

On March 11, the Senate approved the Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 2471) by a vote of 68-31. On March 9, the House approved H.R. 2471 in a bifurcated vote: (1) divisions B, C, F, X, Z, titles 2 and 3 of division N by a vote of 361 – 69; and (2) the remaining divisions by a vote of 260 – 171. The bill provides appropriations for the remainder of FY2022.

The bill included congressionally-directed spending (earmarks) for the first time since 2011, with numerous water projects requested by members of the House and Senate under new rules requiring transparency. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees maintain lists of member requests. See <https://appropriations.house.gov/transparency> and <https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/congressionally-directed-spending-requests>.

Division A – Agriculture

Appropriations under Title II, Farm Production and Conservation Programs, include: Grassroots Source Water Protection Program (16 USC 3839bb-2) (\$6.5M); Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation operations (\$904.4M); watershed and flood prevention operations (\$100M); watershed rehabilitation program (\$1M). Under Title III, Rural Development Programs, appropriations include: rural water and wastewater direct loans (\$1.4B); guaranteed loans (\$50M); and other rural water and waste management programs, including local, tribal, and multi-state training and technical assistance programs (\$653.3M). Under Title VII, General Provisions, §734 requires all iron and steel products used for the rural water and wastewater programs be produced in the United States.

Division B – Commerce, Justice, Science

Appropriations under Title I, Department of Commerce, include: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) operations, research, and facilities (\$4.1B), with an additional \$11.7B for the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) program.

Division D – Energy and Water Development

Appropriations under Title I, Corps of Engineers, include: investigations (\$143M); construction (\$2.5B); operations and maintenance (\$4.6B); regulation of navigable waters and wetlands (\$212M); flood control and coastal emergencies (\$35M); Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program account to maintain, upgrade, and repair dams in the National Inventory of Dams (\$5M).

Appropriations under Title II, Department of the Interior, include: Central Utah Project (\$23M); Central Valley Project Restoration Fund (\$56.5M); California Bay-Delta Restoration (\$33M); and Bureau of Reclamation Water and Related Resources (\$1.7B), which includes \$71.2M for the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund, \$19.6M for the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund, \$40M for the Blackfeet Water Settlement Implementation Fund, \$100,000 for the Aging Infrastructure Account, and \$10M for the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund.

Division G – Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Appropriations under Title I, Department of the Interior, include: Bureau of Land Management resource management (\$1.3B); Fish and Wildlife Service resource management (\$1.5B); National Park Service management and administration (\$2.8B) and construction (\$225.9M); U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for surveys, investigations and research (\$1.4B), which includes \$84M for satellite operations; the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund (\$27.4M) with an additional \$122.5M for grants to states and tribes for the reclamation of abandoned mine lands, prioritized for Appalachian states; Bureau of Indian Affairs land and water claim settlements (\$1M), to be deposited into the Selis-Qlispe a Ksanka Settlement and the Navajo Utah Settlement Trust Funds (PL 116-260); and for wildland fire management (\$1B), and wildfire suppression operations (\$330M).

Appropriations under Title II, Environmental Protection Agency, include: science and technology (\$750.1M); environmental programs and management (\$2.9B); State and Tribal Assistance Grants (\$4.3B), which includes \$1.6B for Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and \$1.1B for Drinking Water SRFs; and for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program account (\$63.5M).

Appropriations under Title III, Related Agencies, Department of Agriculture, include: Forest Service operations (\$1B); forest and rangeland research (\$296.6M); state and private forestry cooperation and assistance (\$315.2M); national forest system hazardous fuels management (\$1.8B); wildland fire management (\$2B); and wildfire suppression (\$2.1B).