



LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

Volume 1, Issue 2

July 15, 2009

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Fiscal Year 2010

H.R. 3183, Energy and Water Appropriations for FY2010

H.Rpt. 111-203

On July 15, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Appropriations for FY2010, a spending bill that will fund the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at \$5.5 billion and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation at \$1.1 billion, beginning October 1st. The Corps program amount is \$416 million above the Obama Administration's budget request, and the Bureau's is \$17 million. In addition to water resources projects, 80 percent of the total funding in the bill goes to the Energy Department and some of the nuclear weapons programs of the Defense Department.

Not including stimulus funding, the bill increases Corps funding by 3 percent compared to the FY 2009 regular spending level. Of note is the fact that about half of the directed spending in the bill was requested by the President. Of the Corps total, \$2.1 billion is for project construction, which is about 1 percent less than the regular FY 2009 level. Appropriations for the operation and maintenance of Corps water projects would increase by 14 percent to \$2.5 billion. The Committee reserved its largest hit for project investigations. This category is used to fund studies of new projects, which often take several years to complete. The bill provides \$142 million for studies compared to a regular FY 2009 level of \$168 million, more than a 15 percent decrease.

As passed by the House, the Bureau's Water and Related Resources (construction) program would receive slightly over \$910 million. This supports the mission of development, management, and restoration of water and related natural resources in the 17 Western states. For the first time, Congress provided at least a minimal level of funding for all Title I ongoing rural water projects. Because of problems executing the funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, the Committee arrived at a solution of providing \$100,000 for each Title 16 project pending the release of ARRA funding for the program.

(continued)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FUNDING
 Summary of FY 2010 Budget Request and Committee Recommendations

H.3183, Energy & Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010
 and House Committee on Appropriations Report 111-203

[in millions]

Appropriations 2009..... 5,402
 Budget Request 2010..... 5,125
 House Committee Recommendation, 2010..... 5,541

PROGRAM	APPROPRIATIONS, 2009	BUDGET REQUEST, 2010	COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS, 2010
INVESTIGATIONS	168	100	142
CONSTRUCTION	2,142	1,718	2,123
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	2,202	2,504	2,511
GENERAL EXPENSES	179	184	184
FLOOD CONTROL, MISSISSIPPI RIVER & TRIBUTARIES	384	248	251
FLOOD CONTROL & COASTAL EMERGENCIES	0	41	0

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FUNDING
 Summary of FY 2010 Budget Request and Committee Recommendations

H.3183, Energy & Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010
 and House Committee on Appropriations Report 111-203

[in millions]

Appropriations 2009..... 1,118
 Budget Request 2010..... 1,063
 House Committee Recommendation, 2010..... 1,080

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT	Appropriations, 2009	42	Budget Request, 2010	42	Committee Recommendation	42
CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT	Appropriations, 2009	56	Budget Request, 2010	35	Committee Recommendation	35
RESTORATION FUND	Appropriations, 2009	40	Budget Request, 2010	31	Committee Recommendation	31
CALIFORNIA BAY- DELTA RESTORATION [INC. TRANSFER OF FUNDS]	Appropriations, 2009	59	Budget Request, 2010	61	Committee Recommendation	61
POLICY & ADMINISTRATION	Appropriations, 2009	59	Budget Request, 2010	61	Committee Recommendation	61
SUBTOTAL, WATER & RELATED RESOURCES	Appropriations, 2009	920	Budget Request, 2010	893	House Committee Recommendation, 2010	910

THE WATER RESOURCES COALITION REVIEW

For many years, the U.S. Congress has worked diligently to address the underfunded needs of the programs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Ample evidence was provided by the capability of these programs to easily absorb the funding provided by the ARRA. To complete ongoing Infrastructure projects in a timely and efficient manner and to prevent future costly repairs by adequately addressing the existing backlog of deferred critical maintenance, we must increase funding for the Corps' Civil Works program to the range of \$7 billion to \$10 billion per year. Keeping the program on a robust schedule will save the nation the costs of paying for more expensive "crisis" repairs in the future. The nation's waterways provide water supply, goods movement, flood control, electric power, and recreation. America has made a substantial investment in the construction of dams, levees, and pumping stations to render these benefits, as well as to protect communities and agricultural land from the effects of floods.

The Bureau of Reclamation has played an important role in the development of the 17 Western states over the past one-hundred years. Reclamation's history of accomplishment includes marvels of engineering and construction which supply critical water and power to the now-vibrant Western United States. In order to meet the increasing needs of growth and the economy of the West, the water recycling (Title 16) program and the rural water program of the Bureau should be fully funded each year with a stronger overall emphasis on drought contingency planning. A minimum funding level for the Construction account of the Bureau at \$1 Billion to \$1.2 billion annually is needed to achieve this goal.

"The Coalition welcomes the additional funding that has been provided by the House for the Corps program," stated Howard Marlowe, Vice-Chair of the Coalition's Corps program. "Not only will this additional funding provide vital jobs at the state and local level, but it will address important water and environmental issues that have been waiting for solutions," he concluded. And Peter Carlson, the Coalition's Vice Chair for Western Water, is hopeful regarding the funding for the Bureau of Reclamation: "Funding for the Title 16 program – the new river of water – is very important for solving the needs of the urban West. The Coalition appreciates that Congress has balanced this effort with the funding provided for the rural water projects in the Reclamation program."

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*The **Water Resources Coalition** was established in 2007 to promote the development, implementation and funding of a comprehensive national water resources policy. With member organizations representing state and local governments, conservation, engineering and construction, ports, waterways and transportation services, the Coalition works to ensure that a comprehensive, national water resources policy is developed, implemented and funded to provide a sustainable, productive economy; a healthy aquatic ecology; and public health and safety. For more information, visit the Water Resources Coalition Web site at www.waterresourcescoalition.org.*