

## Technical Support

In certain instances, USACE may be engaged as a technical resource in support of a levee certification determination by providing existing technical information, performing specific technical analyses, and/or reviewing of technical analyses performed by others.

## Types of Levees

- **Federally authorized levee:** Typically designed and built by the USACE in cooperation with a local entity then turned over to a local entity to operate, maintain, repair, and replace the levee.
- **Non-federally authorized levee:** Designed and built by a non-Federal agency, which is responsible for the operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the levee.
- **Private- or corporate-owned levee:** The Corps has no responsibility for private- or corporate-owned levees.

## The Bigger Picture

The USACE Levee Safety Program will be a crucial information resource to support levee certification determinations and to assist the public in making informed and comprehensive flood risk management decisions. Because of this, USACE will continue to have a key role involving levee systems, ensuring the most current levee information is synchronized and communicated to the public.

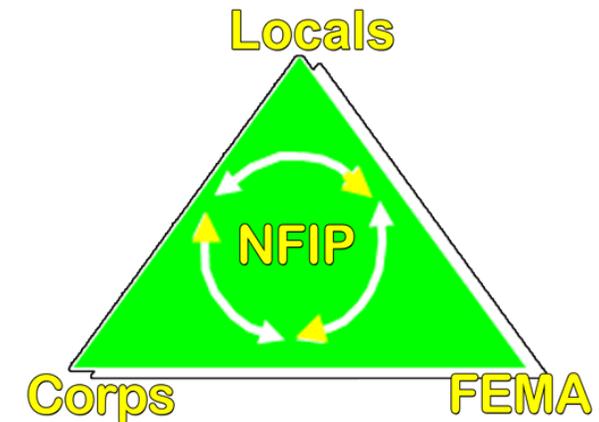
## Responsibility

- **Corps authority:** There is no single agency with responsibility for levee oversight nationwide. The Corps has specific and limited authorities for approximately 2,000 levees nationwide.
- **Local responsibility:** The responsibilities of local levee partners are broad and include levee safety; land use planning and development; building codes and operations, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of the levee.



US Army Corps  
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# Quick Reference Guide to LEVEE CERTIFICATION



## National Flood Insurance Program

FEMA is the responsible agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Levee certification is a requirement for FEMA accreditation in the NFIP. Local entities (communities, counties, levee boards, drainage districts) are responsible for Levee Certification.

### Map Modernization Process

1. FEMA determines the priority and scheduling for incorporating a levee system into the Map-Mod program.
2. The local entity receives the certification checklist from FEMA and returns the completed checklist to FEMA.
3. FEMA accredits the levee and maps the protected area.

The local sponsor can contract with an architect-engineer firm or request that the USACE perform the certification.

## USACE Role in Levee Certification

USACE has had and continues to have a major role in the planning, design, and construction of many levee systems throughout the Nation. Because of this, USACE, in many instances, will be looked upon as having a key role either in preparing levee certification reports (LCR's) or supporting

levee certification determinations by providing existing documentation to the local authorities.

## Levee Certification Determinations

The USACE will perform determinations for systems it operates and maintains if requested by a non-Federal government entity with a vested interest, such as a county or local government. For all other levee systems, the local entity is responsible for certification.

Applicable USACE Districts will assess each levee determination request by working with FEMA, local entities, and other USACE Districts as relevant to determine authority, timeframe, applicable funding mechanisms, and other requirements.

## Funding

- Levee certification is the responsibility of the local entity.
- The USACE Districts can assist in providing technical information for utilization in the certification process.
- Districts may use project funds for federally authorized projects, if available.
- Funding may be provided on a reimbursable basis by the requesting entity or by utilizing other government programs as applicable. However, this process is very difficult.

## Steps for Certification

### USACE Role

1. Request by the local entity.
2. The applicable USACE District determines the type of system and which authority, if any, applies. See other side for types of levee systems.
3. The District coordinates with the FEMA regional office and local sponsor to determine a scope of work and schedule. Scope and cost may be subject to availability of data and engineering analyses to be performed.
4. The District determines the applicable funding mechanism. If the work or part of the work is to be performed on a reimbursable basis, each district will follow its process to initiate the agreements under the applicable authority.
5. The District performs technical analyses based on an investigation strategy including a data/literature search and on-site field inspection.
6. The District compiles documentation and completes a LCR.
7. An independent technical review is performed.
8. The District coordinates findings with the FEMA regional office and local entity.
9. The District provides final LCR and findings letter to FEMA regional office and local entity.