with additional resources for combating sewage overflows.
- Ensures on-the-job training, skills development, and apprenticeships in the water utility sector as well as connecting students to career paths in the water utility sector.