



November 2, 2020

ELECTION DAY IS UPON US

All eyes are on the national elections and what is likely going to be a protracted Election Day 2020. Since the last CWCC report the Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the federal government running through Dec. 11 was signed by the President and the Senate was focused on the process to vet and appoint a new Supreme Court Justice. The House is now in recess until Nov. 16 and the Senate subject to the call of the chair. Because of the expiration date for the Continuing Resolution (CR), there will be a lame duck session, probably lasting until the December holidays.

The case for upgrading the U.S. infrastructure system was made clear four years ago and as we know, no major “mega infrastructure package” has been agreed to. With COVID-19 economic lockdowns bringing part of the country to Depression-level unemployment, the timing for funding more public-works projects is critical. This should be an opportunity for whatever political party resides in the White House and/or controls Congress. The CWCC remains hopeful that the emerging leadership group will get past “infrastructure” being a political buzzword and takes advantage of the opportunity to strengthen the economy and enhance our infrastructure systems.

As highlighted in the attached report from Key Advocates, the legislative agenda for the session will depend, to a great extent, on the results of the election, not only regarding the presidency but control of the Senate. Because this is the end of the second session, any bills that do not become law by the time of adjournment “die” and will have to start over in the new Congress next year. Stay tuned!

UPDATE ON WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

The attached report from Key Advocates includes a full run down of the various vehicles for funding increases to support water infrastructure investment.

As Congress agreed to a short term extension of the FAST Act (was set to expire on Sept. 30th) and the laser-focus that will be on the upcoming Supreme Court nomination hearings, the focus shifts for infrastructure to a possibility of action in a lame duck session. Everything depends on the outcome of the Presidential election and if the Republicans hold the Senate. As previously reported, on July 31st the House passed its mega infrastructure bill by a mostly partisan vote of 233-188 which puts markers down for programs and funding levels. The cornerstone of the bill was the reauthorization of the FAST Act – the highway/transit program, which still needs a long term solution. See the following links:

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Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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 • NYSLECET • Ohio Contractors Association • Public Works Contractors Association of Maryland • Tennessee RoadBuilders 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



- Text of the Moving Forward Act is: <https://transportation.house.gov/download/bill-text-moving-forward-act>
- A Section by Section is: <https://transportation.house.gov/download/sec-by-sec-moving-forward-act>

“Water items of interest” included:

- Alternative Water Source Program - \$600M - see p. 49 of the Section-by-Section and pp.1122-1124 of the Bill Text;
- Clean Water SRF - \$40B (\$8B annually for 5 years) - see p.50 of the Section-by-Section and pp.1132-1133 of the Bill Text;
- Safe Drinking Water SRF - \$4.140B for FY22; \$4.8B for FY23; and \$5.5B for FY 24 and 25 - see p.61 of the Section-by-Section and p.1463 of the Bill Text; and,
- Title 16 WIIN Grants - \$500M - see p.78 of the Section-by-Section and pp.1781-1783 of the Bill Text; and,
- Rewrite of the Huffman omnibus bill including a process to de-authorize inactive USBR water projects

The three bills of greatest importance are the WRDA reauthorization bills, "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2020" (AWIA) and the "Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020"). These include funding levels that are supported by the CWCC.

Highlights of these bills and others are included in the full report from Key Advocates.

KEY ADVOCATES REPORT

Included with this notice is Key Advocates recent report which is current to the end of October.

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