

How to Get a Corps Water Resources Project Started

10 Steps to Success

Most water resources projects that involve Federal participation are under the umbrella of the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps cannot recommend or initiate a single project unless the procedures outlined below are followed. Water resources include coastal, riverine, levee, inland waterway, and port projects.

- 1.** Corps projects are started with a letter request to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA) from a local or state official (usually a Mayor or a Governor). A letter will initiate the Section 7001 process. Please note the requirements.
- 2.** Each year, an annual 7001 notice that starts this process is published in the Federal Register that provides a deadline for submission and a link or email address for submitting the request.
- 3.** Copy the Commander of the Corps District where the proposed project lies as well as the congressional Representative and states two Senators.
- 4.** Follow-up with a call to the Chief of Planning of the Corps District to discuss the water resource problem and its negative impacts while also stating that you have sent a letter. The District's support of your request is essential to a positive recommendation from the ASA.
- 5.** Early in the year following the Section 7001 deadline, the ASA will submit his or her recommendations to Congress as well as a list of those requests that have been denied and the reason for denial.
- 6.** All Corps projects begin with a 3-year study that must be authorized by Congress. This is usually done in the biennial Water Resources Development Act. If your proposal is included or denied in the ASA's annual Section 7001 report, you will need to contact your congressional delegation for help in getting it included in the next Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).
- 7.** If your project is included in WRDA, it is authorized. It must be funded separately in appropriations legislation that will usually come no sooner than a year after authorization.
- 8.** Most Corps studies require that half of the cost be paid by the requesting State or local government. The Federal share will come from congressional appropriations. Total study time and costs are governed by what is referred to as 3x3x3. This process sets the total cost at \$3 million (cost-shared 50-50) and limits its length to 3 years. The final "3" in the process requires the involvement of the Corps District, Division and Headquarters in the study.
- 9.** The same process usually must be followed for major modifications to existing Corps projects.
- 10.** Completed studies must be reviewed and approved by the Chief of Engineers. The Chief's recommendations are communicated to Congress.
- 11.** Good Luck!

