



WILLIS THOMPSON
MAYOR

January 29, 2026

The Honorable Roger Wicker
425 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wicker,

On behalf of the City of Vicksburg, I write to express the City's deep appreciation for your continued support in strengthening our city's critical infrastructure. Your support of current and past infrastructure projects has been, and continues to be, essential in addressing and overcoming the unique challenges our infrastructure and city face.

On behalf of the City of Vicksburg, I respectfully request your support for a \$10,000,000 authorization in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2026 to undertake water distribution system improvements along the U.S. Highway 61 corridor. This investment is vital to maintain service reliability, meet growing demand, and support ongoing economic development linked to federal, industrial, and commercial users in Vicksburg.

Vicksburg's growth strategy is tightly connected to the U.S. 61 corridor, a backbone for utilities and access serving major employers and mission-critical federal installations. In December 2025, the State awarded Vicksburg funding to launch a comprehensive analysis focused on water infrastructure resiliency and capacity improvements to support the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) and surrounding customers—underscoring both the importance of reliable water service and the clear need for system upgrades. The City's utilities department already manages hundreds of miles of water mains and responds to line repairs and boil-water events when breaks occur, reflecting system age and the strain of increased service demands.

In parallel, the need for new and upgraded water lines along U.S. Highway 61 South has been recognized in recent project scoping and bid notices, including work to install and tie new lines beneath and along the highway to the existing system—evidence of both the scale and urgency of improvements required in this corridor.

CITY OF VICKSBURG • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

1401 Walnut Street | Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180 | Office: 601.631.3718 | Fax: 601.631.3764
mayorwillisthompson@vicksburg.org

Letter to Hon. Wicker

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The requested authorization would support planning, design, and construction for targeted water distribution improvements along U.S. Highway 61, including:

- Installation of new transmission/distribution mains and strategic interconnections to improve pressure, redundancy, and fire flow.
- Service reliability upgrades such as valves, isolation capability, and tie-ins to reduce the footprint of any outage and speed restoration.
- Resiliency and capacity enhancements identified by the ongoing state-supported study focused on critical users, including ERDC.

U.S. 61 is the gateway to Vicksburg's expanding commercial and industrial base, and ERDC—a nationally significant research center—depends on reliable municipal infrastructure for uninterrupted operations. Strengthening the Highway 61 water network will reduce service interruption risk, improve fire protection flows, and unlock additional capacity to attract and retain private investment and federal missions.

This authorization will leverage the City's ongoing planning work and complementary state support to advance shovel-ready segments along U.S. 61 as designs are finalized—maximizing cost-effectiveness and accelerating delivery for high-impact segments serving key users. The City's utilities team stands ready to coordinate design and construction phasing to minimize service disruptions and optimize long-term operations.

We respectfully request that you include a \$10,000,000 authorization for the City of Vicksburg's U.S. Highway 61 Water Distribution System Improvements in the WRDA 2026 legislation. This targeted authorization will provide the necessary federal framework for future appropriations to address critical near-term upgrades and long-term resiliency for Vicksburg's growing corridor.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support for infrastructure investments that strengthen Mississippi's economy and safeguard essential services. My team and I would welcome the opportunity to brief your staff, provide preliminary project information, and coordinate site visits along the U.S. 61 corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willis T. Thompson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Willis T. Thompson

Mayor

City of Vicksburg

Water Resources Development Act 2026 (WRDA)

Please use as much space as needed and attach separate sheets if necessary. Completed forms should be submitted no later than **Friday, January 30, 2026.**

REQUESTING ORGANIZATION

Organization: City of Vicksburg	Organization Phone: 601-801-3411
Street Address: 1401 Walnut Street	P.O. Box: P.O. Box 150, Vicksburg, MS 39181
City: Vicksburg	State: MS Zip Code: 39180

POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Willis T. Thompson, Mayor			
Street Address: 1401 Walnut Street	P.O. Box: P.O. Box 150 Vicksburg, MS 39181	Email Address: mayorwillisthompson@vicksburg.org	
City: Vicksburg	State: MS	Zip Code: 39180	Phone Number: 601-636-3411

PROJECT INFORMATION

Request Type: <i>i.e., Environmental Infrastructure (Sec.219), Policy (Bill Language), Project (Authorization of Construction, Modification of Project, Modification of Study, New Study, Land Transfer/Exchange/Conveyance/Easement, Deauthorization)</i> Environmental Infrastructure (Sec. 219)	Action: <i>i.e., New Request or Modification</i> New Request	Citation of Existing Authority, if applicable: Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992, as amended (P.L. 102-580)	Shared/Bipartisan Request: <i>i.e., YES or NO, If YES, please provide other member office details</i> No
If an Environmental Infrastructure Request, was this request included in the Corps 7001 Report? <u>YES or NO:</u> No			
If a Policy Request, was the Corps involved in this request? <u>YES or NO:</u> n/a			
Project Title: Environmental Infrastructure, including water and wastewater infrastructure, including stormwater management, water quality enhancement, and water supply in the city of Vicksburg, Mississippi			
Description of legislative intent or rationale for this policy request/description of authorized purpose: The City of Vicksburg respectfully requests a \$10,000,000 authorization in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2026 to advance critical improvements to its water distribution system along the U.S. Highway 61 corridor—a vital area supporting the city's current and future economic development. Recent infrastructure investments and planning efforts have highlighted the need for substantial upgrades to enhance water system capacity, resiliency, and overall reliability, particularly in areas experiencing growth. In December 2025, the City secured state funding to conduct a comprehensive assessment of its water system and identify improvements necessary to support mission-critical users, including the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC). This effort underscores Vicksburg's need for modern, robust water infrastructure to sustain economic momentum. Additionally, improvements along U.S. Highway 61 South have already been identified as essential, with project concepts calling for new water lines beneath and along the corridor to strengthen connections to the existing distribution network. These needs reflect both the scale of required work and the importance of U.S. 61 as a central backbone for water service across industrial, commercial, and residential areas. As Vicksburg continues to attract new investment—including expansions tied to ERDC, port development, and commercial growth—reliable water service along Highway 61 is increasingly crucial. Disruptions or limitations in this corridor would directly affect local businesses, households, and federal facilities, putting economic progress at risk.			

A \$10,000,000 WRDA authorization would enable the City to undertake the engineering, construction, and system upgrades necessary to deliver a resilient, reliable water system capable of supporting both current needs and long-term regional growth. This investment will bolster Vicksburg's competitiveness, protect critical infrastructure, and meet rising water supply demands across the region.

Community
Support for
the Project

Please attach any letters from the community, elected officials, institutions, or other entities; links to articles; or other information to demonstrate local support and need for the project

[State Awards \\$314,000 to Vicksburg for Infrastructure Improvements](#)

[Highway 61 South Water Line Improvements](#)

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL
OF AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDS PURSUANT TO THE
WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992, AS AMENDED**

WHEREAS, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Vicksburg (hereinafter "Board") is eligible to submit an application for federal funding pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act ("Act") of 1992, as amended which authorizes financial assistance for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater and other water related infrastructure projects.

WHEREAS, the Board deems it in the best interest of the citizens of Vicksburg for the application to be submitted for funding pursuant to Section 219 of the Act which authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to provide federal funds and technical assistances for environmental infrastructure projects like water treatment, wastewater systems and stormwater management to municipalities such as the City of Vicksburg..

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Vicksburg, by and through its authorized representative, is hereby authorized and directed to make a proper application to the appropriate authorities for funding pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act.

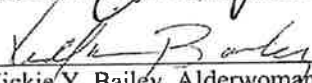
FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that:


1. The Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Vicksburg authorize Keith O'Keefe and Brian Robbins of Neel Schaffer Consulting Engineering Firm, as the official designee and applicant's agent, and authorize them to submit the application for federal funding pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended; and
2. The Board be authorized to accept any funds received from the submittal of the application for federal funding for water treatment, wastewater systems and stormwater management to be used for designated projects; and
3. The Board hereby authorizes Mayor Willis Thompson to execute the Application for Federal Assistance and any other documents required for the submittal for funding; and
4. The Board further authorizes Mayor Willis Thompson to execute any agreements and other documents that may be of necessity be executed in the implementation of this funding program.

RESOLVED, this the 23rd day of January, 2026.


Willis Thompson, Mayor


Thomas J. Mayfield, Alderman


Vickie Y. Bailey, Alderwoman

ATTEST:

Deborah A. Kaiser-Nickson, City Clerk

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI


COUNTY OF WARREN

CITY OF VICKSBURG

I, Deborah A. Kaiser-Nickson, the duly and legally appointed, qualified and Acting City Clerk and lawful custodian of the Minutes of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Vicksburg and Seal of said City, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of a Resolution Adopted by The Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Vicksburg at an Adjourned Board Meeting held on January 23, 2026.

WITNESS my signature and seal of the City of Vicksburg this is the 23rd day of January 2026.




Deborah A. Kaiser-Nickson, City Clerk