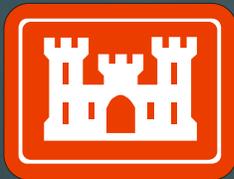


Water Resources Assistance



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**
Galveston District

On the Cover: Galveston Seawall, recently named a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

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INTRODUCTION

This pamphlet explains how the Corps of Engineers Galveston District may help solve water resource problems and provide technical assistance. It includes an overview of the Corps programs, with special attention to the Continuing Authorities Program and Technical Assistance. More details on these programs can be found in the following chapters.

Almost everyone knows that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers builds water resources projects. Not so well known, however, is that the Corps also helps states, Indian Tribes, and local governments prepare their own plans and initiate their own actions to manage their water and related land resources.

This booklet describes three of the Corps' most effective and efficient small projects programs:

- I Continuing Authorities
- I Flood Plain Management Services
- I Planning Assistance to States

It explains what these programs can do and the types of information, technical services, and planning guidance they can provide to help others help themselves.

It also includes instruction on how to request assistance and the address and telephone number of the Galveston District where additional information may be obtained.

If you need more information, contact or write the following address:

Chief, Planning Branch
U.S Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229
Phone No.: (409) 766-3065

Additional information on projects, news, organizations, and more can be found on our district web site at www.swg.usace.army.mil.



*The Jadwin Building
Home of Galveston District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

VISION STATEMENT

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers: The world's premier engineering organization. Trained and ready to provide support anytime, anyplace. A full spectrum Engineer Force of high quality, dedicated soldiers and civilians:

I A vital part of the Army;

I The Engineer team of choice -- responding to our Nation's needs in peace and war;

I A values-based organization -- Respected, Responsive, and Reliable.

Changing today to meet tomorrow's challenges!



Galveston District performs civil engineering projects throughout the Texas Gulf Coast, serving the navigation, flood control, regulatory and emergency preparedness needs of the Texas Coastal Zone and the nation.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the federal government's largest water resources development agency. Congress assigned the Corps this civil works responsibility in an effort to conserve one of the nation's more vital natural resources. The variety and challenge of water projects also serve to maintain the Corps range of engineering skills, which are critical during national emergencies.

The Corps began its water resources program in 1824 when Congress for the first time appropriated money for improving river navigation. Since then, the Corps has been involved in improving river navigation, reducing flood damages and controlling shoreline erosion. Along with these missions, the Corps generates hydropower, supplies water to cities and industry, regulates development in navigable waters and manages a recreation program. Today, the Corps manages nearly 2,000 water resources projects including:

- | Navigation
- | Flood damage reduction
- | Ecosystem restoration and protection
- | Hydroelectric power development
- | Water supply and water quality control
- | Recreation
- | Aquatic plant control
- | Flood plain management
- | Coastal storm protection
- | Regulatory
- | Emergency operations

These activities call for careful coordination of many interests, including consideration of environmental impacts.

The Galveston District is one of 38 Corps districts carrying out the civil works mission. These districts are generally aligned along watershed boundaries. The map on the following page outlines the boundaries of the Galveston District.

NAVIGATION

The federal interest in navigation improvement stems from the commerce clause of the Constitution. Subsequent Supreme Court decisions

Established in 1880, Galveston District was busy with civil works projects such as Galveston Harbor's south jetty, seen in this April 1892 photo taken from the Fort Point lighthouse.





have established that the federal obligation to regulate navigation and commerce includes the right to make necessary improvements in waterways. Navigation in harbors and inland waterways is essential to our nation's transportation system.

The primary objective of river and harbor improvements is to assist in the development, safety, and conduct of waterborne commerce. This is accomplished by deepening and widening waterways so commercial ships and other watercraft can be safely and expeditiously accom-

modated. In some major harbors, drift and debris removal programs are being undertaken.

The methods used to improve navigation vary. Harbor and inlet entrances are protected by jetties or breakwaters after the entrance is enlarged by dredging. Sand bypassing systems may be implemented to reduce impacts on adjacent coastlines. We create new harbors by enclosing areas of open water within breakwaters and by dredging inland areas. We improve navigation by clearing, snagging and dredging, and by constructing locks and dams.



Sims Bayou Flood Control Project protects areas of urban Houston.

FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION

The federal interest in flood control began in the Mississippi River basin in the early 19th century when the interrelationships of flood control and navigation became apparent. In the Flood Control Act of 1936, Congress extended the federal interest to the entire country. At that time, disastrous floods endangered life and property as well as transportation systems.

The purpose of flood control works is to prevent or reduce flood damage by accommodating flood flows in problem areas. The term 'flood control' also includes the alleviation of major drainage problems. The Corps employs both structural and nonstructural methods to control floods.

Structural measures include dams and reservoirs, levees, diversion channels, walls, bridge modifications, and channel alterations. All such measures reduce the frequency of damaging overflows.

Nonstructural measures include flood warning and preparedness, temporary or permanent evacuation and relocations, emergency flood fighting, building code revisions, and land use regulations.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION & PROTECTION

The Corps may carry out aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection projects if the project will improve environmental quality, is in the public interest, and is cost effective. The Corps

focuses on engineering solutions to ecosystem problems directly associated with the hydrologic regime. There are various authorities under which the Corps can carry out ecosystem projects. Although proposed projects must be justified on the basis of measurable benefits, a traditional benefit-cost ratio need not be developed since the primary benefit (an improved ecosystem) is usually not measurable in dollars.

HYDROELECTRIC POWER

Hydroelectric power has played an important role in our economic system. Because the demand for electricity increases and fossil fuels deplete, the need for alternatives such as hydro-power is becoming more evident. Beginning with the River and Harbor Act of 1909, the Chief of Engineers is authorized to include hydroelectric power development in multipurpose projects when it complements the major objectives of flood control or navigation. Accordingly, the Corps has completed many hydroelectric power projects

WATER SUPPLY

Water supply is of vital importance to the national economy and security. Therefore, it is a prime consideration in the planning of river basin works. Under Section 6 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, the Secretary of the Army is authorized to make contracts with states, municipalities, private concerns, or individuals for domestic and industrial uses for surplus water that may be available at Corps projects. The Water Supply Act of 1958 makes further provision for water supply storage at federal navigation, flood control, irrigation, or multipurpose projects.

WATER QUALITY CONTROL

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (Public Law 92-500) provides that in the planning of any lake by any federal agency, consideration shall be given to inclusion of water storage for regulation of stream flow and quality improvement. Water storage is not to be provided as a substitute for other means of controlling waste at the source. The need for storage for water quality is to be determined by the Environmental Protection Agency. If the benefits are widespread or national in scope, the cost of construction for water storage is not reimbursable to the federal government.

RECREATION

The Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965 requires that all planning projects consider the inclusion of facilities for swimming, boating, fishing, camping, and sight-seeing wherever appropriate. In developing plans for recreational facilities, the Corps seeks the cooperation of all federal and state agencies concerned. However, recreation is not a project purpose.

AQUATIC PLANT CONTROL

Section 302 of the River and Harbor Act of 1965 authorizes the Chief of Engineers to develop and manage a comprehensive program for the control and progressive eradication of noxious aquatic plant growths from the navigable waters of the United States. Aquatic plant control is authorized in the combined interest of navigation, flood control, drainage, agriculture, fish and wildlife conservation, public health, and related purposes. The Galveston District is responsible for the aquatic plant control program for the entire State of Texas.

FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Corps is authorized to provide technical assistance, planning guidance, and general information related to the management, development, and use of the Nation's flood plains. When requested, the Corps will provide new and existing hydrologic, hydraulic, and regulatory information to federal, state, local, and private entities. The Corps can conduct hydrologic, hydraulic, and

flood frequency studies and analyses to assist in predicting flood elevations.

COASTAL STORM PROTECTION

Coastal storm protection addresses the protection of shoreline development. To prevent damage from storm tides and wave action, the Corps designs mitigative works such as rebuilding natural beaches and dunes, and structures such as groins and breakwaters.

The federal contribution for the construction of shoreline protection projects is usually limited to 65 percent of the total cost depending on shore ownership and use at the time of construction. Maintenance of the completed project is a non-federal responsibility. However, the cost of periodically rebuilding the beach may be cost shared by the federal government when it is proven to be the most suitable and economical solution.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Public Law 84-99 authorizes the Corps to engage in flood fighting and rescue if the emergency is beyond local and state capacities. Operations may include sandbagging, armoring of floodworks, and evacuation. Public Law 93-288 authorizes the Corps to respond to Presidentially-declared disasters after state and local resources are exhausted. Typical services include clearing debris, and providing temporary housing for disaster victims.



The Sims Bayou Flood Control Project was altered in order to make it more environmentally beneficial. Concrete mats and flood benches replaced concrete lining. Trees, like the one marked by the red net, were moved and saved for replanting. And, the project became more acceptable to area residents and environmentalists.



Galveston District's personnel are trained and ready to enter into the battle against tropical storms, flooding and other disaster situations. Communications links between the Corps and other agencies are only a small part of their activities.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

Through its permit procedures, the district ensures that economic development in coastal areas can move forward while taking into consideration ecological balances. Wetland areas, vital as barriers to storm erosion, as well as nurseries for fish and waterfowl, can be irreparably damaged by poorly planned construction projects.

Under Section 10 of the Rivers and harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Corps regulates activities, such as development, in waters of the United States (including wetlands), and in all navigable waterways and their tributaries. For work in areas subject to our jurisdiction, a Department of Army permit is required prior to performing the work.

Some work, such as repairs to existing structures or minor discharges of fill into waters

of the U.S. Falls under the established Nationwide Permit Program. In other cases, permit requests undergo a more detailed review and evaluation of potential impacts to the environment and the public interest. Permit applicants must submit information describing the impact of their proposed work on local ecology, water flows, and navigation.

For assistance with permit issues, contact:

Chief, Regulatory Branch
US Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229
Phone: (409) 766-3930

MAJOR STEPS IN THE PLANNING, DESIGN, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A CIVIL WORKS PROJECT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers undertakes studies of water and related land resources problems and opportunities in response to directives, called authorizations, from Congress. Congressional authorizations are contained in public laws or in resolutions of either the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee or the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Study authorities are unique, study specific authorities or standing program authorities. Studies specifically authorized by Congress are normally required for large scale, complex water resources problems. The process for this type of study is described below. Smaller, less complex problems are best addressed by one of the standing program authorities discussed in this brochure.

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

- 1. Problem Perception** – Local citizens or local government perceive or experience a water resources problem such as flooding, shore erosion, navigation restriction, etc., that is beyond the ability of local government to solve.
- 2. Request for Federal Action** – Local government officials contact Congressman or Senator to request a study authorization.
- 3. Study Program and Report Preparation** – In addition to authorizing the study, Congress must also appropriate funds for the study. This is normally done as a result of the study being included in the President's Budget. This process can require 18-36 months. Once funded, the Corps conducts a feasibility study using a two-phased planning process discussed later in this section.
- 4. Report Review and Approval** – Feasibility studies are documented in a report which is submitted to Corps Headquarters in Washington for review to determine if the report recommendations are in accord with current administration poli-

cies. After completion of the feasibility phase, detailed design of the recommended project begins. This phase is called Preconstruction Engineering and Design and is cost shared in the same proportion as the project. This phase concludes with the preparation of detailed construction drawings and specifications often 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 who must authorize the recommended project in a Water Resources Development Act.

6. Project Implementation – Once the project has been authorized by Congress and “plans and specs” are complete, construction of the project may begin. For most water resources project purposes, construction costs are shared between the Federal government and a non-Federal sponsor. Prior to construction, a Project Cooperation Agreement must be signed which describes the responsibilities of both parties. Following completion of

the project, the non-Federal sponsor in some cases will be responsible for maintaining the project.

TWO-PHASE PLANNING PROCESS

Studies of water resources problems are conducted in two phases, the reconnaissance phase, generally completed in 12 months, and the feasibility phase, generally completed in 24-36 months depending on the complexity of the problems. The reconnaissance phase is to decide whether planning should continue into the feasibility phase, to determine the potential non-Federal sponsor’s interest and support for the potential solutions, and to estimate the time and cost for completing the feasibility phase. The purpose of the feasibility phase is to describe 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, County, or State agency. Up to one-half of 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 of both parties.



Coastal erosion has taken its toll along Texas coasts.

THE CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM

At the request of local interests, Corps assistance in developing and implementing solutions to water resources problems is available under one of two Congressional authorities. Problems that are large in scope require specific Congressional authorization; however, in instances where problems are generally “small” in scope, the Corps may act directly under its Continuing Authorities Program.

The Continuing Authorities Program allows the Corps to respond more quickly than is possible through the specific Congressional authorization process. This is because Congress has delegated to the Corps general authority to study and, if proven feasible, approve and construct certain water resources development projects.

The program is comprised of nine different types of projects, each with its own project authority and strict limit on the Federal contribution. As favorable studies progress towards 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 sufficient to satisfy requirements of local cooperation.

THE NINE AUTHORITIES

Small Flood Control Projects (Section 205)

-- Work under this authority provides for local protection from flooding by the construction or improvement of flood control works such as levees, channels, and dams. Non-structural alternatives are also considered and may include measures such as installation of flood warning systems, raising and/or flood proofing of structures, and relocation of flood-prone facilities.

Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Section 14)

-- Work under this authority is intended to prevent erosion damages to highways, bridge approaches, public works, and other non-profit public facilities by the emergency construction or repair of streambank and shoreline protection works.

Snagging and Clearing for Flood Control (Section 208) -- Work under this authority provides for local protection from flooding by channel clearing and excavation, with limited embankment construction by use material from the clearing operation only.

Small Navigation Projects (Section 107) -- Work under this authority is intended to provide improvements to navigation including dredging of channels, widening of turning basins, and construction of navigation aids.

Shore Protection Projects (Section 103) -- Work under this authority provides for protection or restoration of public shorelines by the construction of revetments, groins, and jetties, and may also include periodic sand replenishment.

Shore Damage Attributable to Federal Navigation Works (Section 111) -- Work under this authority provides for the prevention or mitigation of erosion damages to public or privately owned shores along the coastline of the United States when these damages are a result of a Federal navigation project. This authority cannot be used for shore damages caused by river bank erosion or vessel-generated wave wash. It is not intended to restore shorelines to historic dimensions, but only to reduce erosion to the level that would have existed without the construction of a Federal navigation project. If the Federal cost limitation is exceeded, specific Congressional authorization is required.

Project Modifications for Improvements to the Environment (Section 1135) -- Work under this authority provides for ecosystem restoration through modification to Corps structures or operation of Corps structures or implementation of restoration features when the construction of a Corps project has contributed to degradation of the quality of the environment.

Ecosystem Restoration Projects in Connection with Dredging (Section 204) -- Work under this authority provides for protection, restoration, and creation of aquatic and wetland habitats in connection with construction and maintenance dredging of an authorized project.

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (Section 206) -- Work under this authority provides for the restoration and protection of aquatic ecosystems if the project will improve the environment and is in the public interest.



Beach renourishment for the Rollover Pass area saw the Corps, with the state and county as cost-sharing partners, bring materials dredged from the nearby Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to the beach front.

SUMMARY OF THE CONTINUING AUTHORITIES

<u>Project</u>	<u>Authority</u>	Implementation	
		<u>Cost-Share Fed/Non-Fed</u>	<u>Federal Project Limit</u>
Flood Control	Section 205, 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended	65% / 35%	\$7,000,000
Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection	Section 14, 1946 Flood Control Act, as amended	75% / 25%	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	80% / 20%	4,000,000
Beach Erosion	Section 103, 1962 River and Harbor Act, as amended	65% / 35%	3,000,000
Shore Damage Attributable to Federal 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%	N/A
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration	Section 206, 1996 Water Resources Development Act	65% / 35%	5,000,000

PROJECT CRITERIA

Each project constructed by the Corps to solve a water resource problem must meet the criteria described below.

a. The project must be complete within itself and not commit the Corps to further construction. The project must solve a specific problem and not require a subsequent project to complete the solution.

b. The project must be economically justified; that is, the economic benefits from the project must be greater than the cost of the project. This ratio is usually expressed in the form of an average annual basis.

c. The project must be environmentally acceptable. Consideration of the environment is an integral part of project planning. In all cases, the Corps prepares environmental assessments, which it coordinates with Federal, State and local agencies, and the concerned public. In more controversial projects, the Corps prepares an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

d. The sponsor of the project must be willing to assist with the project. This usually includes providing the lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary for construction and maintenance of the project.

e. Cost sharing is usually required. In addition, the project sponsor may maintain most projects. Responsibilities of the sponsor are described in detail in later sections.

PROJECT PROCESS

This is the process employed by the Corps for studying proposed Continuing Authorities projects:

a. A governmental entity such as a State, County, or City submits a request to the Galveston District for investigation of a water resource problem. (Sample application letters are shown in later sections.)

b. After receipt of the request, Galveston District will conduct an initial assessment of the

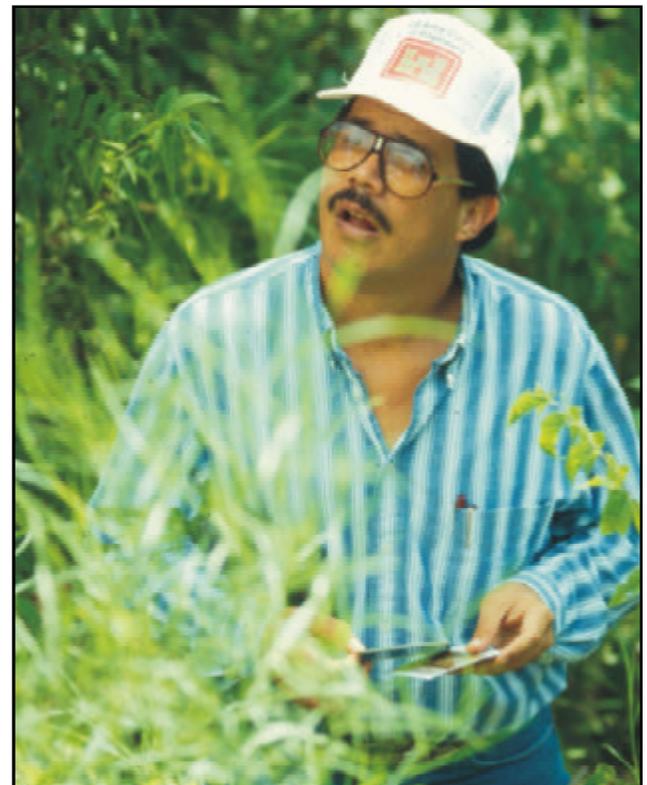
problem. The Corps funds the initial assessment. This includes a visit with the local sponsor to determine the extent and nature of problem, and whether a study is warranted. If justified, planning will proceed. If it is not feasible, the Corps of Engineers notifies the sponsor that it cannot provide assistance.

c. Project planning is usually conducted in two phases: the reconnaissance phase and the feasibility phase.

d. The reconnaissance phase is normally 100% federally funded. The feasibility phase is usually cost-shared based on project purpose.

e. Following approval of the feasibility study, the Corps prepares plans and specifications for a construction contract.

f. Once funds are allocated and the sponsor provides the local contribution (lands, easements, cash contribution, etc.) the Galveston District advertises the project, solicits bids, awards a contract, and supervises construction of the project.



Corps personnel offer their technical and engineering expertise in the field as well as from behind the desk.

FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION

SECTION 205 OF THE FLOOD CONTROL ACT OF 1948

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

This authority provides for the Corps to develop and construct flood control projects. A project is adopted for construction only after detailed investigation and study clearly show engineering feasibility and economic justification. Each project is limited to a Federal cost of not more than \$7 million. This Federal cost includes all project-related costs for feasibility studies, planning, engineering, design, construction, supervision and administration.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

The Corps may initiate an investigation of a prospective flood control project after receipt of a request from a prospective sponsoring agency fully empowered under State law to provide the required local cooperation. A sample letter requesting a study is enclosed.

DIVISION OF WORK RESPONSIBILITY

Federal flood control projects alleviate major flooding problems by means of structural or non-structural solutions, or combinations of both. A structural solution may consist of channel enlargement realignment, obstruction removal, levee and wall construction, or bank stabilization. Nonstructural solutions may consist of floodproofing, relocation, and flood plain management techniques. Operation and maintenance of flood control projects are the responsibility of the project sponsor. Utility relocations and alterations of buildings, utilities, highways, bridges, and special facilities are entirely local responsibilities which are accomplished at the sponsor's expense. The sponsor must also provide all lands, easements, and rights-of-way necessary for the construction of the project.

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

For structural flood control projects, the sponsor must contribute in cash 5 percent of the total project cost. If the value of lands, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations plus the cash contribution do not equal or exceed 35 percent of the project cost, the sponsor must pay the additional

amount necessary so that the sponsor's total contribution equals 35 percent of the project cost.

LOCAL COOPERATION

Formal assurance of local cooperation must be furnished by a local sponsoring agency. The local sponsor must be a municipality or public agency fully authorized under State law to give such assurance and must be financially capable of fulfilling all measures of local cooperation. The sponsoring agency must normally agree to:

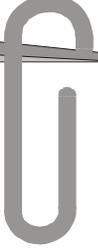
- a. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-way necessary for the construction of the project.
- b. Provide without cost to the United States all necessary relocations and alterations of buildings, utilities, roads, bridges, sewers, and related and special facilities.
- c. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the construction and subsequent maintenance of the project, except dam-

ages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors.

- d. Maintain and operate the project after completion without cost to the United States in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Army.
- e. Prevent future encroachment that might interfere with proper functioning of the project for flood control.
- f. Assume responsibility for all costs in excess of the Federal cost limitation of \$7 million.
- g. Provide guidance and leadership in preventing unwise future development of the flood plain by use of appropriate flood plain management techniques to reduce flood loss.
- h. Provide a cash contribution of 5 percent of the project cost. If the value of the sponsor's contribution does not exceed 35 percent of the project, provide a cash contribution to make the sponsor's total contributions equal to 35 percent.



Flooding in residential areas of Houston during Tropical Storm Allison.



Example Section 205 Study Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
Attn: CESWG-PE-P
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Sir:

(Briefly discuss need for study and nature, extent, and source of flooding and provide any other available information such as number of structures flooded, estimated dollar damage, etc.)

I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, undertake an investigation of flooding problems under the authority of Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, as amended. (Local official government entity) is willing to serve as the study sponsor.

I understand that the study would be Federally financed and 100 percent Federally funded to the limit of \$100,000. If the cost of the study exceeds \$100,000, I understand that remaining study costs will be shared equally between the Corps and (local government entity). If studies indicate a viable solution, our objective will be to proceed with construction. We are capable of fulfilling our financial obligations for construction and operation and maintenance; in general, providing a minimum of 35 percent of the total project costs, including furnished lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas. 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:
(designee) at (telephone number) .

Sincerely,

Local Official

EMERGENCY STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE PROTECTION

SECTION 14 OF THE FLOOD CONTROL ACT OF 1946

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

This act provides authority for the Corps to develop and construct emergency streambank and shoreline protection projects to protect endangered highways, highway bridge approaches, public works facilities such water and sewer lines, churches, public and private non-profit schools and hospitals, and other non-profit public facilities. Each project is limited to a Federal cost of not more than \$1 million. This Federal cost limitation includes all project-related costs for feasibility study planning, engineering, design, construction, supervision, and administration.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

An investigation of a prospective emergency streambank and shoreline project under Section 14 may be initiated after receipt of a request from a prospective sponsoring agency empowered under State law to provide required local cooperation. A sample letter requesting a study is enclosed.

CASH CONTRIBUTION

The sponsor must contribute in cash 5 percent of the total project cost. If the value of lands, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations, plus the cash contribution, do not equal or exceed 25 percent of the project cost, the sponsor must pay the additional amount necessary so that the sponsor's total contribution equals 25 percent of the project cost.

LOCAL COOPERATION

Formal assurance of local cooperation must be furnished by a local sponsoring agency. The local sponsor must be a municipality or public agency fully authorized under State law to give such assurances and they must be financially capable of fulfilling all measures of local cooperation. The sponsoring agency must normally agree to:

- a. Provide without cost to the United States all necessary lands, easements and rights-of-way, access routes, and relocations of utilities

necessary for project construction and subsequent operation and maintenance.

b. Hold and save the United States free from claims for damages that may result from construction and subsequent maintenance of the project except damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors.

c. Assume full responsibility for all project costs in excess of the Federal cost limitation of \$1 million.

d. Assure maintenance and repair during the useful life of the project as required to serve the project's intended purpose.

e. Provide a cash contribution of 5 percent of the project cost.

f. If the value of the sponsor's contribution does not exceed 25 percent of the project cost, provide a cash contribution to make the sponsor's total contributions equal to 25 percent.



Great blue heron enjoys the environment along the Colorado River.



Example Section 14 Study Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
Attn: CESWG-PE-P
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Sir:

(Briefly discuss need for study and nature, extent, and source of problem and provide any other available information such as structures threatened, estimated impacts if failure occurs, etc.)

I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, undertake an investigation of this streambank erosion problem under the authority of Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946, as amended. (Local government entity) is willing to serve as the study sponsor.

I understand that the Planning and Design Analysis (PDA) would be initially 100 percent Federally funded. If the total cost does not exceed \$40,000 the PDA will be accomplished at full Federal expense. Any PDA costs over \$40,000 are considered part of project implementation, and the sponsor's share will be recovered during project construction, as a part of total project cost. If studies indicate a viable solution, our mutual objective will be to proceed with construction within 12 months of initiating the PDA. We are capable of fulfilling our financial obligations; in general, providing a minimum of 25 percent of the total project costs, including furnishing lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas, and we will operate and maintain the project upon completion. We are also aware that both the Corps and our responsibilities will be delineated in a Project Cooperation Agreement, which both parties will execute before construction commences.

If you need additional information, please contact:
(designee) at (telephone number) .

Sincerely,

Local Official

SNAGGING AND CLEARING PROJECTS

SECTION 208 OF THE FLOOD CONTROL ACT OF 1954

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

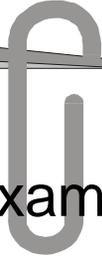
This authority provides for the Corps to make improvements for flood control by removing accumulated snags and other debris, and clearing and straightening the channels in the interest of flood control. Each project is limited to a Federal cost of not more than \$500,000. This Federal cost limitation includes all project-related costs for feasibility studies, planning, engineering, design, construction, supervision, and administration.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

The Corps may initiate an investigation of a snagging and clearing project after receipt of a request from a prospective sponsoring agency fully empowered under state law to provide the required local cooperation. A sample letter requesting a study is enclosed.

PROJECT COST SHARING

Costs for such projects will be shared the same as for continuing authority flood control projects.



Example Section 208 Study Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
Attn: CESWG-PE-P
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Sir:

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

I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, undertake an investigation of flooding problems under the authority of Section 208 of the Flood Control Act of 1954, as amended. (Local government entity) is willing to serve as the study sponsor.

I understand that the Planning and Design Analysis (PDA) would be initially 100 percent Federally funded. If the total cost does not exceed \$40,000 the PDA will be accomplished at full Federal expense. Any PDA costs over \$40,000 are considered part of project implementation, and the sponsor's share will be recovered during project construction, as a part of total project cost. If studies indicate a viable solution, our mutual objective will be to proceed with construction within 12 months of initiating the PDA. We are capable of fulfilling our financial obligations; in general, providing a minimum of 35 percent of the total project costs, including furnishing lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas, and we will operate and maintain the project upon completion. We are also aware that both the Corps and our responsibilities will be delineated in a Project Cooperation Agreement, which both parties will execute before construction commences.

If you need additional information, please contact:
(designee) at (telephone number) .

Sincerely,

Local Official

NAVIGATION PROJECTS

SECTION 107 OF THE RIVER AND HARBOR ACT OF 1960

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

This act provides authority for the Corps to develop and construct navigation projects. The Corps adopts a project for construction after detailed investigation clearly shows the engineering feasibility and economic justification of the improvement. 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, design, construction, supervision and administration. In addition, the maximum Federal lifetime participation for construction and capitalized operation and maintenance is limited to 2.25 times the Federal construction cost, or \$4.5 million, whichever is greater.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

The Corps may initiate an investigation of a prospective navigation project after receipt of a request from a prospective sponsoring agency fully empowered under State law to provide the required local cooperation. A sample letter requesting a study is enclosed.

DIVISION OF WORK RESPONSIBILITY

The Federal project can provide only general navigation facilities. These may include an entrance channel, protected by breakwaters or jetties, anchorage basin, turning basin, and an access channel leading to the anchorage basin or locally provided berthing area. General navigation facilities are maintained by the Corps. Construction and maintenance of docks, landings, piers, berthing 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, and rights-of-way, as well as all servicing facilities.



Houston Ship Channel

COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION COST SHARING

The project sponsor must pay during construction 10 percent of the general navigation facilities. The sponsor must also pay an additional 10 percent of the general navigation facilities over a 30-year period with interest. The value of lands, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations is credited toward this payment. The project sponsor must also pay 50 percent of the operation and maintenance costs associated with project depths greater than 45 feet.

Ten percent applies to commercial navigation projects up to 20 feet in depth. The percentage is 25 percent for projects between 20 feet and 45 feet, and 50 percent for projects greater than 45 feet.

RECREATION NAVIGATION COST SHARING

In addition to local responsibilities specified above, the present basis for cost sharing in recreational small boat projects provides that non-Federal cost participation will be one-half of the costs of general navigation facilities serving recreational traffic and 100 percent of the operation and maintenance costs.

LOCAL COOPERATION

Formal assurance of local cooperation must be furnished by a local sponsoring agency. The local sponsor must be a municipality or public agency fully authorized under State law to give such assurances and they must be financially capable of fulfilling all measures of local cooperation. The sponsoring agency must normally agree to:

a. Contribute in cash the local share of project construction cost, determined in accordance with existing policies.

b. Provide, maintain and operate without cost to the United States an adequate public landing or wharf with provisions for the sale of motor fuel, lubricants, and potable water open and available to the use of all on equal terms.

c. Provide without cost to the United States all necessary lands, easements and rights-of-way required for construction and subsequent maintenance of the project.

d. Hold and save the United States free from damages that may result from construction and subsequent maintenance of the project, except damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors.

e. Accomplish without cost to the United States alterations and relocations as required in sewer, water supply, drainage and other utility facilities.

f. Provide and maintain berthing areas, floats, piers, slips and similar marina, and mooring facilities as needed for transient and local vessels as well as necessary access roads, parking areas and other needed public use shore facilities open and available to all on equal terms. (Only minimum basic facilities and services are required as part of the project. The actual scope or extent of facilities and services provided over and above the required minimum is a matter for local decision. The manner of financing such facilities and services is a local determination.)

g. Assume full responsibility for all project costs in excess of the Federal cost limitation of \$4 million.

h. Establish regulations prohibiting discharge of untreated sewage, garbage and other pollutants in the waters of the harbor. The regulations shall be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of Federal, State and local authorities responsible for pollution prevention and control.

i. Assume full responsibility for operation and maintenance costs of general navigation facilities assigned to commercial navigation when the government's expenditures for this responsibility have reached the greater of \$4.5 million, less the government's share of the construction cost, or 125 percent of the government's share of the construction cost.

j. Assume full responsibility for all operation and maintenance costs assigned to recreational navigation.

Example Section 107 Study Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
Attn: CESWG-PE-P
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Sir:

(Briefly discuss need for study and nature, extent, and source of interest in navigation needs and provide any other available information justifying those needs.)

I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, undertake an investigation of a port at (location), under the authority of Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960. (Local government entity) is willing to serve as the study sponsor.

I understand that the Study would be Federally financed and 100 percent Federally funded to the limit of \$100,000. If the total cost of the study exceeds \$100,000, I understand that the remaining study costs will be shared equally between the Corps and (local government entity). If studies indicate a viable solution, our objective will be to proceed with construction. We are capable of fulfilling our financial obligations for construction and operation and maintenance; in general, providing a minimum of 20 percent of the construction cost for the general navigation facilities including furnishing lands, easements, rights-of-way, and berthing and fleeting areas. We are also aware that both 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:
(designee) at (telephone number) .

Sincerely,

Local Official

SHORE PROTECTION PROJECTS

SECTION 103 OF THE RIVER AND HARBOR ACT OF 1962



Rollover Pass on the Galveston Island shoreline.

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

This act provides authority for the Corps to develop and construct shore protection projects. The Corps adopts a project for construction after detailed investigation clearly shows engineering feasibility and economic justification. Each project is limited to a Federal cost of not more than \$3 million. This Federal cost limitation includes all project-related costs for feasibility studies, planning, engineering, design, construction, supervision and administration.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

The Corps may initiate an investigation of a prospective shore protection project after receipt of a request from a prospective sponsoring agency fully empowered under State law to provide the required local cooperation. A sample letter requesting a study is enclosed.

PROJECT SHARING COST

Federal cost participation may be up to 65 percent of the cost of protecting shores owned by non-Federal public agencies. Project costs assigned to benefit privately owned shores or to prevent losses of private lands are 100 percent non-Federal. Projects for protection of shores not publicly owned may be eligible for Federal cost sharing up to 65 percent, provided that significant public benefit can be demonstrated. The Federal participation is adjusted in accordance with the degree of public benefit.

LOCAL COOPERATION

Formal assurance of local cooperation must be furnished by a local sponsoring agency. The local sponsor must be a municipality or public agency fully authorized under State law to give such assurances and they must be financially capable of fulfilling all measures of local cooperation. The sponsoring agency must normally agree to:

- a. Provide a cash contribution for the non-Federal share of the construction costs.

b. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way needed for construction and subsequent project maintenance.

c. Hold and save the United States free from claims for damages which may result from construction and subsequent maintenance of the project, except damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors.

d. Assure that water pollution which would endanger the health of bathers will not be permitted where the beach is used for recreational purposes.

e. Assure continued public ownership or continued public use of the shore upon which the amount of Federal participation is based, and assure its administration for public use during the economic life of the project.

f. Assure maintenance and repair and local cost share of periodic beach nourishment, where applicable, during the useful life of the project as may be required to serve the project's intended purpose.

g. Assume full responsibility for all project costs in excess of the Federal cost limitation of \$3 million.

An underground revetment of concrete sheetpiling and stone provides protection for the shoreline near Sargent, Texas. Wave action from the Gulf of Mexico was eroding the shoreline at a rate of 25 to 36 feet per year, threatening the integrity of the nearby Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.





Example Section 103 Study Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
Attn: CESWG-PE-P
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Sir:

(Briefly discuss need for study and nature, extent of storm damages and provide any other available information such as number of structures damaged, estimated dollar damage, etc.)

I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, undertake an investigation of flooding problems under the authority of Section 103 of the Flood Control Act of 1962, as amended. (Local official government entity) is willing to serve as the study sponsor.

I understand that the study would be Federally financed and 100 percent Federally funded to the limit of \$100,000. If the cost of the study exceeds \$100,000, I understand that remaining study costs will be shared equally between the Corps and (local government entity). If studies indicate a viable solution, our mutual objective will be to proceed with construction within 12 months of initiating the PDA. We are capable of fulfilling our financial obligations for construction and operation and maintenance; in general, providing a minimum of 35 percent of the total project costs, including furnished lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas. 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:
(designee) at (telephone number) .

Sincerely,

Local Official

SHORE DAMAGE ATTRIBUTABLE TO FEDERAL NAVIGATION WORKS

SECTION 111 OF THE RIVER AND HARBOR ACT OF 1968

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

This authority provides for the Corps to develop and construct projects for prevention or mitigation of damages caused by Federal navigation works. This applies to both publicly and privately owned shores located along the coastal zones. Congressional approval is not needed for projects with a Federal cost of \$5 million or less.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

The Corps will initiate an investigation of a prospective mitigation of damages after receipt of a request from a prospective sponsoring agency empowered under State law to provide the required local cooperation. A sample letter requesting a study is enclosed.

LIMITATIONS OF AUTHORITY

This authority may not be used to:

- a. Construct works for prevention or mitigation of 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 FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION

A recommendation to construct a project to prevent or mitigate shore damage attributable to a Federal navigation project may be considered when both of the following conditions exist:

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

PROJECT COST SHARING

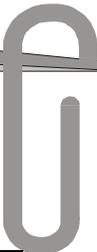
Requirements for Federal cost sharing are as follows:

a. If the recommended work is confined to mitigation where erosion is totally attributable to the Federal navigation works, costs are shared in the same manner as the project causing the problem.

b. If the project recommended is a combination of mitigation and restoration of beaches eroded due to the other causes, mitigation will be shared in the same manner as the project that caused the problem. Remaining work will be 100 percent local, unless it qualifies as a Federal shore protection project.



Planners from Galveston District and Harris County (Texas) Flood Control District gather to iron out details of a flood control project, demonstrating partnership between federal officials and local government.



Example Section 111 Study Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
Attn: CESWG-PE-P
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Sir:

(Briefly discuss need for study and nature, extent, and source of problem and provide any other available information such as estimated impacts if failure occurs etc.)

I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, undertake an investigation under the authority of Section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, as amended. (Local official government entity) is willing to serve as the study sponsor.

I understand that the study would be Federally financed and 100 percent Federally funded to the limit of \$100,000. If the cost of the study exceeds \$100,000, I understand that remaining study costs will be shared equally between the Corps and (local government entity). If studies indicate a viable solution, our mutual objective will be to proceed with construction within 12 months. We are capable of fulfilling our financial obligations for construction and operation and maintenance; in general, providing up to 35 percent of the total project costs, including furnished lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas. 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:
(designee) at (telephone number) .

Sincerely,

Local Official

PROJECT MODIFICATIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE EN- VIRONMENT

SECTION 1135 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1986

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

This act provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to review the operation of water resources projects constructed by the Secretary to determine the need for modifications in the structures and operations of such projects for the purpose of improving the quality of the environment in the public interest. No modification will be carried out under this section without specific authorization by Congress if the estimated cost exceeds \$5 million.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

A Section 1135 project may be initiated after receipt of a request from a prospective sponsor. A sample letter requesting a study is enclosed.

PROJECT COST SHARING

Feasibility level studies will initially be fully funded by the Corps. If the project modification proposal is approved for implementation, study costs and plans and specification costs will be included as part of the total project modification cost to be shared 75% Federal and 25% non-Federal.

LOCAL COOPERATION

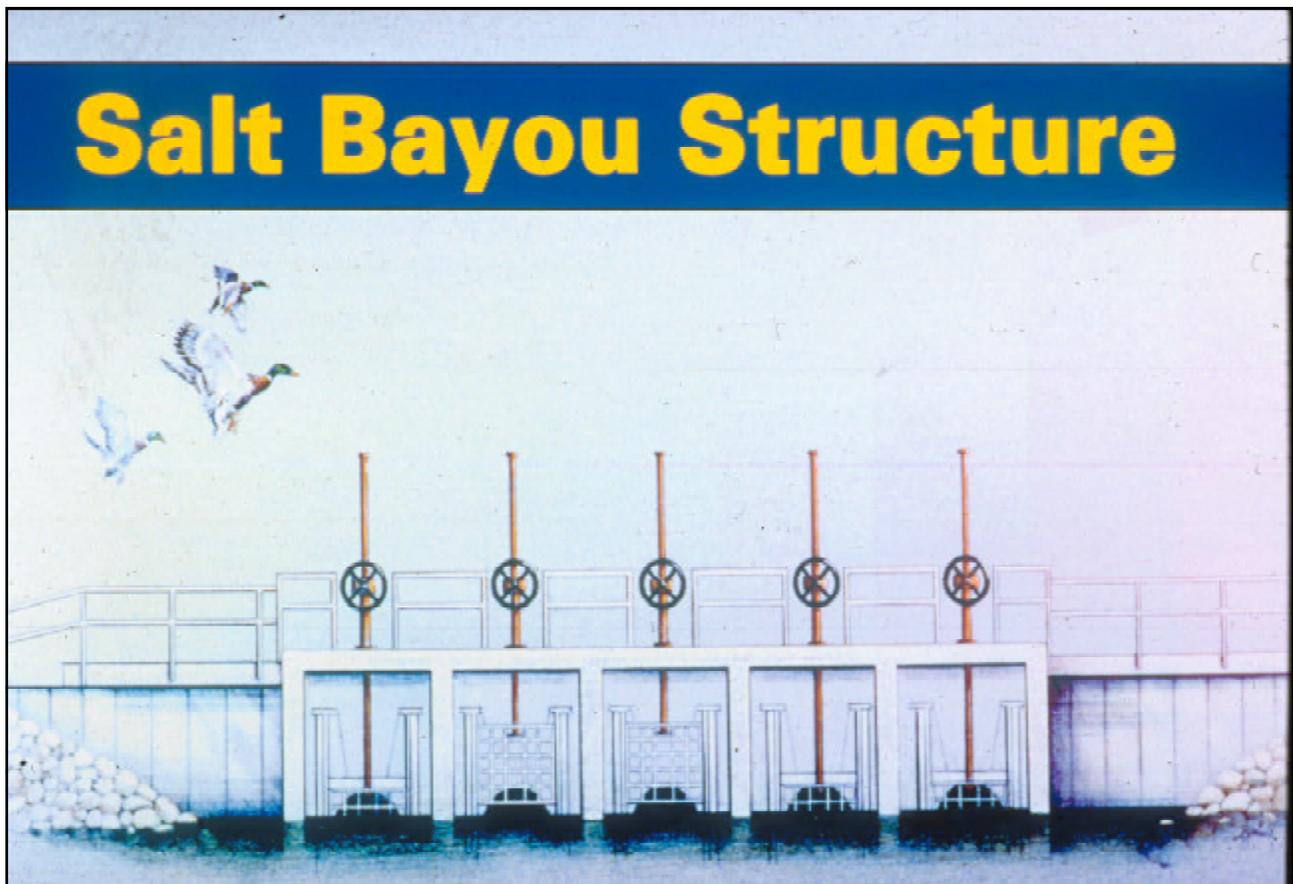
Formal assurance of local cooperation must be furnished by the local sponsoring agency. The local sponsor should be a public agency as traditionally defined. Private interests may qualify as a local sponsor for purposes of Section 1135(b) if there are no requirements for future operation and maintenance of the project. The sponsor must agree to:

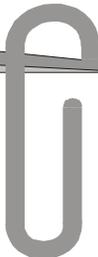
- a. Provide all lands, easements, rights-of-way, including suitable borrow and dredged material disposal areas required for the project modification.

b. Accomplish or arrange for accomplishment, at no cost to the Government, all relocations (excluding railroad bridges and approaches) determined by the Government to be necessary for implementation of the project modification.

c. If the value of such lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas (LERRD) represents less than 25 percent of the total project modification costs, the local sponsor will provide, during the period of implementation, a cash contribution in the amount necessary to make its total contribution equal to 25 percent.

A saltwater barrier in Salt Bayou, built under Section 1135, protects the nearby McFadden Wildlife Refuge from saltwater intrusion and helps maintain freshwater within the refuge.





Example Section 1135 Study Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
Attn: CESWG-PE-P
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Sir:

(Briefly discuss need for study and nature, extent and Corps project's relationship to the problem and provide any other available information such as species impacted, magnitude of impact, ecological significance, etc.)

I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, investigate this degrading ecosystem under the authority of Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended. (Local sponsor) is willing to serve as the non-Federal sponsor.

I understand that non-Federal cost sharing will be required for the Project Modification Report, plans and specifications, and project construction. We are capable of fulfilling our financial obligations; in general, providing 25 percent of the total project cost which includes furnishing lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas, and we will operate and maintain the project upon completion. 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:
(designee) at (telephone number) .

Sincerely,

Local Sponsor

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECTS IN CONNECTION WITH DREDGING

SECTION 204 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

This 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.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Investigation of an environmental improvement project under Section 204 can be initiated upon receipt of a request from a prospective sponsoring agency. A sample letter requesting a study is enclosed.

CASH CONTRIBUTION

If the value of the lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas (LERRDS) plus the cash contribution does not equal or exceed 25 percent of the project cost, the sponsor must pay the additional amount necessary so that the sponsor's total contribution equals 25 percent of the project cost. Local expenditures in excess of the 25 percent contribution will be reimbursed.

LOCAL COOPERATION

Formal assurance of local cooperation must be furnished by a local sponsoring agency. The sponsoring agency must normally agree to:

- a. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas necessary for the construction and subsequent maintenance of the project.
- b. Maintain and operate the project after completion without cost to the United States.
- c. If the value of the sponsor's contribution above does not exceed 25 percent of the project cost, provide a cash contribution to make the sponsor's total contributions equal to 25 percent.

Placing concrete mats along the shoreline of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge protects the habitat of the endangered whooping crane from erosion.

The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (below) crosses the habitat of the whooping crane at Aransas.





Example Section 204 Study Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
Attn: CESWG-PE-P
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Sir:

(Briefly discuss nature, extent, and source of problem and provide any other available information such as species impacted, magnitude of impact, ecological significance, etc.)

I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, investigate this degrading ecosystem under the authority of Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended. (Local sponsor) is willing to serve as the local sponsor.

I understand that the Initial Appraisal Report would be 100 percent Federally funded and if studies indicate a viable solution, non-Federal cost sharing would be required for the Feasibility Report, plans and specifications, and project construction. We are capable of fulfilling our financial obligations; in general, providing a minimum of 25 percent of the total project costs, including furnishing lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas and we will operate and maintain the project upon completion. We are also aware that both 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:
(designee) at (telephone number) .

Sincerely,

Local Sponsor

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

SECTION 206 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1996

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

This act provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to restore degraded aquatic ecosystems. A restoration project is adopted for construction only after investigation shows that the restoration will improve the environment, is in the public interest, and is cost-effective. Each project is limited to a Federal cost of not more than \$5 million. This Federal limitation includes all project-related costs for feasibility studies, planning, engineering, construction, supervision, and administration.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

An aquatic restoration project under Section 206 can be initiated upon receipt of a written request from a prospective local sponsor. Non-profit entities may also serve as the local sponsor. A sample letter requesting a study is enclosed.

CASH CONTRIBUTION

If the value of the lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas is less than 35 percent of the project cost, the sponsor must pay the additional amount necessary so that the sponsor's total contribution equals 35 percent of the project costs.

LOCAL COOPERATION

Formal assurance of local cooperation must be executed with the local sponsoring agency. The sponsoring agency must formally agree to:

- a. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas necessary for the construction and subsequent maintenance of the project.
- b. Maintain and operate the project after completion without cost to the United States.
- c. The entire local sponsor's share of

project costs may be provided as “Work-in-kind” contributions. Credit for work-in-kind may not result in any reimbursement to the local sponsor.

d. If the value of the sponsor’s contributions is less than 35 percent of the project cost, the sponsor must pay the additional amount necessary so that the sponsor’s total contribution equals 35 percent of the project costs.

Beneficial uses of dredged material include the construction of wetlands (below) and bird islands (right).





Example Section 206 Study Request

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
Attn: CESWG-PE-P
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Sir:

(Briefly discuss nature, extent, and Corps project's relationship to the problem and provide any other available information such as species impacted, magnitude of impact, ecological significance, etc.)

I request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, investigate this degrading ecosystem under the authority of Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, as amended. (Local sponsor) is willing to serve as the local sponsor.

I understand that the non-Federal cost sharing will be required for the Ecosystem Restoration Report, plans and specifications, and project construction. We are capable of fulfilling our financial obligations; in general, providing 35 percent of the total project costs which includes furnishing lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas and we will operate and maintain the project upon completion. We are also aware that both 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:

(designee) at (telephone number) .

Sincerely,

Local Sponsor

PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES

SECTION 22 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

This authority provides for the Corps to assist the States in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization and conservation of water and related land resources.

FUNDING

The Planning Assistance to States program has an authorized funding limit of \$6 million annually for the entire nation. State allotments from the nationwide appropriation are limited to \$300,000 annually, but typically are much less.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Every year, each State gives the Corps its request for studies under the program, and the district then accommodates as many studies as possible within the funding allotment. Study ideas often are prompted by local identification of problems. The program can encompass many types of studies, including water supply, water quality, water conservation, flood control, flood plain management, erosion, and navigation. Studies must be in accordance with or in support of a State's water resources plan or program.

TYPICAL STUDIES

Typical studies are at reconnaissance level of detail and do not include design for project construction. The studies involve the analysis of existing data for planning purposes using standard engineering techniques. Any field level data that is required must be provided by the study sponsor.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Local officials who are interested in planning assistance for their communities should contact:

Chief, Planning Section
US Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553
Phone: (409) 766-3029

FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT SERVICES PROGRAM

SECTION 206 OF THE FLOOD CONTROL ACT OF 1960

AUTHORITY AND SCOPE

This act provides authority for the Corps to provide technical expertise and planning assistance related to flood plain management. Upon request, the Corps will furnish to States, counties, cities, and Federal agencies flood plain information and technical assistance needed in planning for prudent use of land subject to flooding. Requests are also honored from individuals when information is readily available.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Flood Plain Management Services Program is to encourage prudent use of flood plains for the benefit of the National economy and welfare. This is accomplished through support of comprehensive flood plain management planning, technical services, and guidance at all appropriate governmental levels. People live and work in flood plains to take advantage of natural resources, aesthetics, and convenient locations, but these benefits must be weighed against the hazards caused by flooding. Land use adjustments based on proper planning and the implementation of techniques for controlling and reducing flood damage provide a rational way to balance the advantages and disadvantages of inhabiting the flood plains.

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

Upon request, the program provides a range of technical services and planning guidance on floods and flood plain issues within the broad umbrella of flood plain management. Most technical services are funded by the Federal government. Involvement by project sponsors, who may furnish field survey data, maps and historical flood information, is encouraged.

a. General Technical Services. The Corps of Engineers obtains, develops, and interprets data about the flood plain, including:

- I Timing and depth of stage
- I Water velocity

- | Extent and frequency of storms
- | Obstruction of flows
- | Regulatory floodway

The Corps also assesses loss potential before and after implementation of management measures and prepares flood stage inundation maps for communities served by existing flood warning and forecast systems. These maps show approximate inundation limits for different flood levels. This information is used by emergency planners, residents, and business owners to plan appropriate responsive action.

b. Planning Assistance and Special Studies. The Corps provides planning assistance and guidance for development of the following:

- | Flood plain regulations
- | Flood warning and emergency preparedness procedures
- | Flood proofing measures (elevation, closures and seals, anchorage)
- | Permanent evacuation and relocation procedures
- | Hydrologic, hydraulic, and related flood studies
- | Hurricane evacuation, flood warning and preparedness reports
- | Dam break analyses

The Corps can provide a wide range of technical assistance for flood plain management planning. We can assist a community by predicting the impacts of changes in land use that may affect flood conditions. In cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies, the Corps can assist floodprone commercial activities to plan and prepare for flood emergencies. With the help of an interagency team, we conduct surveys of commercial and industrial facilities and make flood damage control recommendations to management.

c. Supporting Studies and Public Information. The Corps conducts studies to improve methods and procedures for flood damage prevention and abatement. These studies are also used for evaluating the economics of flood plain management and developing guidance for flood

proofing, flood plain occupants, and regulations. These guidelines are published in pamphlets designed for use in planning for actions to reduce flood damage and in developing flood plain management programs.

How to Request Assistance

Agencies or individuals interested in flood plain management assistance should contact the Galveston District Flood Plain Management Services at:

Flood Plain Management
 Services
 US Army Corps of Engineers
 P.O. Box 1229
 Galveston, TX 77553
 Phone: (409) 766-3074



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Galveston District