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Congressional Update: Congress has returned from its August recess for less than a month of must-do work before it takes off for an October month of campaigning prior to this November's election. In this *WaterLog* issue, we'll cover the annual effort to keep the government funded as the September 30th end of the fiscal year approaches plus the reauthorization of flood insurance, passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and disaster funding. Events will be changing by the day. Subscribers can keep up on those changes by following *WaterLog* on LinkedIn.

Funding the Government: Funding for all agencies including the Corps, EPA, and NOAA, runs out on midnight, September 30th. Once again, Congress will not have passed a single one of the 12 separate appropriations bills that keep the government funded by that deadline. This has been standard practice (some might say malpractice) for more than 20 years. To keep the government funded, Congress will have to pass a temporary funding measure, called a Continuing Resolution (CR). Will it extend funding to a date in November? December? The CR proposed by the House Republican leadership proposes to extend the temporary funding to March 28, 2025, well after the next president is inaugurated and close to the date that was eventually chosen for the current fiscal year's funding. Their stopgap funding bill would also provide FEMA's depleted disaster aid funding with \$10 billion. At this writing, it's not clear that all Republicans or any Democrats will support that proposal. The Senate Democratic majority has yet to propose its CR, but it's unlikely to extend funding beyond early December. As usual, immigration and other hot button issues will be part of this debate. We expect a final deal to be reached on the last day of the month that will extend funding through early December.

Flood Insurance: The National Flood Insurance Program also expires on September 30th. It has been the victim of countless short-term extensions over the past several years. Expect the NFIP to be included in whatever deal finally passes to keep the government funded.

WRDA: The Tom Carper Water Resources Development Act (as it is known in the Senate) is a bipartisan bill that contains authorization for new water resources studies and projects. Both the House and Senate have passed their own versions of this legislation, with staff working on text of a combined bill. While it does not fund those projects, we expect WRDA's final version to be included in the CR (see article above).

Disaster Aid: The White House requested Congress to provide nearly \$30 billion nearly a year ago to replenish disaster accounts that were running low on funds. Since then, the Baltimore Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed, and the Administration has pledged to get it rebuilt with federal funds. That accident and disasters such as the Maui wildfire are among the events calling on Congress to provide relief. Other

than the \$10 billion proposed in the House CR (see article above), we don't know what Congress will do but it's likely that \$20 billion or more will be included in a heavily weighted CR.

Below is a list of coastal bills, which are sorted by most recent action.

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