

Federal Update on the Infrastructure Bill

NEAL MCMILLIN, GOCA DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL AFFAIRS



GOVERNOR'S
OFFICE OF
COASTAL
ACTIVITIES

Recent Outreach on IJA

- Meeting with Associate Director for Climate, Energy, Environmental and Science at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- Meeting with Senate Minority Appropriations Clerk for the Energy and Water (E&W) Subcommittee, alongside staff from Sen. Kennedy, Ranking Member of E&W Subcommittee
- Virtual meeting with Michael Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
- Biweekly meetings with Governor Edwards' infrastructure bill lead
- Virtual meeting with Department on Interior and Sen. Cassidy staff on Interior's \$400 million ecosystem restoration program

Army Corps Funding Update

The supplemental disaster relief bill included around \$2 billion in funding for coastal and other flood protection projects in Louisiana, including:

- \$783 million for New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project
- \$453 million for West Shore Lake Pontchartrain
- \$163 million for Atchafalaya Basin
- \$128 million for Comite River Diversion
- \$94.3 million for Southeast Louisiana
- \$8 million for Upper Barataria Basin
- \$3.8 million for Grand Isle and Vicinity
- \$3.5 million for Bayou Segnette Waterway
- \$3 million for Tangipahoa Parish

Army Corps Funding Update

The spend plan for the supplemental disaster relief bill reserved the following amounts of funding:

- \$693 million of FCCE funding remaining for projects. Projects will receive an amount that would be determined after a completed Project Information Report. Such Louisiana projects mentioned in the work plan include: Grand Isle and Vicinity; New Orleans to Venice; and West Bank and Vicinity.
- \$410 million of O&M funding to repair damages from future storm events or from past events that are unknown.
- \$34 million remains in Investigations.
- \$20 million remains in Construction.
- MR&T funding is fully allocated.

Army Corps Funding Update

The **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** included over \$643 million in funding for 21 Louisiana coastal and water management projects, including:

- \$378.5 million for Morganza to the Gulf
- \$125 million for Southwest Coastal
- \$52.9 million for Atchafalaya Basin
- \$23.2 million for the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway
- \$15 million to repair the South Pass Jetties

Army Corps Funding Update

The spend plan for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act reserved the following amounts of funding:

- \$4.23 billion remains for Construction funding, spread over various categories. Future spend plans will arrive with direction on these funds for FY2023 and FY2024.
- \$2 billion remains for O&M funding, spread over FY2023 and FY2024
- \$40 million remains in Investigations.
- MR&T funding is fully allocated.
- FCCE funding is fully allocated.

Army Corps Funding Update

\$75 million for WIFIA credit assistance program

- Federal credit program to provide credit assistance to creditworthy borrowers for projects to maintain, upgrade and repair dams identified in the National Inventory of Dams owned by non-federal entities
- All qualifying non-federal dam safety projects under the Army Corps WIFIA program.
- \$64 million for loans and \$11 million for administration
- Newly funded program

FEMA Funding Update

\$3.5 billion for Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants

- The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program makes federal funds available to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures under the NFIP
- FEMA is distributing FY 2021 Flood Mitigation Assistance funding amount as follows:
 - Project scoping
 - Projects that address community flood risk for the purpose of reducing NFIP flood claim payments
 - Technical assistance to maintain a viable FMA program over time.
 - Planning sub-applications for the flood hazard component of Hazard Mitigation Plans.
- Funding available until expended
- Applications for Fiscal Year 2022 are expected to open no later than September 30th, 2022.

FEMA Funding Update

\$1 billion for Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

- The BRIC program makes federal funds available to states, U.S territories, federally recognized Tribal governments, and local communities for hazard mitigation activities.
- FEMA will provide financial assistance to BRIC applicants for the following:
 - Mitigation projects
 - Building capability and capacity
 - Workforce enhancement activities
 - Management costs
- Funding available until expended
- Applications for Fiscal Year 2022 are expected to open no later than September 30th, 2022.

FEMA Funding Update

\$500 million for Hazard Mitigation Revolving Loan Funds/Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act

- Capitalization grants to state and eligible Tribal governments for the establishment revolving loan funds to provide hazard mitigation assistance to local governments.
- Eligible applicants include a state or Indian Tribal Government that has received a major disaster declaration during the 5-year period ending on the date of enactment of the STORM Act.
- Funding available until expended
- Applications for Fiscal Year 2022 are expected to open no later than September 30th, 2022.

NOAA Funding Update

\$492 million for Flood and Inundation Mapping and Forecasting, Water Modeling, and Precipitation Studies

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will transform water prediction by delivering operational, continental-scale coastal and inland flood models and mapping capabilities. These capabilities include flood forecasts and projections that will provide actionable decision support services equitably delivered to communities across the nation.
- Coastal and inland flood and inundation mapping and forecasting and next-generation water modeling activities - including modernized precipitation frequency and probable maximum studies.
- Eligible applicants include states, counties, cities, special districts, tribal governments, public and private higher-ed institutions, nonprofits.
- Estimated application opening date, 2nd quarter 2022.

NOAA Funding Update

\$491 million for National Oceans and Coastal Security Fund

- The National Coastal Resilience Fund invests in conservation projects that restore or expand natural features such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands that minimize the impacts of storms and other naturally occurring events on nearby communities.
- Geographically, the NCRF funds will focus on coastal areas of U.S. coastal states, including the Great Lakes states, U.S. territories, and coastal Tribal lands.
- Eligible applicants include states, counties, cities, special districts, tribal governments, public and private higher-ed institutions, nonprofits.
- Estimated application opening date, 2nd quarter 2022.

NOAA Funding Update

\$491 million for Habitat Restoration

- NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation will have a competitive grants process with the purpose of restoring marine, estuarine, coastal, and Great Lakes ecosystem habitat, as well as constructing or protecting ecological features that protect coastal communities from flooding or coastal storms.
- NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation protects and restores habitat to sustain fisheries, recover protected species, and maintain resilient coastal ecosystems and communities. Typical projects include removing dams and other barriers, reconnecting coastal wetlands, and rebuilding coral and oyster reefs.
- Eligible applicants include states, counties, cities, special districts, tribal governments, public and private higher-ed institutions, nonprofits.
- Estimated application opening date, 2nd quarter 2022.

NOAA Funding Update

\$400 million Fish Passage grants

- Restoring fish passage by removing in-stream barriers and providing technical assistance pursuant to section 117 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act
- On the ground fish passage restoration projects, engineering and design, future project development phases, and building the capacity to design projects and manage multi-faceted construction efforts
- Two years of funding per tranche
- Estimated application opening date, 2nd quarter 2022.

NOAA Funding Update

\$207 million for Coastal Zone Management

- NOAA's Office for Coastal Management will implement these funds through grants with the purpose of restoring and protecting coastal ecosystems through direct investment in ecologically significant habitats.
- The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) established a national system of state and territorial CZMA Programs. These programs work with coastal states and territories to address urgent coastal issues including climate change, ocean planning, and planning for energy facilities and development. This funding will enable approved coastal programs **to protect and restore ecologically significant habitats**, including conserving lands that play a critical role in helping communities become more resilience to natural hazards.
- State would be the recipient
- Two years of funding per tranche
- Estimated application opening date, 2nd quarter 2022.

NOAA Funding Update

\$200 million for Marine Debris

- \$150 million for removal and cleanup of significant legacy debris such as abandoned and derelict vessels and derelict fishing gear, as well other priority debris types, that pose a threat to NOAA trust resources, the economy or navigation safety. Prevention of the re-accumulation of marine debris, as well as preventing common consumer debris from entering the marine environment. Assessment of the scope, scale, and distribution of marine debris in the environment through marine debris monitoring and detection investments.
- \$50 million for research and increasing capacity to eliminate barriers to marine debris prevention and removal.
- Estimated application opening date, 2nd quarter 2022.

NOAA Funding Update

\$77 million for National Estuarine Research Reserve System

- The National Estuarine Research Reserve System consists of estuarine areas of the United States and its territories designated and managed for research and educational purposes, called Reserves.
- Each reserve within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System is chosen to represent a different biogeographic region and to include a variety of ecosystem types.
- **Coastal habitat restoration**; coastal habitat restoration planning, engineering and design; **land conservation**
- Louisiana is working to finalize a reserve
- Estimated application opening date, 2nd quarter 2022.

NOAA Funding Update

\$56 million for Regional Ocean Partnerships

- Regional Ocean Partnerships are regional organizations voluntarily convened by governors working in collaboration with other governments and stakeholders to address ocean and coastal issues of common concern in that region.
- Regional Ocean Partnerships, along with equivalent organizations such as Integrated Ocean Observing System Regional Associations, also serve to enhance associated sharing and integration of Federal and non-federal data.
- Implementation of Regional Ocean Partnership priority actions identified in Regional Ocean Partnership work plans, including data sharing
- 2 year availability for contracts or cooperative agreements
- Estimated application opening date, 2nd quarter 2022.

Interior Funding Update

\$400 million for Grants to States And Tribes For Voluntary Ecosystem Restoration

- Grant program to States, territories, and Tribes for implementing voluntary ecosystem restoration projects on private or public lands.
- New program being stood up. Additional guidance coming later in the year.
- Department of Interior is accepting comments

Interior Funding Update

\$100 million for Invasive Species

- Funding for invasive species detection, prevention, and eradication on private or public lands
- Projects and programs for invasive species detection, prevention, and eradication, including conducting research and providing resources to facilitate detection of invasive species at points of entry and awarding grants for eradication of invasive species on non-Federal land and on Federal land
- Estimated application opening date is TBD

EPA Funding Update

\$11.7 billion for Clean Water State Revolving Fund

- The Clean Water State Revolving Fund program is a federal-state partnership that provides communities low-cost financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects.
- Revolving Fund programs provide financial assistance to local communities and publicly owned treatment systems for construction of wastewater and stormwater treatment facilities and collection systems; nonpoint source pollution management; construction, repair, or replacement of decentralized wastewater treatment systems; **construction of nature-based infrastructure solutions**; and other uses associated with the management of wastewater and stormwater.
- Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, 49 percent of funds shall be eligible to be grants or 100 percent principal forgiveness loans.
- Applicants apply through their State Revolving Fund program. State deadlines vary.

EPA Funding Update

\$11.7 billion for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

- The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund is a financial assistance program to help water systems and states to achieve the health protection objectives of the Safe Drinking Water Act. States are required to give priority for the use of funds to address the most serious risks to human health, ensure compliance the Safe Drinking Water Act, and assist systems most in need on a per household basis according to affordability.
- This revolving fund provides loans and grants to water systems for eligible infrastructure projects including: construction of expansion of drinking water treatment plants and/or distribution systems; improving drinking water treatment; fixing leaky or old pipes (water distribution); improving sources of water supply; replacing or constructing finished water storage tanks; other infrastructure projects needed to protect public health.
- Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, 49 percent of funds shall be eligible to be grants or 100 percent principal forgiveness loans.
- Applicants apply through their State Revolving Fund program. State deadlines vary.

EPA Funding Update

\$53 million for Gulf of Mexico Geographic Program grants

- The Gulf of Mexico Program is a non-regulatory program of the EPA founded to facilitate collaborative actions to protect, maintain, and restore the health and productivity of the Gulf of Mexico in ways consistent with the economic well-being of the Region. To carry out its mission, the Gulf of Mexico Program continues to maintain and expand partnerships with state and federal agencies, federally recognized Tribes, local governments and a range of stakeholders.
- Eligible uses include ecosystem and wetland restoration, stormwater treatment and control, nature-based infrastructure, community resilience, resilient shorelines, and environmental education.
- Available until expended
- Funding opportunity is TBD.

EPA Funding Update

\$53 million for Lake Pontchartrain Restoration Program grants

- This program carries out the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Comprehensive Management Plan.
- Program activities include conducting water quality monitoring of Lake Pontchartrain, educating basin residents on water protection and pollution prevention, evaluating sewer system designs and developing plans to upgrade or replace them in order to prevent or reduce water pollution.
- Available until expended
- Funding opportunity is TBD

EPA Funding Update

\$132 million for National Estuary Program grants

- The National Estuary Program goal is to protect and restore the water quality and resources of estuaries and associated watersheds designated by the EPA Administrator as estuaries of national significance.
- Implementation can include the following actions: **protecting and restoring habitat, including wetlands**; supporting water quality protection and restoration; monitoring and addressing toxics and pathogen loads and contamination; implementing stormwater management, reducing non-point source pollution impacts, and **green infrastructure**; preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species and/or managing their impacts; developing and implementing nutrient reduction strategies; and developing and implementing climate change adaptation strategies to promote coastal resilience
- Eligible recipients include the 28 National Estuaries, including **Barataria-Terrebonne** estuary
- Funding opportunity is TBD.

USDA Funding Update

\$500 million for Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

- Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Provides planning, design and construction of measures that address resource concerns in a watershed.
- Uses include flood prevention, watershed protection, public recreation, public fish and wildlife, agricultural water management, municipal and industrial water supply, or water quality management.
- Eligible sponsors include states, cities, counties, towns, conservation districts, or tribal organization.
- Available until expended
- Estimated application opening date, **1st quarter 2022.**

USDA Funding Update

\$300 million for Emergency Watershed Protection Program

- Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Provides for design and construction of measures to help repair damages from a recent disaster to safeguard life and property.
- Reduce threats to life or property by repairing severe soil erosion and impairments or restoring the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment in an economically/environmentally defensible & technically sound manner.
- Recipient would be a local sponsor representing owners, managers, and users of public, private, or Tribal lands are eligible for Emergency Watershed Protection Assistance if their watershed area has been damaged by a natural disaster.
- Estimated application opening date, **1st quarter 2022.**