



In This Issue

- Senate releases FY2021 appropriations bills

Senate releases FY2021 appropriations bills



The U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations has released all twelve of its [Fiscal Year 2021 funding measures](#) and the FY2021 subcommittee allocations. This is a great step forward toward completion of the FY2021 appropriations process in the lame duck session. The federal government is current funded under a [Continuing Resolution](#) that expires on Dec. 11.

Review of House FY2021 appropriations

As a reminder, the U.S. House of Representatives passed six FY2021 appropriations bills in July 2020, including Energy and Water Development, which addresses Corps of Engineers project spending. The House bill proposes a total of \$7.63 billion for the Corps, and \$17 billion in emergency funding for Corps projects nationwide to improve infrastructure and reduce backlogs.

The House bill proposes \$1.68 billion in Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund spending, \$2.6 billion in Construction funding, \$151 million in Investigations funding, and \$3.84 billion in Operations and Maintenance funding.

The bill provides for seven new study starts and seven new construction projects. There is also \$10 billion in COVID-19 emergency funds intended for expediting projects that provide flood protection, ensure navigable channels, and restore the environment; \$5 billion in COVID-19 emergency funds to address outstanding O&M and repairs nationwide; and \$110 million in COVID-19 emergency funds for feasibility studies.

Senate FY2021 appropriations bill released

The Senate appropriations bill released Tuesday proposes \$7.72 billion for the Corps, which is \$72 million above the FY2020 enacted level and \$1.76 billion above the Administration's budget request. Again, the spending targets for the HMTF are met,

and full use of annual revenue from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund is also allocated. These funds will continue investments to maintain infrastructure that promotes U.S. competitiveness and export capabilities.

Full use of the annual HMTF revenues was passed in the CARES Act with the provision that it would begin on Jan. 1, 2021 or when a new Water Resources Development Act passed, whichever comes first. WRDA is currently being negotiated as we speak. As we understand it, since the authority for full HMTF annual revenues has not officially started, the appropriations committee chose to continue meeting the targets outlined for annual spending of the HMTF.

Read the Senate Energy and Water Development [Bill Text](#), [Explanatory Statement](#), and [Highlights](#) here. PNWA's [Supported Corps Projects document](#) has also been updated to reflect the Senate project numbers.

Additional funding in Senate bill

Since earmarks were banned in 2012, Congress has looked for other ways to provide additional funding for the Corps of Engineers. When Congress provides this additional funding ("funding pots"), it is with the directive that the agency formulate a plan for these monies within 60 days of enactment of the bill.

We are pleased to report that both House and Senate appropriators have once again recognized the insufficiency of various budget levels, and have proposed additional funding for Corps accounts. This is especially good news for projects that have been previously funded, but were either left out of the FY2021 budget or were funded at low levels. Following are the amounts we previously reported in the House bill, as well as the amounts proposed in this week's Senate bill:

ACCOUNT	HOUSE	SENATE
Investigations account	\$67 million	\$61 million
Construction account – navigation	\$150 million	\$345 million
O&M - Deep draft harbors and channels	\$570 million	\$591 million
O&M - Small, remote or subsistence navigation	\$65 million	\$65 million
O&M - Inland waterways	\$55 million	\$70 million
Donor and energy transfer ports	\$50 million	\$50 million
Navigation maintenance	\$38.455 million	\$44.6 million
Other authorized project purposes	\$89.593 million	\$50 million

Once Congress completes its work on appropriations and final spending numbers are confirmed for the Corps, the work plan process will then begin. This will be a second opportunity for many projects to potentially receive critical funding, and PNWA will be advocating for our members' priorities every step of the way.

[PNWA Website](#)

[About PNWA](#)

[Action Agenda](#)

[PNWA Events](#)

[Contact Us](#)

© Pacific Northwest Waterways
Association

@PNWaterways

