MAKING WAVES

GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE
CITIES INITIATIVE
L'ALLIANCE DES VILLES
DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

U.S. Policy Update

Congress and the White House were busy in March finalizing federal appropriations for the current fiscal year (FY 2022, which began Oct. 1) and outlining a proposed budget for FY 2023. The following is a brief overview of how Great Lakes and water-related programs fared.

Current Year Funding:

- Funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) was set at $348 million, an $18 million increase from last year.
- The Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF) will receive $1.639 billion and $1.126 billion respectively, equal to last year's funding levels. This will be supplemented by the significant funding provided in last year's bipartisan infrastructure bill.
- The Army Corps of Engineers received $500,000 to begin its long-awaited Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study.
- The Brandon Road Lock and Dam project will receive $5 million for continued design of control technologies to prevent invasive carp from swimming north from the Illinois River into Lake Michigan.

President's proposed budget for FY 2023 (starting Oct. 1):

- The President's budget requests $340.1 million for the GLRI, $8 million less than the current year. However, the bipartisan infrastructure bill provided an additional $1 billion for the GLRI over five years.
- The budget requests level funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs.
- $600,000 is requested for the Army Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study.
- $48 million is requested to begin construction of the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project, which received an additional $226 million under the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

The President's budget also requests $140 million for environmental justice grants and $182 million for reducing lead in drinking water. This supplements the $15 billion provided in the bipartisan infrastructure law to remove lead water lines.

Generally, Great Lakes and water-related programs fared well with federal funding, particularly considering the substantial additional funding provided under the bipartisan infrastructure bill. For details on funding for other programs, contact the Cities Initiative staff.

The Cities Initiative released its federal policy priorities in February (available online here) and will continue to advocate for them with the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation.