

What's going on with Federal Funding?

**Guam 10th Assembly of
Planners Symposium**

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Organization*



Overview:

- 1. How the budget process should work**
 1. Annual appropriations process
 2. Other funding bills (Supplementals, Reconciliation)
- 2. Coastal Funding 2020-2024**
- 3. 2025 Budget Outlook**
 1. FY25 (Oct '24-Sept '25) funds
 2. Other funds: Reconciliation/"One Big Beautiful Bill"
 3. FY26 (Oct '25-Sept '26) expectation
- 4. Federal Agency Outlook**
 1. Agency Changes (NOAA & FEMA)
 2. Staffing cuts
 3. Shifting focus
- 5. How to Prepare...**



Government Operations:



Passes Laws



Administers Laws



Passes Annual Budget
(to administer federal
agencies)



Proposes Annual Budget
(to administer federal
agencies)

Annual Federal Budget Process



- ~February: Pres. proposes budget for FY starting Oct 1.
- Spring: House & Senate each set budget “allocations”.
- Spring/Summer: House & Senate appropriations committees work on 12 individual appropriations bills, with line-by-line funding levels.
- Summer: House & Senate pass 12 individual appropriations bills.
- September: House & Senate resolve differences through a conference and pass final bills.
- Summer/Sept: a few approps bills *may* pass, but most of the budget is unresolved.
- By Sept. 30 – House and Senate:
 - Pass a budget (an “omnibus” w/ multiple approps bills);
 - Shutdown the Government; or
 - Pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) – short term or long term.



Other Budget Bills: Supplemental Approps



Supplemental Appropriations

- Follows the same rules as annual appropriations (needs 60 votes in Senate)

Disaster Supplementals

- Funding to respond to disasters – fund agencies like FEMA, HUD, Army Corps, etc.
 - e.g., Dec. '24 Disaster Supplemental provided funds for Typhoon Mawar.



Issue Specific

- Responding to a specific one-time need: Infrastructure, Covid, Ukraine aid, war, etc.
 - E.g., Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)



Other Budget Bills: Reconciliation



Reconciliation Bill

- Once-a-year tool for implementing significant fiscal policies quickly
- Reconciliation bills cannot be filibustered, requiring only a simple majority (**50 votes in Senate, not 60**)
- Used to adjust spending, revenues, and the federal debt limit – *fiscal policies only!*
- Examples:
 - **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**
 - **“One Big Beautiful Bill”**



Coastal Funding: 2020-2024

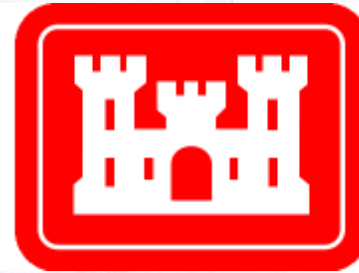


Annual Appropriations -

- Slight increases across most coastal programs

Supplemental funding:

- **Covid Response Bills** (6 bills 2020-2021)
 - Not much coastal, but lots to states
- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)** (2021)
 - a.k.a. Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA)
 - Billions in specifically directed coastal funding.
- **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**
 - Billions in coastal resilience at NOAA's discretion



FEMA

Coastal Management Funding: Through 2024



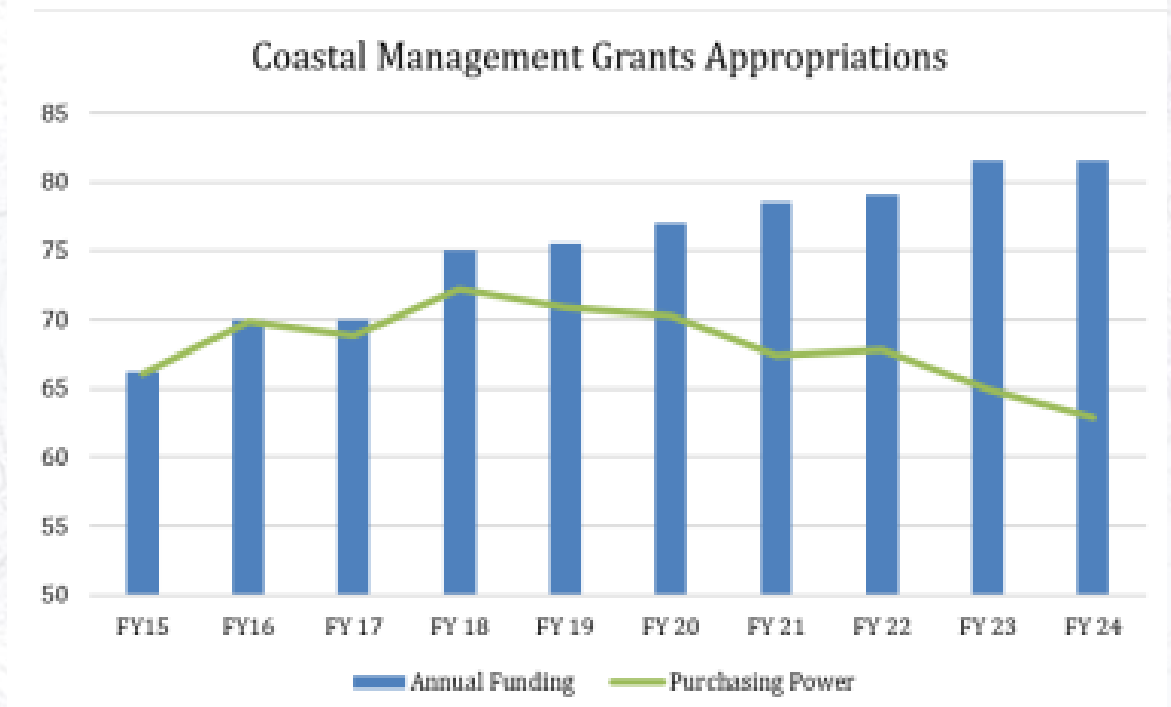
Annual Appropriations - FY24

- CZM Grants flat at \$81.5 million;
 - Guam ~\$1.1 Million
- NOAA Coral at \$34 mil;
- Other coastal programs similar

FY25 was in a CR till March.

Additional funding:

- CZM received funding from BIL & IRA
 - Guam - up to ~\$450K/yr for 5 years (until FY26)
- Huge amount of competitive funding



Coastal Outlook for 2025 and near term



Federal Funding:

- FY25
- Additional Funding – BIL & IRA
- FY26 and future approps

Federal Agency Changes:

- Agency roles – FEMA, NOAA
- Staff capacity
- Shifting priorities

Federal Funding: Annual Approps in 2025



Annual Appropriations – FY25

- **FY25** – Full year CR, passed in March 2025
 - *(mostly) flat funding from FY24.*
 - *No (major) shifts in coastal funding.*



Other Funding:



- **H.R. 1 “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”** – (Reconciliation Bill) Passed and Signed into Law
 - Lots of cuts to climate/energy, but not much to coastal
 - Recission of **UNOBLIGATED** IRA Funds for Coastal Communities and Climate Resilience
- **BIL Funds** – Years 4 (FY25) and 5 (FY26)
 - So far... no cuts.
 - Prepare for cuts to FY26.
- **IRA Funds** – See above
- **Covid Funds** – simply running out

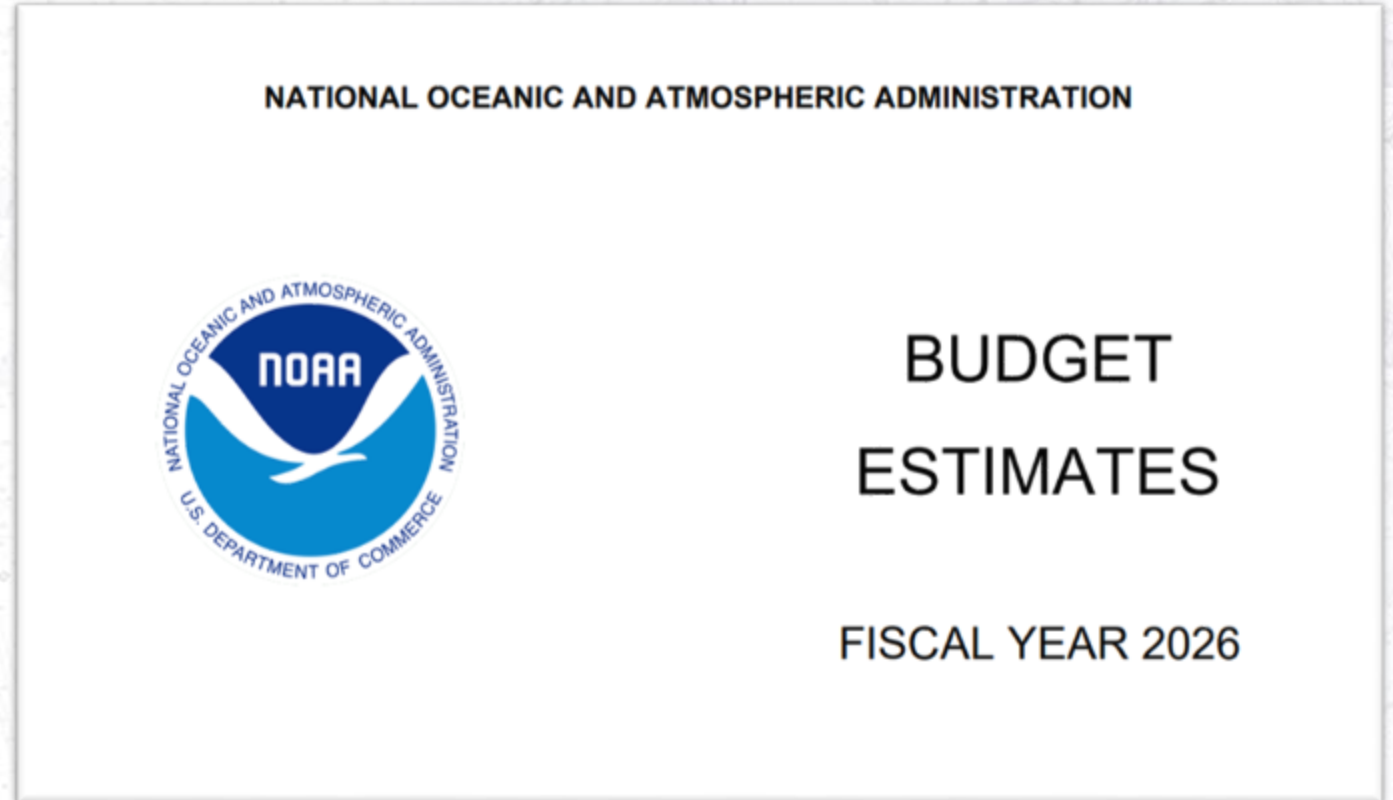


Coastal Funding: Annual Approps in 2026...



Annual Appropriations – FY'26

- Pres Budget Proposal eliminated CZM and many coastal programs in NOAA; drastic cuts to NOAA, EPA, Interior, etc.
- Initial House & Senate bills mostly keep coastal funding flat! (woohoo!)
- Political polarization...
 - Gov't Shutdown looming?
 - Continuing Resolution?
 - “Recissions”



<https://www.noaa.gov/sites/default/files/2025-06/NOAA%20FY26%20Congressional%20Justification.pdf>

Agency Changes:



- Major Staffing cuts – e.g., Office for Coastal Management ~30% cut
 - More coming?
 - Contractors still on (for now...)
- Office of Research – proposed for elimination
 - Congress hasn't fully weighed in?
 - Sea Grant move to National Ocean Service?
- Added layer of Grant & Contract Review



FEMA

- Eliminated or fundamentally transformed?
- Massive cuts to “mitigation”
 - BRIC defunded
 - Flood & Hazard mitigation cuts.
- Possible shift to state-led disaster response.
- **FEMA Act** – Bipartisan House Bill to reorganize FEMA

Agency Shifts in Focus:



**What's
Out**

Environment
Aqua-
culture
Fishing
Industry

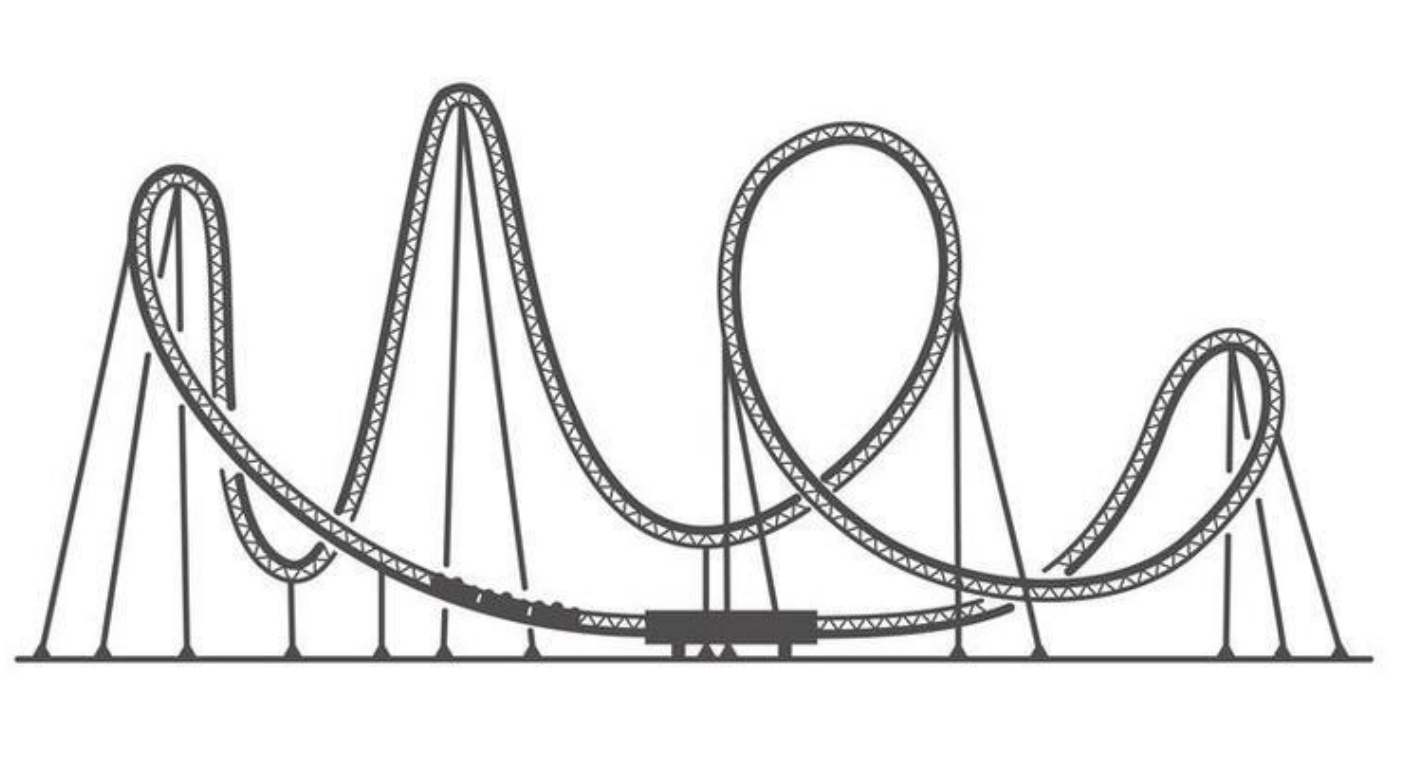
**What's
In**



How to Plan (with so many unknowns)?



1. Make the \$\$\$ stretch
2. Be creative in finding new funding
3. Get your plans in place... funding will flow again, be ready
4. Engage with political decision-makers.



Questions?

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