



Nor'wester Newsletter

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Omnibus details released, significant "additional funding" for Corps of Engineers included

The [FY2017 Omnibus Appropriations bill](#) has been released and, if passed, will fund the government through September 30, 2017. This comprehensive legislation includes funding for all 11 regular appropriations bills, as well as additional funding for national defense and border security. This comes after weeks of negotiations on the Hill and a third short-term continuing resolution (CR) passed last Friday through May 5th.

Since the start of the fiscal year on October 1, 2016, PNWA has strongly advocated for Congress to complete an omnibus bill, rather than deferring to a year-long CR. We are pleased to report that the [omnibus funds the Corps of Engineers at \\$6.04 billion](#); an increase of \$49M over FY2016 enacted levels. The bill provides \$2.7 billion for the Corps navigation program and focuses on activities that will have the most immediate impact on economic growth, job creation and public safety. \$3.149 billion in operations & maintenance (O&M) funding is included, with \$1.3 billion from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) to maintain the nation's deep draft and coastal navigation projects. This HMTF funding exceeds the level supported by navigation stakeholders and keeps allocations on track for full spending in FY2025, as authorized in WRRDA 2014.

The omnibus also includes \$121 million for the Corps' General Investigations (GI) account, \$1.867 billion for General Construction (CG) and \$200 million for the Corps' Regulatory Program. Six new GI starts and six new CG starts are also included. This will allow projects like the Tacoma Harbor channel deepening study and the Mill Creek Flood Control project to compete for funding in the coming year. \$5 million above the President's budget was also included to combat invasive species in the Columbia River for watercraft inspection stations and related monitoring.

The majority of [PNWA supported Corps projects](#) were funded at the same levels we saw in the President's budget. One change, however, was a reduction in funding for the "Columbia River between Vancouver and The Dalles" project

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due to a change in the Portland District's capability level to \$200k. As we saw in both the House and Senate bills, the Omnibus also includes significant "additional funding" to provide for projects that were zeroed out or underfunded in the FY2017 budget request. PNWA had strongly supported the inclusion of these additional funding pots, since earmarks are not currently a tool to address inadequate funding of critical regional projects. A breakdown of the proposed funding pots, along with comparisons to the House and Senate bills is below:

Account	House Bill	Senate Bill	OMNIBUS
General Investigations			
Flood & Storm Damage Reduction	\$5,818,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,608,000
Flood Control	\$4,500,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,500,000
Shore Protection	\$3,000,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,750,000
Navigation	\$1,500,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Coastal & Deep Draft	\$6,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Inland	\$6,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Other Authorized Project Purposes	\$2,500,000	\$2,340,000	\$2,675,000
Env. Restoration or Compliance	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Construction			
Flood & Storm Damage Reduction	\$217,180,000	\$0	\$190,090,000
Flood Control	\$175,000,000	\$125,000,000	\$150,000,000
Shore Protection	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000
Navigation	\$245,000,000	\$227,374,000	\$211,200,000
IWTF	\$75,250,000	\$75,325,000	\$75,250,000
Other Authorized Project Purposes	\$43,000,000	\$48,000,000	\$48,000,000
Environmental Restoration	\$25,000,000	\$40,000,000	\$25,000,000
Environmental Infrastructure	\$10,000,000	\$68,950,000	\$55,000,000
Operations & Maintenance			
Navigation Maintenance	\$25,300,000	\$23,528,000	\$24,365,000
Deep Draft Harbor & Channel	\$258,000,000	\$250,000,000	\$268,000,000
Donor & Energy Transfer Ports	\$10,000,000	\$50,000,000	\$28,000,000
Inland Waterways	\$48,000,000	\$45,000,000	\$46,500,000
Small, Remote & Subsistence	\$50,000,000	\$48,000,000	\$49,000,000
Other Authorized Purposes	\$48,000,000	\$35,100,000	\$40,000,000

The Corps will have 45 days from enactment to complete a workplan for how to spend this programmatic funding. PNWA has been working continuously with our Corps partners to update all of our materials and reflect the most up to date requests, and we will be strongly advocating for our regional projects as the Corps goes through their workplan process. PNWA staff will also be in Washington, DC next week to deliver our message in person. Votes are expected in both chambers by the end of the week, and we will continue to keep you updated on progress.

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