



## THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT UPDATE

### August 2004

AAPA is aggressively advocating the passage of a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in 2004. AAPA staff was successful in promoting several legislative objectives in both the House, H.R. 2557, and Senate, S. 2554, WRDA bills. While the House passed its bill last September, the full Senate has yet to take up the bill passed out of committee in July. AAPA staff and members are working closely Senate offices and other waterways interest groups to ensure Senate passage of WRDA in early September so the bill can be conferenced with the House bill before Congress adjourns later this year.

The following table summarizes key the status of key AAPA policy objectives in each of the WRDA bills.

AAPA Objective	H.R. 2557	S. 2554
Clarification of the Corps partnership with local sponsors	Yes	Yes
Changes to the cost-sharing	Yes	No
Measures to streamline the process for planning civil works projects and for permitting non-Federal projects	Yes	No
Credit for In-kind Services After Feasibility Study	Yes	Yes
Financial reporting	No	Yes
Indemnification	No	No
Timing of non-Federal payments	No	No
Utility relocations	No	No
Port and harbor dues (Section 208 of WRDA'86)	No	No

The Senate bill, which would cost slightly more than the \$4.6 billion House-passed bill, includes a number of provisions that could adversely affect the ability of the Corps to efficiently execute its projects. Most onerous are sections related to Corps planning, independent review, and mitigation. These sections are discussed in more detail in the attached analysis of S. 2554.

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