



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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U.S. Senators Dick Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, and Congressman Mike Quigley lead charge in procuring federal funding for McCook Reservoir

Yesterday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved \$6.5 million in continuing construction funds for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) McCook Reservoir.

These Fiscal Year 2017 funds are a direct result of the perseverance of the Illinois congressional delegation which was led by Senator Dick Durbin and in coordination with Senator Tammy Duckworth and Congressman Mike Quigley (5th District). Also signing a strong letter of support to the Army Corps and U.S. Office of Management and Budget were Congressmen Mike Bost (12th District), Cheri Bustos (17th District), Danny Davis (7th District), Rodney Davis (13th District), Bill Foster (11th District), Luis Gutierrez (4th District), Randy Hultgren (14th District), Robin Kelly (2nd District), Adam Kinzinger (16th District), Raja Krishnamoorthi (8th District), Darin LaHood (18th District), Daniel Lipinski (3rd District), Peter Roskam (6th District), Bobby Rush (1st District), Jan Schakowsky (9th District), Bradley Schneider (10th District), and John Shimkus (15th District). Also, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner's office in Washington, D.C. was vital in garnering support of the downstate congressional members based on McCook Reservoir's benefits to waterways throughout the state.

"The completion of the McCook Reservoir is critically important for the water quality in our rivers and waterways and the thousands of homes and businesses in areas prone to flooding," Senator Durbin said. "I'm proud that we have been able to secure this federal funding and will continue working to ensure that the Reservoir's construction stays on track."

The McCook Reservoir marks the final piece to the acclaimed engineering feat known as TARP. The res-



This 3.5 billion gallon section of the McCook Reservoir will be completed by December 2017. The reservoir is part of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) that captures and stores combined stormwater and sewage that would otherwise overflow from sewers into waterways or local basements during storms.

ervoir was authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 1988 and is a flood damage reduction project that is 91 percent complete. The first stage of McCook Reservoir will be completed in December and provide 3.5 billion gallons of storage. Stage 2 will be completed in 2029 and provide 6.5 billion gallons of additional storage. The reservoir will prevent overflows that cause flooding and water pollution, as well as avoiding river reversals to Lake Michigan. The reservoir is also expected to provide more than \$114 million per year in flood damage reduction benefits to 5 million residents in Chicago and 36 suburbs. The McCook Reservoir is located in Bedford Park, east of the Stevenson Expressway (I-55), between the Des Plaines River and Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

The McCook Reservoir is considered one of the Army Corps' premier flood damage reduction projects due to the size of the population protected, its high ratings on the Corps' Health Safety Budget (*continued*)

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Index and its high 2.96 to 1 benefit to cost ratio. Both stages of the project have been budgeted and under construction for over 10 years and are integral to preventing the type of flood damage Illinois has suffered in recent years, including three Federally-Declared flood disasters since 2008.

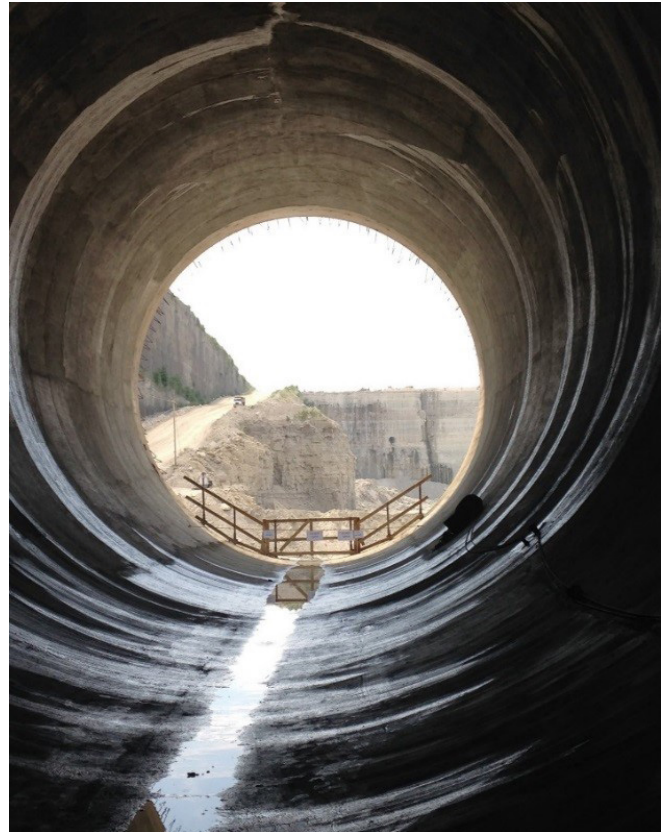
“The Chicago area received a major boost in preventing area flooding and eliminating pollution from local waterways thanks to the critical efforts of Senators Durbin and Duckworth and our entire Illinois delegation,” said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. “We appreciate the funding that will support this vital project.”

The importance of funding projects like the McCook Reservoir was reflected in language included by Congress in the recently passed Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017:

“Of the additional funding provided in this account for flood and storm damage reduction and flood control, the Corps shall allocate not less than \$10,500,000 to continue construction of projects that principally include improvements to rainfall drainage systems that address flood damages.”

Congress also reaffirmed its commitment to the project in the Water Resources Development Act passed last year. Section 1322(b)(1)(A) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act directs the Corps to provide priority funding for and expedite the completion of the McCook Reservoir.

The 109-mile tunnel portion of TARP, known as the “Deep Tunnel,” was completed in 2006, followed



One of the final components of construction of Stage I of the McCook Reservoir is connecting it to the Mainstream Tunnel System, also known as the “Deep Tunnel,” 300 feet below ground and as wide as 33 feet in diameter. The water is held in the tunnel and reservoirs before it can be treated at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago’s water reclamation plants.

by the completion of construction on the Majewski Reservoir in the northwest suburbs in 1998 and the Thornton Composite Reservoir in the south suburbs in 2015.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrld.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.