



April 6, 2018

The Honorable John Barrasso
Chairman
Senate Environment and Public Works
Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Senate Environment and Public Works
Committee
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
Chairman
Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee
Senate Environment and Public Works
Committee
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Ranking Member
Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee
Senate Environment and Public Works
Committee
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Barrasso, Ranking Member Carper, Chairman Inhofe, and Ranking Member Cardin:

The undersigned organizations support the inclusion of the “Integrated Water Resources Management Proposal” language in the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). This language will help create more efficient outcomes for improved local water resource management through increased coordination between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and local governments.

Many communities around the nation are taking a more integrated and innovative approach to managing their water resources as they confront more complex hydrological challenges and extreme weather events today than decades past. Many of these approaches look to optimize opportunities for managing wet weather events in ways that bolster a community’s resiliency to them. For example, when implementing local stormwater management plans, communities are not only implementing practices to divert stormwater or prevent flooding, but are incorporating best management practices such as stormwater recycling for aquifer recharge, habitat restoration, and augmenting freshwater supplies.

While USACE is primarily responsible for undertaking projects that address flood risk management, navigation, and aquatic ecosystem restoration goals, working with local sponsors and integrating these activities with local municipal stormwater management projects can help ensure broader water resource management goals like water reuse and aquifer recharge are met. The proposed language accomplishes this by directing the USACE to coordinate with communities when planning and implementing projects to enhance local water resource management goals.

Improving water resource management through increased coordination is a common-sense way to maximize benefits of water management. This provision has already been vetted and was included in

the 2016 Senate WRDA bill and was cut during conference negotiations due to procedural issues, not substantive issues. We urge the inclusion of the below language in the Senate 2018 WRDA bill.

“Sec. XX. LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER MANAGEMENT PLANS.

The Secretary, with the consent of the non-Federal sponsor of a feasibility study for a water resources development project, may enter into a feasibility study cost-sharing agreement under section 221(a) of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d -5b(a)), to allow a unit of local government in a watershed that has adopted a local or regional water management plan to participate in the feasibility study to determine if there is an opportunity to include additional feasible elements in the project being studied to help achieve the purposes identified in the local or regional water management plan.

Sincerely,

American Public Works Association

American Water Works Association

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

National Association of Clean Water Agencies

National Association of Flood & Stormwater Management Agencies

WaterReuse Association

Water Environment Federation

US Water Alliance