



WATER RESOURCES COALITION

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-128 Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

March 24, 2010

Dear Chairman Inouye:

The damage done to coastal communities by Hurricane Ida, nor'easters, and other severe storms that have taken place from November 2009 through recent days is significant. For the water resource projects from Louisiana to New York funded through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the repair cost exceeds \$350 million. In addition, the entire West Coast was battered by high winds and strong waves in December 2009 and January 2010.

Many communities in these states have had their coastal protection compromised. Beach dunes have been reduced or lost in many areas, leaving the people and infrastructure of these regions at risk from one or more additional winter storms. Some navigation channels have been filled with sand, making commercial and recreational boat traffic unsafe. Environmental resources associated with Corps projects in these areas are also in need of restoration.

The President has called on Congress to provide funding for FEMA assistance in the wake of the recent winter storms on the East and Gulf Coasts. Although the House has passed legislation to answer that call, FEMA cannot fund the repair of Corps-built water resource projects. Only the Corps has the authority – but not the funds – to repair these Federal coastal projects to their pre-storm condition. Regrettably, there is no post-disaster money in the Corps' FY 2010 budget. Only Congress can provide the Corps with the funds and direction to repair the damages it has already calculated.

The Water Resources Coalition urges the Appropriations Committees to provide the Corps with supplemental disaster relief funding to prevent further property damage and possible loss of life during a fierce winter season that is far from over.

Sincerely,

Brian Pallasch
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The Associated General Contractors of America

improve, prevent, save
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