

WATERLOG

EXPERTS IN COASTAL RESILIENCY

December 18th, 2019

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House Passes Spending Bill Package for the Corps of Engineers

The Corps of Engineers will receive \$7.36 billion under FY20 funding legislation that has passed the House and is due to pass the Senate Wednesday. That's \$357 million above the final funding level for FY19 and \$2.53 billion above the President's request. For the Corps' coastal programs, the final FY20 total is \$144.85 million compared to the President's request of \$27.26 million. The total for FY19 was \$175.4 million for the Corps coastal program.

In the FY20 bill that is expected to be signed into law on Friday, there are six new study starts and six new construction starts.

Within the next 60 days, the Corps, with the approval of OMB, will produce a Work Plan that will allocate \$4 million to specific shore protection studies and \$50.165 million for shore protection construction projects.

See our Shore Protection Appropriations Tracker on the next page or download it [here](#).

What's Your Weather? →

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COASTAL STRATEGIES
EXPERTS IN COASTAL RESILIENCY

Federal Shore Protection Funding: FY20

		PRESIDENT				HOUSE			SENATE		
Name of Project	State	Investigations	Construction	Operations & Maint	Investigations	Construction	Operations & Maint	Investigations	Construction	Operations & Maint	
SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY SHORELINE, CA (PHASE II)	CA	\$600,000			\$600,000			\$600,000			
Cape May Inlet to Lower Township, NJ	NJ			\$200,000		\$200,000			\$200,000		
Lower Cape May Meadows, Cape May Point, NJ	NJ			\$7,400,000		\$7,400,000			\$7,400,000		
National Programs											
Beneficial Uses of Dredged Material (Sec. 204)			\$0			\$20,000,000			\$10,000,000		
Beneficial Use Pilot Program (Sec. 1122)			\$0			\$7,500,000			\$7,500,000		
Mitigation of Shore Damages (Sec. 111)			\$0			\$13,000,000			\$8,000,000		
Small Shore Protection Projects (Sec. 103)			\$0			\$4,000,000			\$4,000,000		
Regional Sediment Management Research Program				\$3,500,000			\$3,500,000			\$8,500,000	
Coastal Ocean Data System/Coastal Data Info Program				\$2,250,000			\$7,500,000			\$7,500,000	
Coastal Field Data Collection		\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000			
Coastal Inlet Research Program				\$2,430,000			\$5,000,000			\$10,975,000	
National Coastal Mapping Program				\$4,875,000			\$6,300,000			\$10,000,000	
National Shoreline Management Study		\$0			\$5,000,000			\$400,000			
Planning Assistance to States		\$5,000,000			\$9,000,000			\$9,000,000			
Additional Funding for Shore Protection (added by Congress)					\$2,000,000	\$50,165,000	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$45,000,000		
TOTAL BY CATEGORY		\$6,600,000	\$0	\$20,655,000	\$17,600,000	\$102,265,000	\$22,300,000	\$16,000,000	\$82,100,000	\$36,975,000	
TOTAL OF ALL CATEGORIES		\$27,255,000			\$142,165,000			\$135,075,000			

NOTES

Figures listed in red typeface the President's Budget were moved by the House and Senate from Operations & Maintenance to Construction

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What's Your Weather?

How many times do you get into an elevator or some other situation where you find yourself in contact with people you don't know? If you talk about anything, you talk about the weather, right? It's a safe, non-inflammatory subject; 100% safer than discussing politics. It's also something that all people have in common. It's sunny but cold today. Will it be warmer tomorrow? We sure have had a lot of rain this fall. Even if the other person says that his flowers could use more rain, it's not something you're likely to get into an argument over. So, why is it that we are divided about the climate that produces that weather?

Can I see a show of hands for those who agree that it's warmer in South Carolina than Maine just about any day of the year? Have we had more storms in the last 10 years than we had in the decade before that? Of course. We can agree on today's weather and even weather patterns we've observed in our lives, but it's clear we can't agree that climate change is a factor. Icebergs are melting, coastal communities are experiencing sunny day flooding, there are more wildfires in western states and the Midwest is experiencing historic flooding, but we can't agree that climate change is a factor.

A study by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Washington Post concluded that climate change believers and non-believers are divided into Democrats and Republicans. Where I grew up, most folks voted Republican, but how we looked at the weather had nothing to do with how we voted. I still don't believe it does, it's just that the Republican party has become the home of people who are resistant to changes. It wasn't always that way. I grew up in the 70's when the Vietnam War had supporters from both parties; the same went for people who took to the streets demanding more equality for African-Americans. Those who were not so sure that equality for blacks, or women for that matter, was such a good idea could not be pigeon-holed to one party or the other.

Times have certainly changed. When I go into a Republican representative's office on Capitol Hill, the channel is always Fox; for a Democrat, it's always CNN. They have different ways of spinning the same story with different facts. It's hard for people to know the facts before they form an opinion. Nevertheless, I will ask you to look at the reality that the climate is changing, and we must adjust so our communities and regional economies can survive. Roads and buildings that regularly flood will have to be raised. Pumping stations to handle flood waters will need to be strengthened. The practice of using past storms to set insurance rates and municipal bond ratings must be changed to the kind of forward-looking approach used to set rates of life insurance policies. If insurance rates reflect predicted risk, then government needs to reward people who reduce storm risks because it can't afford to keep shelling out tens of billions of dollars annually for post-storm relief.

The older I get, the less I like change, but change is the only constant. We can only avoid the leaks in the roof or the flooding in the basement for so long before we have to take action. There are communities along all coasts that are grappling with what action to take about changes in weather and how to pay for it. Some are in areas that vote Republican; others are so-called blue communities. No matter their political color, only the ones that take action will survive and thrive.

by Howard Marlowe