

# Approval Process for USACE Studies Under the Continuing Authorities Program

A District drafts a **Federal Interest Determination (FID)** presenting a determination that there is a Federal interest in pursuing a feasibility study to determine a viable solution to the appropriate CAP authority. The FID is transmitted to the Major Subordinate Command (MSC) for review and approval.

A **Project Management Plan** detailing work tasks, study cost, and study schedule is prepared by USACE and the non-federal sponsor.

A **draft Detailed Project Report and NEPA document** documenting the recommended plan are released for concurrent public, agency, and policy reviews.

The **Design and Implementation (D&I) Phase** is conducted to prepare design and construct the project. A D&I agreement is signed by USACE and the non-Federal sponsor.



**Local interests request** the USACE investigate potential solutions to water resource problems. A site visit with the locals is typically performed at full Federal expense.

A **Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA)** is executed to complete the decision document. The study is initially federally funded up to \$100,000. Any remaining feasibility phase costs are shared 50/50 with the non-federal sponsor.

The study team’s recommended plan is presented to MSC senior leaders and reviewers at the **Alternative Formulation Briefing**. The senior leaders approve the release of the draft feasibility report and NEPA document. (Note: under draft guidance, this meeting will be called the **MSC Decision Milestone**).

A final **Detailed Project Report and NEPA document** is prepared by the District. It is transmitted to the MSC for review and approval.

**Construction** of the project commences if funding is available within the HQUSACE CAP. Costs are shared as specified in the authorizing legislation for the applicable section.

The **Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)** is a group of **nine legislative authorities** under which the USACE can plan, design, and implement certain types of water resources projects without additional project specific congressional authorization. The purpose of the CAP is to plan and implement projects of limited size, cost, scope and complexity.

**Section 14**, Flood Control Act of 1946, as amended  
*Streambank and shoreline erosion protection of public works and non-profit public services*

**Section 107**, River and Harbor Act of 1960, as amended  
*Navigation improvements*

**Section 204**, WRDA of 1992, as amended  
*Beneficial uses of dredged material*

**Section 206**, WRDA of 1996, as amended  
*Aquatic ecosystem restoration*

**Section 103**, River and Harbor Act of 1962, as amended  
*Beach erosion and hurricane and storm damage reduction*

**Section 111**, River and Harbor Act of 1968, as amended  
*Shore damage prevention or mitigation caused by Federal navigation projects*

**Section 205**, Flood Control Act of 1948, as amended  
*Flood control*

**Section 208**, Flood Control Act of 1954, as amended  
*Removal of obstructions, clearing channels for flood control*

**Section 1135**, WRDA of 1986, as amended  
*Project modifications for improvement of the environment*