



April 2, 2020

PHASE 4 of COVID-19 ECONOMIC STIMULUS / DRAFT 2020 CWCC PRIORITIES

As predicted, COVID-19 has greatly impacted the congressional legislative process. Within the constraints / limitation we face, Key Advocates has been able to engage and ascertain information summarized in the attached report. We know that infrastructure (including water) is a bipartisan priority that is likely to be part of the 4th Phase of Federal COVID-19. We expect that a bill will start moving as early as April 20th. Sante has advised that the best way to push CWCC priorities is to engage and extend our priorities directly. UTCA of NJ has an online advocacy tool called *Voter Voice* that is set up already for this purpose. We plan to repurpose this tool to the needs of the CWCC. More to follow on those mechanics.

The message we plan to send is that any infrastructure package as part of Phase 4 of the coronavirus economic stimulus efforts should include the following CWC Priorities:

- Clean Water SRF - reauthorize with corresponding appropriations of at least \$40B, per the Jan. 28 House Democratic leadership mega infrastructure press conference
- Safe Drinking Water SRF - reauthorize with corresponding appropriations of at least \$25.4B, per the press conference
- Alternative Water Source program - reauthorize with corresponding appropriations of at least \$600M, per the press conference
- WINN Grant Program - reauthorize with corresponding appropriations of at least \$500M, per H.R. 1162, the "Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act"
- Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRF's Loan Repayment Term - strike the existing 30-year loan term repayment limit and allow states to make repayments up 40 years for larger projects with useful life of 40+ years
- Make permanent the transfer of funds between the CW and SDW SRF's at the states' option
- Direct EPA to require State SRFs to streamline review / approval process for the replacement / improvement of existing water infrastructure assets past their useful life as a condition of these funds

We ask that you consider these **DRAFT** priorities. **We are asking for feedback on these priorities by EOB Monday April 6th**. If necessary, we can set up a call at the request of any CWCC member to discuss. Please just ask. These goals are roughly consistent with those accepted for the previous CWCC DC Fly-In. Once we have these priorities set, we will set up our Voter Voice system and provide direction on how CWCC members can work through their own networks to advance these priorities to the targeted recipients. These priorities will be used for any advocacy around Water Week at the end of April but we do not have the luxury to wait.

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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

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TRACKING IMPACTS OF COVID-19 TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY – UPDATE #3

CWCC organizations and their members are experiencing unprecedented conditions and challenges related to continuity of operations in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. We recognize every state is addressing this matter differently. This update focuses on federal response and some materials from UTCA-NJ that may be helpful.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE - FINANCIAL ACTION STEPS TO BE CONSIDERED

UTCA has asked member firm CohnReznick to provide the Association with an analysis of the new federal financial programs that are available to individuals and businesses. While the federal regulations are still being developed by the various federal governing agencies, it is important that your members be prepared to act when all of the procedures and application processes are finalized.

We have attached this analysis to this report. UTCA of NJ suggests that you consider sharing this type of assistance to your members but recommend to them that they work very closely with their trusted advisors regarding the new assistance programs.

CARES ACT HIGHLIGHTS

President Trump signed the bi-partisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a \$2.2 trillion relief package to bolster the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A summary document of this Act is attached courtesy of Key Advocates. It must be noted, however, that for each highlighted issue there are many underlying specific requirements for which you are recommended to refer to the text of the law. It is suggested that share the text with your advisors (legal, finance and human resources) for their review.

U.S. DOL GUIDANCE FORTHCOMING – MODEL EMPLOYEE POSTER NOW AVAILABLE

All CWCC Members should stay on the lookout for a Guidance document from the U.S. DOL regarding clarifications/questions that the construction industry has raised related to the Family First Coronavirus Response Act. We will send that out to the CWCC as soon as it becomes available.

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U.S. DOL just released the official model notice poster notifying employees of their rights under the (FFCRA). All employers covered by the FFCRA are required to give employees notice. This **poster will satisfy the FFCRA notice requirements.**

Here is a link for the poster:

https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/posters/FFCRA_Poster_WH1422_Non-Federal.pdf

FMCSA – WAIVER FOR CDL RELIEF

Our national transportation partner ARTBA has notified us that the FMCSA has granted some limited relief in the area of CDLs. The attached waiver and enforcement order were issued by the agency last night. The **waiver is valid through June 30, 2020** and **suspends CDL renewals** and **renewals of tests** and **medical certifications** associated with CDL renewals.

OPEN INVITATION FOR DIALOGUE

We invite any CWCC Member to “reply all” to this message and advise:

- **Any issues not addressed in the 3rd Federal Response Bill that needs to be put on the table for future legislation?**
- **How are you experiencing the Covid-19 situation?** How has it changed the way you and your organization are going about your work? What challenges are you having that peers in the CWCC may be able to help problem solve? What questions do you have for each other?
- **How is your trade association responding?** How are your states and communities responding and what might we do together to educate the public and policy makers?

VIRTUAL CWCC FLY IN DETAILS

The organizers of Water Week have cancelled the in-person meetings and will holding “virtual” events. CWCC is in communication with our national partners and will be announcing plans soon for CWCC to have access to those virtual events and materials. We continue to work on those plans and plan to announce a schedule next week for the remote CWCC Business Meeting. On the same schedule, we will be distributing drafts of our CWCC advocacy materials (using final CWCC priorities) and asking for feedback before making those materials final.

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KEY ADVOCATES REPORT

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

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