

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, D.C. 20510**

May 25, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann, Chairman  
The Honorable Marcy Kaptur, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Fleischmann and Ranking Member Kaptur:

As you prepare the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act” for fiscal year 2024, we request that you include report language directing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to pursue significantly increased utilization of beneficial use of dredged material. For California, the report language would clarify that the Army Corps implement beneficial use as part of neglected annual dredging needs for resiliency projects in the San Francisco Bay Area and elsewhere.

For fiscal year 2023, Congress provided the Army Corps with record funding for operation and maintenance including more than \$400 million in unallocated funding. Our requested report language will require the Army Corps to identify projects for beneficial use efforts and comply with several Congressional directives in past WRDA laws and appropriations bills. Without this report language, the Army Corps may continue to rely on the outdated federal standard, wasting dredged material in sterile disposal sites that degrade overall aquatic habitats. This ignores repeated Congressional directives to leverage the value of dredged material from annual maintenance projects. Our requested report language is as follows:

*Report on Beneficial Use of Dredged Material.—The Committee has repeatedly supported the congressional directives in past Water Resources Development Act's to leverage the benefit of beneficial use of dredged material to improve the resilience of our coastal communities. The Committee remains deeply concerned with the Corps' slow and inadequate implementation of these directives. Therefore, the Committee directs the Corps to provide the Committee with a report listing those beneficial use projects that will satisfy the Chief of Engineers' guidance on beneficial use and ensure annual maintenance dredging of deep-draft navigation channels. This report shall be provided to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act.*

This report language would ensure that the Army Corps follows through on repeated Congressional directives to utilize operation and maintenance resources to support beneficial use of dredged material. This language will also ensure that the Army Corps performs annual maintenance for channels in accordance with the 5-year dredging plans developed by the Corps as a part of the State water quality certification process. Our offices have received numerous reports that the Army Corps develops these plans but then does not execute them.

Beneficial use of dredged material has been a priority for Congress for more than 20 years, and this language will make the Army Corps accountable for implementing these directives. Thank you for considering our requested report language.

Sincerely,



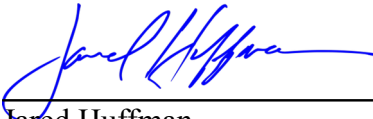
---

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



---

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



---

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



---

Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



---

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress