



CWCC

Clean Water Construction Coalition
P.O. Box 728 * Allenwood, NJ 08720
(732) 292-4300 * FAX: (732) 292-4310

ROBERT A. BRIANT, JR.
Chairman

October 3, 2018

WRDA REAUTHORIZATION WILL ALMOST DOUBLE DWSRF BY 2020

In September, Congress announced a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Formally titled the "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018," the consensus legislation was announced last week by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA), House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-OR), Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Barrasso (R-WY), Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Ranking Member Tom Carper (D-DE), House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR), and House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone (D-NJ).

The bill would reauthorize the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) at \$1.174B for Federal FY19, \$1.3B for Federal FY20 and \$1.95B for Federal FY21. We are finally seeing sustained growth in federal funding, a key position the CWCC has been advancing for years. Starting from a baseline of \$863M in Federal FY17, the Federal FY18 appropriation for DWSRF grew to \$1.16B. If this WRDA bill is authorized and implemented, the DWSRF would be funded at 180% of current levels (or 225% of Federal FY17 levels) by 2020. For Federal FY19, the gains achieved in Federal FY 18 have been sustained and slightly increased, which was our baseline expectation.

In addition, this bill reauthorizes WIFIA, making it into a permanent program and authorizing \$50M for each of FY20 and FY21 (\$50M can be leveraged to loan up to \$500M/year). It provides additional language for state financing authorities – allowing 100% loans so long as the State is responsible for any defaults for this assistance. It includes some (but not all) of the previously discussed SRF WIN Act provisions. It does not reauthorize the Clean Water SRF (CWSRF) but that doesn't mean there won't continue to be an appropriation action, as Congress has been working without a CWSRF reauthorization for many years. CWSRF will likely be funded through the Federal FY 19 Interior & Environment Appropriations Bills currently in conference.

This bill has passed the House. Key Advocate's Sante Esposito, informs us that based on conversations with Senate Environment Public Works Committee staff, a floor vote in the Senate is expected later this week or early next week. CWCC staff will keep you posted.

HELP CWCC ELEVATE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE NEED TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

This year the CWCC became involved with the US Water Alliance in an effort to complement the work already underway through the Clean Water Construction Coalition. The

- AGC of America
- AGC of Texas
- Alabama Utility Contractors Association
- Arizona Utility Contractors Association
- Associated Pennsylvania Constructors
- Associated Utility Contractors Of Maryland *
- Connecticut Construction Industries Association
- CIC of Westchester County & Hudson Valley *
- Engineering Contractors Association
- General Contractors Association Of New York
- Georgia Utility Contractors Association
- Indiana Constructors Inc.
- Long Island Contractors Association
- Maryland Transportation Builders & Materials Association
- Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association
- Minnesota Utility Contractors Association*
- National Rural Water Association
- New Mexico Utility Contractors Association
- Ohio Contractors Association
- Public Works Contractors Association of Maryland
- Tennessee Road Builders Association
- Underground Contractors Association of Illinois *
- United Contractors *
- UCA of Anne Arundel County
- Utility Contractors Association of New England *
- Utility & Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey *
- Contractors Association Of West Virginia
- Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association

* Steering Committee Member

US Water Alliance is spearheading a national campaign to get the general public thinking more about our water systems, the role they play in our lives, and the importance of investment.

The CWCC encourages its members to participate in [Imagine A Day Without Water](#) event being held on Wednesday, October 10th. This national campaign is an excellent way to get the general public thinking more about our water systems, the role they play in our lives, and the importance of increasing investment in them. It is going to take this level of effort to draw attention to the invisible challenges plaguing our water infrastructure.

Please see some templates we have created for use in New Jersey, including [infographics in this social media toolkit](#) that you could refine to post on Twitter, Facebook, and/or Instagram or through your more conventional communications tools like newsletters and magazines. Consider partnering with another local organization who cares about water. For example, a local brewery, coffee shop, non-profit, schools, car washes, Chambers of Commerce, or city councils to name a few.

You can also have your organization sign up as a participant [here](#).

Any questions? Please contact Dan Kennedy, UTCA's Director of Environmental & Utility Operations via email (kennedy@utcanj.org) or phone (732-292-4300).

LARGER INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE DISCUSSIONS TO CONTINUE THROUGH LAME DUCK OR NEXT YEAR

As the nation's attention was set on the Supreme Court confirmation process, the only infrastructure activities this month were reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration and previously mentioned reauthorization of WRDA. The Senate Republican leadership announced that the plan is for the Senate to be in session most of October. However, the expectation is that both Houses will recess as soon as possible for campaigns. CWCC representatives anticipate a mega infrastructure effort will occur either in the lame duck session or next year. Administration officials continue to engage key Congressional Members and committees in support of a major infrastructure effort. CWCC representatives will continue to advocate for the highest increase levels of investment for the nation's water infrastructure.

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2019 APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

Congress passed a Continuing Resolution extending funding until December 7, 2018 at federal FY 2018 levels for those appropriations bills not enacted by October 1, 2018. That includes the Interior & Environment Appropriations bill which include funding for the CWSRF program and the Transportation Appropriations Bills which are currently in conference and are expected to be finalized soon. It does not include the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill (Corps of Engineers and Drinking Water) which was signed into law on September 21, 2018.

A summary of Federal FY 2019 Transportation Appropriations Bills and a comparison table of the funding levels being negotiated are included in the attached report.

KEY ADVOCATES REPORT

Included with this notice is Key Advocates recent report which is current to the end of September.