

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACTS: DEVELOPMENT TO IMPLEMENTATION

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April 9, 2026



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AGENDA

- WRDA Overview & Development
 - What is WRDA?
 - Authorization + Appropriations
 - Technical Assistance
- WRDA Implementation
 - Public Input
 - Guidance Determination
 - Development of IG
- WRDA 2024 Update
- WRDA 2026 Update



WRDA DEVELOPMENT



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WHAT IS WRDA?

The first Water Resource Development Act was passed in 1974. WRDAs are typically passed biennially, shaping the framework through which the Corps implements water resource projects for the nation.

Water Resource Development Acts are legislation that provide authorization for Corps of Engineers projects across the nation. Typically, Corps projects require two authorizations (in addition to appropriations):

1. Authority to study the feasibility of the project.
2. Authority to construct (and operate and maintain, as applicable) the project.

WRDAs may also make other changes including authorizing specific programs, changing cost-share requirements for a project or program, amending previous provisions, or providing direction on certain policies or activities.



Public Law 93-251
93rd Congress, H. R. 10203
March 7, 1974

An Act

88 STAT. 12

Authorizing the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors for navigation, flood control, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 1. (a) The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is hereby authorized to undertake the ~~phase I design memorandum stage of advanced engineering and design of the following~~ multi-purpose water resources development projects, substantially in accordance with, and subject to the conditions recommended by the Chief of Engineers in, the reports hereinafter designated.

Water re-
sources devel-
opment and
preservation.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC COASTAL AREA

The project for hurricane-flood protection at ~~Virginia Beach~~, Virginia: House Document Numbered 92-365, at an estimated cost of \$954,000.

JAMES RIVER BASIN

The project for flood protection for the city of ~~Buena Vista~~ on the ~~Maury River~~, Virginia: House Document Numbered 93-56, at an estimated cost of \$665,000.

SALT RIVER BASIN

The project for ~~Camp Ground Lake on Beech Fork~~ in the Salt River Basin, ~~Kentucky~~, for flood protection and other purposes: House Document Numbered 92-374, at an estimated cost of \$330,000.

PASCAGOULA RIVER BASIN

The project for flood protection and other purposes on ~~Bowie Creek~~, Mississippi: House Document Numbered 92-359, at an estimated cost of \$390,000.

PEARL RIVER BASIN

The project for flood control and other purposes on the Pearl River, Mississippi: House Document Numbered 92-282, at an estimated cost of \$310,000.

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN

The project for flood control and other purposes on the ~~Zumbro River at Rochester~~, Minnesota: Report of the Chief of Engineers dated June 7, 1973, in House Document Numbered 93-156, at an estimated cost of \$150,000.

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN

The project for Greenville Harbor, Greenville, Mississippi: Senate Document Numbered 93-38, at an estimated cost of \$200,000.

The project for flood protection for the east bank of the Mississippi River, Warren to Wilkinson Counties, Mississippi (Natchez area): House Document Numbered 93-148, at an estimated cost of \$150,000.

The project for flood control and other purposes on the east bank of the Mississippi River, Warren to Wilkinson Counties, Mississippi



Authorization

Senate
Committee on
Environment &
Public Works

House
Committee on
Transportation &
Infrastructure



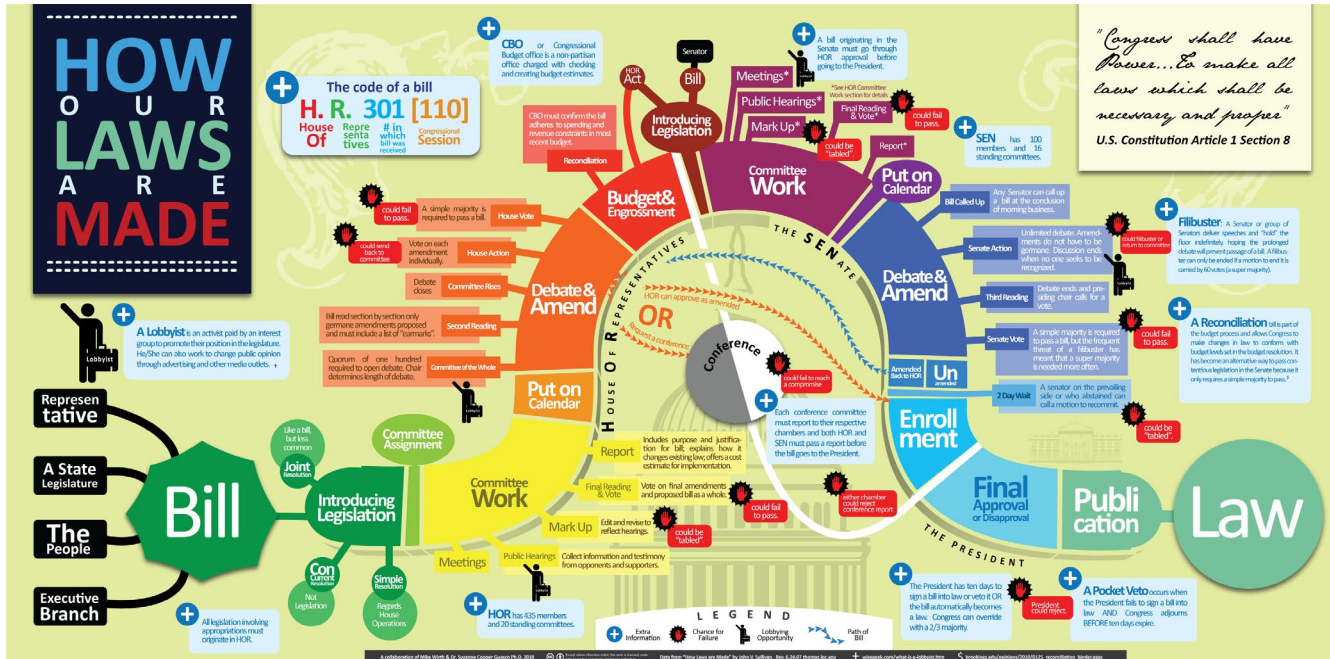
WRDA
(every 2 years)

Appropriations

Senate
Subcommittee on
Energy & Water
Development

House
Subcommittee on
Energy & Water
Development

Energy & Water Development Appropriations
(annually)
Supplemental Appropriations





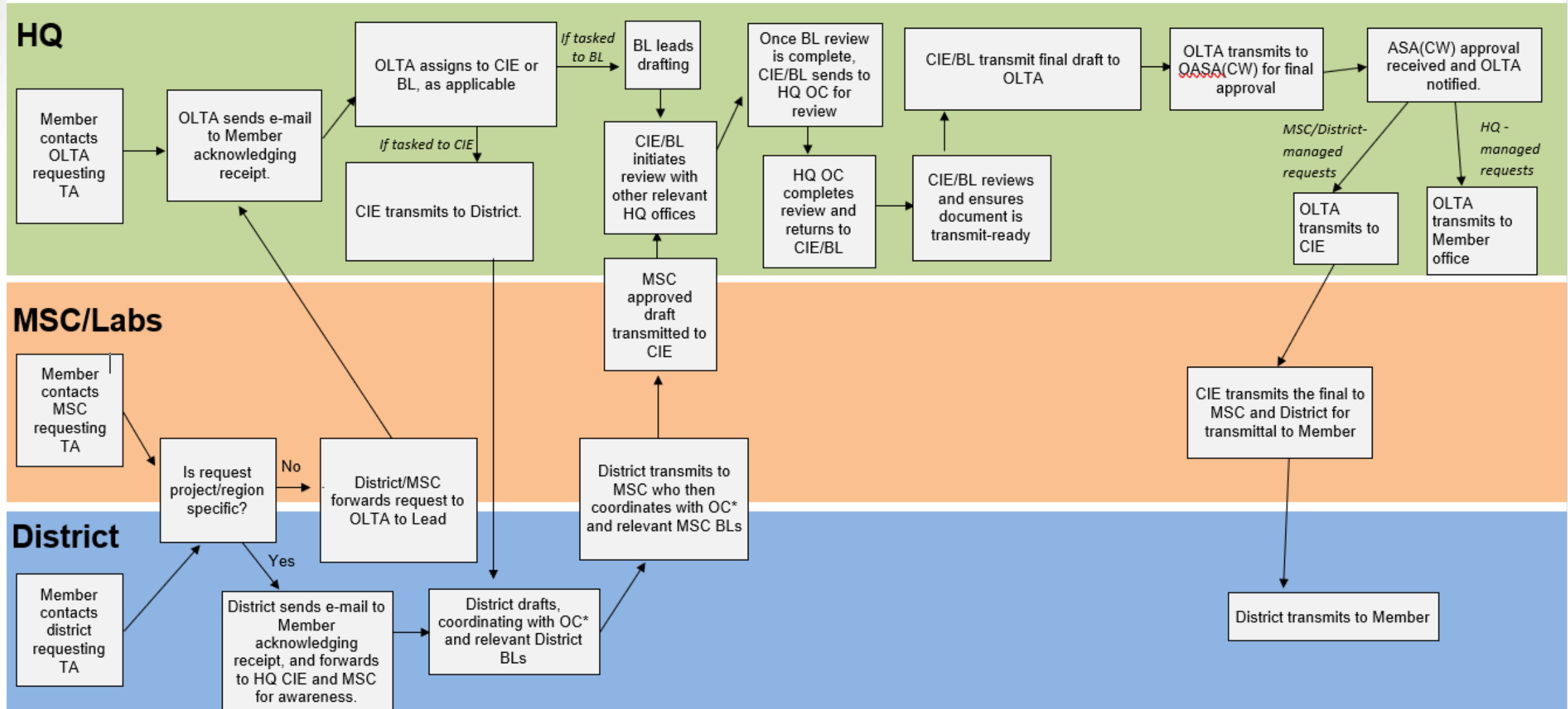
WRDA DEVELOPMENT



<https://transportation.house.gov/wrda-2026/>

- *WRDAs* provide Members of Congress the opportunity to authorize Corps Civil Works projects to improve the nation's ports and harbors, the inland waterway navigation network, flood and storm protection, and other water resources infrastructure.
- *WRDAs* allow Congress to have direct involvement in what projects the Corps studies and constructs.
- These projects originate at the local level and go through a rigorous vetting process before they may be considered for inclusion in a *WRDA*.
- This legislation also provides Congress the opportunity to address program and policy reforms within the Civil Works program to help projects get built safely and efficiently, and in a more cost-effective way.
- *WRDA* projects have national, regional, and local significance and help strengthen the nation's global competitiveness, grow the economy, move goods throughout the country and abroad, protect communities, and create jobs.

WRDA Technical Assistance (TA) Process Flow Chart (25 MAR 26)



- Target 5 business day turnaround from date of request to transmittal to ASA(CW)

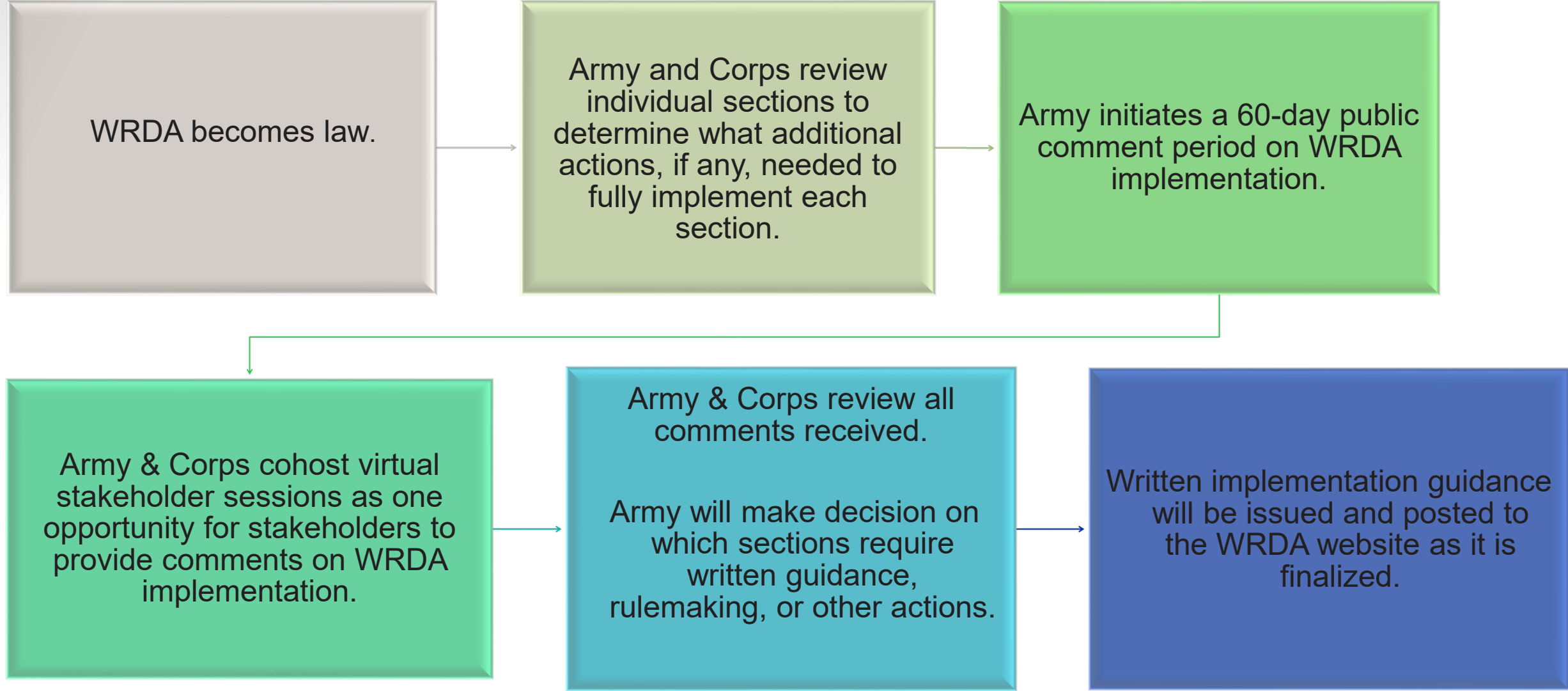
* OC at District, Division, and HQ should coordinate during initial drafting to ensure alignment.

WRDA IMPLEMENTATION



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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Per Section 1105 of WRDA 2018, the Secretary will conduct a 60-day public comment period.

- Public comment period typically includes virtual stakeholder listening sessions as another opportunity for input.
- No guidance will be issued until after the public comment period ends.
- Guidance details are not to be discussed or distributed outside USACE.



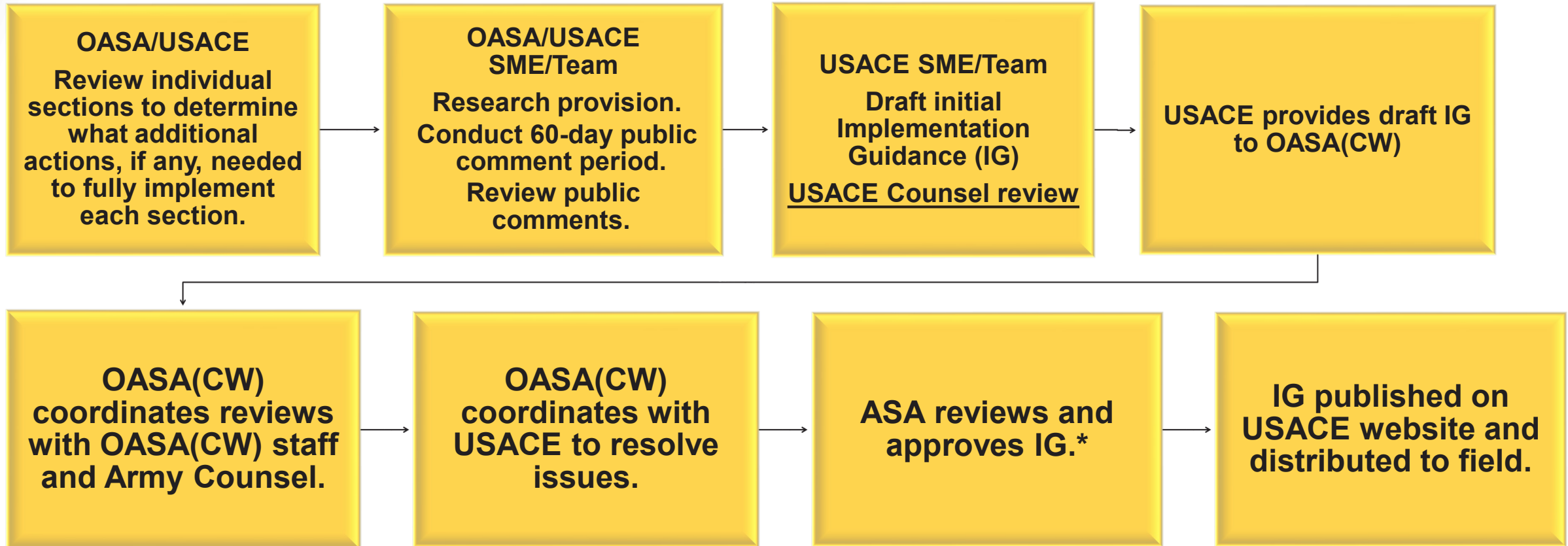
INITIAL IG DETERMINATION PROCESS

Screening Process:

- Did WRDA direct development of guidance for this provision?
- Is the language written directly and can be implemented as written?
- Is the language specific to a single study or project?
- Does the language impact other Federal agencies and require coordination across agencies?
- Is there an existing Engineer Regulation or Policy that will need to be updated?
- Did the provision amend previous direction and require an update to existing IG or other policy guidance?
- Is the study/project/activity funded so that the authorizing language can be implemented?

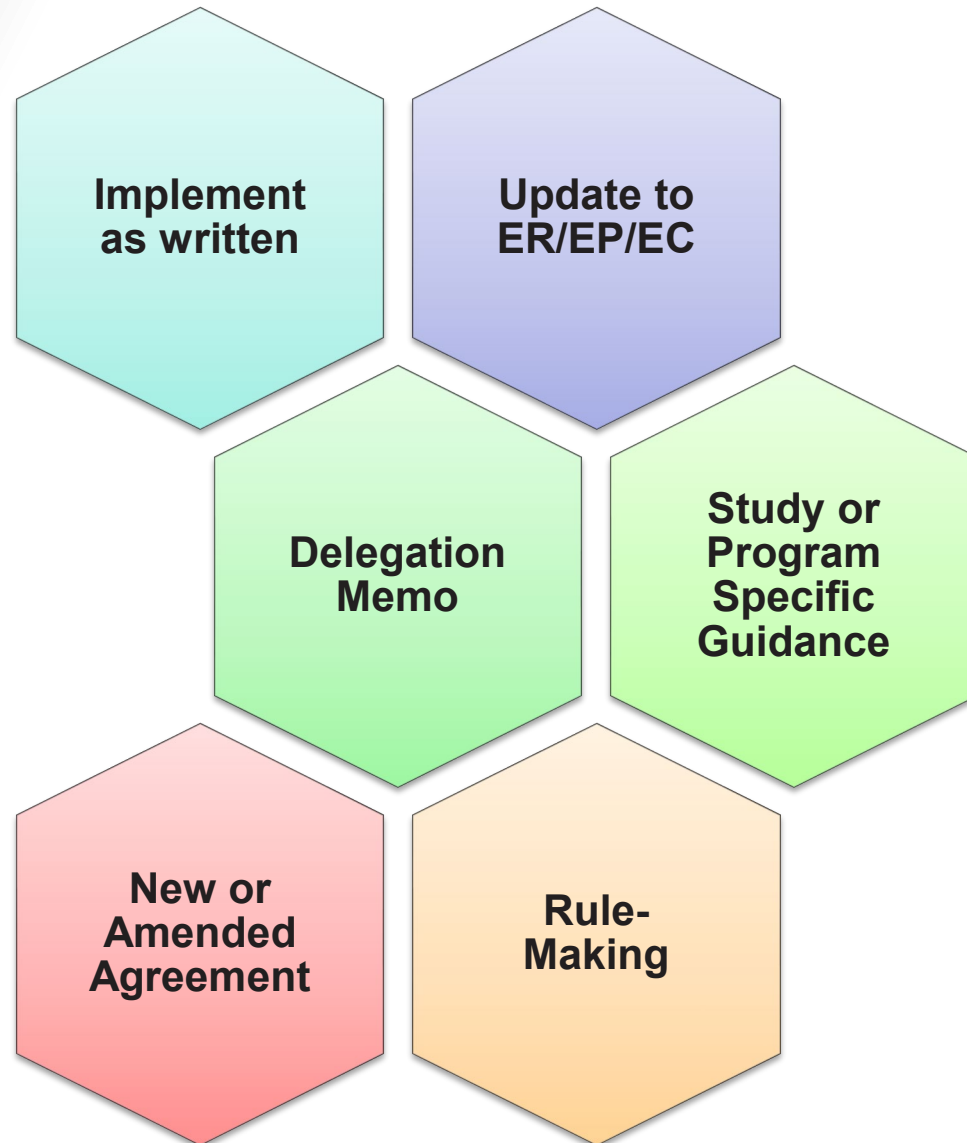


WRDA 2024 IG DEVELOPMENT PROCESS





WRDA IMPLEMENTATION METHODS



Guidance Questions?

- Questions on WRDA provision?
- Provision recently funded for the first time and need alignment or direction?
- Conditions changed?

Coordinate through your MSC Command Integration Element (fka RIT) to HQ Planning with any questions.

WRDA 2024 UPDATE



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WRDA 2024

- The Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (PL 118-272) was signed on January 4, 2025.
- Authorizes 17 new projects for construction totaling project costs of approximately \$16 billion.
- Authorizes 162 new feasibility studies including those identified by non-Federal interests annually in accordance with section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, as well as 5 modifications to existing studies.
- Provides authorization for 192 new section 219 Environmental Infrastructure (EI) projects (at a cost of \$3.5 billion), adds 4 new EI programs totaling \$214M, and 64 modifications to existing Sec 219 authorities.
- WRDA 2024 makes permanent Inland Waterways Trust Fund (IWTF) cost share to 75% Federal and 25% IWTF.
- Provides an increase in total per-project and programmatic total cost authorizations to the suite of nine CAP Programs.
- Reauthorizes the National Dam Safety Program through 2028.
- Requires that 80% of recreation fees collected at a water resources project be used at that project.



GUIDANCE UPDATES

Implementation Guidance Completed:

- Sec 1103. Vertical integration and acceleration of studies.
- Sec 1107(b)-(j). Continuing authority programs.
- Sec 1117. Harbor Deepening.
- Sec 1147. Remote and subsistence harbors.
- Sec 1303(e). Non-Federal Implementation Pilot Program (Section 1043(b) WRRDA 2014)
- Sec 1367. Rehabilitation of Corps of Engineers constructed dams.

Rule-Making:

- Sec 1105. Review process. (Section 408)
- Sec 1139. Ability to pay.
- Sec 1146. Systemwide improvement framework and encroachments. (Natural Disaster Procedures Rule)

WRDA 2026



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WRDA 2026

Development of WRDA 2026 is underway!

Requests for Technical Assistance and Legislative Drafting Services are rolling in.

Please be sure to follow the process as outlined by the Office of Legislative and Tribal Affairs.

Review their webinar at this link: [WRDA Technical Assistance](#)



USACE WRDA Website:

<https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Water-Resources-Development-Act/>

Stay tuned for updates to the WRDA websites!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



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