Senate Committee Advances Water Infrastructure Bills

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### Senate Committee Advances Water Infrastructure Bills

Last week, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) approved two bipartisan bills that, combined, would invest nearly $20B in wastewater and drinking water infrastructure improvements. **America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2020 (AWIA)** would authorize $17B to fund water infrastructure projects across the country. The bill reauthorizes key federal funding for water projects that is set to expire at the end of 2020. The bill also reauthorizes the WIFIA program, which provides states and municipalities low interest loans for water projects.

The Committee also approved the **Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020** that would reauthorize Safe Drinking Water Act programs and provide an estimated $2.5B to support drinking water infrastructure as well as resources and technical assistance to communities impacted by clean water shortages. The House has not yet introduced its companion legislation but has indicated its intention to do so before the 2018 water program expires.
U.S. Treasury Extends Safe Harbor to Return PPP Loans

Last week, the Treasury extended the deadline for firms to return Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans by one week, from May 7th to May 14th. The decision comes days after SFAA, along with several construction industry partners, urged the Trump Administration to provide more time for firms to decide if they would return the loans. The construction industry is continuing to request that the Trump Administration and Congress clarify confusing guidance related to the PPP to ensure construction businesses continue to be able to access, hold onto, and use PPP loans. As a reminder, the construction industry received the greatest proportion of first round PPP loans worth over $44B.

SFAA Webinar Provides Industry Updates re: COVID-19

As a follow-up to the successful Webinar COVID-19 Industry Updates, which had over 590 industry representatives attend, SFAA produced an introductory message from Lee Covington inviting those that were not able to attend to watch on-line. The link to the full webinar recording, which has been watched over 130 additional times since its publication, is included here.

New Survey Will Provide Critical Information to the SFAA Private Bonding Task Force

SFAA launched a survey to the field through Chief Bonding Officers and to NASBP contacts to gather market intelligence and information on opportunities relating to private bonding. The Private Bonding Task Force will use this information to better understand the opportunities in private contract bonding and guide the development of programs in support of industry needs. The survey closes today and has over 300 responses to date.

Looking to Find Relevant Compensation Data?

The annual industry Compensation Survey is underway! Members interested in participating may contact Allan Fitzgerald at afitzgerald@ccs-consultants.com. The Survey has been conducted for several years and has served as a very useful tool for collecting important trend data on industry salaries and benefits. Data collection will run through mid-May. Please contact Barbara Reiff for more information: breiff@surety.org.

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