

# Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014

**Jim Walker**

*Director of Navigation Policy and Legislation*

*American Association of Port Authorities*

August 12, 2014



Alliance of the Ports of Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America and the United States

Seaports  
Deliver  
Prosperity

American Association of Port Authorities  
703.684.5700 • [www.aapa-ports.org](http://www.aapa-ports.org)

# WRRDA!

- 2000, 2007, 2014
- Water Resources Reform and Development Act
- Path to full use of HMT – incremental increases leading to full use in 2025
- Donor equity
- 8 channel improvement projects authorized
- Streamline Corps study process



# WRRDA – AAPA Highlights

- HMT targets leading to full use and donor equity provisions in Title 2. Member agreement on AAPA HMT Principles was key to successful Congressional discussions.
- The donor equity provision (Section 2106): While AAPA did not specifically endorse this section, it does address AAPA's principal on donor equity. There are a lot of clarifications that the Corps will need to determine in terms of berth dredging and port coordination regarding refund payment processes, etc.
- Cost sharing threshold modernization: Changing the cost-share maintenance dredging depth from greater than 45 feet to greater than 50 feet. This threshold was established in WRDA 1986 and did not reflect current global shipping.
- Expedited feasibility study completions – the 3x3x3 established in Section 1001. This was directly linked to AAPA/Corps/Sec Army listening sessions that began in 2011.

# WRRDA – AAPA Highlights

- **Elimination of Initial Reconnaissance study at existing Federal navigation projects (Section 1002). Saves 2 years or more to get into the Budget process and determine there is a Federal interest and then initiating a Feasibility study.**
- **Clarification of Non-Federal Sponsor’s ability to hire the Corps for economic and environmental components of a feasibility study, (Section 1014).**
- **Expanded who can contribute funds to the Corps “other non-Federal interests” (Section 1015).**
- **Expanded flexibilities associated with Cost-Sharing Sponsor credits – what is earned, credit in lieu of reimbursement and their transfer and from one project to another (Sections 1020, 1021 and 1022).**

# WRRDA – AAPA Highlights

- **Expediting the Secretary’s approval of modifications and alterations of projects by non-Federal interests (Section 1007).**
- **Increased flexibilities to accept and use materials and services to repair or restore damage to a water resources project after an emergency (Section 1024). For example post-Hurricane surveys to expedite navigation channel reopening.**
- **Accepting contributed funds for dedicated Regulatory permit reviews (Section 1006).**
- **Independent Peer Reviews, Section 1044: Threshold increased from \$45 to \$200 million; review authority extended 5 years.**

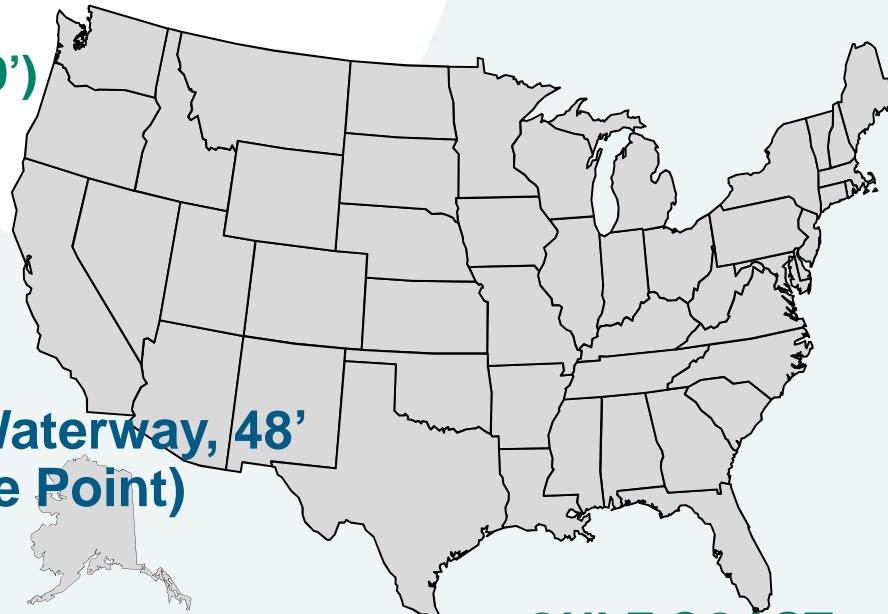
# US Harbors 45' or Greater

## WEST COAST

Seattle/Tacoma (>50')  
Oakland (50')  
LA/LB (>50')  
San Diego (47')

## WRRDA

Sabine Neches Waterway, 48'  
Jacksonville (Mile Point)  
Savannah, 47'  
Freeport, 56'  
Canaveral, 44'  
Boston, 47'  
Lake Worth, 39'  
Jacksonville, 47'



## EAST COAST

NY/NJ (50' underway)  
Baltimore (50')  
Hampton Roads (50')  
Charleston  
Morehead City  
Miami (50' underway)

## GULF COAST

Mobile  
New Orleans  
Houston/Galveston/Texas City  
Corpus Christi  
Freeport

# Implementation Guidance Listening Sessions

- **Session I, Aug 13, 2014**

Deauthorizations & Backlog  
Prevention  
Project Development and  
Delivery (Including Planning)

- **Session II, Aug 27, 2014**

Alternative Financing –  
Contributions  
Alternative Financing - Title V  
Credits

- **Session III, Sep 10, 2014**

Levee Safety  
Dam Safety  
Regulatory (including 408)

- **Session IV, Sep 24, 2014**

Non-Federal Implementation  
Water Supply and Reservoirs  
Navigation

# ... What's Next?

- **WRDA implementation guidance w/Corps**
- **Hit the HMT target!**
  - Administration - (walk the talk) budget for HMT and new starts
  - Congress appropriate the funds
- **Engage in surface transportation reauthorization**
- **Communicate importance of freight movement and infrastructure investment to Nation's economic growth and jobs.**



# Surface Transportation Programs

## MAP 21 (2012)

- Directed development of a National Freight Strategy
- Intermodal performance measure development
- Establish a Primary Freight Network
- Port concern – first mile, last mile

## TIGER

- Transportation Investment Grants for Economic Recovery
- Annual amount varies, \$500 M, ports seek 25%

## MARAD

- Maritime Strategic Plan
- Strong Ports

# Surface Transportation

## MAP 21 (2014) Goals

- States include more needs of ports – intermodal projects
- Seek a dedicated National Freight Program
- Establish and direct funding to Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS)
- 2012 Freight consideration voluntary, but provided incentives
- States establish a water transportation official in their Department of Transportation