



# Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #746 January 4, 2021

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## MTSERA funding mechanism survives President's veto

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We previously reported on the [Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Act \(MTSERA\)](#) introduced by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D, OR-4) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D, OR). The legislation will establish a mechanism within the Maritime Administration to distribute emergency appropriations funding to ports and the maritime industry, similar to programs that already exist for aviation, rail, and transit. MTSERA was included in the [National Defense Authorization Act \(NDAA\)](#) that passed both the House and Senate by large margins.

The President vetoed the NDAA on Dec. 23. A President's veto can be overridden by a 2/3 majority vote in each chamber of Congress. Historically, veto overrides are very rare. This was the President's ninth veto of his term; none of the previous eight were overridden.

The NDAA is a bill that typically has very strong bipartisan support, and this year's version proved no exception. The House voted Dec. 28 to override the veto, 322-87. The Senate voted Jan. 1 to override the veto, 81-13.

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## PNWA meets with Rep. Newhouse on Columbia River Treaty

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PNWA members and staff met with Congressman Dan Newhouse (R, WA-4) and Congressional Western Caucus Executive Director Sean O'Brien Dec. 16 to discuss PNWA priorities and concerns related to the Columbia River Treaty.

We appreciate the Congressman taking time to articulate [his concerns with the existing treaty and his rationale for calling for its termination](#). We also had a good discussion regarding PNWA perspectives on the Treaty. PNWA senior leaders and staff highlighted our support for a modernized agreement that protects the reliability, efficiency and safety of the inland and deep draft federal navigation system on the Columbia River, which currently provides important economic benefits to both the United States and Canada. For more on the Columbia River Treaty, check out our [fact sheet](#).

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## PNWA asks, Congress (mostly) delivers on navigation funding

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PNWA submitted a [letter of support](#) to Senate and House Energy and Water Development subcommittee leaders Dec. 17, thanking them for increased funding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers above the Administration's budget request, and requesting the highest levels of additional programmatic funding for the critical projects the Corps provides our nation and region.

As [we've subsequently reported](#), the omnibus appropriations bill

signed by the President mostly meets our region's needs, through a combination of dedicated and discretionary funding.

The Corps is now developing a work plan to spend the additional discretionary monies it has received. PNWA will continue our close contact with leaders of the Portland, Seattle and Walla Walla Districts as well as Northwestern Division, strongly advocating the highest possible funding for each of [our supported projects](#).



December 17, 2020

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
184 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Alexander, Chairwoman Kaptur, Ranking Member Feinstein, and Ranking Member Simpson,

On behalf of the members of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA), thank you for your commitment to supporting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) navigation program. PNWA represents over 145 member organizations from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Our membership is comprised of port authorities, marine cargo facilities, towboat companies, steamship operators, shippers, agricultural producers, forest products manufacturers, and other economic development interests in the Pacific Northwest. Our members are partners with the Corps, and often serve as non-federal sponsors of civil works projects. We are very appreciative of the role that Congress, and your Subcommittee in particular, plays in assuring funding for the Corps each year to ensure safe and efficient movement of goods and people.

PNWA sincerely appreciates your increased funding of the Corps above the Administration's budget request. As you finalize your priorities for the FY2021 Energy & Water Development Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that the highest levels of additional programmatic funding be included for the critical projects the Corps provides our nation:

- House \$24.75 million for the navigation investigations program;
- Senate \$345 million of additional funding for the navigation construction program;
- Senate \$770.6 million for navigation operations and maintenance work, including (1) deep draft, (2) small remote and subsistence, (3) inland waterways, (4) navigation maintenance; and
- Senate and House \$50 million for the donor and energy transfer port program; and
- House \$9.593 million for other authorized project purposes.

We also write to urge Congress to enact COVID-19 relief and recovery that includes funding for port and maritime recovery activities. Our nation's ports are home to projects that employ U.S. owned companies, labor and materials, and would enable our country to continue its competitive advantage through transportation cost savings to provide long term economic benefits.

(continued)

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## CMTS COVID-19 Working Group offers listening session

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The U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System COVID-19 Working Group is hosting a virtual Industry Listening Session on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PST. This session's purpose is to hear directly from all segments of the maritime industry regarding issues and impacts on maritime operations and the workforce resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Stakeholders who intend to speak at this session are requested to email [C19WG@cmts.gov](mailto:C19WG@cmts.gov) by Jan. 11, 2021.

To Join: <https://usdot.webex.com/join/nuns.jain>

Telcon: 404-443-2170; Access Code: 60061206#

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## BOEM offers Oregon Offshore Wind Mapping Tool webinar

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The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development are pleased to announce an introductory webinar on the Oregon Offshore Wind Mapping Tool (OROWindMap).



OROWindMap is a planning tool within the West Coast Ocean Data Portal that accesses relevant datasets and provides data visualization capabilities to inform the planning process for offshore wind energy leasing in federal waters offshore Oregon.

The purpose of the webinar is to share the functionality of OROWindMap with key data users, data providers, and interested members of the public.

Webinar Date: Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021

Time: 2 - 3:30 p.m. PST

Advanced registration is required at:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0CtOx39IscOvyaVyeU63Lg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0CtOx39IscOvyaVyeU63Lg)

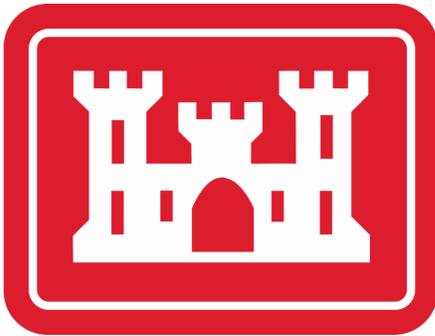
A confirmation email containing the webinar link and audio line will be sent after registration.

The Webinar agenda includes an overview of offshore wind planning in Oregon, navigating the Data Catalog, and exploring and publishing datasets in OROWindMap. A detailed agenda is available at [www.boem.gov/Oregon](http://www.boem.gov/Oregon).

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## USACE seeks Public Private Partnership project nominations

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Public private partnerships (P3s) are a tool that can accelerate delivery by providing significant upfront funding, leveraging appropriations while optimizing local participation, and promoting risk sharing in project delivery. Utilizing P3s can streamline delivery, share risk, and provide significant life-cycle cost savings.

[The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works](#) has directed USACE to establish a P3 pilot program with the goal of demonstrating the viability of new delivery methods that significantly reduce the cost and duration of project delivery.

[The Director of Civil Works signed implementation guidance for the P3 pilot program in January 2019.](#) USACE is to identify up to ten additional P3 pilot projects and provide guidance on the screening and selection criteria, as well as how the USACE Civil Works budget should be allocated to P3 projects. USACE P3 policy encourages innovation and can be an important delivery tool for USACE and project sponsors. USACE is pursuing a public private partnership (P3) pilot program to accelerate project delivery in a constrained fiscal environment.

### **Nominate Projects Today!**

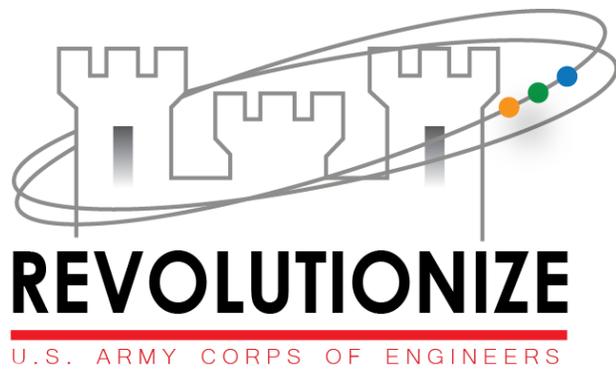
USACE Civil Works is inviting input on conceptual P3 delivery of specific USACE Civil Works projects. Project nominations can be submitted at any time. Nominations will be accepted on USACE authorized or likely to be authorized projects. [Additional information can be found here.](#)

On April 29, 2020, USACE hosted a P3 webinar to provide more information on how to submit a conceptual P3 project. The webinar slides can be accessed [here](#). If you are interested in submitting a potential P3 project use the P3 project template [here](#).

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USACE offers Revolutionize Civil Works webinars

USACE is taking bold actions to improve its performance and engineer solutions for the nation's toughest challenges through the [Revolutionize USACE Civil Works](#) initiative. Traditional delivery of the annual Civil Works program is being overhauled by using innovative tools, modernizing internal processes, and pursuing alternative financing approaches. USACE is streamlining permit processes and eliminating duplicative reviews to expedite permit decisions for infrastructure projects while protecting the environment. Speeding up how USACE does business will save millions of dollars and complete projects sooner.



### Upcoming 2021 Webinars

February 2 and 5, 2021  
10 - 11:30 a.m. PST

Revolutionize USACE CW webinars will be held to update our partners and obtain feedback on activities going forward. The webinars will cover the same content.

To join the webinar: <https://usace1.webex.com/meet/USACEoutreach>

To join using audio only:

Call-in Number: 1-844-800-2712

Access Code: 1991538435

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