

WATERLOG

EXPERTS IN COASTAL RESILIENCY

December 20th, 2019

In this issue:

- **Round II Appropriations**
- **New Director of Civil Works**
- **Flood Insurance Can Kicked**
- **Communities Enhancement Act (Coastal)**
- **New Action on Coastal Bills**

Senate & House Agree on Corps Funding Bill

Ladies and gentlemen, the moment we've waited all of December for: The House and Senate have agreed, in a miraculous effort by Congress, to avert a government shutdown by passing legislative packages that fund the government through the end of the next fiscal year. We highlighted the final appropriation figures in our last WaterLog, but we've included them again here for consistency and ease of access. As shown in the table below, we are seeing a healthy figure for Planning Assistance to States (PAS). NOTE – PAS is available to States, GROUPS of States and REGIONAL Coalitions. If you're a local government and not thinking about using PAS, I ask, why not? In addition, the Corps' beneficial use of sediment program has a plus-up of \$5 million over last years' package. Will we finally see a Beneficial Use Pilot Project executed this year? We couldn't be more optimistic.

But there's a catch (always, right?). This year's beach nourishment budget took a \$30 million dollar cut against last year's coastal allocation. Before anyone has tears, we must wait for the Corps to produce it's Work Plan. Assuming the legislation is signed by the president this week (today), the Corps has, under law, until February 18th (60 days) at the latest to finalize its project-by-project decisions. For context, it was late last year.

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Package Details




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EXPERTS IN COASTAL RESILIENCE

Federal Shore Protection Funding: FY20

Name of Project	State	PRESIDENT			HOUSE			SENATE			Final Appropriation and Work Plan		
		Investigations	Construction	Operations & Maint	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			\$600,000		
Cape May Inlet to Lower Township, NJ	NJ			\$200,000		\$200,000			\$200,000			\$200,000	
Lower Cape May Meadows, Cape May Point, NJ	NJ			\$7,400,000		\$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			\$15,000,000	
Beneficial Use Pilot Program (Sec. 1122)			\$0			\$7,500,000			\$7,500,000			\$7,500,000	
Mitigation of Shore Damages (Sec. 111)			\$0			\$13,000,000			\$8,000,000			\$5,000,000	
Small Shore Protection Projects (Sec. 103)			\$0			\$4,000,000			\$4,000,000			\$4,000,000	
Regional Sediment Management Research Program				\$3,500,000			\$3,500,000			\$8,500,000			\$8,500,000
Coastal Ocean Data System/Coastal Data Info Program				\$2,250,000			\$7,500,000			\$7,500,000			\$7,500,000
Coastal Field Data Collection		\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000			\$2,500,000		
Coastal Inlet Research Program				\$2,430,000			\$5,000,000			\$10,975,000			\$10,975,000
National Coastal Mapping Program				\$4,875,000			\$6,300,000			\$10,000,000			\$7,500,000
National Shoreline Management Study		\$0			\$5,000,000			\$400,000			\$5,000,000		
Planning Assistance to States		\$5,000,000			\$9,000,000			\$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		\$4,000,000	\$50,165,000	
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	\$21,100,000	\$89,265,000	\$34,475,000
TOTAL OF ALL CATEGORIES		\$27,255,000			\$142,165,000			\$135,075,000			\$144,840,000		

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

Package Details:

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 today, 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](#).

New Director of Civil Works:

In other Corps news, Civil Works Director James Dalton will be leaving his position at the end of the year. Our inside sources tell us that three interviews of top Corps officials have been held. We hope they pick the right person.

Flood Insurance Can Kicked...

...For 1 year. As part of the spending packages, Congress also took the opportunity to punt the can, not just kick it, for an additional year (the 14th time since 2017). We're aware of the delay on Risk Rating 2.0, but we were also hoping Congress could reform some components of the NFIP. With an additional year of time, some of the many bills introduced in Congress could provide some hope as legislators are aiming to solidify any necessary changes before reauthorizing the program long-term till 2024.

New Coastal Bills →

New Action on Coastal Bills:

Coastal and Great Lakes Communities Enhancement Act, HR 729 - PASSED HOUSE

This conglomerate bill includes several provisions that are beneficial to municipal and tribal coastal communities. Those provisions include:

- Establishment of a living shorelines grant program
- Establishment of a task force to address critical needs on working waterfronts (+grants)
- Reauthorization of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 through FY24
- Authorization of appropriations for National Sea Grant College Program
- Authorize the appropriation of \$50 million from 2020-2025 for NOAA to make grants to stabilize shorelines using natural materials

Happy Holidays!

from



COASTAL STRATEGIES

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