



May 2, 2023

CWCC VIRTUAL FLY-IN / WATER WEEK – FOLLOW UP

Thank you all that joined our **CWCC Virtual Fly-In and Business Meeting** on April 25th.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access materials from the virtual event, including several follow-up items referenced below. The files available for download include a written summary of Sante Esposito’s verbal report during our meeting.

The Water Week organizers still have key information available by [CLICKING HERE](#). The two-day event was very successful with key officials in government and leading water advocacy groups in DC pushing for our common cause.

During the business section of our meeting, we primarily discussed the pace of project delivery. As a follow up to that discussion, we have included the RFP and other documents used by New Jersey’s SRF program to create a pool of outside engineers to assist in moving projects through the review process and to the procurement stage. Please note this was done specific to the state laws and regulations in the State of NJ at the time it was released. You may want to review this and push relevant agencies in your jurisdiction to take a similar step. The Executive Director of NJ’s SRF is available to discuss this with your SRF leadership and we are open to helping them make that connection at your request. We feel like taking this step is a “best practice” and if you have other examples, please share with us and we can share them as well.

PUBLIC OPINONS ON WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

In the link above, we have included polling released last week from the US Water Alliance and a NJ-specific polling memo that I referenced during our meeting.

The full presentation and a two-page summary memo from US Water Alliance draws the following conclusions:

- Overall, voters’ views on water infrastructure have remained steady over the past year.
- Voters continue to feel positive about the condition of their local water infrastructure and divided in their evaluation of the national water infrastructure.
- However, views of both have become steadily less positive over the last few years.

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- Only two in five are familiar with the bipartisan infrastructure bill, a decrease relative to 2022, but when provided an introduction they offer strong approval that cuts across partisan affiliation and geography.
- Messaging on the infrastructure bill is highly compelling, especially statements describing lead pipe replacement and the removal of dangerous contaminants.
- Voters continue to be highly satisfied with their water, wastewater and stormwater service; view it as affordable; and trust that the water delivered to their home is safe.
- While most say that their water service is affordable, the 2022 spike in those who have concerns about affordability has persisted.
- As in prior years, most are willing to pay as much as \$50 additional each year for water infrastructure improvements.

We thank our partners at the US Water Alliance for providing all this critical information. You now have access to the full slide deck of results as well as a short explainer memo from US Water Alliance's pollsters to help unpack the results or prepare talking points for yourselves. The memo summarizing polling results from New Jersey is being shared as background in the event other CWCC members are considering doing their own local polling. The results are currently supporting budget season advocacy (including paid and earned medial) focused on securing additional funding for water infrastructure from the American Rescue Plan Act funding that remains unallocated in New Jersey.

Key Advocates Report

Included with this notice is Key Advocates recent report which is current to April 28, 2023.