

July 1, 2024

FY25 Appropriations Funding for SRFs, WIIN Grants

Markups for the House Appropriations bills that fund State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) grants took place last week.

Under the subcommittee markups, the Clean Water SRFs would receive \$1.2 billion, which includes \$649 million in state allocations and \$553 million for earmarks. The Safe Drinking Water SRFs would be allotted \$883 million, with \$404 million in state allocations and \$479 million for earmarks.

Both bills are scheduled for a full Committee vote next week with House Republicans aiming for full House approval in August. The Democrat-controlled Senate opposes the spending cuts in these measures and instead, wants to increasing appropriations to account for inflation. The Senate has not yet scheduled a vote on the Appropriations bills and it is likely a continuing resolution will be used to avoid a government shutdown.

The Clean Water Construction Coalition (CWCC) is one of the organizations endorsing lawmakers' efforts to increase SRF funding and prevent the use of earmarks as a takedown from state allocations. The CWCC is also encouraging Coalition members to provide letters from their organizations supporting these efforts.

CWCC Funding Requests

The CWCC is advocating for an allocation of at least \$4.49 billion for the Clean Water SRFs, \$4.37 billion for the Safe Drinking Water SRFs and \$20 million for WIIN Grants. The Coalition opposes the use of earmarks and if earmarks are used, they should not reduce base SRF funding.

House Republican Budget Proposal

House Republicans have not backed off from their support of imposing drastic spending cuts over the next ten years. Their resolution to cap spending growth at one percent a year and reduce discretionary spending by over \$2 trillion has not been considered since it was marked up in March.

Final FY24 Appropriations and Earmarks

Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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For Fiscal Year 2024, the state allocations are \$851 million for the Clean Water SRFs, \$494 million for the Safe Drinking Water SRFs and \$20 million for WIIN Grants.

The Clean Water SRF earmarks are \$787 million which is a takedown from the base allocation of \$1.63 billion. The Safe Drinking Water SRF earmarks are \$631 million which is a reduction from the \$1.12 billion base allocation.

Other Issues

The Coalition continues to support a new version of S. 2162, the "STREAM Act", which is still being drafted. The Act would provide \$750 million for surface and groundwater storage and conveyance projects, \$300 million for water recycling, \$250 million for environmental restoration projects, \$150 million for desalination projects and \$100 million for drinking water projects in disadvantaged communities.

No action has been taken on the Garamendi Amendment which would allow the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for public works projects for up to 10 years instead of five years. The CWCC is listed as an endorsing organization of this amendment.

The "DROUGHT Act of 2024", which would increase the federal share of Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding in disadvantaged communities and areas experiencing extreme droughts still awaits Committee action in both houses.

The CWCC continues to pursue additional funding for the Alternative Water Source Program and for mega recycled water projects.

Key Advocates Report

Included with this notice is Key Advocates' report from June 28, 2024 which provides more detail on these and other issues.

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