MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1183 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA 2016), Coastal Engineering

1. Section 1183 of WRDA 2016 was completed and signed on 5 March 2018. The implementation guidance is posted in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website: http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Planning/Legislative-Links/.

2. Questions regarding this implementation guidance should be directed to Kathleen White, Lead, Climate Preparedness and Resilience Community of Practice, at (202) 761-4163 or Kathleen.D.White@usace.army.mil.

JAMES C. DALTON, P.E.
Director of Civil Works

DISTRIBUTION:
COMMANDERS, REGIONAL BUSINESS AND PROGRAMS DIRECTORS,
GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER DIVISION, CELRD
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION, CEMVD
NORTH ATLANTIC DIVISION, CENAD
NORTHWESTERN DIVISION, CENWD
PACIFIC OCEAN DIVISION, CEPOD
SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION, CESAD
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION, CESPD
SOUTHWESTERN DIVISION, CESWD
MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDING GENERAL U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1183(b) – (e) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, Coastal Engineering

1. Section 1183(b) of WRDA 2016 directs the Secretary to convene an interagency working group (IAWG) on resilience to extreme weather, which will coordinate research, data, and federal investments related to sea level rise, resiliency, and vulnerability to extreme weather, including coastal resilience. The IAWG is also directed to participate in any activity carried out by an organization authorized by a state to study and issue recommendations on how to address the impacts on federal assets of recurrent flooding and sea level rise. Section 1183(b) – (e) of WRDA 2016 is enclosed.

2. Section 1183(c) of WRDA 2016 authorizes the Secretary to conduct regional assessments of coastal and back bay protection and of federal and state policies and programs related to coastal water resources in cooperation with heads of appropriate federal agencies, states that have approved coastal management programs and appropriate agencies of those states, local governments, and the private sector. These assessments may include an assessment of the probability and the extent of coastal flooding and erosion, including back bay and estuarine flooding; recommendations for policies and other measures related to regional federal, state, local, and private participation in shoreline and back bay protection projects; an evaluation of the performance of existing federal coastal storm damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and navigation projects, including recommendations for the improvement of those projects; and recommendations for the demonstration of methodologies for resilience through the use of natural and nature-based infrastructure approaches, as appropriate.

3. Section 1183(d) requires the Secretary, when carrying out activities authorized by the section, to use existing research done by federal, state, regional, local, and private entities to eliminate redundancies and related costs to the maximum extent practicable. Likewise, the Secretary is authorized and directed to receive contributed funds or research that may be eligible for credit as work-in-kind under applicable federal law from federal agencies, states that have approved coastal management programs and appropriate agencies of those States, local governments, and the private sector. Section 1183(d)(3)
SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1183(b) – (e) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, Coastal Engineering

directs the Secretary to enable one or more districts involved in an assessment to consider regionally appropriate engineering, biological, ecological, social, economic, and other factors in carrying out the assessment.

4. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) or his designee will coordinate with the appropriate federal agencies with operations and missions impacted by changing sea level to convene an IAWG. The IAWG will meet periodically to review federal investments related to sea level rise, resiliency, vulnerability to extreme weather, and coastal resilience. Each member agency will fund its individual participation in the IAWG. The IAWG will identify under resourced areas of research and investment as well as redundancies in agency programs. The IAWG will also be available to consult with any organizations authorized by states to study and issue recommendations on how to address the impacts on federal assets of recurrent flooding and sea level rise. Proposals from entities authorized under section 1183(d)(2) to contribute funds for IAWG activities will be considered by the ASA(CW) or his designee.

5. Regional assessments authorized by section 1183(c) will be conducted in accordance with ER 1105-2-100 and other planning guidance applicable to watershed assessments and will be cost shared 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal. The normal budget process will be followed when requesting funds to initiate a regional assessment. Initiation of a regional assessment requires a willing and capable non-Federal interest who qualifies under 42 U.S.C. 1962d-5b(b). Agreements shall be based on the model agreement for watershed assessments. Approval for all deviations necessary to reflect the specific authorization for the regional assessments is delegated to the Major Subordinate Command (MSC) Commander.

6. In accordance with applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) planning guidance, any district designated by an MSC to lead a regional assessment will cooperate with federal agencies, states with approved coastal management programs, local governments, and the private sector during the investigation. Existing planning guidance provides for the consideration of regionally appropriate engineering, biological, ecological, social, economic, and other factors as required by Section 1183(d)(3). Acceptance of contributed funds and in-kind contributions from non-Federal interests will generally follow the procedures in CECW-P Memorandum, Subject: Implementation Guidance for Section 1015 and 1023 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014), Contributed Funds, dated February 11, 2015 and ER 1165-2-208, respectively; however, congressional notification is not required for acceptance of contributed funds under section 1183. Proposals for
SUBJECT: Implementation Guidance for Section 1183(b) – (e) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016, Coastal Engineering

acceptance of contributed funds or in-kind contributions from other federal agencies or the private sector should be submitted through the MSC to the appropriate Regional Integration Team for further guidance.

8. The ASA(CW) will include all reports and recommendations prepared under this section, together with appropriate supporting documentation with the 2019 annual report submitted to Congress in accordance with Section 8 of the Act of August 11, 1888 (25 Stat. 424, chapter 860; 33 U.S.C. 556), and Section 925(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2295(b)). The reports, recommendations, and supporting materials will be transmitted by the Director of Civil Works to the ASA(CW) for review and approval, coordination with the Office of Management and Budget, and submission of the report to Congress.

9. Questions regarding this implementation guidance should be directed to Gib Owen, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, at Gib.a.owen.civ@mail.mil or 703-695-4641. Technical questions regarding this implementation guidance should be directed to Kathleen White, Lead, Climate Preparedness and Resilience Community of Practice, at (202) 761-4163 or kathleen.d.white@usace.army.mil.

Encl

R.D. JAMES
Assistant Secretary of the Army
Civil Works
(b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION ON COASTAL RESILIENCE.
(1) IN GENERAL. The Secretary shall convene an inter-agency working group on resilience to extreme weather, which will coordinate research, data, and Federal investments related to sea level rise, resiliency, and vulnerability to extreme weather, including coastal resilience.
(2) CONSULTATION. The interagency working group convened under paragraph (1) shall participate in any activity carried out by an organization authorized by a State to study and issue recommendations on how to address the impacts on Federal assets of recurrent flooding and sea level rise, including providing consultation regarding policies, programs, studies, plans, and best practices relating to recurrent flooding and sea level rise in areas with significant Federal assets.

(c) REGIONAL ASSESSMENTS.
(1) IN GENERAL. The Secretary may conduct regional assessments of coastal and back bay protection and of Federal and State policies and programs related to coastal water resources, including
(A) an assessment of the probability and the extent of coastal flooding and erosion, including back bay and estuarine flooding;
(B) recommendations for policies and other measures related to regional Federal, State, local, and private participation in shoreline and back bay protection projects;
(C) an evaluation of the performance of existing Federal coastal storm damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and navigation projects, including recommendations for the improvement of those projects; and
(D) recommendations for the demonstration of methodologies for resilience through the use of natural and nature-based infrastructure approaches, as appropriate.
(2) COOPERATION. In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall cooperate with
(A) heads of appropriate Federal agencies;
(B) States that have approved coastal management programs and appropriate agencies of those States;
(C) local governments; and
(D) the private sector.

(d) STREAMLINING. In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall
(1) to the maximum extent practicable, use existing research done by Federal, State, regional, local, and private entities to eliminate redundancies and related costs;
(2) receive from any of the entities described in subsection (c)(2) (A) contributed funds; or
(B) research that may be eligible for credit as work-in-kind under applicable Federal law; and

(3) enable each District or combination of Districts of the Corps of Engineers that jointly participate in carrying out an assessment under this section to consider regionally appropriate engineering, biological, ecological, social, economic, and other factors in carrying out the assessment.

(e) REPORTS. The Secretary shall submit in the 2019 annual report submitted to Congress in accordance with section 8 of the Act of August 11, 1888 (25 Stat. 424, chapter 860; 33 U.S.C. 556), and section 925(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2295(b)) all reports and recommendations prepared under this section, together with any necessary supporting documentation.