
News Release



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WATER RESOURCES COALITION CALLS 2011 BUDGET “A STEP BACKWARDS”

Coalition Calls on Congress to Reverse Proposed Cuts to Corps and Reclamation

Washington, D.C.—The Water Resources Coalition today expressed great disappointment in President Obama’s budget proposal for the 2011 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Civil Works Program. The fiscal year 2011 proposed budget of \$4.881 billion exemplifies the continued failure to adequately invest in our nation’s water resources infrastructure, and it represents an additional \$565 million cut beyond what was enacted by Congress for the Corps in fiscal year 2010. The Bureau of Reclamation fared no better, receiving only \$1.06 billion—\$65 million less than fiscal year 2010.

“The proposed cuts in investment for our nation’s water resources infrastructure are a major step backwards,” declared Marco A. Giamberardino, Co-Chairman of the Water Resources Coalition and Senior Director, Federal and Heavy Construction Division for the Associated General Contractors of America. “To say that this budget is a disappointment is an understatement.”

The Coalition also expressed its concerns over the wide impact these cuts will have, including reducing necessary flood control protection along coastlines, stifling inland waterway shipments, and the lost opportunity for job creation. The Coalition has expressed to the Administration and to Congress that these programs play a vital role in the economy of the nation not only for the jobs they provide but also for the infrastructure needed to underpin a strong economy.

“The Administration’s budget ignores the public safety and environmental benefits these programs offer our nation,” said Brian T. Pallasch, CAE, Co-Chairman of the Water Resources Coalition and Managing Director, Government Relations & Infrastructure Initiatives for the American Society of Civil Engineers. “The residual risk to life and property behind such structures cannot be ignored.”

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*The **Water Resources Coalition** was established in 2007 to promote the development, implementation and funding of a comprehensive national water resources policy. With member organizations representing state and local governments, conservation, engineering and construction, ports, waterways and transportation services, the Coalition works to ensure that a comprehensive, national water resources policy is developed, implemented and funded to provide a sustainable, productive economy; a healthy aquatic ecology; and public health and safety. For more information, visit the Water Resources Coalition Web site at www.waterresourcescoalition.org.*