



February 2024

Budget Agreement

In early January, Congressional leaders reached an agreement on overall FY24 Budget totals although funding for individual programs has yet to be determined.

Under the agreement, non-defense budgets would remain largely unchanged but there would be reductions in appropriations for unspent pandemic aid, IRS enforcement, emergency funding and mandatory program spending. House Republicans remain fiercely divided over this agreement and many continue to advocate for substantial spending cuts.

Continuing Resolutions

Narrowly avoiding a government shutdown, Congress passed continuing resolutions to extend funding for appropriations bills including those that fund Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Grants and State Revolving Funds (SRFs) until March.

The Senate and House Appropriations Chairs have come to an agreement for the 12 spending bills but have not yet released any details. Under last year's debt agreement, substantial spending cuts will be imposed if the new appropriations bills are not enacted.

House Budget Resolution

The House budget resolution provides for overall budget totals for the next five fiscal years for the 13 major categories of the government. The Appropriations Committees would decide how much each of its subcommittees can spend and each subcommittee will direct the spending of its allocation.

Over the next decade, this resolution would limit annual spending increases, cut discretionary funding, reduce the deficit, and create a surplus. It has not been considered in the Senate and its future is uncertain.



SRF Funding & WIIN Grants

The Senate-reported Interior Appropriations bill allocates \$1.639 billion for Clean Water SRFs while the House-passed bill provides \$1.005 billion. For Safe Drinking Water SRFs, the Senate Interior Appropriations bill allocates \$1.126 billion while the House-passed version provides \$870 million.

Through our partners in Washington, the Clean Water Construction Coalition continues to advocate for passage of the Senate Appropriations bills that provide higher SRF base funding levels. In addition, we are continuing to oppose the use of earmarks as takedowns from SRF funding that are included in the House version.

Both the House-passed and Senate-reported Energy and Water Appropriations bills provide \$20 million for WIIN grants.

President's Budget

While the President's Budget is supposed to be submitted to Congress by February 5, it will likely be delayed, possibly until early March.

STREAM Act

The Coalition is still pursuing legislative action on the STREAM Act which would provide \$300 million for water recycling, \$750 million for surface and groundwater storage and conveyance projects, \$150 million for desalination projects, \$100 million for drinking water projects, and \$250 million for environmental restoration projects.

Other Issues

The Coalition continues to support appropriations for the Alternate Water Source Program and recycled water mega projects.

Key Advocates Report

Included with this notice is Key Advocates' report from January 31, 2024 which provides more detail on these and other issues.

cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org | P.O. Box 728 | Allenwood, NJ 08720 | Office: (732) 292-4300 | Fax: (732) 292-4310

Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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* Steering Committee Member