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Advocacy Position Statement

Support for Reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

Statement of Purpose

The American Public Works Association (APWA) seeks to inform elected officials, regulators, policy-makers and decision-makers and the public at-large of its stated position on the Water Resources Development Act.

Statement of Position

APWA supports and encourages passage of legislation reauthorizing the Water Resources Development Act.

Background & Rationale

Hurricanes and other extreme weather events continue to expose gaping vulnerabilities in the nation's flood control infrastructure, we can be assured that hurricanes and floods will affect the nation in the years to come. A national effort is needed to prepare for and reduce these vulnerabilities. The programs authorized by WRDA are an important piece in this strategy.

As public works professionals, our members serve communities that rely on WRDA to protect the public health, safety and welfare of their communities. Working with local partners, the US Army Corps of Engineers' WRDA projects have successfully protected hundreds of communities from flooding. The Corps' history demonstrates that from 1991 to 2000, the US suffered \$45 billion in property damage from flooding. During the same period, the Corps' flood damage reduction measures prevented more than \$208 billion damage. In 2004, the Corps Flood Plain Management Service responded to more than 44,000 requests for information and the value of property protected by this program is an estimated \$6.2 billion. It is essential that this vital piece of legislation be acted upon by Congress to continue these important initiatives.

Reauthorization of WRDA is essential for the Corps to continue to carry out its vital national mission. APWA urges the Congress and the President to approve WRDA reauthorization.

Sponsor

Water Resources Management Committee