



Delta Counties Coalition

Contra Costa County · Sacramento County · San Joaquin County · Solano County · Yolo County

"Working together on water and Delta issues"

September 14, 2023

Re: Water Resources Development Act of 2024 Request

Dear Members of the Delta Congressional Delegation:

The Delta Counties Coalition (DCC) requests your support for an amendment to the Corps of Engineers' section 219 Environmental Infrastructure authority to allow the Federal share of project costs authorized under section 219 to be provided in the form of grants and reimbursements. The requested modification is important because it will allow the Corps to provide assistance under section 219 in the most efficient manner possible, saving time and money for both the Corps and non-Federal sponsors.

The Corps' environmental infrastructure program has grown dramatically since 1992, with different authorizations provided for many of these projects and programs. The proposed legislation is intended to promote consistency and program equities by bringing the general environmental infrastructure authorities authorized under Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended, into alignment with other separately authorized regional, state, and multi-state environmental infrastructure authorities that allow the federal share of total project costs to be provided in the form of grants or reimbursements. The requested provision borrows on project implementation concepts found in other previously enacted environmental infrastructure authorities, including section 5039 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, the State of California's environmental infrastructure authority. There are dozens of section 219 authorities in the State of California that would benefit from the requested amendment to section 219, including the five Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Counties (Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Solano, Sacramento, and Yolo) covered by section 219(f)(300), authority you secured in WRDA 2022.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued leadership in Congress on DCC's water resource-related issues. Please feel free to contact Elisia De Bord, the DCC's coordinator, at deborde@saccounty.gov or (916) 874-4627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Oscar E. Villegas".

Oscar Villegas, Chair
Delta Counties Coalition

Attachment

Water Resources Development Act of 2024 Proposed Language

At the appropriate place in the bill, add the following:

Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended, is further amended to redesignate subparagraph (d) as subparagraph (e) and insert a new subparagraph (d) as follows:

(d) Grants and Reimbursements – For projects, or separable elements of projects, for which assistance is provided under this section, the Federal share may be in the form of grants or reimbursements of project costs.