

## **2018 Budget Language Reference Document**

This document is intended to be a one-stop-shop for all Water Mission Area (WMA) budget language and reference documents in a given fiscal year. Below, a summary and an excerpt of the WMA language in the reports released with the Final Enacted Bill, and House and Senate Marks is provided. In addition, a summary of the President’s Budget Request and links to all of the source documents are included.

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**Final Enacted Bill**

**Source Document:** [Public Law 115-141](#) (Division G of the Report)

**Summary**

On March 23, 2018, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 was enacted. The bill funded the WMA at \$217.6 million. Within this amount, the bill included:

- \$46.1 million for the Water Availability and Use Science Program;
- \$74.2 million for the Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program;
- \$90.8 million for the National Water Quality Program; and,
- \$6.5 million for the Water Resources Research Act Program.

**Report Language**

Water Resources. -- The agreement provides \$217,554,000 for Water Resources, with \$59,927,000 directed to activities associated with Cooperative Matching Funds. Increases include an additional \$1,000,000 for groundwater resource studies in the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain; \$1,500,000 for streamgages; and \$300,000 to begin research on shallow and fractured bedrock terrain.

The National Groundwater Monitoring Network is funded at the fiscal year 2017 enacted level of \$3,600,000. The agreement includes funding for the streamgage on transboundary rivers at \$120,000. The Committees direct the Survey to partner with local Tribes and other Federal agencies as necessary in the area to develop a water quality strategy for the transboundary rivers impacted by mining activities. Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Survey is directed to report back to the Committees on the necessary work needed to collect, analyze, and assess the hydrologic, water-quality, and ecological data needed to document baseline conditions and assess potential mining-related impacts.

**House Mark**

**Source Document:** [House Report 115-238](#) (Title I of the Report)

**Summary**

The House recommended \$210.8 million for the WMA. Within this amount, the House included:

- \$42.1 million for the Water Availability and Use Science Program;
- \$73.2 million for the Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program;
- \$89.0 million for the National Water Quality Program; and,
- \$6.5 million for the Water Resources Research Act Program.

**Report Language**

Water Resources. -- The Committee recommends \$210,754,000 for Water Resources. The recommendation does not support reductions to the National Research Program which would reduce research at 32 USGS Water Science Centers across the country. Regional Groundwater Evaluations in the Coastal Lowlands and California Coastal Basin Aquifers, and the Groundwater Model Development, Maintenance, and Sustainability program are funded at fiscal year 2017 levels.

The Cooperative Matching Funds program is designed to bring State, Tribal, and Local partners together to respond to emerging water issues through shared efforts and funding. The recommendation provides \$59,927,000, equal to the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

Streamgages are crucial to early warning and flood damage reduction efforts across the United States. The Committee recommends \$73,173,000 for the groundwater and streamflow information program, with a \$500,000 increase for additional streamgage capacity and rapid deployable streamgages necessary during severe weather events. The National Groundwater Monitoring Network is funded at the fiscal year 2017 enacted level.

The Committee recommends \$89,029,000 for the National Water Quality program, and directs no less than \$2,000,000 to harmful algal bloom (HAB) science. The Urban Waters Federal Partnership is funded at the fiscal year 2017 enacted level of \$717,000. The National Atmospheric Deposition Program is funded at \$1,576,000.

The Water Resources Research Act was designed to provide more effective coordination of the nation's water research establishing Water Resources Research Institutes at universities in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia. These institutes provide vital support to stakeholders, States and Federal agencies for long-term water planning, policy development, and resources management. The program is funded at the fiscal year 2017 enacted level of \$6,500,000.

**Senate Mark**

**Source Document:** [Senate Report](#) (Title I of the Explanatory Statement)

**Summary**

The Senate recommended \$213.2 million for the WMA. Within this amount, the Senate include:

- \$45.5 million for the Water Availability and Use Science Program;
- \$71.8 million for the Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program;
- \$89.4 million for the National Water Quality Program; and,
- \$6.5 million for the Water Resources Research Act Program.

**Report Language**

Water Resources. -- The bill includes \$213,189,000 for Water Resources, an decrease of \$1,565,000 below the current year enacted level. Program increases include \$1,148,000 for groundwater resource studies within the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain and \$300,000 to begin research on shallow and fractured bedrock terrain. The Committee expects the Survey to reports back with 60 days of enactment of this act on a research strategy regarding the understanding of groundwater contamination threats. The Committee also expects the base level of \$1,000,000 for the U.S.-Mexico transboundary aquifer project to continue and the groundwater monitoring network to be continued at \$3,600,000.

The Committee expects the Survey to fund streamgages on transboundary rivers at \$120,000. The Committee directs the Survey to enter into a formal partnership with local Tribes and other Federal agencies as necessary in the area to develop a water quality strategy for the transboundary rivers. The Taku, Stikine, and Unuk watersheds are the cultural and economic lifeblood of Southeast Alaska and span almost 30,000 square miles of remote and difficult to access terrain. Within 180 days of the enactment of this act, the Committee directs the Survey to identify and report back to the Committee on the work and resources necessary to collect, analyze, and assess ecological and water quantity/quality data that is needed to document baseline conditions and to assess potential impacts to water quality and/or aquatic resources related to hard rock copper and gold mining project in British Columbia for the Taku, Stikine, and Unuk transboundary watershed.

The Water Resources Research Act remains at the enacted fiscal year level of \$6,500,000.

**President's Budget Request**

**Source Document:** [USGS 2018 Budget Request](#)

**Specific Chapter:** [WMA Budget Request](#)

**Summary**

The 2018 President's Budget requested \$173.0 million for the WMA. Within this request, the budget provided:

- \$30.4 million for the Water Availability and Use Science Program;
- \$68.1 million for the Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program; and,
- \$74.5 million for the National Water Quality Program.

The budget did not request funds for the Water Resources Research Act Program. In addition, the budget included \$57.7 million in Cooperative Matching Funds for the WMA to partner with local, State, Regional and tribal agencies to monitor and assess water resources.