
News Release



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WATER RESOURCES COALITION CALLS 2009 BUDGET INADEQUATE
*Disappointed with the President's Proposal, Coalition Calls on Congress to
Bridge the Infrastructure Investment Gap*

Washington, D.C.—The Water Resources Coalition today expressed extreme disappointment in President Bush's budget proposal for the 2009 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program. The fiscal year 2009 proposed budget of \$4.74 billion demonstrates a failure to invest in the nation's water resources infrastructure, and it represents an additional \$800 million cut over what was enacted by Congress for the Corps in fiscal year 2008. The Bureau of Reclamation fared no better, receiving only \$968 million—\$183 million less than fiscal year 2008.

"The Coalition is especially dissatisfied with the cuts proposed for the civil works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation and numerous other programs that address our nation's water resources infrastructure," declared Stephen E. Sandherr, chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of America. "While there is real concern about fiscal restraint, this budget does not address our nation's long-term needs."

"This final budget prepared by the Administration offers more of the same—minimal investment in infrastructure," said Patrick J. Natale, P.E., F.ASCE, CAE, executive director of the American Society of Civil Engineers. "When Congress overrode the president's veto of the Water Resources Development Act it made a commitment to investing in our nation's water resources. Now is the time to live up to that commitment and take action."

"The President's budget tells the American people that our water resources infrastructure is simply not a priority for this administration," said Mayor Harry Simmons, president of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association.

"We look forward to working with the Congress to support filling this serious investment gap in our nation's economy and safety," offered American Public Works Association executive director Peter B. King.

The Water Resources Coalition was established in 2007 to promote the development, implementation and funding of a comprehensive national water resources policy. With member organizations representing state and local governments, conservation, engineering and construction, ports, waterways and transportation services, the Coalition works to ensure that a comprehensive, national water resources policy is developed, implemented and funded to provide a sustainable, productive economy; a healthy aquatic ecology; and public health and safety. For more information, visit the Water Resources Coalition Web site at www.waterresourcescoalition.org.

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