



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
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WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

SACW

FEB 23 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDING GENERAL, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

SUBJECT: Increasing Dredging Capacity Through Better Mitigation Banking

1. Reference: Implementation Guidance for the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 - Section 2036(c) Wetlands Mitigation, November 6, 2008.
2. Purpose: This memorandum provides policy direction to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding the use of mitigation banking to increase the capacity for dredged material placement in Army Civil Works navigation projects. This direction is needed to ensure the Corps fully utilizes mitigation banking as a tool for ensuring efficient delivery of navigation projects while optimizing the environmental output of mitigation efforts.
3. Addressing mitigation requirements has long been a cause of inefficiency in the delivery of navigation projects. In many cases, traditional mitigation practices have proven to be cost prohibitive and have led to excessive long term resource commitments. While mitigation banking is a proven option for mitigating the environmental impacts of navigation projects, the Corps has been reluctant to fully utilize this option and instead has favored project and site-specific measures. The timeframes associated with these project-specific measures are often extensive, thus delaying project construction while failing to optimize environmental outcomes.
4. I am directing the Corps to fully explore opportunities for using mitigation banks in navigation projects. To the extent possible, mitigation banks should be viewed as the first option for meeting mitigation requirements and should be selected as the preferred mitigation alternative unless there are compelling reasons for selecting a different option. In addition to maximizing project delivery and environmental benefits, the use of mitigation banks will allow non-Federal sponsors to plan ahead for future Federal investments and increase capacity via local action.

To encourage the use of mitigation banks, the Corps must take action to facilitate the permitting of these banks. Current timeframes for permitting of mitigation banks are often too long which creates inefficiency and discourages their use. As a result, I am directing the Corps to identify options to facilitate efficient permitting of mitigation banks. To further the beneficial use goals established in the Water Resources Development Act of 2020, Section 125, the Corps should strongly consider incorporating the creation of

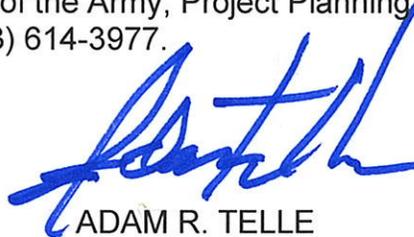
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mitigation banks as a primary component within any major deep-draft navigation Dredged Material Management Plan.

6. Initial Implementation Meeting. The Corps should provide me a briefing NLT 30 days from the date of this memorandum addressing Corps plans for implementing this directive. In addition, quarterly briefings will be held thereafter to assess progress on these initiatives and ensure continued momentum on their ongoing implementation.

7. Questions regarding the policy in this memorandum should be directed to Robyn Colosimo, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Project Planning and Review at robyn.s.colosimo.civ@army.mil or (703) 614-3977.



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