

Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission Package

Proposal Name: Transfer Operation and Maintenance of the Mississippi River Project Flood Levee's and Floodwall's to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that are owned by the City of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee

Submission Date: 08/27/2019

Proposal ID Number: f296b6c8-f8dd-457c-9709-aed329b44b3a

Purpose of Proposal: Memphis' levees and floodwalls were constructed in an earlier partnership with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as a part of the overall Federal Government, Mississippi River Commission's mission to protect life and property along the Mississippi River. Unlike other Cities along the Lower Mississippi, the City of Memphis has maintained and operated those facilities which are the primary system elements providing protection against the Mississippi River Floods. Memphis now operates and maintains 17,089 feet of flood wall, 5.5 miles of levees, 27 enclosures, and 7 pumping stations along the flood basins of the Mississippi River-Wolf River, Nonconnah Creek Flood Control System. These flood control structures protect some of the City's most cherished assets such as the world recognized St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, the TVA power plant, many large industries as well as major railroad transportation facilities. The levees and flood walls provide protection from the Mississippi River flooding and the pump stations provided local drainage management during highwater events of the Mississippi River. Since the USACE has completed construction of the levees and flood walls, the City has maintained and operated the systems in good repair and in accordance with the USACE standards. The amount of resources, financial, manpower, and equipment that the City must commit to operate and maintain the system from the ever-increasing frequency and duration of Mississippi River flood events, has added a financial burden on the citizens. The 2011 flood event and the extraordinarily long duration of very high Mississippi River this year serve to confirm the risk assessment. The City proposes transferring the responsibility to operate and maintain the levee and floodwall system to the USACE to manage Mississippi River Floods, consistent with the Mississippi River Tributaries Project, management of other flood control systems along the lower Mississippi River.

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Transfer Operation and Maintenance of the Mississippi River Project Flood Levee's and Floodwall's to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that are owned by the City of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee

by Agency: City of Memphis, Tennessee, Division of Public Works

Locations: TN

POC Name:

POC Phone:

POC Email:

Date Submitted: 08/27/2019

Confirmation Number: f296b6c8-f8dd-457c-9709-aed329b44b3a

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
MemphisMayor 8-27-19.pdf	08/27/2019
Memphis-Floodwalls-8.5 x 11.pdf	08/27/2019
MRC Response 6-5-19.pdf	08/27/2019
City of Memphis-S.Cohen - Corps of Engineers.pdf	08/27/2019
City of Memphis-D.Kustoff - Corps of Engineers.pdf	08/27/2019

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
City of Memphis(Primary)	Attached

3. State if this proposal is for new feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing USACE project authority, or a modification to an existing USACE Environmental Infrastructure Program authority. If it is a proposal for a modification to an existing study, project or program authority, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

[x] Modification to a USACE Project Authority : Flood Control Act of 1937 as amended by the Flood Control Act of 1946

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

Memphis' levees and floodwalls were constructed in an earlier partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as a part of the overall Federal Government, Mississippi River Commission's mission to protect life and property along the Mississippi River. Unlike other Cities along the Lower Mississippi, the City of Memphis has maintained and operated those facilities which are the primary system elements providing protection against the Mississippi River Floods. Memphis now operates and maintains 17,089 feet of flood wall, 5.5 miles of levees, 27 enclosures, and 7 pumping stations along the flood backwaters of the Mississippi River-Wolf River, Nonconnah Creek Flood Control System. These flood control structures protect some of the City's most cherished assets such as the world recognized St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, the TVA power plant, many large industries as well as major railroad transportation facilities. The levees and flood walls provide protection from the Mississippi River flooding and the pump stations provided local drainage management during highwater events of the Mississippi River. Since the USACE has completed construction of the levees and flood walls, the City has maintained and operated the systems in good repair and in accordance with the USACE standards. The amount of resources, financial, manpower, and equipment that the City must commit to operate and maintain the system from the ever-increasing frequency and duration of Mississippi River flood events, has added a financial burden on the citizens. The 2011 flood event and the extraordinarily long duration of very high Mississippi River this year serve to confirm the risk assessment. The City proposes transferring the responsibility to operate and maintain the levee and floodwall system to the USACE to manage Mississippi River Floods, consistent with the Mississippi River Tributaries Project, management of other flood control systems along the lower Mississippi River.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	\$1,225,000	\$1,225,000	\$2,450,000

Explanation (if necessary)

The City of Memphis’ operating budget for Flood Control for Fiscal Year 2020 is \$2.45 million. The cost for annual maintenance of the levees and flood walls is approximately \$1,225,000. The cost for annual maintenance and operations of the flood control pumping stations is approximately \$1,225,000.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The flood damage from the 2011 Mississippi River Flood was estimated at \$320 Million by NOAA (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/201105/supplemental/page-3>) when the Memphis levee and floodwall system was severely stressed. The 2011 event pointed out that there existed a much more perilous threat to Memphis if there had been a breach or failure of the local system. The project protects thousands of acres with residences, historic districts and historic structures, hospitals and clinics, factories, retail, and public structures, as well as major infrastructure (utilities, local roads, parking garages_areas, etc.) necessary to support this development. The area includes vital national-transportation corridors including the interstate and major railroads (including the Amtrak line). The estimated value of structures in the area protected is over \$3 billion.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

The City has had to combat an increasing frequency and duration of Mississippi River flooding events causing increased risk for flood prone areas. These events have been well documented in the press and other publications over the last several years. The Mississippi River Commission acknowledges, in a letter signed by Major General Kaiser, the City's support and our participation with the USACE in fighting these major flood events. In addition, Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland, Congressman David Kustoff, and Congressman Steve Cohen have stated their support for the modification of project authority.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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MemphisMayor 8-27-19.pdf



JIM STRICKLAND
MAYOR

TENNESSEE

August 26, 2019

The US Army Corps of Engineers
167 N Main St. B202
Memphis, TN 38103

This is a letter of support for the City of Memphis' initial request submitted to the Mississippi River Commission on April 9, 2019 by Mr. Robert Knecht, Public Works Director for the City of Memphis to "Transfer Operation and Maintenance of the Mississippi River Floodwalls and Mainline/Backwater Levees in Memphis, Tennessee" to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). As prescribed by Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014, the City of Memphis has prepared a Proposal Application for the requested action.

Given the importance of this flood system, it is the City's formal request that federal responsibility and resources be designated to operate and maintain the large flood control system that protects Memphis from the Mississippi River. The City of Memphis is the only city along the Lower Mississippi River that owns, operates and maintains all the structural systems that provide its citizens protection from the flood impact of the Mississippi River. As the USACE currently maintains all the other flood control systems under the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project, it is obvious that authority be granted and assigned to the USACE to own and manage the Memphis flood control system.

Memphis' flood control system includes 17,089 feet of flood wall, 5.5 miles of levees, 27 enclosures, and 7 pumping stations along the flood backwaters of the Mississippi River-Wolf River, Nonconnah Creek Backwater Flood Control System. These flood control structures protect some of the City's most cherished assets such as the world recognized St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, the TVA power plant, many large industries as well as major railroad transportation facilities.

Over the past five years, the City has made significant financial investments into this system to safeguard its citizens from the devastating impacts of flooding. These investments include more than \$7.5 million in upgrades to flood control pump stations, as well as plans to spend an additional \$7 million over the next two years, in accordance with prudent engineering best practices in cooperation with USACE's technical guidance. These pump stations were installed as part of the flood control system's efforts to protect people and property who live in communities along the levees.

We kindly ask your support for the City of Memphis' petition to transfer the operation and maintenance of the Memphis flood control system to USACE, consistent with MR&T's management of other flood control systems along the Lower Mississippi River.

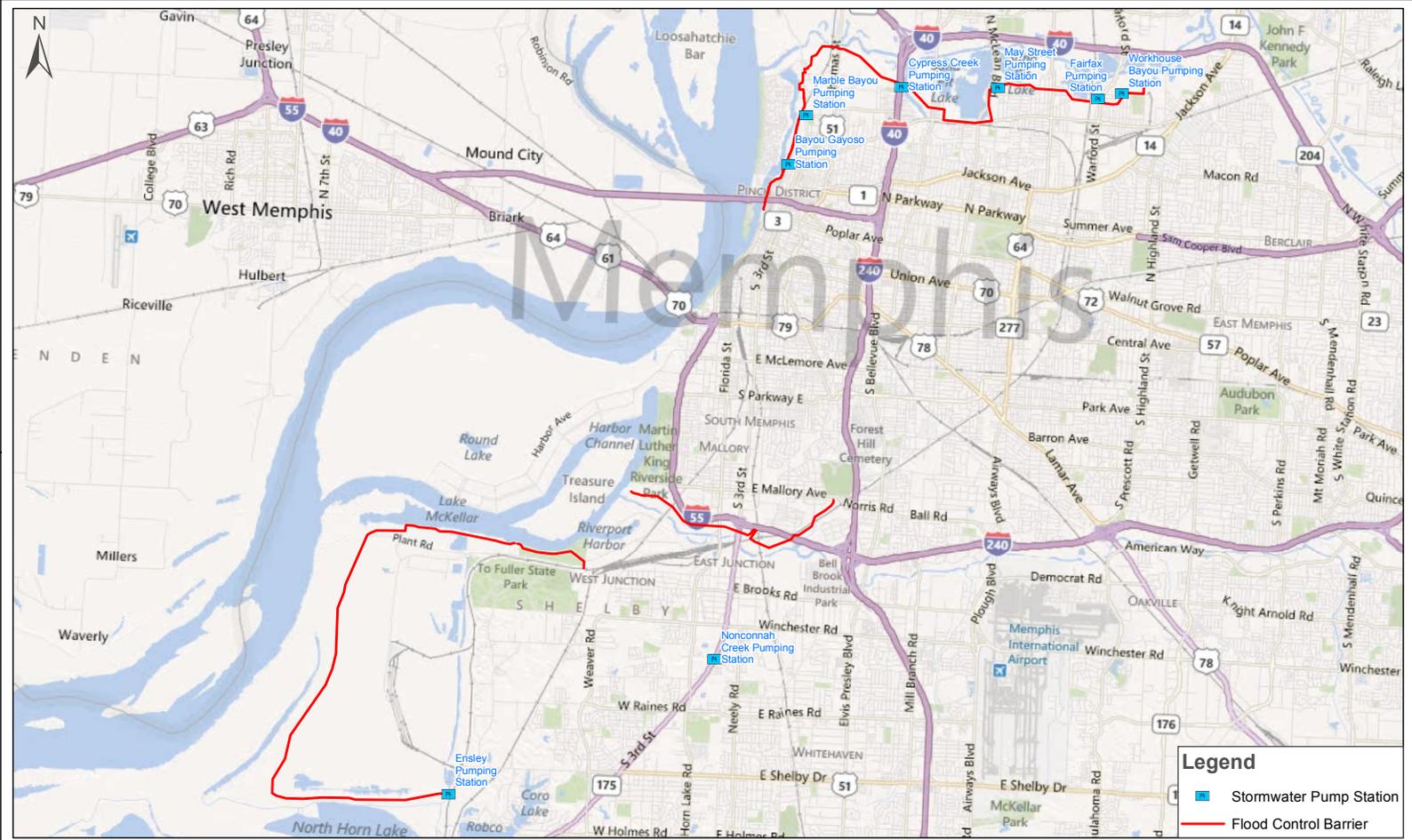
Sincerely,

Jim Strickland

Map Document

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Memphis_Floodwalls_8.5 x 11.pdf



Legend

- Stomwater Pump Station
- Flood Control Barrier

Flood Control Devices
 Memphis, Tennessee
 Figure 1



Additional Proposal Information

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MRC Response 6-5-19.pdf



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39181-0080

June 5, 2019

Executive Office

Mr. Robert Knecht, Director
City of Memphis, Public Works
125 N. Main Street, Room 608
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Knecht:

Thank you for testimony provided to the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting held on April 9, 2019, in Memphis, Tennessee. In your testimony you discussed the increased occurrence of river stages above 34 feet and the measures the city takes anytime the river rises above 26.5 feet. You also mentioned the work you are doing to upgrade your pumping stations.

The Commission appreciates your support of the engineering study on the floodwall and looks forward to seeing the recommendations to ensure the safety of the citizens of Memphis. The Memphis District will contact you to discuss your proposal and the process to incorporate the floodwall into the Mississippi River and Tributaries project.

The Commission appreciates your comments and looks forward to hearing from you at future meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Richard G. Kaiser", is positioned above the typed name.

Richard G. Kaiser
Major General, U.S. Army
President, Mississippi River
Commission

Additional Proposal Information

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City of Memphis_S.Cohen - Corps of Engineers.pdf

STEVE COHEN
9TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE
2104 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3265
FAX: (202) 225-5663

167 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 369
MEMPHIS, TN 38103

TELEPHONE: (901) 544-4131
FAX: (901) 544-4329

WWW.COHEN.HOUSE.GOV

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4209

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CHAIR – CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND
CIVIL LIBERTIES
COURTS, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND THE
INTERNET
CRIME, TERRORISM AND HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
AVIATION
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT
RAILROADS, PIPELINES AND HAZARDOUS MATERI-
ALS
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE
AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

August 27, 2019

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
167 N Main St. B202
Memphis, TN 38103

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my support for the City of Memphis' initial request submitted to the Mississippi River Commission on April 9, 2019 by Mr. Robert Knecht, Public Works Director for the City of Memphis to "Transfer Operation and Maintenance of the Mississippi River Floodwalls and Mainline/Backwater Levees in Memphis, Tennessee" to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). As prescribed by Section 7001 of WRRDA 2014 the City of Memphis has prepared a Proposal Application for the requested action.

Given the importance of this flood system, it is the City's formal request that federal responsibility and resources be designated to operate and maintain the large flood control system that protects Memphis from the Mississippi River. The City of Memphis is the only city along the Lower Mississippi River that owns, operates, and maintains all the structural systems that provide its citizens protection from the flood impact of the Mississippi River. As the USACE currently maintains all the other flood control systems under the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project, it is obvious that authority be granted and assigned to the USACE to own and manage the Memphis flood control system.

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Over the past five years, the City has made significant financial investments into this system to safeguard its citizens from the devastating impacts of flooding. These investments include more than \$7.5 million in upgrades to flood control pump stations, as well as plans to spend an additional \$7 million over the next two years, in accordance with prudent engineering best practices in cooperation with USACE's technical guidance. These pump stations were installed as part of the flood control system's efforts to protect people and property who live in communities along the levees.

STEVE COHEN
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Congress of the United States
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COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN EUROPE (U.S. HELSINKI COMMISSION)

I have no hesitation in supporting the City of Memphis' petition to transfer the operation and maintenance of the Memphis flood control system to USACE, consistent with MR&T's management of other flood control systems along the Lower Mississippi River.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Additional Proposal Information

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City of Memphis_D.Kustoff - Corps of Engineers.pdf

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4208

August 27, 2019

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
167 N. Main Street, B202
Memphis, TN 38103

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the City of Memphis' request to "Transfer Operation and Maintenance of the Mississippi River Floodwalls and Mainline/Backwater Levees in Memphis, Tennessee" to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The designation of funds is vital for our community as it will help operate and preserve the large flood control system that protects Memphis from the Mississippi River.

Memphis is the only city along the Lower Mississippi River that owns, manages, and maintains all the structural systems that provide its citizens protection from the flood impact of the Mississippi River. As the USACE currently maintains all the other flood control systems under the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project, it is imperative that authority be granted to the USACE to own and manage the Memphis flood control system.

Memphis' flood control system includes 17,089 feet of flood wall, five and a half miles of levees, 27 enclosures, and seven pumping stations along the flood backwaters of the Mississippi River-Wolf River, Nonconnah Creek Backwater Flood Control System. These flood control structures protect some of the city's most prized and vital assets, such as St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the TVA power plant, and major industries and railroad transportation facilities.

I hope you will give all due consideration and support for the City of Memphis' request to transfer the operation and maintenance of the Memphis flood control system to the USACE. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 225-4714.

Sincerely,



David Kustoff
Member of Congress