



## Section 205: Flood Risk Management

Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act gives the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the authority to plan, design and construct flood risk management projects. These projects can be structural projects, such as modified channels, small reservoirs or small levees, or can be non-structural measures such as raising structures in place or removing them from the floodplain.

### Who can apply?

Any non-Federal government entity can serve as the Sponsor for a Section 205 study. Project initiation requires a letter to the District office requesting Corps assistance. All Section 205 Sponsors must comply with the Federal flood insurance plan and prepare floodplain management plans within 1 year of project completion.

### What does it cost?

- First \$100,000 of the Feasibility Phase is 100% Federally Funded.
- The remainder of the Feasibility Phase is cost-shared 50%/50%.
- The Design and Implementation Phase is cost shared 65% Federal and 35% Non-Federal.
- The sponsor must contribute in cash a minimum of 5 percent of the total project cost. The sponsor must also pay for and obtain all lands, easements, rights of way and relocations (LERR) for the project.
- There is a spending cap of \$10 million of Federal expenditure per Section 205 project.
- Annual Federal program limit is \$ 68.5 million.
- All studies are subject to availability of Federal appropriations.

### How long does it take?

Section 205 feasibility studies can take up to 2 years to complete 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 the 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](http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/partnerships).

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



## Section 205: Flood Damage Reduction

Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act gives the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the authority to plan, design and construct flood risk management projects. These projects can be structural projects, such as modified channels, small reservoirs or small levees, or can be non-structural measures such as raising structures in place or removing them from the floodplain.

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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 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, as amended, in reducing flood damages associated with (RIVER OR CREEK) in the vicinity of (CITY OR TOWN).

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

We understand that as a local sponsor under the Section 205 program, we are responsible for 50 percent of feasibility study costs exceeding \$100,000 in Federal expenditures and 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)