



Clean Water Construction Coalition March 2025 Report

White House and Executive Branch

Funding Freeze Update

On March 26, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit unanimously declined to grant the Trump Administration's request to block an injunction against the White House's funding freeze, meaning that the pause on the funding freeze remains in effect. In practice, however, funds have continued to be frozen by the administration at various agencies and to various recipients, including funding to universities, funding to family-planning organizations, funding for disaster aid, and funding for food aid programs. Court challenges remain ongoing.

Federal Employees and Mass Layoffs

A second "Fork in the Road" buyout offer to federal employees went out on March 31, and unions have already challenged the new plan in court. Agency plans to the White House on further reductions in force were due on March 13, though they were not made public. Meanwhile, mass layoffs continue across the federal government. On March 31, approximately 10,000 employees at HHS, mostly from offices within the CDC and FDA, were laid off. The EPA has seen an approximately 3 percent reduction in force as of April 1, according to the New York Times, with a total planned workforce reduction of 10 percent. Across the federal government, at least 56,090 employees have been fired; approximately 75,000 employees took the first buyout offer; and a further 171,080 reductions are planned, according to the New York Times.

EPA

Jessica Kramer – the Trump Administration's nominee to head up the EPA Office of Water – had her confirmation hearing in front of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on Wednesday, March 26. Kramer emphasized the role of cooperative federalism and sensible regulation, and she was questioned most heavily about WOTUS and specific state challenges. She was also asked about how

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Kyle England - Chairman

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*Steering Committee Member



she plans to approach PFAS as Assistant Administrator and about the paused funding freeze's potential impact on water quality programs.

The vote on her confirmation will be held on Wednesday, April 9, and she is expected to pass this threshold with bipartisan support. A summary from her confirmation hearing from March 26 is attached alongside this update.

Congress

FY 2025 Appropriations

On March 14, Congress passed a continuing resolution that mostly extends FY 2024 funding levels for federal agencies through September, preventing a government shutdown and finalizing the budget for FY 2025, which officially began on October 1 of last year. The bill cut non-defense spending by roughly \$13 billion and increased defense spending by about \$6 billion.

The FY 2025 plan does not include congressionally directed earmarks. As a result, states will have full access to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund allocations – \$1.64 billion and \$1.13 billion, respectively. The resolution also preserves level funding in FY 2025 for key EPA water programs, including \$64.6 million for WIFIA. The Alternative Water Source Program will continue to go unfunded, unfortunately. A full summary of EPA water infrastructure program appropriations is included in the chart alongside this report.

FY 2026 Appropriations

While congressional offices await official FY 2026 guidance from the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, many offices have begun soliciting earmark and programmatic funding requests. As this process gets underway, CWCC has prepared an updated 2025 priorities document, as well as a formal FY 2026 appropriations letter. These will be shared alongside this report as well.

During Water Week meetings taking place the week of April 7, CWCC members will meet with their lawmakers in DC to discuss the importance of robust funding for water infrastructure programs, including highlighting our specific requests. For CWCC members who are not traveling to DC for meetings, we strongly encourage you to still reach out to staff for your members of Congress during the month of April

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to urge them to support increased water infrastructure funding in FY 2026. You can do this either via email or by setting up a virtual meeting, and Banner will provide more specific guidance on how best to do this soon.

Reconciliation

Congress has been working to iron out the competing budget resolutions each chamber adopted in February. The Senate plans to move this week to advance a compromise budget resolution before the first weekend of April. Majority Leader John Thune would like the Senate to adopt a budget resolution after a potential “vote-a-rama” on amendments at the end of this week. Thune would like the budget resolution to be completed by both chambers before the Easter recess, which begins on Friday, April 11 – an ambitious timeline. Banner is closely tracking this process and will report out updates on potential impacts to water infrastructure funding, as well as any specific advocacy recommendations.

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