

2016 Water Resources Development Act Overview & Outreach Webcast

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May 24th, 2016

3:00 PM EST

NACWA

Agenda

Welcome

- Adam Krantz, NACWA CEO
- Sharon Green, Vice Chair, NACWA Policy Committee

2016 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

- Senate Package
- House Package
- Next Steps



Water Resources Development Act 2016 (WRDA)

- Authorizes U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) projects: Flood Control, Navigation, Environmental Restoration
- WRRDA 2014 (\$12 billion authorization)
 - ACOE projects
 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund Reforms
 - Water Infrastructure Financing Innovations Act (WIFIA) Pilot

WRDA 2016

- S. 2848 (\$9 billion authorization)
 - Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Restoration projects
- House package



WRDA 2016

S. 2848

- 7 Titles
 - **Titles I-VI: ACOE Project Authorizations**
 - **Title VII: Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Infrastructure**
 - Drinking Water SRF Reforms
 - Clean Water Act Reforms and Infrastructure Investment
 - Disaster Relief for Drinking Water Systems
 - Watershed Restoration Initiatives

Title VII, Sense of the Senate

Sense of the Senate

- Support for Robust Funding of SRF Programs
- Data showing SRF Return on Investment to Economy

For each federal SRF dollar, \$0.93 ultimately returns to the Treasury through federal taxes as the dollar flows through the economy



Title VII, Subtitle A: Drinking Water

- DWSRF Reforms (sec. 7101, 7102, 7103, 7104, 7105)
- Grants to small/disadvantaged communities - \$1.4 billion (sec. 7106)
- Lead Service Line Replacement Program - \$300 million (sec. 7107)
- Voluntary Lead Testing in Schools and Childcare Facilities - \$100 million (sec. 7111)
- WaterSense – Authorizes voluntary labeling program (sec. 7112)
- Water Supply Cost Savings Program – establishes clearinghouse to disseminate information on cost-effective, innovative alternative supply technologies (sec. 7113)



Title VII, Subtitle B: Clean Water

Reauthorizes the Wet Weather Grant Program - up to \$1.8 Billion to address CSOs, SSOs, and municipal stormwater (sec. 7201)

Codifies Integrated Planning (IP) Framework (sec. 7203)

- Requires EPA to inform municipalities of IP
- Authorizes compliance schedules for WQS with an approved IP beyond one NPDES permit cycle
- Directs EPA to fully integrate Green Infrastructure into compliance programs
- Establishes an Office of Municipal Ombudsman

Requires EPA to revise 1997 CSO Financial Capability Guidance; prohibits sole reliance on Median Household Income (sec. 7205)



Title VII, Subtitle C: Innovative Financing & Promotion of Innovative Technologies

Permanently authorizes WIFIA (sec. 7302)

Establishes a Water Infrastructure Trust Fund (sec. 7303)

- Requires EPA to study the potential of a subsidy program for low-income ratepayers

Authorizes \$50 million annually and includes related provisions to accelerate the development and use of water technologies (Sec. 7304)

Reauthorizes the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (sec. 7305)

Directs EPA to develop non-regulatory drought resilience guidelines (sec. 7307)



Title VII, Subtitle D: Drinking Water Disaster Relief & Infrastructure Investments

Disaster Relief for Drinking Water Infrastructure Investments

- Systems subject to Presidential Declaration of Emergency due to presence of lead or other contaminants

Authorizes a total of \$220 million

- An additional \$100m for the DWSRF in FY16 & FY17 for service line repair/replacement;
- \$70m for WIFIA loans (\$700m to \$4.2b in financing)
- \$50m to address lead prevention and exposure
- Waives 20% cap on additional subsidization for DWSRF



Title VII, Subtitle F: Restoration

Authorizes:

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative at \$300 million annually for 5 years
- Long Island Sound Restoration Initiative at \$65 million annually for 5 years
- Lake Tahoe Restoration Initiative at \$415 million over 10 years



Senate WRDA 2016: Status

April 25th: S. 2848 introduced by Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)

April 28th: Reported out of the Environment & Public Works Committee (EPW) favorably with a vote of 19-1

Next steps – Possible Consideration by full Senate in June



WRDA 2016 House Bill

The House's WRDA was introduced Monday 5/23

Committee Markup on Wednesday 5/25

Narrow focus on U.S. Army Corps authorizations and policies – a “pamphlet” bill

If/when both chambers pass bills, a conference committee will be convened to reconcile the two versions and send a final bill to the President for signature.



Senate WRDA 2016: Outreach Next Steps

NACWA Ongoing Outreach Strategy

- Letter supported by a coalition of water sector and municipal organizations
 - Ideally submit one letter per state, signed by numerous utilities and groups
- Additional outreach to key Senate Republicans
 - Sen. McConnell (R-KY), Majority Leader
 - Sen. Cornyn (R-TX), Assistant Majority Leader



WRDA 2016

Questions?

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