



April 6, 2018

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Garret Graves
Chairman
Water Resources and Environment
Subcommittee
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
585 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Ranking Member
Water Resources and Environment
Subcommittee
House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee
505 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman Graves, and Ranking Member Napolitano:

The undersigned organizations support the inclusion of the “Integrated Water Resources Management Proposal” language in the 2018 Water Resources Development Act. 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 House WRDA bill with bipartisan support and was cut during conference negotiations due to procedural issues, not substantive issues. We urge the inclusion of the below language in the House 2018 WRDA bill.

“Sec. XX. INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES PLANNING.

In carrying out a feasibility study for a water resources development project, the Secretary shall coordinate with communities in the watershed covered by such study to determine if a local or regional water management plan exists or is under development for the purposes of stormwater management, water quality improvement, aquifer recharge, or water reuse. If such a local or regional water management plan exists for the watershed, the Secretary shall, in cooperation with the non-Federal sponsor for the plan and affected local public entities, avoid adversely affecting the purposes of the plan and, where feasible, incorporate the purposes of the plan into the Secretary’s feasibility study.”

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