

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

COMPLETE STATEMENT

OF

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CIVIL AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

A REVIEW OF RECENTLY COMPLETED UNITED STATES ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS CHIEF'S REPORTS

May 17, 2016

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Subcommittee, I am honored to be testifying before you today to discuss Reports of the Chief of Engineers (Chief's Reports) and Post Authorization Change Reports (PACRs). My testimony will briefly describe the three Chief's Reports and three PACR's that have completed Executive Branch review since the previous testimony on this subject before this Committee, at a hearing held on February 24, 2016. These proposed projects fall within the main mission areas of the Corps (commercial navigation, flood and storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration). There are eleven other projects that have reports by the Chief of Engineers but are still under Executive Branch review, as well as one Chief's Report for a project disposition. Also, there are four pending PACRs under Executive Branch review.

I first would like to provide a brief update on the 2017 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources development as required by Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014. The notice requesting proposals by non-federal interests for proposed feasibility studies and proposed modifications to authorized water resources development projects will be published in the Federal Register on May 19, 2016. The deadline for non-federal interests to submit proposals to the Corps is September 16, 2016.

I will now provide a brief overview of the three proposed projects that have completed Executive Branch review since the previous testimony. The Army has previously provided the results of those reviews along with the following project information to the Congress.

Flood and Storm Damage Reduction

Kansas Citys Levees – Phase 2, Missouri and Kansas

On March 30, 2016, a report was transmitted to Congress on flood risk management along the Missouri River and its tributaries at Kansas Citys, Missouri and Kansas. The plan addresses structural and geotechnical reliability of existing features, and increases the height of the existing levees and floodwalls by as much as five additional feet.

Based on October 2015 price levels, the total initial project cost for this project is \$327.2 million with the federal share totaling \$212.7 million and the non-federal share totaling \$114.5 million.

Mill Creek Watershed, Davidson County, Tennessee

On March 18, 2016, a report was transmitted to Congress managing flood risk along Mill Creek, Nashville, Tennessee. The plan would include constructing a 377-acre-foot capacity storm water detention basin at mile 3.67 on Sevenmile Creek, modifying the Briley Parkway bridge and widening the Mill Creek channel at mile 7.1, raising nine residential structures in-place above the 1-percent chance flood elevation, and

purchasing and removing 80 frequently damaged residential structures located in the floodplain of Mill Creek and its tributaries.

Based on October 2015 price levels, the total initial project cost for this project is \$28.79 million with the federal share totaling \$17.94 million and the non-federal share totaling \$10.85 million.

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

Skokomish River Basin Ecosystem Restoration, Washington

On April 19, 2016, a report was transmitted to Congress on ecosystem restoration improvements in and along the Skokomish River in Mason County, Washington. The plan for ecosystem restoration consists of removal of a levee at the confluence of the North and South Forks of the Skokomish River, installation of large woody debris and engineered logjams on the South Fork Skokomish River, reconnection of an historical side channel, and wetland restoration in two locations on the south bank of the Skokomish River.

Based on October 2015 price levels, the total project cost for this project is \$19.7 million with the federal share totaling \$12.8 million and the non-federal share totaling \$6.9 million.

There are also 11 other proposed projects with reports by the Chief of Engineers, which the Executive Branch is in the process of reviewing. These are:

- Lower Willamette River, Oregon
- South San Francisco Bay Shoreline, Santa Clara County, California
- Upper Turkey Creek, Merriam, Kansas
- Little Diomedede, Alaska
- West Shore Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana
- Los Angeles River, California
- Princeville, NC
- Craig Harbor, AK
- West Sacramento, CA
- American River Watershed, Common Features, CA
- Encinitas-Solana Beach Shoreline, CA

An additional Chief's Report for a disposition study for Green River Locks and Dams 3, 4, 5 and 6 and Barren River Lock and Dam 1, Kentucky is also under Executive Branch review.

Mr. Chairman, I would now like to discuss PACRs. Section 902 of WRDA 1986 sets a maximum percentage cost increase for Civil Works projects. A further authorization is required to use Federal funds beyond this maximum authorized project cost. In these

cases, the Corps of Engineers generally completes a PACR, which is provided to Congress if there is a recommendation for such a further authorization. There are three PACRs that have completed Executive Branch review. The Army has previously provided the results of those reviews along with the following project information to the Congress.

A brief description of each report follows.

1. Blue River Basin. On May 13, 2016, a report was transmitted to Congress on this flood damage reduction project. The project was originally authorized in Section 101(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 at a total first cost of \$17,082,000, with a Federal cost of \$12,043,000 and a non-federal cost of \$5,039,000. The revised estimated first cost (October 2015 price levels) is \$46.5 million with a Federal cost of \$34.9 million and a non-federal cost of \$11.6 million.

2. Turkey Creek Basin, Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri. On May 13, 2016, a report was transmitted to Congress on this flood damage reduction project. The project was originally authorized in Section 101(a)(24) of Public Law 106-53 for a total first cost of \$42,875,000. Section 123 of Division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, Public Law 108-7 modified the authorized total project cost to \$73,380,000, with a Federal cost of \$45,304,000 and a non-federal cost of \$28,076,000. The revised estimated first cost (October 2015 price levels) is \$152.5 million, with a Federal cost of \$97.1 million and a non-federal cost of \$55.4 million.

3. Paducah, Kentucky. On May 13, 2016, a report was transmitted to Congress on this flood damage reduction project. The project was originally authorized in Section 5077 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 for a total first cost of \$3,000,000. Section 7002(2) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 amended the authorized amount for a total project first cost of \$20,260,000, with a Federal cost of \$13,170,000 million and a non-federal cost of \$7,090,000. The revised estimated first cost (October 2015 price levels) is \$31.2 million, with a Federal cost of \$20.3 million and a non-federal cost of \$10.9 million.

There are four PACRs that are under Executive Branch review. These reports are:

- Swope Park Industrial Area, Blue River, Kansas City, Missouri
- Picayune Strand Restoration, Collier County, Florida
- Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels, Texas
- Rio de Flag, Arizona

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today and look forward to answering any questions you may have.