



Photo by Dan Collins

Trevor Henry, project manager for the City of Flagstaff, foreground right, discusses the Rio de Flag Flood-Risk Management project with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division and Los Angeles District leaders during a tour of the project site April 5 in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Corps leaders meet with partners to discuss Winslow, Flagstaff projects

BY DAN COLLINS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PHOENIX – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Pacific Division and Los Angeles District leaders visited project sites April 5-7 in northern Arizona, including two that are being fully funded through completion.

The Los Angeles District's Rio de Flag Flood-Risk Management and Little Colorado River at Winslow Flood Control projects are being fully funded through design and construction. Additionally, the Winslow project received more than \$65 million in federal funding through the bipartisan Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act, or IIJA, which was announced in January.

"We are actually visiting these sites to be able to look at projects, which fall into the category of let's get it done," said Col. Antoi-

nette Gant, South Pacific Division commander. "Now we have either received funding just recently or we've had funding and needed issues to be resolved, so that we could actually move forward."

While in Flagstaff, the team met with local partners to discuss the Rio de Flag Flood-Risk Management project.

The area is subject to flooding from the Rio de Flag and Clay Avenue Wash tributaries. The plan for the project consists of channel modifications, bridge enhancements, and detention basin and floodwall construction.

The LA District has been allocated \$79 million in federal funds for the Rio de Flag project and plans to award the first construction contract for the Lower Rio de Flag and Clay Avenue Wash reaches in 2023.

"The funding to complete both projects –

Rio de Flag and Little Colorado Winslow – is essential to their successful execution," said David Van Dorpe, LA District deputy district engineer. "By ensuring we have all the funds for construction upfront, we can award a single contract, which in the end, will save the projects a lot of money."

While in Winslow, SPD and LA District leaders met with local partners to discuss plans for the flood-control project there.

About 5,000 people in Winslow – families who live, work and call the area their home – along with critical infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, nursing homes and utilities, are located within a 100-year flood plain and are at the potential risk of flooding.

"It really hits flood control for the city that's really needed ... they are so deserving of **'LEADERS'** continued on Page 3

Welcome back!



Photo by Robert DeDeaux
Budget Analyst Bilqis Ali and Construction Cost Representative Arthur Eyrich celebrate Ali's return to the LA District. Ali was recently recognized for her outstanding service with the South Pacific Border District. Welcome back, Bilqis!

Farewell!



Photo by Robert DeDeaux
Los Angeles District celebrated the service of James "Dave" Palmer during a retirement ceremony in Phoenix recently. Dave served as a public affairs specialist with more than 35 years of federal service. He also served in Korea with the Installation Management Command.

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Commemorating Memorial Day; delivering the program

Hello, SPL Team!

This month, just like every year, we observe a very special day – Memorial Day – which is May 30 this year.

Memorial Day is a day of national awareness and solemn reverence; a day for us to honor the military men and women who gave their lives in defense of our nation, its values, our freedoms and our liberties. We pause to remember their valor and great sacrifice. They came from across our country, from every race and religion, from farms and factories, and cities and neighborhoods, and every imaginable walk of life.

The loss of these brave men and women throughout our nation's history is felt as deeply in our military as it is in our families and communities across this great nation. In the Army, we consider our greatest asset to be our people. Our all-volunteer Army is a credit to Americans of all races, genders and creeds; and our common commitment to defense and love of country binds us together and unifies us. That goes to the heart of what it means to be an American.

It's also important to remember that service members were not the only ones who paid a price. Every fallen hero leaves painful memories and great sorrow for their families and friends. To remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice, let us also think



COL. JULIE A. BALTEN
LA DISTRICT COMMANDER

of their families, for whom the loss is so much more personal.

Memorial Day has traditions with roots that go back to 1864. To learn more about this history, visit <https://history.army.mil/html/reference/holidays/mem-day/index.html>.

Delivering the program

On a different note, I'd like to address the topic of reaffirming our effort "To be the district that delivers quality, on-time, architecture, engineering, and construction solutions to the American West; delivering a legacy with impact." This is a continuous process of ensuring we schedule our projects the best we can so we can consistently meet our milestones with input from every member of our project delivery teams.

I bring this up not only as a reminder, but also due to new enterprise guidance on how the Civil Works program will be entered, monitored and managed for our projects using automated information systems. I have disseminated guidance with greater detail to your leaders about this new guidance and how SPD and HQ will be begin capturing data for this effort in phases starting in mid-May.

Return to the workplace

Many members of SPL have questions

about our return-to-work plans. One big goal of returning to the office is a focus on collaboration and a reduction in email so we are more productive during the times we are working from home.

I want to reiterate that, as always, the health and safety of our team remains paramount. You will receive more details in the coming weeks, but I am planning to host a townhall to inform you of the new return-to-work initiative and plan, and to answer any questions you have. I want to give you maximum clarity on these plans, but at the same time I want us to remain as flexible as possible through this process, as health and safety guidance can and often does change.

On that note, we also have an initiative in the works that will guide us in reducing the number of floors to reduce rent and, in turn, reduce our overhead and provide collaborative spaces. We have a plan to reduce the 11th floor by December and potentially the 12th floor by 2023. As always, flexibility in these plans is key.

One last thing: Please save the date – June 30 – for LA District's Engineer Day celebration! We'll be disseminating more information to you about this event in the coming weeks.

As always, thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,
Col. Julie A. Balten

'LEADERS' from Page 1

having the right flood control protection, so their houses don't continue to flood," said Col. Julie Balten, LA District commander.

The project area includes about 4.3 miles of flood-risk reduction levee and improvements, located along the Little Colorado River near Winslow.

LUKE AIR FORCE BASE

In addition to visiting the projects at Flagstaff and Winslow, Balten and Gant, along with other District and Division leaders, visited military construction projects at Luke Air Force Base. At Luke AFB, LA District leaders and partners discussed the Corps' projects, which have primarily been in support of the base's F-35 Aircraft Beddown mission, as well future projects to support design and construction of base facilities.

Some of the projects include the design and construction of a Child Development Center, an addition and alteration of an egress facility in support of the F-35 Aircraft Beddown mission, a potable water well, and F-35 Squad Operations and Aircraft Maintenance Unit facilities to support the 6th F-35 Squadron.

"This gives us a good opportunity to be able to see what has been done or what needs to be done," Gant said. "We are going to continue to make sure that these projects go to completion."

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Water Safety Edition



Know Before You Go

Check the weather forecast and water conditions before you go. Cold water can be dangerous, even on warm days. Learn to swim and float well. Swimming in open water (lakes, rivers, etc.) is different from swimming in a pool, due to currents, depth, weather, etc.

#RecreateResponsibly

Winslow flood-control project to receive \$65M

BY ROBERT DEDEAUX
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT PUBLIC AFFAIRS

WINSLOW, Arizona – The Little Colorado River at Winslow Flood-Control project is slated to receive more than \$65 million in federal funding this year, said Sen. Krysten Sinema, during a panel presentation April 11 in Winslow.

The additional funding – announced by the U.S. Army in January – is being received through the bipartisan Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act, or IIJA. This will provide full funding for the project to complete both its design and construction.

During the event, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District Commander Col. Julie Balten, Winslow City Mayor Roberta “Birdie” Cano and leaders with Navajo County discussed details about the levee reconstruction project and its positive impact on the area, including the removal of an invasive plant species.

“Currently, about 5,000 people – families who live, work and call this area their home – along with critical infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, nursing homes and utilities, are located within a flood plain and are at the potential risk of flooding,” Balten said.

The project area includes about 4.3 miles of flood-risk reduction levees and improvements, located along the Little Colorado River near Winslow.



Arizona Sen. Krysten Sinema, left, and Col. Julie Balten, Los Angeles District commander, discuss project details regarding the Little Colorado River at Winslow Flood-Control project after a site visit and panel presentation April 11 in Winslow, Arizona. The project is receiving more than \$65 million in federal funding from the bipartisan Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act to complete design and construction of the levee system. The project also will help remove the invasive plant species, salt cedar, pictured behind them.

“The completion of this project will be a win for this community – not only by reducing the potential flood risk associated with the river, but also by creating stability, economic vitality and future growth for the area,” Balten said.

The project also will have a positive environmental impact by removing Tamarisk, or salt cedar, an invasive plant species.

“The plant leeches out to rich, nutrient soils

and waters, then deposits salt, so that the native plants aren’t able to compete because of the amount of salt deposited into the soil,” said Arizona State Park Ranger Kenn Evans II.

Dense thickets of salt cedar infest the banks and riverbed of the Little Colorado River. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service categorizes the plant as an “invasive weed” from Eurasia, which can disrupt and replace native plants, degrade native wildlife habitats, drain limited areas of moisture and increase wildfires.

“The plant, as it spreads out also catches a lot of fine sediment, which reduces the carrying capacity of the Little Colorado River water flow,” Evans said as he pointed to the riverbank. “Through this decrease in river water-carrying capacity downstream, it increases the risk of flooding in the area.”

Typically, Corps’ projects are funded for design and then for construction. With the additional monies being received from the IIJA, the Little Colorado River at Winslow Flood-Control project was funded for both the design and construction at one time in fiscal 2022.

“We are planning to have the design agreement signed with Navajo County by the end of year,” said Priyanka Wadhawan, LA District project manager.

For more information about LA District’s programs and projects, visit www.spl.usace.army.mil.

For more information on the invasive impact of salt cedar, visit www.fs.usda.gov.



Arizona State Park Ranger Kenneth ‘Kenn’ Evans II, left, discusses the salt cedar at the banks of the Little Colorado River April 11 in Winslow, Arizona. Evans described the negative impacts salt cedar has on flood control and prevention methods in Navajo County, prior to a project site visit and panel presentation about the Little Colorado River at Winslow Flood-Control Project.

Denim Day 2022



Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month
SAAPM



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Los Angeles District

Los Angeles District employees wear denim in recognition of #DenimDay - a day of recognition observed the last Wednesday in April in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The annual recognition began in 1999 and is the longest running sexual violence prevention and education campaign in history.

Engineer Safety Gram:
Confined spaces: Ventilation rules to live by



Photo by Lee Roberts
Employees at Old Hickory Hydropower Plant take part in a simulated exercise to extract a training dummy from a confined space during a Confined Space and Confined Space Rescue Course June 14, 2018 in Hendersonville, Tenn. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District trained 32 employees to lead the in-house training in March 2017, which will benefit more than 200 employees across the district who require the annual training.

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT SAFETY OFFICE

Confined spaces have been identified at nearly all of SPL’s industrial facilities, dams and vessels. When anyone must enter a space for inspections, maintenance or any other reason refer to EM 385-1-1 Section 34 for all safety requirements. Competent persons shall ensure any entry is properly conducted. Here are some tips you can count on:

- Always test the confined space for hazardous gases and sufficient oxygen with a calibrated multi-gas monitor prior to ventilating the space. After ventilating for a sufficient amount of time, retest the confined space before entering. Ventilation must remain in operation while the confined space is occupied.
- Use a purge time chart to calculate purge times before entering a confined space.

Each 90-degree bend in a section of 8-inch duct will reduce flow about 10 to 15 percent.

- If toxic or combustible gases or low oxygen levels are encountered, increase ventilation purge times by 50 percent and retest the air quality.
- When ventilating a manhole or tank, always set the blower back from the opening a minimum of five feet. This should prevent any hazardous gases that may be purged from the confined space from being drawn back into the intake of the blower and forced back into the confined space.
- Never block or restrict entry and egress to or from a confined space opening.
- With gases heavier than air, the ventilation duct should be placed at the bottom of the confined space, allowing the blower’s

air to push the gases out the top of the confined space.

- Always use non-sparking tools in and around a hazardous worksite.
- Always have proper respiratory equipment for the ventilated workspace and for emergency rescue.
- The build-up of static electricity is more prevalent during cool, dry conditions, typically below 50 percent relative humidity. Depending on the work environment, anti-static clothing and special static-removal devices may be necessary to prevent ignition from static electrical discharge.

Questions? Contact Chris Rainwater in the LA District Construction Division or Tony McCoy in the LA District Operations Division.

How the Dam Safety Program works

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT
ENGINEERING DIVISION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ dam safety professionals prioritize public safety above all else. This is why the Corps, including the Los Angeles District, uses the Dam Safety Program – a risk-informed approach to operating and maintaining more than 700 dams and associated structures nationwide.

USACE’s dams are part of our nation’s landscape, integral to many communities and critical to watershed management. These structures provide significant benefits to the nation — its people, businesses, critical infrastructure and the environment — including flood-risk management, navigation, water supply, hydropower, environmental stewardship, fish and wildlife conservation, and recreation.

The program principles define dam safety as a component of a broader flood-risk management approach including continuous and periodic project inspections and assessments, as well as risk communication and mitigation.

The program is intended to help the Corps maintain public safety by ensuring these dams are safe and that potential risks are addressed in a timely manner. Information regarding resilience-building initiatives and the shared responsibility of flood risk is available to the public through local, state and federal outreach programs. Examples include each state’s Silver Jackets teams, the Department of Homeland Security’s Ready Campaign, the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Preparedness Month and the Corps’ Flood Risk Management Program.

Dams part of the USACE Dam Safety Program undergo a comprehensive inspection every five years by an experienced team of engineers and scientists from the appropriate district office. The team inspects all parts of the dam; all gates, valves, operating equipment, and appurtenant structures are inspected and tested.

For the Los Angeles District, the inspection findings and recommendations are documented in a formal report and submitted to Corps offices in Sacramento, California, and Washington D.C. for review and approval.

If the inspection team recommends remedial



Photo by Greg Fuderer
Improvements to Prado Dam outlet works and channel are one of the many projects in the Santa Ana River watershed that have resulted from the coordinated efforts of federal, state and local agencies, along with private organizations and the public.

actions, the work is scheduled and completed as soon as possible. Supplementary inspections are conducted for atypical conditions at each dam, such as following earthquakes, high flow and loading events.

Risk communication is a large part of the USACE Dam Safety Program. Efforts to reduce flood risks – from large-scale federally sponsored actions to localized community, neighborhood and individual actions add up to better solutions and a safer environment in the future. USACE works with its partners through both structural improvements, and non-structural emergency management planning and activities, and continues to look for innovative solutions to the issue; engineering solutions alone won’t solve the problem.

Additionally, as part of the Dam Safety Program, the Corps of Engineers, in collaboration with its local, state and federal partners, conducts emergency exercises every five years in an effort to create a safer environment for communities, and to increase awareness and prepare communities for potential flooding events.

The most recent exercise for the LA District was conducted virtually July 21, 2021, for Prado Dam and the Santa Ana River levees. The simulated event allowed emergency responders and communicators the opportunity to collaborate on how they would communicate flood risk to the public during a high re-

lease and extreme, rare flood.

The exercise was combined with a Silver Jackets’ sponsored exercise on the downstream Santa Ana River levees to give participants a better understanding of how the flood system network functions and how potential dam releases impact downstream levees and channels. The Silver Jackets Program is a forum that brings together state, federal and local agencies to identify collaborative opportunities to achieve the shared goal of reducing flood risk.

The LA District is now planning tabletop exercise for fiscal 2022, including for the Carbon Canyon Dam in Brea and the San Antonio Dam in San Bernardino County.

Feedback received from local and state partners during the Prado and previous exercises indicated interest in accessing the USACE-produced inundation maps for the Los Angeles Districts dams. In January 2022, USACE made inundation mapping available to the public, accessible through the National Inventory of Dams (<https://nid.usace.army.mil/#/>).

The National Inventory of Dams website provides the public and external agencies access to information about any national dam. The inundation maps show the estimated limits of flooding due to dam operations during large and/or extreme flood events and assist emergency responders with building effective emergency action and evacuation plans.

First Quarter FY 2021 Awards

Employee of the Quarter Trevor Snyder

For his outstanding commitment as a project manager with the Operations Division from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2021. During this period, Snyder executed the fiscal 2021 contract action for a four-week San Gabriel River Reach A-8 homeless encampment debris-removal project.

In addition, he initiated a call with the Whittier Narrows Audubon Association with representation from other divisions to address their concerns with recent fires, endangered species and the homeless. Snyder’s professionalism and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the Los Angeles District.

Outstanding PDT Member Award Christopher Chabot

For recognition of his outstanding performance and invaluable support as a biologist for the East San Pedro Bay Ecosystem Feasibility Study Project Delivery Team. The success of the project is due in part to his technical expertise as a marine biologist, making him uniquely qualified to lead the study to its conclusion.

In addition, he exhibited exemplary (and lightning-fast) technical editing and writing skills necessary to complete legal review. He has been critical to the success of this effort by supporting the PDT and the District, providing effective communication with the vertical team, all while ensuring completion of a highly complex, high-quality study. His professionalism and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the Los Angeles District.

The H2O Award Jennifer Rivo

For her outstanding performance as a project manager with the Mega Project Division from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2021. During this period, Rivo demonstrated the best example of selfless service in which she voluntarily took initiative and responsibility during and after work hours to help her co-workers.

Her efforts made an impact to enhance camaraderie, group cohesion and enjoy-

ment of community for the Department of Veterans Affairs San Diego Resident Office employees. Her continued support and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon herself and the Los Angeles District.

The H2O Award Tracy Eccles

For her outstanding performance as an engineering technician (civil) with the Southern California Area Office, Construction Division, from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2021. During this period, Eccles volunteered her support to the Construction Administration Branch for eight months.

In addition, her flexibility allowed her to adapt to the VA program as she took the lead with processing modifications and pay requests while keeping up with her own duties at the area office. Eccles’ continued support and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon herself and the Los Angeles District.

Rising Star Malak Shehadeh

For her exceptional performance as a civil engineer with the Long Beach Resident Office, Construction Division from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2021. During this period, Shehadeh has become a vital source to the office with her positive attitude.

In addition, she joined the team during a very challenging time and has been a source of motivation in the office, as well as bring-

ing fresh ideas to help solve problems. Shehadeh’s exceptional work ethic and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon herself and the Los Angeles District.

The Pillar Award Jess Valren

For his exceptional performance as a field office assistant with the Construction Division from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2021. During this period, Valren was instrumental in preparing for the field Design Construction Evaluation audit.

In addition, he maintained supplies, coordinated VIP visits, and maintained vehicles and equipment logs in support of the construction administration staff. Valren’s exceptional work ethic and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the Los Angeles District.

Compass Award John Rotter

For his outstanding efforts while serving as a resident engineer with the Construction Division from Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2021. During this period, Rotter ensured his team executed missions effectively and efficiently.

His familiarity with complex systems, policy and mastery of technical skills in medical facilities construction has helped his team navigate through complex problems. Rotter’s efforts and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the Los Angeles District.



In this file photo, Trevor Snyder, right, Los Angeles River a project manager for the LA District, briefs Col. Julie Balten, LA District commander, Aug. 7, 2020, at the Whittier Narrows Dam in Montebello, California.

CULTURAL
AWARENESS



OBSERVANCE

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month



Advancing Leaders Through Collaboration

ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH



FACTS

The rich heritage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders spans the world and the depths of America’s history.

Generation after generation, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have established a proud legacy that reflects the spirit of our Nation—a country that values the contributions of everyone—who call America home.

Asian American and Pacific Islanders communities consist of approximately 50 ethnic groups speaking over 100 languages, with connections to Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, Hawaiian, and other Asian and Pacific Islander ancestries.

During Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the Department of Defense (DoD) celebrates the accomplishments of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) to both the Nation and the DoD mission.

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage Week.

May was chosen to commemorate two milestones in Asian/Pacific American history which occurred in the month: the first known Japanese immigrant’s arrival to the U.S. on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 — which was built by over 20,000 Chinese workers.

In 1992, Congress expanded the observance to a month.

The estimated number of Asian alone-or-in-combination residents in the United States in 2019 was 22.9 million. Additionally, the estimated number of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone-or-in-combination residents of the United States was 1.6 million.

As we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, we pay tribute to all the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have strived and fought for a brighter future for the next generation of leaders.

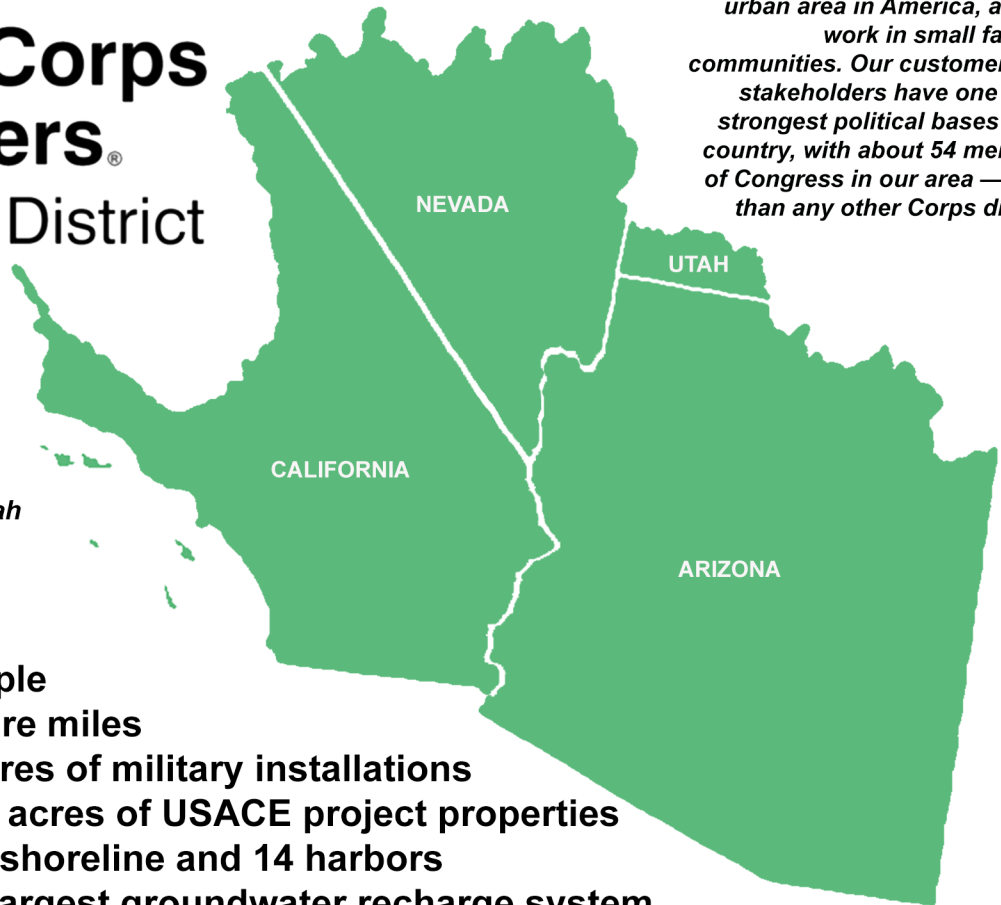


A results-driven organization that values its people and partners and delivers world class infrastructure to the Nation for generations to come.

US Army Corps of Engineers®

Los Angeles District

The Los Angeles District is one of the largest in the U.S. covering southern California, southern Nevada, a slice of Utah and all of Arizona.



We operate in the second-largest urban area in America, and we work in small farming communities. Our customers and stakeholders have one of the strongest political bases in the country, with about 54 members of Congress in our area — more than any other Corps district.

Serving 33 million people
Covering 226,000 square miles
Support to 8 million acres of military installations
Emcompassing 80,000 acres of USACE project properties
Reaching 420 miles of shoreline and 14 harbors
Incorporating world's largest groundwater recharge system
Managing 14 navigation projects and 13 miles of breakwaters

The Los Angeles District provides civil works and military engineering support to Southern California, Nevada, Arizona and parts of Utah. The scope of missions in the district vary from supporting the world's largest groundwater recharge system in Orange County, California, to our involvement in one of the nation's most significant transportation projects, the California High-Speed Rail.

Among the 14 navigation projects and 13 miles of breakwaters maintained by the district are the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which account for a majority of West Coast trade and shipping.

Major flood-control projects include improvements to Prado Dam and the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project in Southern California.

The district is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 16 dams and 54 miles of flood control channels. The dams and recreation areas host more than 7 million visitors a year.

Military missions at nine installations include construction of a hospital at Fort Irwin, California, and F-35 fighter jet facilities at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.