

# National Wins

*in the*

## *Water Resources Development Act of 2024*



- **Authorizes** water resources development projects and studies, including:
  - **22 authorizations** for new projects or modifications to existing projects
  - **Over 200 feasibility studies**
- **Avoids** one-size-fits-all requirements and maintains the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) flexibility in the development of project alternatives, in consultation with non-federal sponsors.
- **Retains** the three primary missions of the Corps: navigation, flood and coastal storm risk management, and ecosystem restoration.
- **Establishes** new, and extends existing, programs and authorities to ensure the Corps is responsive to local and regional water resources needs, including environmental infrastructure authorities critical to water and wastewater infrastructure.
- **Reforms** the implementation process by the Corps of water resources development laws, by requiring the Corps to develop and submit to Congress an implementation plan for each law.
- **Modernizes** the Corps' ability to pay authority to account for different needs of communities.
- **Clarifies** the Corps' authority to carry out a federal interest determination before undertaking a full feasibility study.
- **Increases** the federal cost-share for inland waterway projects to 75%; the remaining 25% will come from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.
- **Increases** the depth that ports and harbors can receive federal funding for construction projects as well as operations and maintenance projects.
- **Enhances** the Corps' outreach and education authority, by directing the Corps to provide information to potential non-federal interests about the operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation responsibilities and the public about ongoing water resources development projects and studies in each Corps district.
- **Increases** maximum amount of funds the Corps may contribute under Continuing Authorities Programs.
- **Improves** Corps' authorities to partner with Indian Tribes, including by making the Tribal Partnership Program permanent.
- **Extends** existing programs that allow the Corps to carry out feasibility studies and water resources development projects in economically-disadvantaged communities, many of which are located in rural areas.
- **Requires** the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review of and prepare a report to Congress on the Corps':
  - Efforts to accelerate feasibility studies by implementing the environmental review provisions in the Fiscal Responsibility Act and other existing Corps authorities.
  - Project partnership agreements for water resources development projects, emphasizing the indemnification clause and long-term operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation responsibilities of the non-federal interest included in those agreements.
  - Project cost estimates for completed and ongoing water resources development projects to improve fiscal responsibility and transparency in cost estimates for non-federal interests.
  - Administration of the Section 408 program, including the process of applying for a permit under the program and the ability of the agency to make timely decisions on a permit application.