

**Water Resources Development Act
Army Corps of Engineers
New Mexico Authorization Requests, May 2010
Senator Jeff Bingaman**

Authority to reconstruct existing levee system in the Albuquerque Unit of the Middle Rio Grande Flood Control project (\$120,000,000)

The Albuquerque Levees provide flood protection to the largest urban area in New Mexico. The levees, which were completed in the 1950s, do not meet current USACE levee standards, and have been deemed ineligible for inclusion in the Corps' Public Law 84-99 levee inspection program. In addition, the 1950s project did not include construction of a levee on the west bank of the Rio Grande from La Orilla to the High Bluffs because at the time, this area was undeveloped. However, significant commercial, school and residential construction has occurred in this area during the past 60 years, and high river levels could result in significant damage to homes, business and a school.

Reauthorization of Environmental Infrastructure Projects, Central New Mexico, section 593 of WRDA99 (\$25,000,000)

Since enacted in sec. 593 of WRDA99, 17 communities in Central New Mexico have used the program to improve water-related environmental infrastructure. PCAs worth almost \$50 million have been signed, and an additional 12 projects, worth about \$27 million, have been proposed. However, with the current \$50 million authorization cap in place, no additional PCAs can be signed.

Reauthorization of Environmental Infrastructure Projects, New Mexico, section 595 of WRDA99 (\$25,000,000)

Since enacted in sec. 595 of WRDA99, 16 communities in New Mexico have used the Environmental Infrastructure program to improve water-related environmental infrastructure. PCAs worth almost \$25 million have been signed, and an additional 33 projects, worth about \$43 million, have been proposed. However, with the current \$25 million authorization cap in place, no additional PCAs can be signed.

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program (MRGESCP)

Additional authorization is necessary to clarify that the Corps may conduct habitat restoration activities in connection with its participation in the Middle Rio Grande Collaborative Program. Additional authorization is also necessary to clarify that the Corps has authority to acquire water to offset the depletions associated with its activities in connection with the

collaborative program and to otherwise recover endangered species in the Middle Rio Grande and that the costs of the acquisition of water shall be at 100 percent Federal expense.

Reauthorization of Middle Rio Grande Flood Protection, Bernalillo to Belen

(Modify the existing authorization to increase the total project cost from \$44,900,000 to \$130,000,000, with an estimated Federal cost of \$97,500,000 and estimated non-Federal cost of \$32,500,000)

This project consists of construction of 50 miles of levees to replace existing spoil banks along the Rio Grande. Major developed areas that will be protected include Corrales, Los Lunas, Bosque Farms, Belen, Mountainview and the Isleta Pueblo. Additional authority is needed to be able to complete the project. A reevaluation report is underway and is expected to result in cost estimates that exceed the current authorization.

Reauthorization of the Rio Grande Environmental Management Program, CO, NM, TX

Authorized in WRDA07, the program has two major elements related to the Rio Grande basin in Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas: (1) planning, design, and construction of habitat rehabilitation and enhancement projects and; and (2) a long-term river data acquisition and management program. The program includes authority for the Secretary to work closely and enter into interagency agreements with the Secretary of the Interior to best utilize the respective strengths and authorities of the multiple agencies with significant responsibilities in the Rio Grande basin.

Reauthorization of Section 203 Tribal Partnership Program and Cost Sharing Requirements

Many Tribal Governments cannot meet Army Corps cost share requirements under the Tribal Partnership Program of Sec. 203 of WRDA 2000. Under Sec. 203(d) the Corps was to develop an ability-to-pay rule for the program, but this effort has been unsuccessful in addressing the needs of economically distressed Indian Tribes with very limited resources.