



October 4, 2023

Government Shutdown Averted

Congress narrowly avoided a government shutdown by passing a continuing resolution that extends current government spending for another 45 days. This resolution, which maintains federal agency spending at FY23 levels, was signed into law after passing both houses with bi-partisan support.

However, the vote on this agreement has resulted in some right-wing Republicans announcing they will seek to oust Speaker Kevin McCarthy. Congress now has until Nov. 17 to reach a budget deal or pass another continuing resolution.

Spending Caps

Advancement of the Appropriations bills continues to be held up by internal struggles over spending in the House Republican Caucus with a number of members seeking to enact stringent spending cuts.

As of this writing, three Appropriations bills have passed the House, while six of the remaining eight Appropriations bills have cleared the Appropriations Committee. In the Senate, all 12 Appropriations have been approved by the Appropriations Committee, but none have cleared the Senate.

In September, the House Budget Committee approved a proposal to balance the Federal budget in ten years which includes significant spending cuts. The measure is unlikely to pass the Democrat-controlled Senate.

FY24 Appropriations Bills

As we have previously reported, the allocations for the State Revolving Funds (SRF) differ significantly in the House and Senate version of the Appropriations bills.

The House bill provides a general fund base allotment of \$535 million in Clean Water SRF funding, plus \$470 million for earmarks. The Senate version provides a general fund base allotment of \$1.29 billion, plus \$345 million for earmarks. For Safe Drinking Water SRFs, the House Interior Appropriations bill provides a general fund base allotment of \$460 million, plus \$410 million for earmarks. The Senate bill provides as a general fund base allotment, \$882 million and \$244 million for earmarks.

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Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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* Steering Committee Member



The additional \$2.62 billion for the Clean Water SRFs and \$3 billion for Safe Drinking Water SRFs appropriated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is not changed.

Both Appropriations bills would provide \$20 million over five years for Water Instruction Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) grants

CWCC Advocacy

The Coalition continues to try to influence the process to head off funding cuts for SRFs. Coalition members were encouraged to urge their House and Senate Members to oppose these cuts and support SRF funding at the expected FY24 level.

The Coalition also wrote to the leadership of both Appropriations Committees expressing its opposition to SRF funding reductions and continues to express concern about earmark funding being used as takedown from the SRF base allotments. In addition, we are closely monitoring ongoing negotiations on the Appropriations process.

STREAM Act, S. 2162

Due to the unfortunate passing of Senator Dianne Feinstein, efforts to advance her bill, known as the STREAM Act, are currently unsettled. As we have noted in previous reports, the Coalition has supported this measure which would provide over a billion dollars for water recycling, surface and groundwater projects, desalination projects, drinking water projects for disadvantaged communities, and environmental restoration projects.

Additional Issues/Bills of Interest

We continue to monitor several other bills and issues, including Alternative Water Source Program and Mega Recycled Water Project funding and we are prepared to support efforts to provide additional infrastructure funding.

Key Advocates Report

Included with this notice is Key Advocates' recent report from September 29 which provides more detail on these and other issues.

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