



State of Louisiana

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Federal Update

New Admin, New Approps Season

Neal McMillin
Director of Federal Affairs
LA Department of Energy & Natural Resources
March 19, 2025

Key Trump Administration Figures

Confirmed

Doug Burgum, Secretary of Interior

Lee Zeldin, EPA Administrator

Russ Vought, OMB Director



Nominated

Dr. Neil Jacobs, NOAA Administrator

Brian Nesvik, US Fish & Wildlife Service Director



Nominee To Be Decided

Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works

FEMA Administrator

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Director



Notable President Trump Executive Orders

EO 14148, Initial Rescissions of Harmful Executive Orders and Actions
Removes Government-wide approach to climate, environmental justice focus, and pro-union infrastructure policies.

EO 14154, Unleashing American Energy
Prioritizes energy exploration and production, expedites energy permitting, and terminates 'Green New Deal' policies.

EO 14156, Declaring a National Energy Emergency
Aims to give legal justification for expediting permitting for energy projects.

EO 14172, Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness
Renames the Gulf of Mexico to Gulf of America

EO 14213, Establishing the National Energy Dominance Council
Elevates energy issues to the White House via Dept. of Interior Leadership.

EO 14192, Unleashing Prosperity through Deregulation
Establishes goal of ten regulations removed for each additional regulation issued.

Memo: Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects
Pause on most federal actions related to wind.



National Energy Dominance Council leadership visits Plaquemines Parish for Venture Global expansion announcement in March 2025.
Photo credit Jack Brock, AP.

DoD Revokes Project Labor Agreement Mandate

Background

- **Project Labor Agreement (PLA):** a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement between a construction union and a contractor, establishing terms and conditions of employment for a specific project, including wages, benefits, and dispute resolution.
- President Biden's [EO 14063](#) mandated PLAs for federal construction contacts over \$35 million.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would have to enter into a PLA for certain civil works projects, including those that CPRA serves as the non-Federal sponsor such as West Shore Lake Pontchartrain.
- Thanks to Congressman Higgins, CPRA's Glenn Ledet was invited to testify to the House Oversight Committee on the concerns about cost escalation, reduced bids, project delays, and reduced Louisiana workforce opportunities.

SUBJECT: Class Deviation—Waiver of Project Labor Agreement Requirements

Effective immediately, contracting officers shall not use project labor agreements for large-scale construction projects, implemented at Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) subpart 22.5 and 36.104(c). Contracting officers shall amend solicitations to remove project labor agreement requirements, including any solicitation provisions and contract clauses prescribed at FAR 22.505.

This class deviation remains in effect until rescinded. Direct questions to DPCAP/DARS at osd.dfars@mail.mil.

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John M. Tenaglia
Principal Director,
Defense Pricing, Contracting, and
Acquisition Policy

PLA Mandate Rescinded

- On February 7, the Dept. of Defense removed the PLA requirement, instructing the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement) to instead refrain from using PLAs. This instruction applies to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects.



New Louisiana Delegation Roles & Absences

Senator John Kennedy

- Chairman of Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Jurisdiction U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Congresswoman Julia Letlow

- Joined National Security, Dept. of State Appropriations Subcommittee
 - Departed Energy & Water Appropriations Subcommittee



House Transportation & Infrastructure

- Oversees U.S. Army Corps of Engineers policy, such as WRDA
- No Louisiana representation, as Rep. Carter changed committees and former Rep. Graves departed Congress



House Natural Resources

- Oversees Department of Interior policies, such as GOMESA
- No Louisiana representation, as former Rep. Graves departed Congress



Full-Year Continuing Resolution for FY25 Passed

[H.R. 1968](#), the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations & Extensions Act of 2025 was signed into law on March 15. The law funds the federal government through September 30, 2025.

Key Takeaways

No Congressional report language enacted.

USACE funding will be allocated by work plan to active projects.

- \$143M Investigations
- \$1.8B Construction
- \$368M MR&T
- \$5.5B O&M

FY24 repurposed \$1.4B in unobligated USACE funds from IIJA to Construction. Those funds are not available for FY25.

FY25 earmarks removed. FY24 earmarks remain.

FY26 Appropriations Requests Solicited

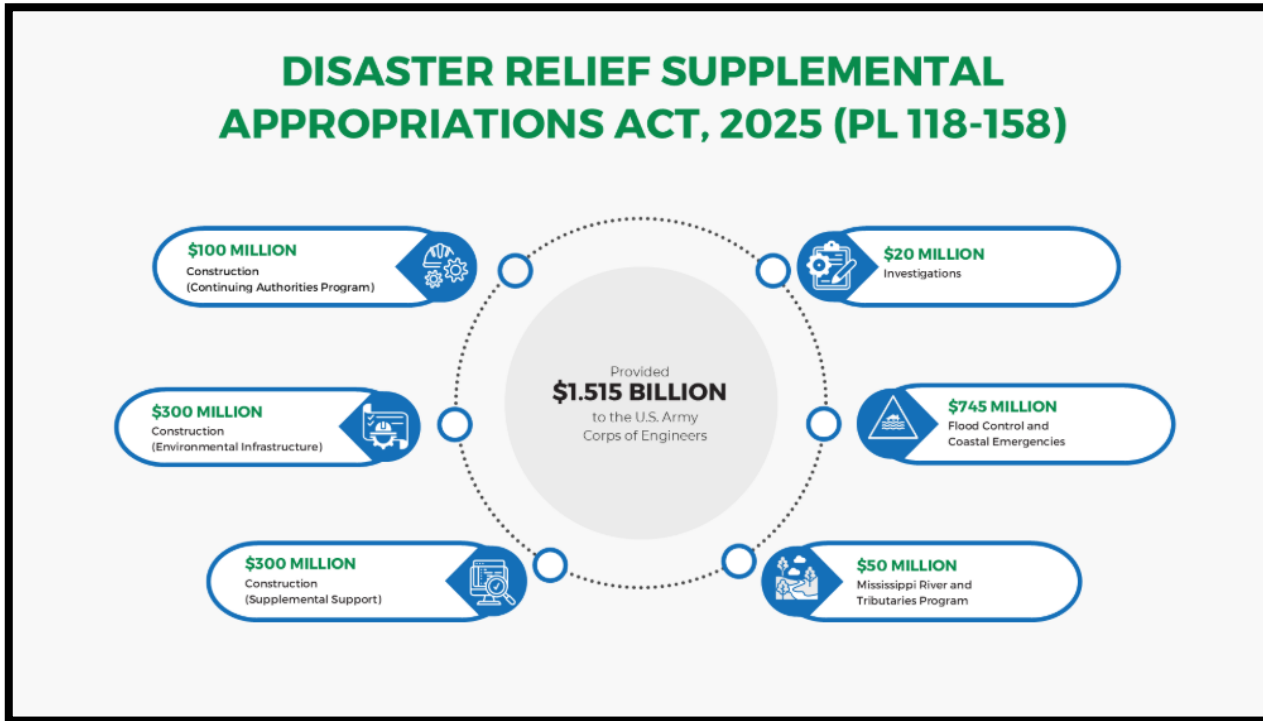
- Senator Cassidy - Due March 28
- Congresswoman Letlow - Due March 28
- Leader Scalise - Due March 28
- Remaining delegation - TBD

Removed Coastal Earmarks

Earmark	Value	Sponsor
Morganza	\$93 M	Cassidy, Kennedy, Scalise
Southwest Coastal	\$20 M	Kennedy
WBV	\$11.7 M	Kennedy
Upper Barataria Basin	\$10 M	Cassidy, Kennedy
MRGO Ecosystem	\$5 M	Cassidy, Kennedy
Southwest LA	\$1.9 M	Higgins
Lower MS River	\$3.5 M	Cassidy
St. Tammany	\$3.25 M	Cassidy, Kennedy, Scalise
South Central Coastal	\$1 M	Kennedy, Higgins
LPV	\$500 K	Kennedy
Pointe Celeste	\$200 K	Kennedy



USACE Releases American Relief Act Work Plan



MR&T Work Plan

ARMY CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025 MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES (MR&T) SPEND PLAN - AS OF 14 MARCH 2025				
STATE	DIVISION	PROGRAM NAME	TOTAL ALLOCATION	SUMMARY OF WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH ALLOCATION
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE				
AR	MVD	LOWER ARKANSAS RIVER, NORTH BANK, AR	850,000	Funds will be used to repair 4 slides
AR	MVD	LOWER ARKANSAS RIVER, SOUTH BANK, AR	650,000	Funds will be used to repair 5 slides
AR	MVD	MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEES, AR, IL, KY, LA, MO, MS & TN	24,730,000	Funds will be used to repair 42 slides
LA	MVD	ATCHAFALYA BASIN, LA	5,745,000	Funds will be used to repair 6 slides on the East Atchafalaya Levee and West Atchafalaya Levee
LA	MVD	MISSISSIPPI DELTA REGION, LA	1,030,000	Funds will be used to repair 2 eroded areas on the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion East Levee and debris removal and levee section repair on the East and West Guide Levees
LA	MVD	OLD RIVER, LA	4,620,000	Funds will be used to repair 6 slides
LA	MVD	TENSAS BASIN, RED RIVER BACKWATER, LA	5,750,000	Funds will be used to repair 54 slides
MS	MVD	YAZOO BASIN, MAIN STEM, MS	4,500,000	Funds will be used to repair 22 slides
MS	MVD	YAZOO BASIN, TRIBUTARIES, MS	750,000	Funds will be used to repair 5 slides on the Hillside Floodway North levee segment
MS	MVD	YAZOO BASIN, WILL M. WITTINGTON AUXILIARY CHANNEL, MS	775,000	Funds will be used to repair 7 slides
MS	MVD	YAZOO BASIN, YAZOO BACKWATER AREA, MS	600,000	Funds will be used to repair 12 slides
TOTAL			50,000,000	

Louisiana Funding - ~\$21.4M

- \$4.3M - Livingston Parish Environmental Infrastructure
- \$5.7M - Atchafalaya Basin
- \$1M - MS Delta Region- Davis Pond levee
- \$4.6M - Old River
- \$5.7M - Tensas Basin, Red River Backwater
- *\$24.7M - Mississippi River Levee repairs in various states, including Louisiana*

Construction Work Plan

ARMY CIVIL WORKS PROGRAM DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025 CONSTRUCTION WORK PLAN - (SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORT ONLY) - AS OF 14 MARCH 2025									
STATE	DIVISION	BUSINESS PROGRAM 1/	STUDY OR PROGRAM	SUMMARY OF WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED WITH ALLOCATION	TOTAL ALLOCATION	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28+
AK	POD	FDRC	ALASKA COASTAL EROSION, AK - BARROW	Funds will be used to complete construction.	76,300,000				76,300,000
NJ	NAD	FDRR	RARITAN RIVER BASIN, GREEN BROOK SUB-BASIN, NJ	Funds will be used to complete construction of the current Lower Basin and Stony Brook flood risk management features.	223,700,000				223,700,000
TOTAL					300,000,000	0	0	0	300,000,000

1/ KEY:	BUSINESS PROGRAM
FDRC	FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION COASTAL
FDRR	FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION RIVERINE

FY25 Budget Reconciliation Update

Senate Action

The Senate passed its Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal year 2025 52-48 on February 25.

The resolution instructs committees to adjust spending by \$340 billion for FY25-FY34 related to the border, defense, and energy, with offsets.

House Action

In a major win for Speaker Johnson, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 passed the House 217 - 215 on February 25. The

The resolution provides instructions for \$4.6T in tax provisions, offset by \$2T in spending cuts.

Next Step

The committees named in the budget resolution will report legislation in line with the directives from the budget resolution.

The Budget Committee in each chamber will package these responses together into a single bill.



Speaker Johnson on Feb. 24, 2025. Kent Nishimura, Getty Images.

“We got it done. This is the first important step in opening up the reconciliation process. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us. We are going to deliver the America First agenda.” - Speaker Johnson



WRDA 2024 Public Comment Period Open

WRDA 2024, the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act

Timing

On March 6, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the 60-day comment period for WRDA 2024, which concludes on April 28.

Submission Guide

Comments to Docket COE-2024-0004 can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal, email, or mail. See [here](#) for details.

Upcoming Virtual Listening Sessions

(Webex Link)

- March 26, 1-3 CST
- April 2, 1-3 CST (tribal focus)
- April 9, 1-3 CST



The screenshot shows a Federal Register notice titled "Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 Comment Period and Stakeholder Sessions". The notice is dated 02/27/2025 and is issued by the Engineers Corps. It indicates a comment period ending on 04/28/2025. The document is identified as "PUBLISHED DOCUMENT: 2025-03143 (90 FR 10818)". The agency is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, DoD. The action is a request for comments and announcement of stakeholder sessions. The summary states that the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (OASA(CW)) is seeking public comment on any provisions in the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2024. The OASA(CW) will consider all comments received during the 60-day public comment period.





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Questions?