

## **\$5 Billion in Water Resource Projects Needed to Boost the Nation's Economy**

**JOBS: \$5 billion in water resource projects will create over 140,000 new jobs.** Of this total, almost 40,000 would be new private sector jobs with average salaries ranging from \$38,000 to \$42,500. Over 100,000 additional new jobs would be created in industries supplying the water resource projects funded by the stimulus and the goods and services needed by the workers and their families.

**USING THE NATION'S WATERWAYS TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY.** The nation's Marine Transportation System contributes 30% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product through movement of products for domestic use and export. Approximately 94% of the nation's commercial import and export commerce, valued at over \$620 billion, is moved on Federal channels and waterways. The stimulus funding will improve channel availability of our coastal ports from 32% to 95% and boost inland waterway lock and channel reliability and availability by reducing lock closures due to mechanical failures from 27,000 hours to 10,000 hours/year. Increased waterborne commerce will also mean more goods moving by rail and highway, creating more new jobs.

**REDUCING COASTAL HAZARDS.** There are several coastal protection projects scheduled for periodic nourishment in order to maintain the level of storm damage protection that Congress authorized and, therefore, requires. In addition, there are at least two new coastal protection projects that have been authorized by Congress and are ready for construction. In some areas, sand obtained from navigation projects can be placed on or near the shoreline to reduce the damaging wave energy of storms. The American Shore & Beach Preservation Association also urges that up to \$1 million of stimulus funds be allocated to expedite completion of ongoing feasibility studies for coastal protection in states on the Gulf and East coasts and the Great Lakes.

**IMPROVING DAM SAFETY.** There are several dams operated by the Corps of Engineers whose water control structures and gates are over 50 years old. These need to be repaired so they can continue to offer the level of safety they were designed to provide. In addition, safety modifications need to be made to approximately 18 projects that have received an Unsafe or Marginally Unsafe Dam Safety Assessment Condition rating and are operating under restricted conditions.

**LOWERING FLOOD RISKS.** Twenty-three civil works projects could be completed allowing for the realization of over \$154 million in average annual national benefit resulting from reduction in flood damage to homes and businesses and reducing risk for over 9 million people.

**ENHANCING RECREATION & THE ENVIRONMENT.** Funds will be used to hire 1,300 additional workers (400 temporary rangers and 900 maintenance/contract laborers) to provide increased health and safety programs and perform critical maintenance and facility improvements in Corps-operated parks. Funds will also allow the Corps to host an additional 9 million visits that will contribute \$262 million in trip spending to the regions surrounding Corps lakes and add 3,380 jobs and \$127 million in value added to the local economies. These jobs in turn will produce over \$25 million in increased Federal tax revenues. Stimulus funding will greatly expedite the construction of critical environmental projects, protecting critical ecosystems and producing beneficial impacts on more than 1 million acres could be expedited. Of these outputs, approximately 90% are nationally significant and would contribute greatly to long-term environmental sustainability. Funds will also be used to hire 700 additional workers to make improvements to land and water quality.

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**GENERATING MORE HYDROPOWER.** Approximately 1.6 billion kilowatt-hours of additional clean renewable energy can be generated and an additional 465 megawatts of capacity will be developed. The economic stimulus funds will also improve performance metrics in unit peak availability by 6-8 percentage points from 84% to 90% and avoid burning approximately 650,000 tons of coal and importing approximately 2.4 million barrels of oil.

***POLICY RECOMMENDATION:*** *Many Corps of Engineers projects are cost-shared with non-federal interests. In order to expedite the execution of water resource projects and maximize their stimulus, the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association recommends the enactment of a one-time provision that enables any cost-sharing sponsors to have five years to repay their share. The Corps could then immediately apply available funding to the highest and best use for the nation without regard to the immediate availability of matching funds from partners.*

