# USACE Planning Portfolio Profiles: Key Feasibility Studies Underway in FY15



## Meeting the Nation's Water Resources Challenges

A Civil Works feasibility study is the initial step in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) process for addressing many of the nation's significant water resources needs and typically focus on one or more of USACE's key mission areas: flood damage risk management (inland and coastal), navigation (inland and deep draft), or aquatic ecosystem restoration.

After Congress has both authorized and appropriated funds to begin a study, USACE planners work with a non-federal sponsor (Sponsor) and a multi-disciplinary Project Delivery Team (PDT) to conduct a feasibility study. A feasibility study establishes the Federal interest, engineering feasibility, economic justification and environmental acceptability of a water resources project recommended for Congressional authorization and construction. Specifically, USACE and the Sponsor work together to identify water resources problems, formulate and evaluate solutions, resolve conflicting interests, and prepare recommendations.

Feasibility studies are cost shared equally between the Sponsor and the federal government. Typically, the feasibility study and resulting recommendation for project authorization in the form of a Chief's Report should be completed at a total cost of $3 million and within three years of study initiation, although exemptions will be made if the study's scope and complexity justifies a higher total cost.

## New Feasibility Studies – FY 14 and FY15 New Starts

Nineteen new feasibility studies were provided Congressional appropriations in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and 2015. A USACE feasibility study begins with the signing of a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement between USACE and the Sponsor. Although the FY14 funded studies were launched with a Reconnaissance study, the FY15 new start studies will begin under a change in federal law that eliminates the Reconnaissance phase. The following 19 studies expect a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement and study launch in FY15:

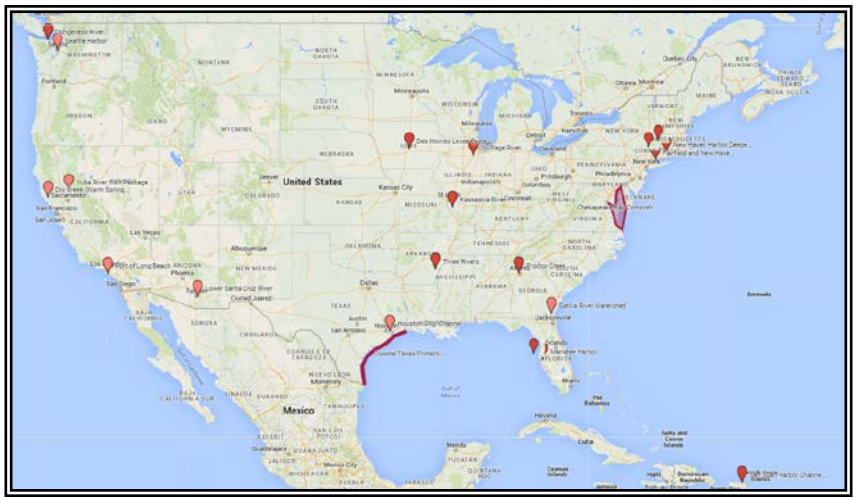



Figure 1: "New Start" Feasibility Studies in FY14 and FY15
Map data © 2015 Google

| Study Name | Division | District | Primary Mission Area |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Plan, MD, PA & VA | North Atlantic Division | Baltimore | Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration |
| Coastal Texas Protection And Restoration Study, TX | Southwestern Division | Galveston | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Des Moines Levee System, Des Moines And Raccoon Rivers, IA | Mississippi Valley Division | Rock Island | Flood Damage Risk Management |

| Study Name | Division | District | Primary Mission Area |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dry Creek (Warm Springs) & Coyote Valley Dam Restoration, CA | South Pacific Division | San Francisco | Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration |
| Du Page River, IL | Great Lakes and Ohio River Division | Chicago | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Dungeness River, WA | Northwestern Division | Seattle | Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration |
| Fairfield And New Haven Counties, CT | North Atlantic Division | New England | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Houston Ship Channel, TX | Southwestern Division | Galveston | Navigation |
| Kaskaskia, IL | Mississippi Valley Division | St. Louis | Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration |
| Lower Santa Cruz River, AZ | South Pacific Division | Los Angeles | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Manatee Harbor, FL | South Atlantic Division | Jacksonville | Navigation |
| New Haven Harbor Deepening, CT | North Atlantic Division | New England | Navigation |
| Port of Long Beach Navigation Improvement, CA | South Pacific Division | Los Angeles | Navigation |
| Proctor Creek, GA | South Atlantic Division | Mobile | Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration |
| San Juan Harbor Channel Improvement, PR | South Atlantic Division | Jacksonville | Navigation |
| Satilla Watershed, GA | South Atlantic Division | Savannah | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Seattle Harbor, WA | Northwestern Division | Seattle | Navigation |
| Three Rivers, AR | Mississippi Valley Division | Little Rock | Navigation |
| Yuba River Ecosystem Restoration, CA | South Pacific Division | Sacramento | Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration |

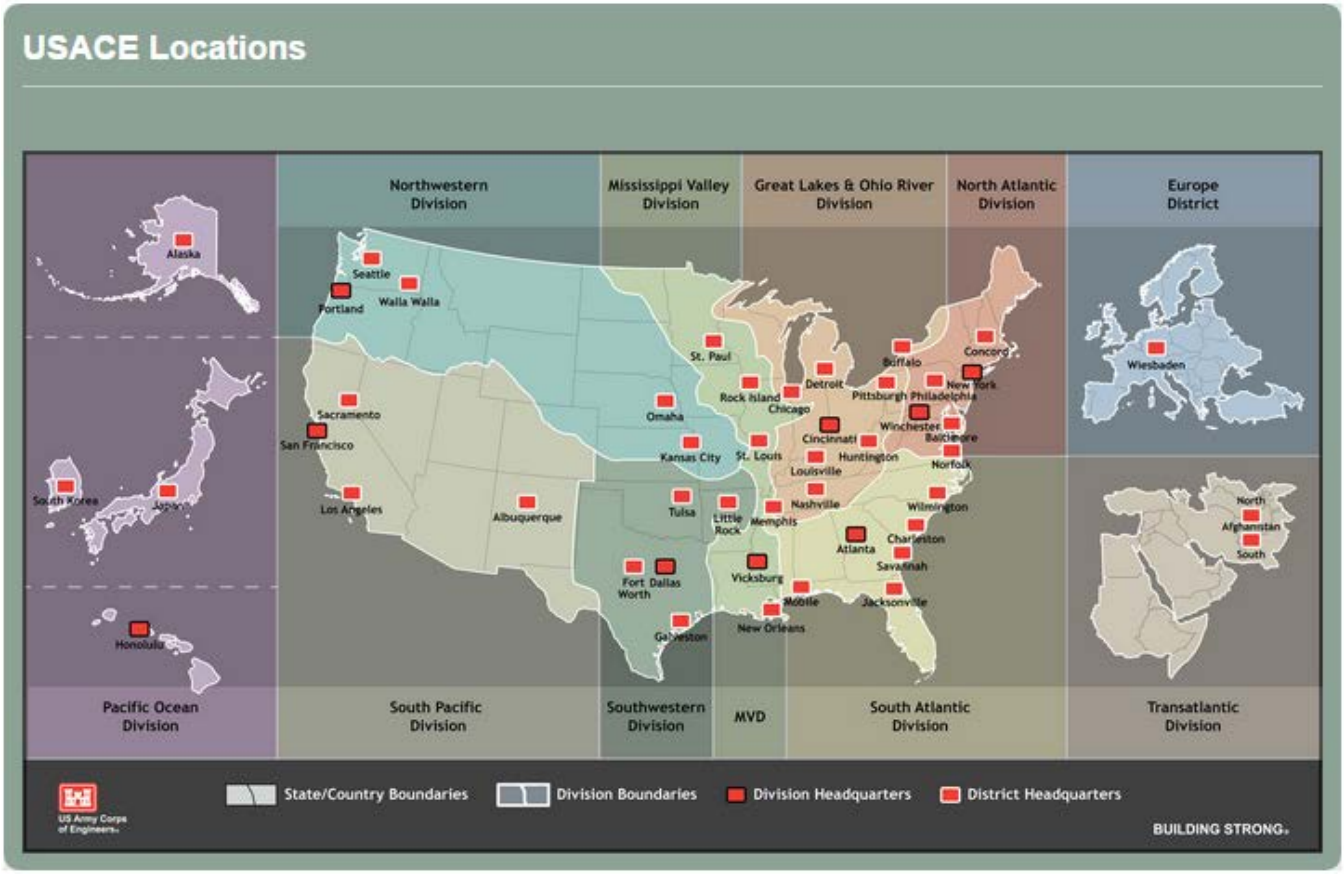
## Managing Legacy Feasibility Studies to Completion

In 2013, USACE made a commitment to complete 37 ongoing “legacy” feasibility studies in the planning portfolio that were nearing completion, while transitioning the remainder of the portfolio, including all new start studies, to the SMART Planning process. The legacy studies on this list have, for the most part, been ongoing for years, and many of these study teams have already completed and published public draft integrated feasibility report and environmental documentation. Since 2013, 14 of the original 37 legacy studies have been completed with the issuance of a Chief of Engineer’s Report.

There are 23 legacy studies remaining to be completed in FY15 and FY16. Most of them have completed their public review and are either responding to comments or have already submitted their final report documents to USACE Headquarters for further coordination and development of the draft Chief of Engineer’s Report. The following is the list of remaining legacy studies.

| Study Name | Division | District | Primary Mission Area |
|---|---|---|---|
| American River Common Features General Reevaluation Report, CA | South Pacific Division | Sacramento | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Des Plaines River, IL | Great Lakes and Ohio River Division | Chicago | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Green And Barren Rivers Navigation Disposition, KY | Great Lakes and Ohio River Division | Louisville | Navigation |
| Little Diomede Harbor, AK | Pacific Ocean Division | Alaska | Navigation |
| Los Angeles River, CA | South Pacific Division | Los Angeles | Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration |
| Lower Willamette River Environmental Dredging, OR | Northwestern Division | Portland | Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration |
| Malibu Creek Watershed, CA | South Pacific Division | Los Angeles | Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration |
| Manhattan, KS | Northwestern Division | Kansas City | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Mill Creek Watershed, Davidson County, TN | Great Lakes and Ohio River Division | Nashville | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Peckman River Basin, NJ | North Atlantic Division | New York | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Port Everglades Harbor, FL | South Atlantic Division | Jacksonville | Navigation |
| Portsmouth Harbor & Piscataqua River, Turning Basin, NH | North Atlantic Division | New England | Navigation |
| Princeville, NC | South Atlantic Division | Wilmington | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Puget Sound Nearshore Marine Habitat Restoration, WA | Northwestern Division | Seattle | Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration |
| Searsport Harbor, ME | North Atlantic Division | New England | Navigation |
| Solana Beach, CA | South Pacific Division | Los Angeles | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| South Fork South Branch Chicago River (Bubbly Creek), IL | Great Lakes and Ohio River Division | Chicago | Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration |

| Study Name | Division | District | Primary Mission Area |
|---|---|---|---|
| South San Francisco Bay Shoreline, CA | South Pacific Division | San Francisco | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Southwest Coastal Louisiana | Mississippi Valley Division | New Orleans | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| Upper Ohio Navigation Study, PA | Great Lakes and Ohio River Division | Pittsburgh | Navigation |
| Upper Turkey Creek, KS | Northwestern Division | Kansas City | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| West Sacramento General Reevaluation Report, CA | South Pacific Division | Sacramento | Flood Damage Risk Management |
| West Shore, Lake Pontchartrain, LA | Mississippi Valley Division | New Orleans | Flood Damage Risk Management |

---

For more information on the USACE Planning Program, please visit planning.usace.army.mil or your District's webpage.