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Corps FY2012 work plan includes funding for Northwest Ports

PNWA is pleased to announce over \$13 million in additional funding for navigation projects in the Pacific Northwest. This funding was part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FY2012 work plan, which was released yesterday and is part of the FY2012 omnibus spending bill passed in late December. Key projects funded include Coos Bay, OR: \$297,990; Siuslaw River: \$133,650; and Umpqua River: \$721,710.

A total of \$173 million of “additional Operations & Maintenance” (O&M) was budgeted for projects nationwide and included \$30 million for small, remote or subsistence harbor maintenance; \$30 million for inland waterways maintenance; and \$55 million for deep draft harbor and channel harbor maintenance. Congress directed the Corps to use job creation, economic development benefits, and several other criteria in allocating these funds. PNWA worked with ports in the Pacific Northwest to gather local and regional economic data, which was submitted to the Corps to support their development of the work plan.

“Our region fared exceptionally well, and we are very pleased with the funding that was included for critical navigation projects in the Northwest,” stated Kristin Meira, PNWA Executive Director. “The united efforts of our Corps districts, Congressional delegation and navigation stakeholders were key to securing additional funding for projects that enable international trade, commercial fishing, and recreational boating. This additional funding helps to ensure that our ports and their surrounding communities remain economically viable for years to come.”

“This additional funding provides for crucial maintenance dredging of the mouth and federal channel of the Umpqua River,” stated Charmaine Vitek, manager of the Port of Umpqua. “The ripple effect of the economic impact of a safe and reliable river entrance for the local commercial fleet, charter boat operators and recreational boater is essential to the Lower Umpqua region. This is very good news for the Port of Umpqua and we are grateful to the Army Corps of Engineers for selecting our project.”

Oregon coastal ports, home to fishing fleets, marinas and recreational facilities, are critical to the economic survival of their communities. International trade, recreational boating and commercial fishing are more important to the economic health of coastal port communities now than ever before. PNWA supports continued funding for the maintenance and port infrastructure which is essential to the success of our fishing fleets and to maintaining a vibrant coastal economy.

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About PNWA: The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) is a non-profit trade association that advocates for federal policies and funding in support of regional economic and environmental sustainability. PNWA represents multiple industries in the public and private sectors in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and California. Members include public ports, navigation, transportation, international trade, tourism, agriculture, forest products, energy and local government interests. Since its founding in 1934, PNWA led the way for development of economic infrastructure for navigation, electric power and irrigated agriculture on the Columbia and Snake River System. In 1971, PNWA expanded, adding Puget Sound and coastal port members to provide a comprehensive regional perspective. Today, PNWA works with the U.S. Congress, federal agencies and regional decision leaders on transportation, trade, tourism, energy and environmental policy to enhance economic vitality in the Pacific Northwest. You can learn more about PNWA at www.pnwa.net.

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