



March 3, 2023

**KEY ADVOCATES REPRESENTS CWCC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
DURING HILL MEETINGS**

On February 28th, on behalf of the Coalition, Sante Esposito met on the Hill with John Watts, Senior Policy Advisor, Senator Feinstein; Morgan Leonard, Legislative Assistant, Congresswoman Napolitano; Logan Feree, Professional Staff Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Water Resources Subcommittee; and staff of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.

A full review of “common” issues addressed in all these meetings are fully detailed in the attached report. Please take the time to review this information and let us know if you have any questions. We appreciate Sante’s efforts and this timely report.

CWCC VIRTUAL FLY-IN / WATER WEEK DETAILS – APRIL 25th

In our last report, we welcomed you and your members to join our **CWCC Virtual Fly-In and Business Meeting** on **TUESDAY, APRIL 25th 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM EST**. All have received the invitation via email to join and we have thus far seen a positive response in terms of attendance.

In addition, we can report that CWCC has joined as an official partner for [Water Week](#) (April 23rd – 29th). National in-person activities planned for “Water Week” are taking place and a few of us will be down in DC and participating in person. Dan Kennedy is planning on attending and representing CWCC during key events. Details are still being populated on their website so please check back in the coming weeks for more details.

This year’s Water Week provides CWCC members with the opportunity to directly learn more from key federal officials about the implementation of the historical policy achievements secured by the water sector over the past two years, and significant actions on EPA’s regulatory agenda that will directly impact the water sector. It also provides the opportunity to build on this momentum and come together on Capitol Hill to advocate to Members of Congress the importance of ensuring all communities continue to have access to safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water and clean water.

In preparation for our upcoming activities, we have prepared the following **DRAFT CWCC 2023 PRIORITIES** and ask that you reply back with any comments by **Friday, March 17th**:

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Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

AGC of America • AGC of Texas • Alabama Utility Contractors Association • Arizona Utility Contractors Association • Associated Pennsylvania Constructors • Associated Utility Contractors Of Maryland* • Connecticut Construction Industries Association • CIC of Westchester County & Hudson Valley* • Engineering Contractors Association • General Contractors Association Of New York • Georgia Utility Contractors Association • Indiana Constructors Inc. • Long Island Contractors Association • Maryland Transportation Builders & Materials Association • Michigan Infrastructure & Transportation Association • Minnesota Utility Contractors Association* • National Rural Water Association • New Mexico Utility Contractors Association • NYSLECET • Ohio Contractors Association • Public Works Contractors Association of Maryland • Tennessee RoadBuilders Association • Underground Contractors Association of Illinois* • United Contractors* • UCA of Anne Arundel County • Utility Contractors Association of New England* • Utility & Transportation Contractors Association of New Jersey* • Contractors Association of West Virginia • Wisconsin Underground Contractors Association

* Steering Committee Member



DRAFT CWCC 2023 PRIORITIES

OVERALL GOAL - To ensure that commitments for robust funding for programs of interest to the Coalition are met and expanded. More funding means more projects and more projects means more jobs.

PRIORITY #1: Fully Fund Commitments (IIJA + Base FY Appropriation) and Increase Funding

- Fund Drinking Water, Wastewater, Stormwater, Water Reuse Programs to IIJA levels + Base FY Appropriation Levels for FY24:
 - **Clean Water SRF Funding at minimum of \$4.58 Billion** (\$2.95 Billion IIJA + \$1.63 Billion FY Base). In addition:
 - **Drinking Water SRF Funding at minimum of \$4.05 Billion** (\$2.95 Billion IIJA + \$1.10 Billion FY Base)
 - **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), including State WIFIA (SWIFIA) at a minimum of \$80 Million**
- If Congress chooses to continue the use of Congressionally Directed Spending (earmarks) for water infrastructure projects, these funds must be additive to the overall EPA budget and **NOT** come out of the baseline SRF funding moving forward.
- Inclusion of additional funding for the SRFs, Alternative Water Source Program and other water programs of interest in the final version if anything emerges from the “Build Back Better” framework.
- Enactment of Title XVI WIIN grant funding and Federal share increase.

PRIORITY # 2: Accelerate the Work

- Enactment of legislation, policies, regulations, and specifications that accelerate the project pipeline and bring more water projects to construction in a timely manner. Advocate that EPA require State SRF’s to streamline review and approval processes for the replacement or improvement of existing water infrastructure assets.

PRIORITY #3: Price Escalation / Build America, Buy America Requirements

- Recognize near-term challenges, such as inflation, disruptions to supply chains, and lack of domestic capacity or supply when implementing new domestic preference procurement requirements for construction materials and manufactured products. Protecting public health and the environment, while maintaining affordable user rates, requires the flexibility to source the most cost-effective materials and best available technologies.



PRIORITY #4: Offset Decreased Revenues

- Water utilities nationwide are experiencing decreased revenues from customers for various reasons. This matter must be addressed in infrastructure legislation. If this issue is not resolved, planned capital programs will undoubtedly suffer.

Key Advocates Report

Included with this notice is Key Advocates recent report which is current to March 1, 2023.