



Summary of Select Provisions

Senate Water Resources Development Act of 2026 (S. 4949)

Division A – Water Resources Development

Sec. 1001. Definition of Secretary. The use of the term “Secretary” refers to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

Title I – General Provisions

Sec. 1101. Notice to Congress on the Implementation of this Act. This section directs the Secretary of the Army (Secretary) to develop a comprehensive plan to implement Division A including identifying every provision that will need implementing guidance.

Sec. 1102. Corps of Engineers Real Estate Guidance and Outreach. This section directs the Secretary to include real estate authorities of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in the required outreach and education efforts by the agency.

Sec. 1103. Contributions by Non-federal Interests. This section amends section 902 of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1986 to provide the ability of the non-Federal partner to contribute funds in an amount that is not more than 10 percent more than the maximum cost of the project.

Sec. 1104. Congressional Communications and Reports to Congress. This section establishes 30-day response time requirements for certain congressional communications and reports to Congress and directs the Corps to provide certain types of budget and capability information in a timely manner. See also Section 1107 below.

Sec. 1106. Continuing Authority Programs. This section delegates the authority to approve decision documents for CAP studies to the District Commander.

Sec. 1107. Capabilities. This section directs the Corps to provide information on the capability of Corps for a feasibility study or water resources development project at the request of a Member of Congress. It is designed to overcome current Defense Department limitations on the abilities of the Corps and other department agencies to communicate with members of Congress. See also Section 1104 above.

Sec. 1109. Limited Process. This section directs the Secretary to establish a exclusions from requirements related to environmental assessments and impact statements for certain categories of projects including continuing authorities programs and environmental infrastructure projects among others.

Sec. 1113. Informed Decisionmaking. This section provides direction to the Secretary on the design maturity and cost estimates of the recommended plan for a project included in a Chief's Report and establishes a planning, engineering, and design account for the Corps.

Sec. 1115. Procedures. This section outlines procedures that limit the ability of the Secretary to pause, terminate or modify studies and projects.

Sec. 1117. Dredging Coordination. This section directs the Secretary to coordinate with federal agencies, non-federal interests, and stakeholders when carrying out operations and maintenance activities at federal ports and along federal waterways.

Sec. 1118. Nonstructural Flood and Coastal Storm Risk Management. This section provides additional authorities and modifies existing authorities and pilot programs to advance nonstructural features in certain feasibility studies and projects.

Sec. 1119. In-Kind Contributions Review and Technical Assistance. This section modifies section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 to allow for phased reviews by the Secretary of the in-kind contributions work carried out by a non-federal interest.

Title II – Studies and Reports

Sec. 1201. Authorization of Proposed Feasibility Studies. This section authorizes new feasibility studies and feasibility studies for project modifications. Of interest: Morro Bay, CA; Redondo Beach, CA; Pacifica, CA; Broward County, FL; Kaimana Beach, HI;

Sec. 1202. Expedited Completion. This section directs the Secretary to expedite the completion of various feasibility studies and authorized projects. Of interest: Fort Pierce, FL.

Sec. 1204. GAO Studies. This section authorizes studies of certain authorities, requirements, policies, and activities of the Corps by the U.S. Government Accountability Office to determine how the Corps conducts its business and delivers projects.

Sec. 1206. Virginia Peninsula Coastal Storm Risk Management, Virginia. This section authorizes the Secretary to study and implement solutions to reduce risk at federal installations at 100% federal expense for Coastal Virginia.

Sec. 1208. Northern Estuaries Ecosystem Restoration, Florida. This section directs the Secretary to expedite the completion of the comprehensive plan for northern estuaries in Florida required under section 8215 of WRDA 2022 to mitigate harmful algal blooms associated with Lake Okeechobee.

Sec. 1211. Honolulu Harbor, Hawaii. This section directs the Secretary to use certain existing authorities when carrying out the feasibility study for modifications to the Honolulu Harbor, Hawaii.

Sec. 1212. Implementation of Review of Corps of Engineers Assets. This section directs the Secretary to brief Congress on the status of the implementation of section 6002 of WRRDA 2014.

Sec. 1213. Sense of Congress on Certain Reports. This section expresses the sense of Congress on the need for the timely completion by the Secretary of reports to Congress.

Sec. 1214. Charleston, South Carolina. This section expresses the sense of Congress on the evaluation of the drivers of flood risk in Charleston, South Carolina and provides direction to the Secretary to expedite the completion of an authorized project and a feasibility study to address flood risks.

Sec. 1218. Dredging Vessels. This section directs the Secretary to provide a briefing to Congress on opportunities for the Corps' to contract with the private sector for the design and procurement of Corps' dredging vessels.

Sec. 1220. Maximization of Beneficial Use in Dredged Material Management Plans. This section modifies section 1130 of WRDA 2024 to establish dredged material management plans for no less than 20 years.

Sec. 1228. Greater Providence, Rhode Island. This section authorizes a study for flood and coastal storm risk management in Providence, Rhode Island.

Sec. 1231. Non-Federal Project Implementation Pilot Program. This section extends the pilot program for non-federal interests to carry out feasibility studies under section 1043 of WRRDA 2014. This section authorized a pilot program to evaluate the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of allowing non-Federal interests to carry out feasibility studies for hurricane and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration and other limited purposes.

Sec. 1232. Oceanside, California. This section modifies section 1210 of WRDA 2024 to provide additional direction to the Secretary when carrying out the feasibility study in Oceanside, California.

Title III – Deauthorizations, Modifications, and Related Provisions

Sec. 1301. Environmental Infrastructure. This section authorizes new and modifies existing environmental infrastructure authorities of the Secretary.

Sec. 1303. Deauthorizations. This section deauthorizes certain projects or portions of projects.

Sec. 1315. Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program. This section modifies and increases the funding authorized for the Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program under section 128 of WRDA 2020.

Sec. 1324. Rhode Island Coastline, Rhode Island. This section modifies the project, Rhode Island Coastline, Rhode Island to have a 90% federal cost share.

Sec. 1326. Duck, North Carolina. This section directs the Secretary to expedite the review of any necessary documentation to facilitate a long-term lease between the United States and the Town of Duck, North Carolina for the US Army Corps of Engineers Field Office.

Sec. 1333. Assateague Island, Maryland and Virginia. This section provides the Secretary with authority to extend Federal participation in the project in Assateague Island under section 534 of WRDA 1996.

Title IV – Project Authorizations

Sec. 1401. Project Authorizations. This section authorizes construction for projects for which a Chief of Engineers’ Report or other decision document has been submitted to Congress. Of interest: Surf City, North Carolina

Sec. 1402. Surf City and North Topsail Beach, North Carolina. This section deauthorizes a certain portion of project in Surf City and Topsail Beach, North Carolina.

Division B – Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure

Title I – Drinking Water

Sec. 2101. Technical assistance and grants for emergencies affecting public water systems. This section reauthorizes the Emergency Grant Program at \$30 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030. This section also reauthorizes a grant program for technical assistance to small public water systems at \$26 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

Sec. 2102. Drinking water state revolving loan funds. This section makes eligible activities to address perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lead service line replacement projects under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). This section also makes eligible under the DWSRF projects that improve drinking water service while also providing wildfire suppression benefits.

The DWSRF is reauthorized at \$3.75 billion for fiscal year 2027, \$4 billion for fiscal year 2028, \$4.25 billion for fiscal year 2029, and \$4.5 billion for fiscal year 2030. This section also changes how the total DWSRF funding that a state may use for administrative use and technical assistance is calculated.

Sec. 2104. Reducing lead in drinking water. This section reauthorizes the EPA’s Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Grant Program at \$100 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

Sec. 2105. Operational sustainability of small public water systems. This section reauthorizes the Operational Sustainability Program under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) for small public water systems at \$50 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

Sec. 2106. Midsize and large drinking water system infrastructure resilience and sustainability program. This section reauthorizes the Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program at \$40 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

Title II – Clean Water

Sec. 2201. Research investigations, training, and information. This section reauthorizes a grant program for technical assistance at \$75 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

Sec. 2202. Pilot program for alternative water source projects. This section reauthorizes a grant program for alternative water source projects at \$5 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

Sec. 2203. Sewer overflow and stormwater reuse municipal grants. This section reauthorizes the sewer overflow and stormwater municipal grants program at \$280 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

Sec. 2205. Clean water state revolving funds. This section makes eligible activities to address PFAS and lead service line replacement projects under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The CWSRF is reauthorized at \$3.5 billion for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030. This section also changes the total CWSRF funding a state may use for administrative use and technical assistance is calculated.

Title III – Geographic Programs

Sec. 2301. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This section reauthorizes the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at \$475 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

Sec. 2302. Reauthorization of Long Island Sound Programs. This section reauthorizes the Long Island Sound grants at \$40 million and the Long Island Sound Stewardship grants at \$25 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.

Sec. 2304. National Estuary Program. This section reauthorizes the National Estuary Program at \$50 million for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030.