

ACEC

INVESTING IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress needs to reauthorize core federal programs that deliver safe drinking water and wastewater infrastructure to the public before they expire on September 30, 2026. Action is also needed to pass the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) to authorize new Corps of Engineers projects that support navigation and commerce, control flooding, and provide recreational opportunities, water supply, and environmental stewardship across the country. Together these initiatives represent critical investments that will promote a growing economy, create jobs, and protect public health and the environment.

KEY POINTS



Invest in America's Drinking Water & Wastewater Infrastructure.

Recent surveys by the EPA found that nation-wide, the U.S. needs more than \$1.2 trillion to upgrade aging drinking water and wastewater infrastructure over the next 20 years. Legislation to reauthorize and increase investments in the State Revolving Funds (SRFs), the Water Infrastructure Financing Innovation Act (WIFIA) and other water infrastructure grant programs to help communities comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act is needed to provide funding certainty to allow local projects to move forward. Reauthorizing the SRFs also provides Congress with an opportunity to ensure that states are utilizing uniform procurement policies for engineering services that save money, protect the public, and ensure project success.



Water Resources Development.

The biennial Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) authorizes the projects, studies, and programs of the Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program. This "must-pass" bill is critical to moving projects forward that maintain ports and navigation channels, construct dams, levees and natural infrastructure to increase resilience against flooding and extreme events, and provide water supply and recreational opportunities at reservoirs across the country. America's engineering industry provides essential support to the Corps in delivering large and complex construction projects by providing unique and specialized skills. ACEC supports passing a WRDA bill in 2026 that increases funding for the Army Corps Civil Works program. The Council is also advocating for uniform procurement rules across both the military and civil works functions of the Corps that will enable the agency to negotiate contracts and secure the unique engineering services it needs.

REQUESTS

- 1** Reauthorize federal water infrastructure programs this year, including increased funding for the SRFs and WIFIA to address the funding backlog for water projects.
- 2** Pass a Water Resources Development Act in 2026 with increased funding for the Army Corps' Civil Works Program.
- 3** Include procurement policies for engineering services in the SRF reauthorization and WRDA bills that reflect the value that ACEC member firms provide to our public sector clients.