



CWCC

Clean Water Construction Coalition
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ROBERT A. BRIANT, JR.
Chairman

March 17, 2017

- 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
- Ohio Contractors Association
- Public Works Contractors Association of Maryland
- Tennessee Road Builders 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

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION INTRODUCES FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET

Early yesterday the Trump Administration introduced its federal Fiscal Year 2018 budget. Titled "America First - A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again", the \$1.1 trillion budget calls for a \$54 billion increase in military spending while substantially cutting many domestic programs. Other Departments receiving increases are Defense, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs.

The President's federal FY 2018 budget targets the Environmental Protection Agency with a 31% budget cut while eliminating 20% of its workforce. Approximately 50 EPA programs will be eliminated, including grants to fight air pollution, various energy saving programs, the office of environmental justice and funding for international climate-change (the Clean Power Program). The President's budget guidance for EPA does prioritize funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF's and funding for the WIFIA program. Please note the following excerpt provided to us by Key Advocates:

• Provides robust funding for critical drinking and wastewater infrastructure. These funding levels further the President's ongoing commitment to infrastructure repair and replacement and would allow States, municipalities, and private entities to continue to advance high priority infrastructure investments that protect human health. The Budget includes \$2.3 billion for the State Revolving Funds, a \$4 million increase over the 2017 annualized CR level. The Budget also provides \$20 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program, equal to the funding provided in the 2017 annualized CR. This credit subsidy could potentially support \$1 billion in direct Federal loans.

At this time, the federal FY 2018 budget process will be contentious and the Coalition will be intensely active in protecting all the funding sources for our industry.

CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS PREPARE BILLS IN ANTICIPATION OF TRUMP ADMINISTRATIONS \$1 TRILLION INFRASTRUCTURE PACKAGE

In preparation of the Trump Administration's \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal that is anticipated to be addressed prior to Congress's summer recess this August, Coalition representatives have been working with House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member, Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR), on a water infrastructure bill. Considered a marker bill to establish minority party priorities, the bill contains a number of Coalition priorities, in bold below.

- **Authorizes \$20 billion in Federal grants over five years to capitalize Clean Water State Revolving Funds (“Clean Water SRFs”). These funds provide low-interest loans and additional loan subsidizations (e.g., principal forgiveness and negative interest loans) to communities for wastewater infrastructure.**

- Authorizes \$1.5 billion over five years for grants for State water pollution control agencies to implement State water pollution control programs.

- Provides \$600 million over five years for Clean Water pilot programs (including Federal technical assistance and/or grants) for watershed-based or system-wide efforts to address wet weather discharges, to promote stormwater best management practices, to undertake integrated water resource management, and to increase the resiliency of treatment works to natural or man-made disasters.

- Authorizes technical assistance to rural, small, and tribal communities to assist them in gaining access to financing wastewater infrastructure.

- Includes economic incentives to encourage the adoption of energy- and water-efficient technologies and practices to maximize the potential for efficient water use, reuse, and conservation, and energy conservation, and realize the potential corresponding cost-savings for water treatment.

Title II – Grants

- **Authorizes \$2.5 billion over five years for grants to address combined and sanitary sewer overflows and recapture and reuse of municipal stormwater under section 221 of the Clean Water Act.**

- **Authorizes \$375 million in grants over five years for alternative water source projects under section 220 of the Clean Water Act, including projects that reuse wastewater and stormwater to augment the existing sources of water.**

In addition to Congressman DeFazio’s bill, Congressman Blumenauer (D-OR) and Congressman John Duncan (R-TN) will be introducing a voluntary fee/labeling trust fund bill. The measure is similar to the fee/labeling bill that moved through the Senate last year but was dropped during the Conference deliberation on the WRDA reauthorization bill. This year’s legislation differs from last year’s bill in that the revenue is allocated 50% for the Clean Water SRF and 50% for the Drinking Water SRF. The prior year’s measure funded the Clean Water SRF at 85% and the Drinking Water SRF at 15%. Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) has agreed to sponsor the bill in the Senate. Coalition representatives will continue to work with the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee representatives on the bills.

COALITION WASHINGTON, D.C. FLY-IN AND RECEPTION IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 16, 2017

Please note the arrangements for the Coalition’s Washington, D.C. events scheduled for Tuesday, May 16, 2017 though Thursday, May 18, 2017. Below are the details concerning the Coalition’s meetings:

- Tuesday, May 16, 2017
Coalition Working Meeting
Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill
400 New Jersey Avenue, NW
8:00am – 9:30am
Room to be determined
Legislative Update
9:30am – 12:00noon
Room to be determined
CWCC Executive Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, May 17, 2017
Open Day
ARTBA Meetings
- Thursday, May 18, 2017
Coalition Reception
Building TBA
12:00 noon
Room TBA

To **reserve your room** at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, telephone 1 888-421-1442 and mention the **ARTBA TCC Fly-In Program** to obtain the group rate of \$329.00 per night. **Online Hotel Reservations:** <https://aws.passkey.com/go/ARTBAFIP2017> . **Please call by April 17, 2017 to receive the group rate.**