

Corps Contribution Program for Environmental Protection, Restoration, and Recreation at Water Resources Projects – A Summary

The Corps Contribution Program allows the agency to accept monetary or material donations. Contributions can be utilized to accomplish tasks or projects for the protection, improvement, restoration, rehabilitation or interpretation of natural resources, environmental features, recreation areas and facilities or cultural resources at projects, but must have been identified in Master Plans or other previous planning efforts.

Acceptable Donors: The Corps may accept contributions for individuals, organizations, foundations, governmental entities, corporations and businesses. If a Federal grant is involved a note or letter is needed stating the money is acceptable to use on Corps property.

Prohibited Donations: Real estate cannot be accepted as a contribution. Contributions from an entity which holds or is seeking a concessions contract or which would identify the Corps with alcohol or tobacco products shall be declined.

Solicitation, Lobbying & Ethics: Corps employees may not solicit or take any action that gives the appearance that they are soliciting contributions in support of Corps programs or activities. Corps employees shall not engage in lobbying activities. Corps employees are subject to ethics regulations which prohibit federal employees from giving preferential treatment to any entity or individual.

Contribution Criteria:

- A. For any donation valued at \$2,500 or more, the Corps must perform a thorough internet search to determine whether publicly available information exist that raises concerns about the property of acceptance. This can be done at Project/Lake level under Operation Project Manager supervision
- B. For Contributions offered and valued at \$100,000 or above coordination is required with District Contribution Coordinator with review by an Office of Counsel attorney.

Stipulations:

- A. Contributions may not be used for permanent employee salaries. Contributions may be made to fund salaries of term or temporary Corps employees.
- B. Contributions will not be used to begin construction or other projects or program, unless there are sufficient appropriated and donated funds in hand to ensure completion of the work to a degree that has independent utility. Donated funds may, however, be used to advance project design work.

Summary is an excerpt from approved District Contribution Plan.