



State of Louisiana

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Federal Update

FY24 Appropriations & FY25 Budget

FY 2024 Appropriations - Partially Passed

- ▶ After four continuing resolutions, Congress partially enacted 6 of the 12 FY24 appropriations bills by the March 8 deadline, over 5 months into the fiscal year.
- ▶ The House voted 339 - 85 in favor; the Senate voted 75 - 22 in favor. President Biden signed this partial appropriation on March 8.
- ▶ Congress passed Agriculture-FDA, Military Construction-VA, Energy & Water, Transportation-HUD, Interior & Environment, and Commerce-Justice-Science.
- ▶ This is the first time since 2018 that a 12-bill “omnibus” was not passed.
- ▶ Congress has until March 22 to enact Defense, Homeland Security, State & Foreign Operations, Legislative Branch, Labor-Health & Human Services-Education, and Financial Services.



FY 2024 Appropriations - Enacted Bills

Topline Numbers for Enacted Bills

Appropriations Bill	FY 2024 Total	Difference from FY23 Enacted
Agriculture-FDA	\$26.2B	+\$700M
Military Construction-VA	\$153.9B	-\$300M
Energy & Water	\$58.2B	+\$4.2B
Transportation-HUD	\$89.4B	+\$2.2B
Interior & Environment	\$38.9B	Level
Commerce-Justice- Science	\$66.5B	-\$13.9B



FY 2024 Appropriations - Notable Agencies

Topline Numbers for Notable Agencies

Agency	FY 2024 Total	Difference from FY23 Enacted
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	\$155.1M	-\$27.8M
Council on Environmental Quality	\$4.63M	-\$47K
EPA	\$9.15B	-\$977M
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	\$1.72B	-\$50.6M
NOAA	\$6.36B	+\$162M



FY 2024 Energy & Water (E&W) Appropriations

Energy & Water topline of \$58.19 billion

- ▶ \$50.2 billion to Department of Energy
- ▶ \$8.68 billion to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (\$21 million more than FY23 enacted)

Army Corps Funding

- ▶ Investigations: \$149.9M investigations, \$11.4M rescinded, total of \$131.58M
- ▶ Construction: \$1.854B construction, \$9.58M rescinded, total of \$1.845B
- ▶ Mississippi River & Tributaries: \$368M construction, \$1.1M rescinded, total of \$366M
- ▶ Operations & Maintenance: \$5.552B
- ▶ Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund: \$2.771B
- ▶ Regulatory Program: \$221M
- ▶ Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program: \$300M
- ▶ Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies: \$35M
- ▶ WIFIA Revolving Loan Program (dams): \$7.2M



Army Corps Funding to Coastal LA Projects

Budgeted Projects Funded

\$185.3M - Mississippi River, Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico O&M
\$62.42M - Atchafalaya River & Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black O&M
\$36.8M - Calcasieu River and Pass O&M
\$20.68M - Atchafalaya Basin & Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System O&M
\$19.1M - Gulf Intracoastal Waterway O&M
\$18M - Calcasieu River and Pass (+\$9M via Cassidy CDS)
\$11.34M - Old River O&M
\$9.1M - Freshwater Bayou O&M
\$5.76 - Houma Navigation Canal O&M
\$4.875M - Louisiana Coastal Area
\$4.8M - Mississippi River Outlets at Venice
\$3.6M - Bonnet Carré Spillway O&M
\$3.5M - Bayou Lafourche and Lafourche Jump Waterway O&M
\$2.5M - Lower Mississippi River Comprehensive Management Study
\$2M - Mississippi Delta Region O&M
\$800K - Bayou Sorrel Lock Investigation
\$600K - Lafitte Investigation

Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) / Community Project Funding

\$28M - Morganza to the Gulf (Cassidy/Graves/Scalise)
\$500K - Houma Navigational Canal Investigation (Cassidy/Graves/Scalise)
+\$500K - Mermentau River O&M (Higgins)
\$250K - Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Ecosystem Restoration (Cassidy)

Note: Sen. Kennedy secured his first E&W CDS in FY24, \$36.5M for J. Bennett Johnston Waterway. He is the Ranking Member of the Energy & Water Subcommittee.



Additional Valuable Provisions in E&W for LA

Resiliency Funding Unlocked: With assistance from Sen. Kennedy, Congressman Graves secured provisions in the bill text of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2024 to benefit the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain project. Once deemed fully funded at \$760 million, the project had received an additional \$450 million from a disaster supplemental for resiliency improvements. Yet with cost escalations, the appropriated funding was inadequate to complete the project, but the additional \$450 million was locked away until the project was finished. The provisions allowed those dollars to be deployed to funding the ongoing construction of West Shore. The provision also helped Comite River Diversion.

Flexibility for BBA18 Projects: Congress repurposed unspent Army Corps funds from the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) to be eligible for completing Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA18) projects.

Additionally, Congress removed a prohibition on using funding from outside the BBA18 for the those projects. This means these BBA18 projects can pursue funds through normal Army Corps appropriations. Louisiana BBA18 projects include investigations of Amite River & Tributaries, St. Tammany Parish, Upper Barataria, South Central Coastal, WBV and LPV Levee Lifts GRR, as well as construction projects for Carrollton Floodwall, Comite River Diversion, East Baton Rouge, Grand Isle, and West Shore Lake Pontchartrain.



Emphasis on Better Cost Estimates

Congress has been greatly concerned with the cost overruns for Army Corps projects.

One identified problem is that the Army Corps ends up finding out a lot more about the true cost of a project during the Preconstruction Engineering & Design (PED) phase, instead of the initial investigations phase. The Corps has to keep an investigation in the cost and time parameters (commonly \$3 million over three years, known as a 3 by 3). The execution of studies in these constraints is often inadequate for truly assessing billion dollar plus projects, resulting in potentially huge cost overruns - often after Congress has already authorized the project.

To address this, the Energy & Water bill contains language to make the Army Corps change its approach to budgeting for investigations.

On a parallel track, the Army Corps is directed to request funding to do updated cost estimates through the PED phase, such as it will do with the MRGO Ecosystem Restoration.

Preconstruction, Engineering, and Design (PED).—The agreement recognizes a fundamental flaw with the current policies the Corps uses to plan and design projects. Specifically, the Corps shifts risk to PED to comply with study duration and cost metrics. At the same time water resources development projects are increasingly complex and more frequently multi-billion dollar projects. The combination of these two phenomena produces significant cost inaccuracies and uncertainties that are not discovered nor addressed until after a project is authorized, or worse, after construction begins. The budget recommendations fail to address or acknowledge this flaw because sufficient PED has not been completed to reduce risk before construction. Rather, the willingness to advance Chief's reports and move projects into construction with minimal design in order to keep an artificial cap on the Investigations account exacerbates increased costs over the duration of a construction project. The Corps is expected to make changes that address these challenges in order for non-federal sponsors, the Corps, and the Committees to have more clarity of project scope, challenges, and cost estimates before construction commences.

Project Cost Updates.—Corps policy requires regular updates of the economics and costs of authorized projects that have not yet received construction funds, but such updates are not feasible without dedicated funds. The agreement provides funding for updates to authorized projects that have not received construction funds where those updates are necessary to recertify project costs or verify economic justification. The Corps is encouraged to recommend funding in future budget submissions for these activities.

Language from
FY24 E&W Bill,
pg. 12 & 13 of
this [PDF](#).



Congressionally Directed Spending to CPRA from CJS

CPRA requested \$3 million to deploy and/or harden 10 data collection gauges in Southeast LA. These gauges will be part of the Coastwise Reference Monitoring System (CRMS). Over the past decade, many of these gauges have suffered repeated damages, including total loss, from hurricanes. These damages result in critical data gaps. With these new hardened gauges, these data platforms will be able to withstand storms and provide key data on salinity, water levels, and other information necessary for project monitoring and coastal management.

Senator Cassidy successfully championed this request through the Commerce-Justice-Science bill as part of the NOAA Operations, Research, and Facilities funding opportunity.

 **BILL CASSIDY, M.D.** U.S. Senator for Louisiana

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Coastal Louisiana Deployment and Hardening of Gauges and Data Collection Platforms

Member Name and State: Bill Cassidy, M.D. Louisiana

Recipient Name: Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

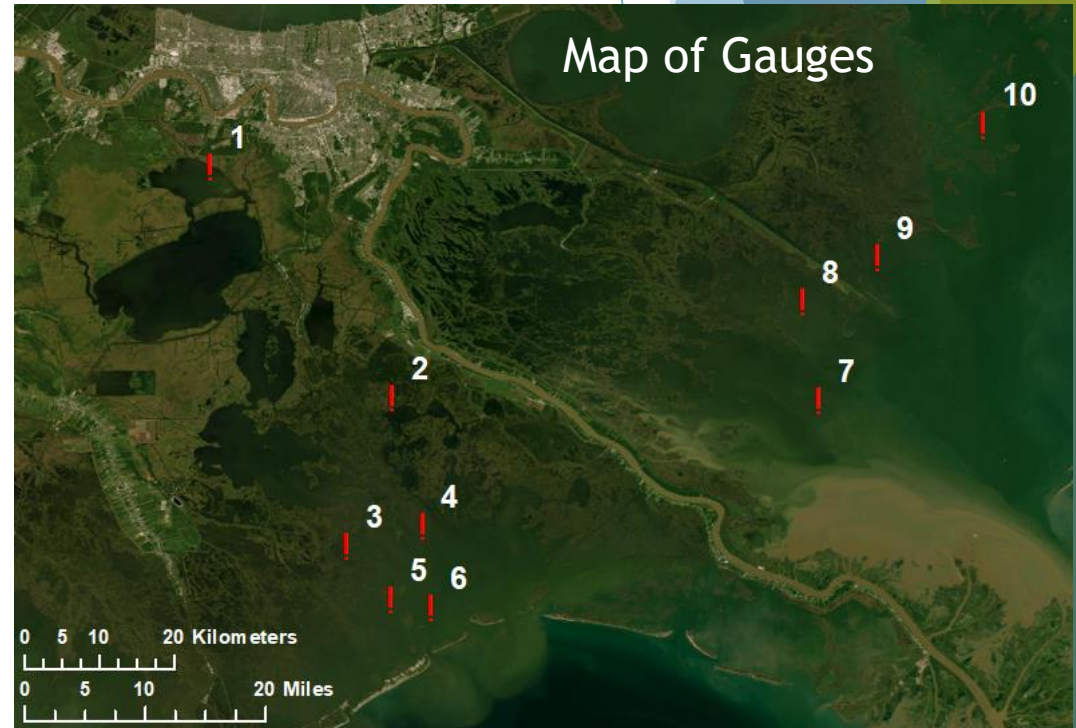
Project Purpose: This funding would be utilized to deploy and harden gauges/data along the east and west side of the Mississippi River

Project Location: City of Baton Rouge, LA

Amount Requested: \$3 million

Financial Certification: [Letter](#)

DOC	NOAA—ORF	University of Delaware	Lewes, DE	Fisheries & Aquaculture Innovation Center	1,265,000		Carper, Coons	S
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority	City of Baton Rouge, LA	Gauges and Data Collection Systems	3,000,000		Cassidy	S
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development	City of Baton Rouge, LA	Lower Mississippi River Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System Sensors	400,000		Cassidy	S
DOC	NOAA—ORF	Good Shepherd Food Bank	Portland, ME	Maine Seafood and Community Partnership	750,000		Collins, King	S



FY 25 President's Budget Released

After previewing it at the State of the Union address, President Biden released his **\$7.2 trillion FY 2025 budget** on March 11.

Notable Cross-Agency Funding Priorities for Coastal

Budget proposes **\$23 billion** in **climate adaptation and resilience** across the Dept. of Commerce (NOAA), Dept. of Interior, Dept. of Homeland Security (FEMA), Dept. of Agriculture, Army Corps, EPA, and Dept. of Defense. This includes *“resources for flood hazard mapping, including development of new data to support future flood conditions so that communities and Americans have the most up-to-date information regarding their flood risk.”*

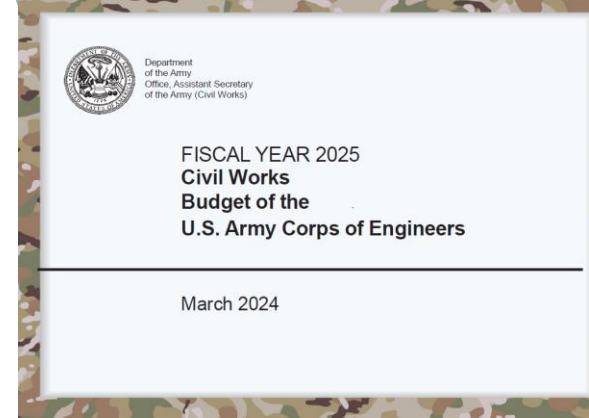
Budget commits over **\$1 billion** to support **environmental permitting capacity** for environmental review and permitting processes that are *“effective, efficient, and transparent, guided by science, and shaped by early and meaningful public engagement and input.”*

FY25 Appropriations Process Begins

With the release of this budget, Congress will soon start accepting funding requests for FY25. Some member are already accepting requests. Submission deadlines to the appropriations committees have not been announced yet, but stay tuned.



FY 2025 Budget for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



President Biden’s guiding budget goals for the Army Corps are to 1) decrease climate risk for communities and increase ecosystem resilience to climate change 2) promote environmental justice through Justice 40 and create good paying jobs and 3) strengthen supply chain.

Army Corps FY25 budget proposes **\$7.22 billion for the Civil works program**, including \$3 billion for navigation, \$1.58 billion for flood and storm damage reduction, and \$1.2 billion for aquatic ecosystem restoration.

Budget proposes \$2 billion for construction, including \$49M from MR&T. It proposes \$4.3 billion for Operations & Maintenance, including \$182M from MR&T. Investigations are budgeted at \$124M, including \$13 million from MR&T.

Notable Coastal Louisiana Budget Numbers:

- \$19.97M for Louisiana Coastal Area construction
- \$18M for Calcasieu River construction
- \$2M to complete LPV PED investigation



NFWF's 2024 America the Beautiful Challenge

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced a \$119 million [request for proposals](#) for 2024 America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC) for voluntary conservation and restoration projects. This opportunity leverages funding from Dept. of Interior, the Dept. of Defense, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This is the third year of the America the Beautiful Challenge.

Funding priorities include:

- ▶ Conserving and restoring rivers, coasts, wetlands, and watersheds
- ▶ Conserving and restoring forests, grasslands, and important ecosystems that serve as carbon sinks
- ▶ Connecting and reconnecting wildlife corridors, large landscapes, watersheds, and seascapes
- ▶ Improving ecosystem and community resilience to flooding, drought, and other climate-related threats
- ▶ Expanding access to the outdoors, particularly in underserved communities

Key Dates

- April 4 - Pre-proposal due
- July 15 - Full proposal due (invitation only)



National Coastal Resilience Fund

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation released its [request for proposals](#) for approximately \$140 million through the 2024 National Coastal Resilience Fund. The program is primarily funded by NOAA, but with some funding from partners such as Shell and Occidental.

Funded projects are for planning, design, and implementation of natural and nature-based solutions to enhance protection of coastal communities and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

Key Dates

- April 10 - Pre-proposal due
- Mid-End May - Full proposal invitations
- July 2 - Full proposal due (invite only)
- Late Nov./Early Dec. - Awards announced

Note: The RISEE Act proposes to dedicate 12.5% of offshore wind revenues to this funding source through competitive grants and formula funding to coastal states.



FY21/FY22 Lake Pontchartrain Basin Program RFP

- ▶ Lake Pontchartrain Restoration Program, an EPA program, has opened the Request for Proposals for the FY21 and FY22 awards.
- ▶ Approximately **\$1,952,746** in funding is available for restoration and preservation efforts that support the ecological health of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin.
- ▶ Additionally, Congress provided \$2.2 million for FY23, \$2.2 million for FY24, and \$10.248 million annually for FY22-FY26 through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- ▶ Proposals are due by April 11 at 4:00 pm. No late proposals will be accepted.
- ▶ Direct any RFP questions to University of New Orleans' Blair Bourgeois, bbourgeois@thebeachuno.org.



NOAA Administrator Spinrad Visit to Bucktown

On February 21, Jefferson Parish hosted NOAA Administrator Dr. Rick Spinrad to visit the Bucktown Living Shoreline.

His remarks highlighted the benefits of protecting the protection, providing habitat, increasing accessibility and quality of life, and preserving the culture identity of the area. He said the project “epitomizes” the balance between “environmental stewardship” and “economic development.”

NOAA provided \$4.5 million through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to provide the remaining funding needed for phase 1 of the first living shoreline to protect a federal levee system.

Other sources of funding include National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, \$1 million from the state, \$4 million in GOMESA, and \$3.5 million from CPRA.

CPRA has applied for additional IRA funding to extend this project, through NOAA’s Climate Resilience Challenge, though Spinrad noted there was high demand for those funds.

