

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 17, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles “Chuck” Fleischmann
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Fleischmann, and Ranking Member Kaptur:

We write regarding U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works Program Fiscal Year (FY26) construction funding. We are concerned that the \$1.56 billion requested for construction in the President’s Budget is seriously insufficient to meet the flood risk management, navigation, ecosystem restoration, and other needs of communities across the country. We are particularly concerned that the requested construction funding, which is 53% below FY24 enacted, is inadequate given the significant number of projects, including four in California, which were included in FY25 President’s Budget and the committee-passed FY25 Energy and Water mark but which inexplicably received no funding in the Administration’s FY25 Work Plan. We urge you to reject these proposed, devastating cuts to FY26 USACE construction funding and to support FY26 funding for projects that were included in the committee mark in FY25 but excluded from the Work Plan.

We appreciate that the committee has always viewed the President’s budget as a starting point and has worked in a bipartisan way to provide funding for authorized civil works priorities across all states. We also applaud the previous work of the committee to provide strong funding for USACE year after year. Even with steadily increased funding levels, we know that we are only scratching the surface of the worthy portfolio of projects, which makes the Administration’s FY26 budget proposal particularly devastating to the communities that depend on them.

As you know, the FY25 President’s Budget, the House FY25 Energy and Water Development Appropriations mark, and the Senate FY25 Energy and Water Development Appropriations mark all recommended \$126.4 million in construction funding for four projects in California. Each of these projects are crucial to the residents, agricultural producers, and businesses that we represent:

- The American River Common Features, Natomas Basin, CA project would continue reconstructing the 42 miles of levees protecting the Natomas Basin and the City of Sacramento to the most current modern urban levee standards.
- The Pajaro River at Watsonville, CA project would provide desperately needed flood protection to Pajaro, Watsonville, agricultural land, and other nearby areas that have repeatedly experienced significant flooding.
- The San Joaquin River Basin, Lower San Joaquin, CA: with a project benefit-to-cost ratio of 13 to 1, this project will strengthen flood protection for approximately 300,000 residents, 262 critical infrastructure sites, and billions in damageable property that are exposed to potential flooding from the San Joaquin River, Calaveras River, and Bay Delta.
- The West Sacramento, CA project would provide critical improvements to seepage, stability and erosion deficiencies to approximately 41.4 miles of existing levees along the Sacramento River, Yolo Bypass, and Sacramento River Deep Water Ship Channel (DWSC) to reduce flood risk in the City of West Sacramento.

In addition to the above benefits, each of these projects has already received substantial federal funding to date. Leaving the projects half-finished would not be an efficient use of federal or non-federal resources. Given the clear benefits of these projects, we were dismayed to see all four, alongside other important projects in different “blue” states, receive no funding in the FY25 Work Plan, injecting a previously unheard-of level of apparent partisanship into the USACE budget process.

As the FY26 appropriations process continues, we urge you to return to topline and project-specific funding levels that can achieve the strong, bipartisan support that USACE funding has historically had. We also specifically urge you to correct the apparent partisanship of the Administration’s FY25 Work Plan by continuing to support projects, including the four above, which the committee was prepared to fund in FY25. These projects are vital to the safety and prosperity of our constituents. We appreciate your attention to these requests.

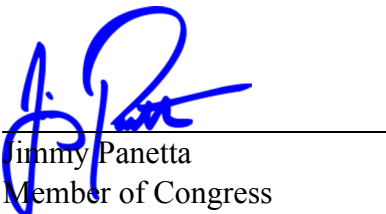
Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Josh Harder
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



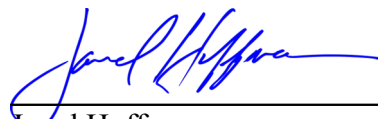
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress