



Section 204: Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 gives the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the authority to implement projects for the protection, restoration and creation of aquatic and ecologically related habitats in connection with the construction or maintenance dredging of an authorized navigation project.

Who can apply?

Any non-Federal government entity can serve as the Sponsor for a Section 204 project. In some cases, non-government agencies may serve as Sponsors. Project initiation requires letter to the District office requesting Corps assistance.

What does it cost?

- The Feasibility Phase is 100% Federally Funded.
- The Design and Implementation Phase is cost shared 65% Federal and 35% Non-Federal.
- There is a spending limit of \$10 million of Federal expenditure per Section 204 project.
- Annual Federal spending limit is \$62.5 million

How long does it take?

Section 204 feasibility studies can take approximately 12 to 24 months and include two major milestones. The first milestone is a Federal Interest Determination document to be accomplished with the first \$100,000. The second milestone is a Major Subordinate Command Decision Milestone (MDM) to discuss the selected alternatives for a potential construction project. The outcome of the MDM and the feasibility study will be a Detailed Project Report. The feasibility study includes all alternatives analysis, design work, NEPA compliance, and benefit-cost analysis. Construction time varies depending on the project being implemented.

Questions?

To learn more, visit www.sac.usace.army.mil/partnerships.

Questions? Email cesac-planning@usace.army.mil or call (843) 329-8050.

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
69A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Sir or Madam,

This letter is to request the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended, to reduce hurricane and storm damages to property or to protect, restore, and create aquatic and ecologically related habitats, including wetlands near (CITY OR TOWN).

(BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE NATURE AND SEVERITY OF POTENTIAL DAMAGES AND THE RELATED BENEFITS.)

We understand that as a local sponsor under the Section 204 program, the Corps prepares the feasibility report at full Federal expense and we are responsible for 35 percent of project design and construction costs, if a feasible plan is identified. We acknowledge that the cost share contribution can be in the form of "in-kind" services that contribute a direct component to the study, cash, or a combination. Our cost share obligation would include provision of all lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and dredged material disposal areas required for the project. We intend to pursue budgetary actions so that funds are available to meet our cost sharing requirements. We would assume responsibility for operation and maintenance of the project upon completion.

The (NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR) is aware that this letter constitutes an expression of intent to initiate a study partnership to address the specified water resources problems and is not a contractual obligation. We understand that work on the study cannot commence until it is chosen to be included in the Administration's budget. It is understood that we or USACE may opt to discontinue the study at any time after the feasibility study cost sharing agreement is signed but will commit to work together as partners from the scoping phase, and subsequent decision points throughout the feasibility study, on providing the necessary support to risk-informed decision making. If it is determined that additional time or funding is necessary to support decisions to be made to complete the study, our agency will work with USACE to determine the appropriate course of action.

The (NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR) has designated (NAME /PHONE NUMBER) as the point of contact for this project.

Sincerely,
(NAME / TITLE OF OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO REQUEST STUDY)