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USACE Chief signs report for Louisville Ohio River Flood Protection System

*—Allowing potential of \$109 million federal funds
to refurbish flood protection system—*

The potential for \$109 million in federal funds to repair and rehabilitate Louisville Metro's 1950s era flood protection system took another step forward yesterday with the signing of the "Chief's Report for the Louisville Metro Flood Protection System Reconstruction Study" by Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Commanding General and 55th U.S. Army Chief of Engineers on Tuesday, October 27.

In July 2018, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced a \$3 million grant to fund the study, which led to this report, as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. The report looks at Louisville's flood protection system and identifies potential failures in the system; the impact failure would have on homes and businesses; and, options for repairing the system.

Next Steps

The next step in the process includes authorization of the recommended plan in a Water Resources Development Act and a Project Partnership Agreement with MSD. The plan's major components include repair and rehabilitation of 14 flood pumping stations, modifications of two road closure structures, floodwall repairs and modifications, and gate repair and replacement.

The total project cost estimate is \$167.7 million. MSD will fund 35-percent, which is \$58.7 million. Federal dollars would fund 65-percent of the cost at \$109 million.

Budget review by the full Senate will take place later this year. Once authorizations and funding are in place, design and construction will take about five years.

"We are grateful for Leader McConnell's support and the partnership with the USACE for this vital infrastructure to help ensure public health and safety," said MSD Executive Director Tony Parrott. "We are hopeful the signing of this USACE report helps to open the doors for federal dollars allowing much-needed repairs to protect Louisville now and for future generations."

Background

One of Louisville MSD's core functions is maintaining the aging Ohio River Flood Protection System that protects \$24 billion in property throughout 110 square miles of Louisville Metro. The system includes 29

miles of the flood wall and earthen levee, 16 flood pumping stations, nearly 150 floodgates and 80 floodwall closures.

The 1937 Ohio River Flood led to the construction of the system MSD operates today. The oldest floodwalls constructed in the 1940s are still in service. The pumping stations that redirect floodwaters away from homes and businesses are more than 60 years old and operate with no longer available parts for replacement. MSD had already started to identify improvements as part of its Critical Repair & Reinvestment Plan, a 20-year outline of flood protection projects, wastewater, and drainage. However, up to this point, funding the projects has been a challenge.

More information on the Louisville Metro Reconstruction project can be found here:

<https://go.usa.gov/x7CPs>



About MSD

The Louisville/Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD) works to achieve and maintain clean, environmentally safe waterways for a healthy and vibrant community. The organization's more than 670 employees provide wastewater management, drainage and flood protection services across the 376 square miles of Louisville Metro. In addition to operating and maintaining Louisville Metro's sewer system, floodwall system, water quality treatment centers and flood pumping stations, MSD invests in hundreds of infrastructure improvement projects each year, plants more than 1,000 trees and other vegetation annually to enhance water filtration and reduce runoff, and provides numerous outreach programs to inform and educate the community about protecting our waterways.