

On July 13, Representative Peter DeFazio (D-OR) introduced the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) (H.R. 7575), which the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee marked upon July 15. Numerous amendments were considered. Committee Chair DeFazio said: "I am pleased that today the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed a bipartisan WRDA bill by voice vote, which is now headed to the House Floor for a vote."

Title I includes general provisions regarding resiliency planning, flood control and risk management for various communities at various scales. Section 125 increases the number of dredged material demonstration projects to 30, and expands the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) criteria for evaluating the placement of dredged materials. It directs the Corps to develop five-year regional dredged material management plans and to increase coordination of beneficial reuse projects. Section 128 authorizes a demonstration program for detecting, treating, preventing, and eliminating harmful algal blooms. It directs the Corps to consult with federal and state agencies to maximize the use of existing data and programs.

Section 131 prohibits the Corps from constructing any additional interception-rearing complexes (IRCs) on the Missouri River until further study is completed. IRCs are an adaptive-management field experiment that involves reconfiguration of channel geometry in selected bends to increase interception of drifting fish larvae. Section 133 allows the Corps to reimburse non-federal interests for emergency repairs under certain conditions. Section 134 directs the Corps to identify specific engineering and maintenance deficiencies for certain levees within the National Levee Database. Section 135 expands eligibility of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) High Hazard Potential Dam Rehabilitation Program to include hydropower dams that generate less than 1.5 megawatts. Section 137 extends authorization for the Non-Federal Project Implementation Pilot Program until 2026.

Title II addresses studies and reports. Section 201 authorizes feasibility studies for 35 projects for water resources development and conservation. Studies include projects for: (1) flood risk management, Tonto Creek, Gila River, Arizona; (2) flood risk management, water supply, and related benefits, Cable Creek, California; (3) shoreline stabilization, Del Mar Bluffs, San Diego County, California; (4) water conservation and water supply, Redbank and Fancher Creeks, California; (5) ecosystem restoration, Rio Hondo Channel, San Gabriel River, California; (6) coastal storm damage reduction, Southern California; (7) bank stabilization and navigation, Lower Missouri River, Sioux City, Kansas; (8) improve turning basins for the project for navigation, Columbia River Channel, Oregon and Washington; (9) ecosystem restoration, Sulphur River, Arkansas and Texas; (10) modification of the project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, Port Arthur and vicinity, Texas; and (11) flood risk management, Port of Victoria, Texas.

Section 202 directs the expedited completion of 33 feasibility studies currently underway. Studies include projects for: (1) navigation, St. George Harbor, Alaska; (2) flood risk management, Lower Santa Cruz River, Arizona; (3) flood control, water conservation, and related purposes, Coyote Valley Dam, California; (4) flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Del Rosa Channel, city of San Bernardino, California; (5) flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration, Mission-Zanja Channel, cities of San Bernardino and Redlands, California; (6) flood risk management, Prado Basin, California; (7) modifications to the project for navigation, San Francisco Bay to Stockton, California; (8) modifications to the Seven Oaks Dam, California, portion of the project for flood control, Santa Ana River Mainstem, California; (9) flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and recreation, Blue River Basin, Kansas City, Kansas; (10) flood control, 42nd Street Levee, Springfield, Oregon; (11) ecosystem restoration, Hood River at the confluence with the Columbia River, Oregon; (12) flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water supply, and related purposes, Lower Rio Grande River, Cameron County, Texas.

Title III covers deauthorizations of inactive projects and modifications to existing projects and programs, including additional funding, reauthorizations and extensions of deadlines, and expanded construction or eligibility.

Title IV includes project authorizations for 34 new water resources projects recommended by the Chief of Engineers, and four projects prepared by non-federal interests. In the West, these projects include the following:

Five navigation projects are located in Alaska (Port of Nome and Unalaksa Dutch Harbor Channels) and Texas (Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Brazos River Floodgates and Colorado River Locks; Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel Improvement Project, Harris, Chambers, and Galveston Counties; and Matagorda Ship Channel Improvement Project, Port Lavaca.)

Five flood risk management projects are located in Arizona (Little Colorado River at Winslow, Navajo County), California (Westminster, East Garden Grove, California Flood Risk Management), North Dakota (Souris River Basin Flood Risk Management), New Mexico (Middle Rio Grande Flood Protection, Bernalillo to Belen), and Oklahoma (Tulsa and West-Tulsa Levee System, Tulsa County).

One flood risk management and ecosystem restoration project is located in Colorado (South Platte River and Tributaries, Adams and Denver Counties).

Four ecosystem projects are located in California (Delta Islands and Levees; Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration), New Mexico (Rio Grande, Environmental Management Program, Sandia Pueblo to Isleta Pueblo, New Mexico Ecosystem Restoration), and Texas (Jefferson County Ecosystem Restoration).

One water supply project is located in Oregon (Willamette River Basin Review Reallocation). This project has special rules to comply with the Endangered Species Act and to ensure that the reallocation does not seriously affect authorized project purposes or involve major operational changes to the project.

One project for deepening and widening barge shelves is located in Texas (Corpus Christi Ship Channel).

One of the four non-federal project authorized is for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration in Chacon Creek, Texas.