June 25, 2015

URGENT ACTION NEEDED!!!!

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees have recently approved the federal Fiscal Year 2016 spending bills for the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. Contained in this measure is FY 2016 funding for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Water and Drinking Water SRF programs. Both the House and Senate measures cut the existing SRF programs by approximately 23%.

Specifically, the House bill provides total SRF funding of $1.775 billion, $1.018 billion for the Clean Water SRF and $757 million for the Drinking Water SRF, which results in a 23% decrease in funding from federal FY 2015 (a 30% CWSRF and 16% DWSRF respectively).

The Senate appropriations measure also cuts the combined funding for EPA's Clean Water and Drinking Water SRFs by 23%, to $1.8 billion, from current year's spending. The detailed spending amounts for each SRF will be available soon but are expected to be similar to the House proposal.

URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO AVERT THIS SERIOUS CUT

The Clean Water Construction Coalition will be working with the Senate Democrats to prevent enactment of a federal FY2016 Interior Appropriations bill with these levels. That prevention would force a “Continuing Resolution” that would fund both SRF’s at the much higher federal FY2015 levels. Absent a change/increase in the FY2016 proposed funding levels, which seems highly unlikely through the normal process, Coalition members need to contact their Senators and Representatives and advocate for a Continuing Resolution!

CWCC members should remind their State Congressional Delegations that the Clean Water construction program was once funded at $4.8 billion in the 1970's. Through the years, the program has already been severely cut back to its current level. The Nation’s investment needs in clean water and drinking water infrastructure continue to increase due to the decreased funding levels for these job producing, environmental programs. It is imperative that you urge your representatives and Senators to oppose the House and Senate appropriation bills!

We urge all coalition members to act immediately relative to this important call to action!