



September 5, 2019

## LATE SUMMER UPDATE – FALL OUTLOOK

With the summer winding down and Congress in recess, the CWCC is getting ready for a busy fall. 2019 is generally an off-year for federal elections (with the exception of 4 special elections to replace members who have resigned or died in the 116<sup>th</sup> US Congress). There are only three states that will hold gubernatorial elections. Short of a handful of state legislative elections, much of the political focus attention will be on the culling of the Democratic field to challenge President Trump in 2020. Hope remains that the President will come out in front of an infrastructure package (including “pay-fors”) that can see the light of day this year. There are some that say the Democrats will not give the President a “win” but we are choosing to remain optimistic and actively at the table.

Beyond tracking a “mega” deal on infrastructure, Key Advocates, on behalf of the CWCC, is focusing on following bills that would address several Coalition priorities:

- **H.R.1497, “Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019”**
- **H.R. 2741, “Leading Infrastructure for Tomorrow’s America Act” (the “Lift America Act”)**
- **H.R. 1162, “Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act”**
- **H.R. 2473, “Securing Access for the Central Valley and Enhancing (SAVE) Water Resources Act”**
- **S. 1932, “Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act”**
- **H.R.2019 - Smart Energy and Water Efficiency Act of 2019 (the “West Act”)**

In addition, the Coalition is tracking and anticipating action in the Senate on the FY20 appropriation bills for the SRF / WIFIA programs. As reported last month, over the summer the House passed a “minibus” that includes the FY20 Interior Appropriations Bill providing \$1.81B for the **Clean Water SRF**, \$1.3B (the amount authorized by the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018) for the **Safe Drinking Water SRF**, and \$50M for **WIFIA**.

Similarly, in June the House passed its version of the FY20 Energy and Water Appropriations bill as part of another “minibus” which provides \$63.617M for Title XVI (of which \$10M is for the Title XVI WIIN grant program) and \$60M for **WaterSMART** and lists the names of the FY18 USBR Title XVI grant awardees, as required by law.

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Robert Briant, Jr. – Chairman

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\* Steering Committee Member



In addition, we can report that there has been no action in the Senate on the transportation appropriations bills we have been tracking.

### **CWCC TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE US WATER ALLIANCE CONFERENCE**

As a member of the US Water Alliance, the CWCC is sending a delegate to the [Annual One Water Summit](#) being held in Austin, TX from September 18-20.

Although much of the conference sessions are dedicated to water utility management and communication, we have pushed for the scope to be expanded to include relevant utility construction related matters. As such, for the first time there will be a panel on **“Procurement Reform”** that Dan Kennedy will attend and participate in. We all recognize procurement as one of the big barriers and the antiquated and non-standardized procurement processes hold public agencies back from proper planning, financing, construction and management of water systems. Hiring and contracting practices will be discussed that often are based in good-hearted advocacy but are challenging for contractors to implement. The session will include utility leaders that are reforming their procurement practices to broaden financing options, quicken the pace of projects, and ensure community benefits.

Dan will be part of a delegation for NJ that includes water utility leaders, environmental and community advocates and regulators. UTCA of NJ is part of a larger coalition called Jersey Water Works, which is a cross-sector group taking on entrenched water challenges. For more information on this coalition in NJ, please see: [www.jerseywaterworks.org](http://www.jerseywaterworks.org) or give Dan a call to discuss at 732-292-4300.

### **IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER – OCTOBER 23, 2019**

Last year, over 1,000 organizations participated in a strategic communications effort branded “Imagine a Day Without Water.” This is a way for your organizations to participate in a wider communication and stakeholder engagement for no cost. This wide public push can be a part of your strategy to support utilities getting the investment they need to replace aging infrastructure.

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The message for this project was developed to be generic but impactful. You can feel free to take this message framework and tailor it to better suit the specific issues and solutions you want to highlight for Imagine a Day Without Water. By signing up, you get access to resources to easily:

1. Engaged on social media
2. Host an event
3. Push the need for increased investment into the news
4. Partner with a local mayor or other public official
5. Bring issuing into the classroom

For more information, please visit: <http://imagineadaywithoutwater.org/>

### **KEY ADVOCATES REPORT**

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

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