

WATERLOG

EXPERTS IN COASTAL RESILIENCY

February 11th, 2020

In this issue:

- **Corp Work Plan Released**
- **Resilient Bridges**
- **Airports Going Under**
- **Updated Federal Bill Report**
- **President's FY21 Budget Released**
- **Where Are My Dunes?**

Corps Work Plan Released

The moment we've all been waiting for. Did your project make the cut? Take a look [HERE](#). If you're interested in studying funding, look for your project under "Investigations." If you're looking for construction funds, look under "Construction" - That one is a bit clearer. We've analyzed the work plan and added the figures to our Shore Protection Tracker on the next page or via this [LINK](#). You'll see California finally got some of the attention it deserves. The total allocation for what we consider 'shore protection funding has decreased overall compared to FY19.

Later on, we'll get into winners and losers and provide more insight on what influenced decisions made between Corps HQ, ASA and OMB. Stay tuned.

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COASTAL STRATEGIES
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
Soouth San Francisco Bay Shoreline (PHASE II)	CA	\$600,000			\$600,000			\$600,000			\$600,000		
San Francisco Bay Waterfront	CA	\$600,000			\$800,000			\$600,000			\$2,300,000		
San Clemente, CA	CA	\$0			\$0			\$0			\$505,000		
South San Diego County - Encinitas & Solana Beach	CA	\$0			\$0			\$0			\$400,000		
Delaware Coast: Bethany Beach, South Bethany	DE					\$0			\$0			\$6,700,000	
Fort Beach	FL					\$0			\$0			\$7,560,000	
Sarasota County - Lido Key	FL					\$0			\$0			\$1,297,000	
Indiana Shoreline Erosion	IN					\$0			\$0			\$2,500,000	
Indiana Dunes	IN					\$0			\$0			\$12,816,000	
Absecon Island	NJ					\$0			\$0			\$300,000	
Cape May Inlet to Lower Township, NJ	NJ			\$200,000		\$200,000			\$200,000			\$300,000	
Lower Cape May Meadows, Cape May Point, NJ	NJ			\$7,400,000		\$7,400,000			\$7,400,000			\$9,400,000	
Sandy Hook to Barnegat Inlet	NJ					\$0			\$0			\$15,942,000	
Presque Isle	PA					\$0			\$0			\$1,250,000	
Norfolk	VA	\$0			\$0			\$0			\$2,538,000		
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				
TOTAL BY CATEGORY		\$7,200,000	\$0	\$20,655,000	\$18,400,000	\$102,265,000	\$22,300,000	\$16,600,000	\$82,100,000	\$36,975,000	\$22,843,000	\$89,265,000	\$34,475,000
TOTAL OF ALL CATEGORIES			\$27,855,000			\$142,965,000			\$135,675,000			\$146,583,000	

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

House Bill to Make Bridges and Highways more Resilient

H.R. 5700, the 'Resilient Highways Act' was introduced on January 29th and provides support for increasing the resiliency of Federal-aid highways and bridges on and off the National Highway System to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise and extreme weather events. It allows a state to receive up to 100% federal financial contribution for protective features such as:

- Raising or relocating roadways
- Riprap
- Deepening channels
- Increasing drainage structures
- Repair or maintenance of tide gates
- Scour protection
- Spur dikes
- Living shorelines or 'natural infrastructure'
- Debris removal

This one should have bipartisan support, we'll keep an eye on it for you.

Airports Going Under

In the best-case scenario, by 2100 only 44 airports worldwide would be completely underwater, and in the worst-case, 88. The World Resources Institute (WRI) has reported in a recent analysis that even if the world takes drastic action to reduce greenhouse gasses and limit warming to 2 degrees celsius, sea levels would still rise by roughly half a meter. Air travel is becoming increasingly more popular, despite 'flight-shaming,' and as more people around the world are given access to air travel, airport usage is only expected to increase. Tina Huang, a researcher for the WRI says that the implications are not just for the air travel industry, because airplanes transport more than just people - they also transport goods. Huang also pointed out that "small island nations that did not contribute a lot to global emissions are suffering the consequences of global warming... Larger nations also have a responsibility to help those smaller nations adapt."

Updated Federal Bill Report

[Click here](#) to access our updated Federal Bill Report

President's FY21 Budget Released

Take a look at the President's FY21 Budget [Here](#). Nothing coastal.

Where Are My Dunes? →

Where Are My Dunes?

By Howard Marlowe, President
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If you're in Florida for vacation, Spring Training or for any other reason in the next few weeks, take a look at the beach. It's not a tough assignment. Just walk out from your hotel or condo onto the beach and see whether you can walk straight out to the beach or if you're limited to a designated path that goes over a dune. Did you find sand dunes like these on the New Jersey coast?



Dunes in NJ - Photo: WHY

Chances are you didn't. No dunes on a beach nourished with taxpayer money means the beach likely was built before 1986. There are more than a dozen duneless beaches in the south. That's because they were designed before coastal scientists and engineers understood how important dunes are to coastal protection. As the agency charged by Congress with coastal risk reduction, the Corps of Engineers thought that a wide beach was the best protection against storm damages. The East Coast's premier example of this is Miami Beach. Beautiful wide beaches. But the modest dunes you see, those were built by mother nature. They're not part of the federal project.

For context, by the mid-1980's, changes adopted by Congress and the executive branch resulted in the development of more coherent water resources

policies. Recreation became a separate category from flood risk reduction and putting more butts-on-the-beach was no longer allowed as a primary

purpose for any federal beach nourishment project. During this same period, coastal science had evolved to fix a standard that a wide beach with strong dunes was the best form of protection against damages caused by coastal storms. That knowledge was bolstered again by studies done post-Sandy by the National Academies of Science, the Corps, and the State of New Jersey. Furthermore, those studies demonstrated that the dunes that work are those incorporated into planned nourishment projects using storm intensity models that tell engineers what their height, depth and ocean-facing slope must be.

But if these coastal projects were authorized by Congress and built 40-50 years ago, dunes weren't part of the project and the Corps can't add them without specific direction and funding from Congress.

You probably know that, since sand is moved by wind and waves, federal beach projects are designed to be renourished every few years over a 50-year period. So, why haven't dunes been added during a renourishment? Answer: A project can't be modified without going through two to three years of study and then a wait for a new authorization and new funding.

Post-Sandy, Congress was thoughtful and realized it doesn't make sense just to rebuild beaches to their pre-storm status if that status is based on an outdated design. It provided the authority and the money to add dunes and increase their height wherever necessary to meet current and future needs. It also provided the money to do that. That's why the mid-Atlantic beaches have both wide beaches and strong dunes.

After multiple storms damaged the Florida and Georgia coasts, Congress added money to the

Corps' budget to build dunes for projects built before 1986. The Corps' Work Plan for spending that money shows it allocated money for that very purpose. **But it hasn't been spent.**



Big Beach, Modest Dunes... Photo: Travel Channel

Last July, Corps headquarters reversed its own allocation and said dunes could not be added with the money Congress provided because they were “beyond a minor modification for the purposes of resilience.”

That is what I call stupid. Dunes are the smallest cost of any beach nourishment project, but they absorb wave energy and reduce flooding that affects property, roads, sewers, and all public utilities so that you and I will have to pay much more to repair via post-disaster FEMA funds.

The money to add dunes was provided by Congress to reduce risk and it is either still there or it's been spent on something else. So far, I haven't seen one Member of Congress speak up about this. Maybe because **the local communities affected don't know their dune money has been impounded by Corps Headquarters.** It's time for them to ask what happened to the dunes Congress wanted to be added and why all projects are not being updated to meet current and predicted storm levels. It costs taxpayers far less to pay a couple million dollars prior to a storm than to pay 10 times that post-storm. If you want to find out if your sand nourishment project is, or might be affected, please call Warwick Group Consultants, (202) 787-5770.

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