

The Continuing Authorities Program

The District Engineer, armed with favorable answers to the four recon-phase questions and an agreement from the sponsor to share study costs, submits the Recon Report to his Division Engineer for approval. If the Division approves, the District can then begin a broader feasibility investigation to find out if the proposed plan is feasible.

The completed feasibility report, which is referred to as the Detailed Project Report (DPR), contains the engineering and design details necessary for project approval.

Upon completion of the DPR, your agency must furnish a letter of intent to provide necessary local cooperation for the project.

If the Division Engineer approves the DPR submitted by the District on its technical merits, it is sent to the Chief of Engineers for project authorization. Approval of the DPR opens the door to preparation of construction plans and specifications.

The speed with which the Corps undertakes each step depends on the availability of funds provided through the Federal budgetary process.

Every local cooperation project must com-

pete for funding against other proposed projects on the national level.

Local Cooperation means the Chief of Engineers will only provide funds for a project after the District Engineer receives assurance in writing that local government will share costs or provide specific services.

For example, your local contributions may include guarantees of these types of services: - Cost share with us during feasibility studies - Acquire real estate for construction needs and/or relocate the structures and occupants out of the project area. - Cost share with us during construction. - Operate and maintain the project after construction. - Enforce flood plain zoning regulations. - Hold and save the United States free from damages due to construction. - Assure us you will maintain public access to all docking areas and boat supplies. - Assure us you will maintain public access to all public beaches and facilities.

Federal costs are limited to those shown in the table. If the proposed project will cost more, the local sponsor must satisfy the excess costs with a cash contribution. The sponsor may also stop the investigation of a project at any time by telling the District Engineer it is unable or unwilling to continue.

MAKE IT LEGAL

At the end of the DPR stage the sponsoring agency should be ready to sign a Local Cooperation Agreement (LCA) with the Corps about who is going to do what before, during and after project construction. The LCA is, of course, more formal than the letter of intent required earlier. It must be signed, or cosigned, by a chief legal officer.

For more information on how to apply, contact your District Engineer. Write to:

District Engineer
USAED, Galveston
ATTN: CESWG-PL-P
P. O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229.
or call:

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Sample Letter

District Engineer
U. S. Army Engineer District, Galveston
P. O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Sir:

This letter is to seek the assistance of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers under (Reference authority under which assistance is requested and identify the type and location of the problem).

(Briefly describe your perception of the nature and severity of the problem).

(Briefly acknowledge the study and construction cost-sharing requirement and state an interest in sponsoring a project. This letter does not obligate a sponsor to share costs).

Your consideration of the request would be appreciated. Please contact (name, address, telephone) for further coordination.

Sincerely,

(Signed by authorized representative of local government)



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Galveston District

The Continuing Authorities Program

When water resources problems are mentioned, many people immediately think of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers..... a fact proven by the numerous letters received asking for our help. The nature of the questions raised encouraged us to prepare this pamphlet, which explains how the Corps of Engineers Galveston District may help you solve water resources problems and can provide you with technical assistance.



Signing a Local Cooperation Agreement.

The Continuing Authorities Program

THE PROGRAM

The Continuing Authorities Program provides the Corps with the authority to respond quickly to water resources problems. Congress has authorized the Corps to construct small projects within certain funding limits. This pre-authorization saves considerable time in development and approval of projects by allowing the Corps to proceed without waiting on the usual legislative process.

KINDS OF PROJECTS

There are different kinds of projects that come under the Continuing Authorities Program. A brief description of each project follows:

Flood Control Projects may include construction of items such as levees, floodwalls, reservoirs for storage of floodwaters, channel improvements or removal of flood prone facilities from the flood plain.

Navigation Projects may include dredging of channels, harbors and turning basins for commercial and recreation vessels.

Bank and Shoreline Protection Projects include emergency construction, repair, restoration and modification of streambanks to protect highways, bridge approaches, churches, hospitals, schools, water and sewer treatment works and other types of nonprofit public services.

Snagging and Clearing for Flood Control or Navigation involves one time removal of snags, trees, collapsed piers, ship wrecks, etc., in rivers, harbors and waterways.

Beach Erosion Control Projects cover construction of revetments, groins, jetties and placement of sand on public beaches.

Mitigation of Shore Damage Attributable to Navigation Works covers investigation, study and construction of projects to prevent or compensate for any damages along the coastlines of the United States which are caused by a Federal navigation project.

Summary of Continuing Authorities		
Project	Authority	Maximum Fed. Limit
Navigation	Section 107 1960 River and Harbor Act, as amended.	\$4,000,000
Flood Control	Section 205, 1948 Flood Control Act as amended.	\$5,000,000
Beach Erosion	Section 103, 1962 River and Harbor Act as amended.	\$2,000,000
Snagging and Clearing for Navigation	Section 3, 1945 River and Harbor Act as amended.	\$1,000,000
Snagging and Clearing for Flood Control	Section 208, 1954 Flood Control Act as amended.	\$500,000

Project	Authority	Maximum Fed. Limit
Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection	Section 14, 1946 Flood Control Act as amended	\$500,000
Mitigation of Shore Damage Attributable to Navigation Works	Section 111, 1968 River and Harbor Act as amended.	\$2,000,000

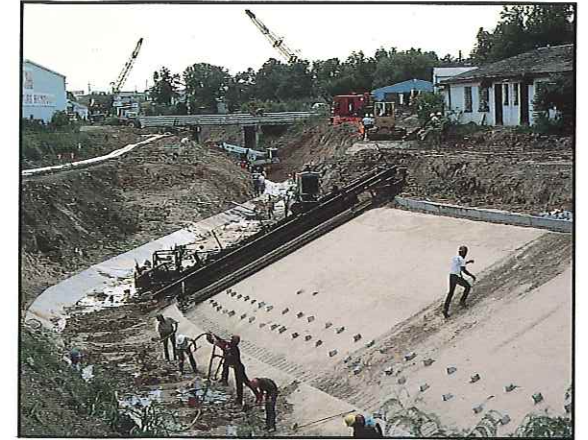
HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

You can obtain Corps assistance merely by writing to the District Engineer whose address appears on the back.

The letter must be signed by an official representative of a state, county, city or other political subdivision. The request must come from a government representative because local cost-sharing is required by law, and it can only be provided by an agency of local government.



Flooding is a major threat on Texas' Gulf coast.



Flood control works on a bayou in Houston.

PLANNING COMES NEXT

Two planning steps are necessary before deciding whether or not to request construction money. The first phase is a Reconnaissance Study and Report which will be fully funded by the Corps.

Your letter to the District Engineer triggers preparation of a Recon Report. This is a brief report relying mostly on existing facts to answer these four questions:

1. Is there a need for the Federal Government to do this project?
2. Does the authority cited in the table allow the Federal Government to participate?
3. Is your agency (or some other) capable of satisfying the legal and financial requirements of "local cooperation" just mentioned?
4. Can the work be done at a reasonable cost compared to the benefits of solving the problem identified in the Recon Report?

A "Yes" answer to question 3 usually requires an agreement to share half of the costs of more detailed studies.