



Hello!

Thank you for subscribing to WaterLog! If you have comments, suggestions, or we have missed something, please [let us know](#). Also, please don't hesitate to pass this Update along to your colleagues. It's easy to subscribe and it's free. [Just click here](#), and know that we NEVER share our subscriber information.

Both Coasts Take a Beating

East and West coast beaches are taking a beating with unusual El Niño-fueled storms, leaving local governments pressed for short-term fixes as an uncertain winter approaches.

The Pacific is proving powerful this hurricane season, with a current list of 20 named storms. After Hurricanes Genevieve, Marie, and Polo battered coastal towns along Southern California, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency with many localities preceding the sentiment or quickly following suit. The State of Hawaii has been impacted by Hurricanes Lala, Lowell, and Nolo, bringing coastal flooding, erosion, and damage to homes and businesses and leaving thousands without running water. The El Niño-attributed increases in frequency, strength, and duration are expected to last throughout hurricane season, with winter bringing increased rainfall and flooding to the region.

Despite the Atlantic seeing an unusually quiet hurricane season, an early and strong Nor'easter came to the East coast late last week. Towns from North Carolina to Maine saw storms, flooding, power outages, and coastal erosion. As the El Niño continues to develop, the East is predicted to see more frequent and active nor'easters throughout winter.

With both US coastlines anticipating increased erosion and flooding as we head towards a winter season shaped by an unprecedented El Niño, coastal communities are increasingly looking for avenues to repair their coasts and prepare for damages still to come.

Congress Leaves Washington

A week ago, the House of Representatives quietly left Washington, leaving the Capitol behind until after Election Day in November. Across the Capitol, however, the Senate remained in session, carrying on with its work. Senators had been scheduled to remain in D.C. during the first week of October, but plans are changing. With roughly one-third of the Senate facing re-election and many members expected to spend their time campaigning, this week may be their final week in Washington before Election Day. Soon, both chambers will be gone until November. Shortly after they return, House and Senate Republicans will choose their leaders and make changes in their

committee assignments for the 2027-2028 Congress that convenes on January 3rd. Democrats will do their reorganizing in December.

Who's Running the Corps?

President Trump named Adam Telle, the civilian head of the Corps of Engineers, to be the Acting Secretary of the Army following the resignation of Dan Driscoll from that assignment. That means no one is currently serving as the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. While some have mused about a replacement for Telle, we view his current assignment as temporary. When the president sends the Senate the name of a new Secretary of the Army, Telle will return as head of the Corps. In the meantime, career civil servant Lee Foresgren serves as the Principal Deputy acting in the place of the ASA.

Funding Bills Await Action Post-Election Day

None of the 12 funding bills that Congress was supposed to pass by October 1st have been passed. Instead, Congress adopted a temporary measure known as a Continuing Resolution that lets government agencies keep running at the same level as they did in Fiscal Year 2026 until December 14th. It's expected that the Democrats will take control of at least the House of Representatives. If that happens, we think funding bills will be passed by Christmas. If Republicans retain control of both chambers, Senate Democrats may continue to block any further action on appropriations bills creating a standoff that could spill into 2027.

Legislative Update

We're tracking 273 bills introduced so far in this two-year Congress that affect coastal communities, the coastal economy, and the coastal environment. Since last month. The House passed its Water Resources Development Act (WRDA26) bill by a 415 to 9 vote. The Senate version of the bill has been unanimously approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. With staff working behind the scenes to resolve the many differences between the two bills, we expect a final bill to be approved by Congress in December. S. 759, Modernizing Access to our Public Oceans (Cruz, R-TX), became public law as did HR5366, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act (Steube, R-FL). For a full list of the bills we track and their status, [click here](#).

Thanks for reading WaterLog!

Howard Marlowe | President

Warwick Group Consultants, LLC

Howard.Marlowe@WarwickConsultants.Net

1717 K Street, NW, Suite 900

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 787-5770