

April 30, 2024

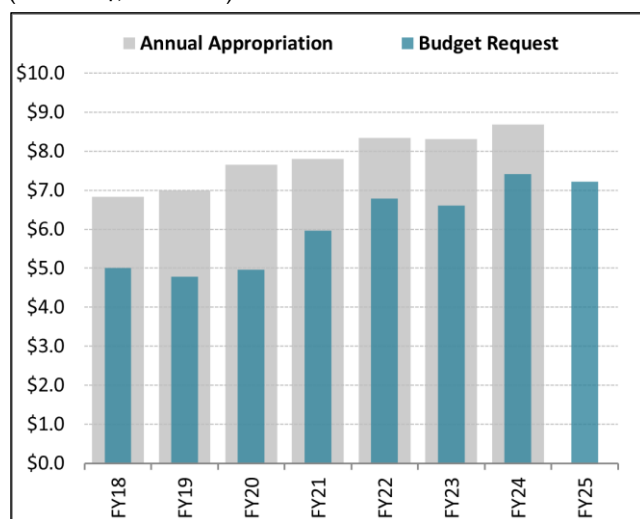
## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: FY2025 Appropriations

Congress generally funds the civil works activities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in annual Energy and Water Development appropriations acts. These activities include the planning and construction of authorized water resource projects and the operation and maintenance (O&M) of infrastructure and navigation improvements managed by USACE. USACE uses most of its appropriations for work on specific studies and projects authorized by Congress. Nonfederal project sponsors or users often share in project construction costs. For more on USACE appropriations, see CRS Report R46320, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Annual Appropriations Process*.

For USACE civil works, President Biden is requesting \$7.22 billion for FY2025 (**Figure 1**), which is \$1.46 billion lower than FY2024 enacted annual appropriations of \$8.68 billion (Division D, Title 1 of P.L. 118-42).

**Figure 1. Annual USACE Budget Requests and Appropriations, FY2018-FY2025**

(nominal \$, in billions)



**Source:** Congressional Research Service (CRS), based on appropriations laws from FY2017 to FY2024 and the FY2025 USACE budget request.

**Notes:** Does not reflect supplemental appropriations or redirection of prior year appropriations.

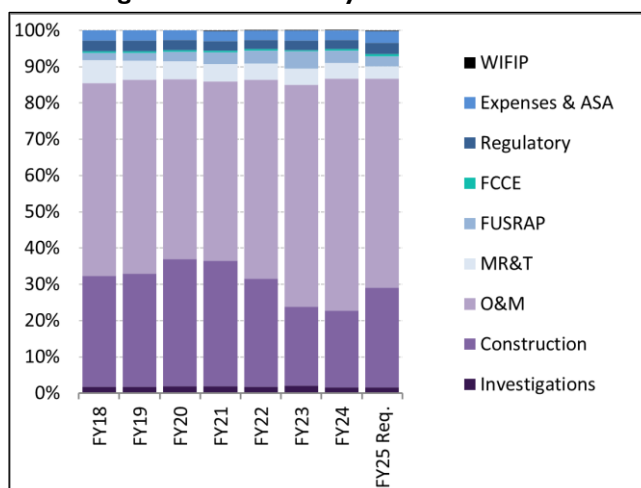
In addition to annual discretionary appropriations, Congress has provided supplemental appropriations to USACE in some fiscal years. For information on USACE supplemental appropriations, see CRS In Focus IF11945, *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Supplemental Appropriations*. While these funds were made available in prior fiscal years, USACE is still obligating and expending some of these funds. In addition, P.L. 118-42 directed that USACE use some prior supplemental appropriations—\$1.43 billion of

unobligated and unallocated Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA; P.L. 117-58) Construction appropriations—to fund projects listed in the explanatory statement accompanying P.L. 118-42. The act also stipulated that USACE may utilize certain appropriations—specific prior supplemental and emergency appropriations and appropriations from P.L. 118-42 and future acts—to provide additional funding for certain studies and projects that have received funding from the following accounts: the USACE Construction account in P.L. 113-2, the USACE Investigations and Construction accounts in P.L. 115-123, and the USACE Investigations account in P.L. 117-58.

### USACE Funding in the FY2025 Request

As with previous budget requests, a majority of President Biden's FY2025 USACE budget request would fund maintenance of existing infrastructure, as reflected by the share of funds requested for the O&M account (see **Figure 2**). The next largest share of funding in the FY2025 budget request is for the Construction account, at 28%.

**Figure 2. USACE FY2018-FY2024 Annual Appropriations and FY2025 Budget Request, Percentage of Total Funds by Account**



**Source:** CRS, based on appropriations laws and the FY2025 request.

**Notes:** ASA = Assistant Secretary of the Army; FCCE = Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies; FUSRAP = Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program; MR&T = Mississippi River and Tributaries; O&M = Operation and Maintenance; Regulatory = Regulatory Program; Req. = Request; WIFIP = Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program. Does not reflect supplemental appropriations, or redirection of prior year appropriations. Although the FY2025 request includes a proposal to fund certain expenses directly from a navigation trust fund, this figure shows only traditional USACE accounts.

*New start* is a term to describe USACE studies or projects receiving appropriations for the first time. For FY2025, the Administration is not requesting funding for new starts, either for studies or for new construction projects. In FY2024, P.L. 118-42 funded the Administration's request for five new studies and one new construction project, as well as new studies and construction projects from Member requests and four additional new starts pursuant to direction from the act's explanatory statement.

### Navigation Improvements, Flood Risk Reduction, and Ecosystem Restoration Activities

The FY2025 budget requests \$3.06 billion for navigation—\$2.05 billion for coastal navigation and harbors and \$1.01 billion for inland and intracoastal waterways. Of the total, \$2.74 billion would be for navigation O&M, of which \$1.69 billion is to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The request includes \$4 million for inland and intracoastal waterway construction, of which no funding is to be derived from the Inland Waterway Trust Fund. The FY2025 request for flood risk reduction is \$1.59 billion, of which \$1.49 billion is for inland flood risk reduction (including \$534 million for construction projects). The request includes \$99 million for coastal storm damage reduction (with \$4 million of this amount for construction projects). For FY2025, President Biden requests \$1.24 billion for USACE aquatic ecosystem restoration efforts, of which \$500 million is for fish passage construction at a USACE dam and \$444 million is for Everglades restoration.

### Community Project Funding and Congressional Directed Spending

The 112<sup>th</sup> to the 116<sup>th</sup> Congresses limited congressionally directed funding of site-specific studies and projects, sometimes referred to as *earmarks*. The 117<sup>th</sup> and 118<sup>th</sup> Congresses in enacted FY2022, FY2023, and FY2024 annual appropriations included *community project funding* (CPF) and *congressionally directed spending* (CDS) requested by Representatives and Senators, respectively, for site-specific studies and projects. For these fiscal years, Congress in the explanatory statement funded (1) CPF and CDS requests from Members of Congress and (2) broad categories (referred to as *additional funding*), such as navigation and flood and storm damage reduction.

For FY2025, the House and Senate Appropriations committees invites Members of Congress to request CPF and CDS items, respectively. Their instructions identify USACE's Investigations, Construction, Mississippi River and Tributaries, and O&M accounts as eligible for requests.

### Continuing Authorities Programs

USACE may plan and construct projects of limited scope and cost without project-specific authorizations through its Continuing Authorities Programs (CAPs; see CRS In Focus IF12635, *Continuing Authorities Programs (CAPs) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*). President Biden's FY2025 request includes \$17.5 million for four of the nine authorized CAPs. The FY2024 annual appropriations act funded nine CAPs for a total of \$54.9 million, including \$2.1 million for CPF/CDS projects. P.L. 118-42 also repurposed \$34.8 million from unobligated and unallocated prior year CAP appropriations to the FY2024 Construction account.

### Environmental Infrastructure Assistance

In FY2025, the Administration is not requesting funding for assisting design and construction of certain publicly owned and operated water-related infrastructure, known as environmental infrastructure (EI). (See CRS Report R47162, *Overview of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Infrastructure (EI) Assistance*.) In FY2024, for the first time since Congress authorized the EI assistance in 1992, the Administration requested EI assistance funding. The FY2024 annual appropriations act funded CPF/CDS requests for specific EI assistance authorities, as well as \$17.9 million in additional funding for these authorities for USACE to allocate in its Construction work plan.

### Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program

In 2014, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA; 33 U.S.C. §§3901-3914, as amended) authorized USACE (and the Environmental Protection Agency, which operates its own, separate WIFIA program) to provide credit assistance, in the form of direct loans or loan guarantees, for a range of water projects. USACE's program is referred to as the Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program (CWIFP) and receives appropriations from the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program account. From FY2021 through FY2023, Congress limited the program's lending to nonfederal dam safety projects. Of the program's \$7.2 million enacted for FY2024, \$5.0 million was for program administration and \$2.2 million was for credit assistance for nonfederal dam safety and nonfederal levee projects. For FY2025, the Administration is requesting \$5.0 million for CWIFP lending and \$2.0 million for administrative expenses. For more information, see CRS Insight IN12021, *Corps Water Infrastructure Financing Program (CWIFP)*.

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