US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Albuquerque District

Continuing Authorities Program

Section 206
(Water Resources Development Act of 1996)
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

At a Glance:

- $10 million federal per-project limit
- First $100,000 of the Feasibility phase is 100% federal cost
- Remainder of Feasibility phase is cost-shared 50/50
- The Design and Implementation phase is cost-shared at 65% federal and 35% non-federal

The Authority. Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996, as amended, allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study, design and construct restoration projects in aquatic ecosystems (such as rivers, lakes and wetlands). The Continuing Authorities Program consists of a suite of standing authorities provided by Congress to fund projects within certain limits without the need to obtain specific congressional authorization for each project.

The Process. A Section 206 project has two phases: Feasibility, and Design and Implementation.

During the Feasibility phase, a study is conducted to determine if there is federal interest in the project. Federal interest is determined by evaluating different alternatives – comparing costs and benefits and identifying potential environmental affects. If there is a federal interest in the project (i.e. there is a plan with more benefits than costs that is environmentally acceptable), the study will recommend proceeding to the Design and Implementation phase. The first $100,000 of the Feasibility phase is provided by the federal government. Feasibility phase costs that exceed $100,000 must be cost-shared 50% federal and 50% non-federal. The non-federal share of the amount in excess of $100,000 may be provided as work-in-kind.

During the Design and Implementation (DI) phase, detailed drawings and descriptions of the project will be developed and the project will be implemented. This phase is cost-shared 65% federal and 35% non-federal.

The non-federal sponsor's required 35% cost-share must be provided during the DI phase. The 35% may be contributed in cash, work-in-kind, or credit for any project lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal sites that the sponsor must provide as items of local cooperation. The sponsor must agree to operate and maintain the project after completion of construction.

How to Request a Study. If you have an environmental restoration project that may fit within the Section 206 authority, please contact the Albuquerque District at the phone number below. Our Continuing Authorities Program Manager will be happy to assist you and, if warranted, will visit the site to determine whether or not the proposed restoration fits within our authority. Upon receipt of a letter of request from a non-federal project sponsor the Corps can initiate the study and request funding.

For more information please contact:

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SAMPLE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albuquerque District
ATTN: Civil Works Planning and Project Management Division
4101 Jefferson Plaza, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Dear Sir:

This letter is to request the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, as amended, to determine the feasibility of an aquatic ecosystem restorations project at *[location]*.

[Briefly describe the nature of the aquatic ecosystem restoration any issues that might affect the acceptability of any recommended solutions, from the perspective of local government and/or the public.]

We understand that once a project partnership agreement (PPA) is completed, the non-federal sponsor would be required to pay 50% of the feasibility phase costs and 35% of the remaining cost of the project. We understand that we can receive credit for work-in-kind, and for any project lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal sites that we provide as items of local cooperation. We also understand the maximum federal cost for this project is limited to $10,000,000, and that any costs exceeding this amount would be a non-federal responsibility.

We are able and willing to proceed to construction within a year, if a feasible project is identified, and we will accept responsibility for 100% of the operation and maintenance costs of the project upon completion. Please contact *[name, address, telephone]* for further information.

Sincerely,

[Name and Title of public official authorized to request the study]

For more information, please contact CAP manager Corinne V. O'Hara
at (505) 342-3361 or Corinne.V.OHara@usace.army.mil