



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Walla Walla District

## SECTION 22

### Authority for: **PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES**

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**WHAT CAN THE CORPS DO?** Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, as amended, provides authority for the Corps to provide planning assistance to states and tribes. The Planning Assistance States (PAS) Program, permits the Corps to use its technical planning expertise to supplement and support state and Indian tribe efforts to undertake broad, statewide, comprehensive water resources planning. Upon request, the Corps will cooperate with a state or tribe in the preparation of plans for the development, use and conservation of water and related land resources located within the state or tribal boundaries.

The Planning Assistance to States Program is funded annually by Congress. Federal allotments for each state or tribe from the nationwide appropriation are limited to \$500,000 annually, but typically are much less. Individual studies, of which there may be more than one per state or tribe per year, generally cost from \$20,000 to \$150,000, but can be more.. This program is cost shared on a 50% Federal and 50% non-federal basis.

Typical studies are planning level of detail; they do not include detailed design for project construction. Most studies become the basis for state, local, and Tribal planning decisions. Although the studies are planning level products, they do provide communities with the technical data and analysis needed to either prepare plans and specifications for implementation or request implementation funds. Implementation of any improvements would be the responsibility of the local government. Typical problems and opportunities studied under this program are related to: flood damage reduction, water supply, water conservation, environmental restoration, water quality, hydropower, erosion, navigation, fish and wildlife, cultural resources, and environmental resources.

**WHAT ARE THE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITIES?** Local and regional officials who are interested in assistance for their communities under this program should contact the Corps. Costs for Section 22 projects are shared by the federal government (50%) and a non-federal sponsor (50%) in accordance with the Water Resources Development Act of 1974. Up to one half of the non-federal sponsor's cost share (25% of the total project cost) can be provided as "in-kind" services. Sponsors include states, local governments and federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes.

**HOW CAN A STUDY BE REQUESTED?** The first step in the process is to express your interest in the Section 22 Program by providing a written request to the Corps'. This request should contain a brief description of the assistance needed as well as any concerns or issues. A meeting will then be scheduled to explore your concerns in more detail and to initiate the preparation of a plan of study (POS) and cost estimate. Once all parties agree on the POS and costs, a Letter of Agreement would be signed between the local sponsor and the Corps. The study would be initiated upon receipt of the funding. Early coordination the Corps' program manager is encouraged to meet your needs as soon as possible. Since new Federal funds usually become available in November, a good time to discuss potential studies with the program manager would be several months before this (e.g. March to June).

A sample letter of request is offered below:

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District:  
ATTN: Planning Branch  
201 N. Third Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876*

*Dear Sir:*

*This letter is to request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide technical assistance under Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 for Planning Assistance to States in (location).*

*(Briefly describe the nature of the technical assistance needed and any issues that might affect the acceptability of any recommended solutions, from the perspective of the local government and/or the public)*

*It is understood that, if it is found feasible and advisable to receive the technical assistance requested at (location), the (non-federal sponsor) would be required to provide the local cooperation and cost sharing prescribed by the Secretary of the Army.*

*Sincerely,  
(Name and title of official authorized sponsor)*

For more information, contact Plan Formulation, at 509-527-7296 or Email:  
[cenww-pd-ec@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenww-pd-ec@usace.army.mil)