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Statement of the National Association of Flood and  
Stormwater Management Agencies

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Role in the Nation's  
Water Resource Needs in the 21st Century

U.S. Senate  
Environment and Public Works Committee

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
Senator Christopher Bond, Chairman

March 31, 2004

The National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies (NAFSMA), which represents more than 100 local and state flood control and stormwater management agencies serving a total of more than 76 million citizens, is pleased to submit comments addressing the need for a Water Resources Development Act of 2004. NAFSMA supports language in WRDA 2004 to expand U.S. Army Corps of Engineers technical assistance to State and local agencies for local water planning. The association also supports the authorization of adequate funding to carry out this activity.

NAFSMA also supports the policy changes approved by the House of Representatives in Title II of the House-approved WRDA bill, HR 2557. In particular, NAFSMA urges the Senate to include similar provisions in the Senate bill to move the establishment of a new partnership agreement with local sponsors and provisions to allow the District Engineer to sign those agreements with local sponsors.

NAFSMA's members are public agencies whose function is the protection of lives, property and economic activity from the adverse impacts of storm and flood waters. NAFSMA member activities are also focused on the improvement of the health and quality of our nation's waters.

The mission of the association is to advocate public policy, encourage technologies and conduct education programs to facilitate and enhance the achievement of the public service functions of its members. Many of NAFSMA's members are currently involved in ongoing water resources projects with the Corps of Engineers, including flood management and environmental restoration projects.

Since the organization was formed in 1979, NAFSMA has worked closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Many of our members are local sponsors on Corps-partnered flood control and environmental restoration projects with the Corps.

NAFSMA members are on the front line protecting their communities from loss of life and property and therefore the organization is keenly aware that flood management measures are a necessary investment required to prevent loss of life and damages to people's homes and businesses. Flood management has proven to be a wise investment that pays for itself by preserving life and property and reducing the probability of repeatedly asking the federal government for disaster assistance. The Corps of Engineers has played a vital and necessary role in meeting the nation's flood management needs.

We appreciate your efforts to adopt a WRDA this year and offer our assistance in your work to achieve this goal. Please call Executive Director Susan Gilson at 202-218-4133 if you have questions.