

CONTINUING ISSUE: USACE - Reallocation of Storage

The Water Supply Act of 1958 enables the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) (ASA[CW]) to approve reallocation of storage at existing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reservoirs for municipal and industrial water supply, if the modification does not seriously affect authorized project purposes. Many Texas sponsors of existing multi-purpose USACE reservoirs are looking to increase available water supply storage through reallocation of storage from current purposes (mainly flood control). Reallocations of storage are the most efficient and environmentally acceptable means to increase the water supply available (firm yield) from a reservoir. In recent years, reallocation studies have taken multiple years to complete, which impacts long-term planning by Texas sponsors.

Changes in approval and inadequate funding slow completion of reallocation studies. Due to concern over impacts of reallocations on USACE reservoirs' flood control storage, a 2018 memo withdrew the authority of USACE Chief Engineer to approve reallocation studies for the purpose of water supply. It should be noted that all reallocation studies must already include an analysis to determine if the proposed reallocation of storage significantly impacts other existing project purposes. If a reallocation is determined to seriously impact a purpose (such as flood control), any recommendation must also include measures to mitigate those impacts and requires congressional authorization. USACE also does not adequately fund reallocation studies at levels equivalent to traditional USACE feasibility studies.

Reallocations of storage are the **most efficient and environmentally acceptable** means to increase the water supply available from a reservoir.

REQUESTS:

Adequately fund feasibility studies for reallocation of water storage. TWCA strongly recommends USACE fund reallocation studies at levels similar to traditional feasibility studies and ensure adequate operation and maintenance (O&M) funds are provided to maintain the optimum schedule. TWCA also encourages USACE to accept contributed funds or in-kind planning and design services from willing water providers to help finance reallocation studies at optimum funding levels.

Reauthorize USACE Chief Engineer to approve reallocation studies for water supply. USACE should continue to require that all reallocation studies include a thorough and complete assessment of the impacts of a reallocation on USACE reservoir's flood risk management level of protection, and that required mitigation is implemented to ensure the proposed reallocation does not increase the risk of loss of life and damages from flood events.