

---

# News Release

---



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 29, 2007

Contacts: Joan Buhrman, ASCE  
(703) 295-6406  
[jbuhrman@asce.org](mailto:jbuhrman@asce.org)

Carla Julian, AGC  
(703) 837-5348  
[julianc@agc.org](mailto:julianc@agc.org)

## **WATER RESOURCES COALITION CALLS FOR WRDA PASSAGE**

*Industry Leaders Launch New Coalition by Urging President to Protect Nation from Catastrophic Floods*

**Washington, D.C.**—To protect Americans from life-threatening floods and to sustain a healthy economy and aquatic ecology, industry leaders today forged the new Water Resources Coalition. The broad-based group of organizations, including founding members the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) and the American Public Works Association (APWA), is working toward the development, implementation and funding of a comprehensive, national water resources policy.

Expressing its concern that President Bush will follow through on his threat to veto the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (WRDA)—which would represent a serious setback in establishing a successful water resources policy—the Coalition immediately took action by urging him to sign this long-overdue legislation into law. WRDA authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop and construct critical flood control, navigation and ecosystem restoration projects throughout the country, but the biennial measure has not been enacted since 2000.

“We must be willing to make the necessary investments in order to properly maintain, repair and replace our critical infrastructure,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, CEO of the AGC. “Water resources projects foster economic development, facilitate trade and commerce, provide ecosystem restoration and protect human life and property.”

“The longer we wait to invest in the nation’s critical infrastructure systems, the higher the cost will be to public health, the economy and our environment,” said ASCE executive director Patrick J. Natale, P.E., F.ASCE, CAE. “Fixing America’s infrastructure crisis will take real leadership, and that leadership must start at the top.”

Mayor Harry Simmons, president of the ASBPA, hailed the coalition's creation as “a major step toward focusing the attention of the public and Congress on the crisis America faces because our aging water infrastructure is placing public safety and health at risk.”

- more -

## Page 2 of 2 WATER RESOURCES COALITION CALLS FOR WRDA PASSAGE

“Failure to pass WRDA will result in uncompleted projects that will become bigger problems down the road,” said APWA executive director Peter B. King. “We must make wise investment in water infrastructure a priority.”

Members of the Water Resources Coalition include organizations representing state and local governments, conservation, engineering and construction, ports, waterways and transportation services.

###

*The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) is the largest and oldest national construction trade association in the United States. AGC represents nearly 33,000 firms, including 7,000 of America’s leading general contractors and 11,000 specialty-contracting firms. More than 13,000 service providers and suppliers are associated with AGC through a nationwide network of chapters. Visit the AGC Web site at [www.agc.org](http://www.agc.org). AGC members are "Building Your Quality of Life."*

*Founded in 1852, the American Society of Civil Engineers represents more than 140,000 civil engineers worldwide and is America’s oldest national engineering society. In March 2005, ASCE released the newest version of its Report Card for America’s Infrastructure, which assessed 15 categories and rated the nation’s infrastructure an overall grade of D. For more information, visit [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org).*

*Founded in 1926, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) represents the scientific, technical and political interests along the coast in an effort to shape national research and policy concerning shore and beach management and restoration. The group strives to engage a factual debate on coastal issues and economics that will foster sound, far-sighted and economical development and preservation of our beaches; thereby aiding in placing their benefits within the reach of the largest possible number of people in accordance with the ideals of a democratic nation. For more information on the ASBPA, go to [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org).*

*Working the public interest, APWA’s 29,000 members design, build, operate and maintain transportation, water supply, sewage and refuse disposal systems, public buildings and other structures and facilities essential to our nation’s economy and way and life. For more information visit, [www.apwa.net](http://www.apwa.net).*