



# Engaging in the process

How to get involved and why your voice matters

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Environmental Defense Fund

# Overview

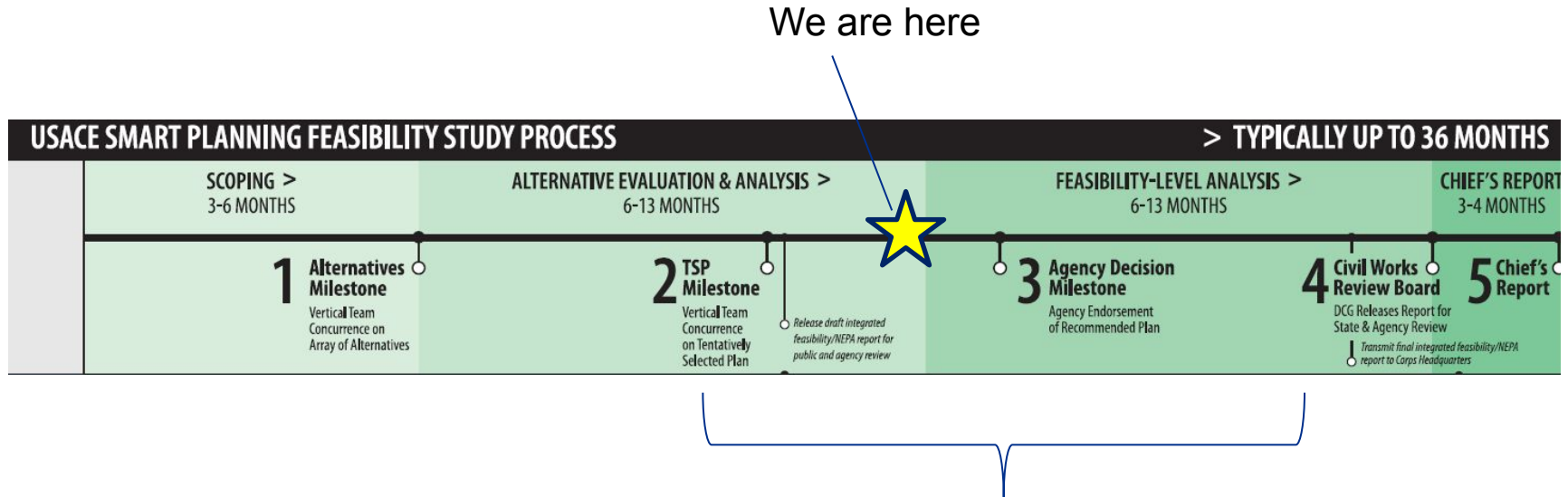
- Context and process
- USACE Projects in & out of region
- Why weigh in, how, and when?
- What advocates have pushed for to date
- National policy changes
- Next steps

# What's happening overall, and where does this fit in?

- **Planning**
- Regulatory reform
- Emergency preparedness & response
- Education
- **Infrastructure development & repairs**
- **Funding**



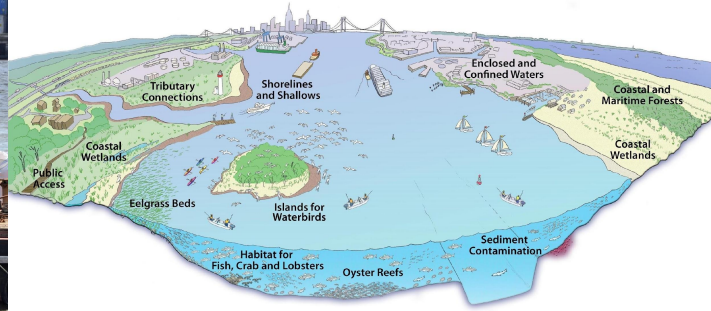
# USACE Process



Advocates have proposed extending this period, with more public engagement and an interim release of a refined TSP based on public input before finalizing

# USACE Projects in the region

Habitat  
restoration



Flood control



Navigation &  
dredging



# USACE flood control projects in other regions

Louisiana



San Francisco  
Bay area



Galveston Bay  
area

# USACE flood control projects in other regions

Miami-Dade



?



# Why your voice is important

EXISTING CONDITION (ACTUAL PHOTO)



PROPOSED CONCEPT (DIGITAL RENDERING)



EXISTING CONDITION (ACTUAL PHOTO)



PROPOSED CONCEPT (DIGITAL RENDERING)





# How we've engaged thus far

- Water Resources Development Act authorization
- Organizing around aligned priorities
- Advocated for resources for USACE research & development
- Research: equity and natural approaches in cost-benefit analyses

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

Jamie Pinkham  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
441 G Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

May 26, 2021

Dear Deputy Assistant Secretary Pinkham,

In the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (WRDA 2020), the Rise to Resilience coalition helped secure key changes to United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) authorization of the New York-New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study (NYNJHATS), a study that could help secure the protection of millions of residents in the New York-New Jersey

## Priorities expressed by advocates

- Robust, iterative public engagement process, responsive to the needs of communities most impacted
- Multiple flood hazards
- Phased approach
- Holistic lens of racial, economic, and ecological impact & equity

# National policy

- Consideration of multiple benefits in cost benefit analysis
- Justice 40 Initiative
- Water Resources Development Act



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

15 March 2022

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

SUBJECT: Implementation of Environmental Justice and the Justice40 Initiative

1. Purpose. This memorandum provides interim guidance and direction to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Works programs related to the implementation of environmental justice and the Justice40 Initiative. This memorandum applies to all



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5 January 2021

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

SUBJECT: POLICY DIRECTIVE – Comprehensive Documentation of Benefits in Decision Document

1. Purpose. This memorandum issues policy direction on the comprehensive assessment and documentation of benefits in the conduct of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) water resources development project planning. This policy updates current procedures, and emphasizes and expands upon policies and guidance to ensure the USACE decision framework considers, in a comprehensive manner, the total benefits of project alternatives, including equal consideration of economic, environmental and social categories. This directive pertains to pre- and post-authorization decision documents (reports), as well as other decision documents approved under delegated authorities. In addition, the directive



## **How you can get involved**

- Connect with other groups – Rise to Resilience!
- Comment (see also NPCA's How to Comment 101 on 2/9)

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**Thank you!**