

ASBPA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AGENDA FOR 2009

Founded in 1926, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association represents the scientific, technical and political interests along the coast in an effort to shape national coastal research and policies that promote responsible stewardship of America's coastal resources. The following outline of ASBPA's Government Affairs Agenda for 2009 lists the major federal policy initiatives needed to accomplish that objective. More information on this agenda can be obtained by emailing beaches@asbpa.org.

1. ASBPA supports increased funding for beach restoration projects and coastal studies throughout the nation and urges the Administration to include them in its budget recommendations. ASBPA respectfully reminds Congress that it is essential that priority be given to funding the periodic nourishments to which Congress has made a statutory commitment. In addition, ASBPA urges Congress to fund new beach nourishment study and construction starts, and permit projects to move seamlessly from study to design to construction. *ASBPA estimates the cost of providing adequate federal funding for all beach restoration projects and studies in FY 2010 to be over \$275 million, which will be matched by over \$100 million from states and localities.*
2. ASBPA supports passage of a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in 2009 to return to a biennial cycle that ensures vital water resource projects are executed in a timely fashion. ASBPA supports inclusion in WRDA of legislative language to give equal status to beach nourishment projects whose primary purpose is storm damage reduction, environmental restoration, or recreation, as well as language to provide a process to extend federal fiscal participation in beach nourishment projects beyond 50 years. In addition, ASBPA supports legislative language that enables authorizes non-federal sponsors to initiate feasibility studies for beach nourishment projects as well as other technical changes in statutes that pertain to shoreline erosion caused by federal navigation projects and reimbursable beach nourishment projects.
3. ASBPA supports increased funding for FEMA's pre-disaster mitigation program and urges that agency to recognize the significant damage mitigation benefits derived from nourished beaches.
4. ASBPA supports funding of at least \$1 million for each of the next three fiscal years for the "Study of Rising Oceans" authorized in WRDA '86 to determine the impacts of climate change on existing water resource projects for shore protection, environmental restoration, and navigation.

5. ASBPA also supports funding for the following critical coastal programs: the National Shoreline Erosion Control Program at no less than \$5 million; the National Shoreline Management Study at no less than \$1 million; the “Regional Sediment Management (RSM) Demonstration Program” and the new “Section 2037” RSM program at a combined level of no less than \$10 million.
6. ASBPA supports at least \$10 million annually for the National Science Foundation to advance coastal engineering education and research. A National Research Council study from 1999 recommended a National Science Foundation administered program with an annual budget of \$10 million to advance research in coastal engineering and to increase the number of coastal engineers being educated in the United States.
7. ASBPA supports funding for the National Sea Grant program at no less than \$75.6 million in FY 2010. This is consistent with the amount authorized in the recently enacted National Sea Grant College Program Amendments Act (P.L. 110-394).
8. ASBPA supports legislative changes that will give recreation, environmental restoration and storm damage reduction equal status in formulating beach nourishment projects; enable local sponsors to initiate and complete a shore protection feasibility study; and create a clear, statutory procedure for re-authorizing Federal fiscal participation in shore protection projects beyond the current 50-year limit.

ASBPA remains committed to providing factual, science-based information on the issues affecting America’s coastal communities and resources. ASBPA pledges to work with Congress, the Administration, and public and private sector water resource interests to achieve the objectives outlined above.

Further information about these issues can be found on ASBPA’s website (www.asbpa.org). Questions or comments should be emailed to beaches@asbpa.org