



# **Water Week 2021**

## ***Water Advocacy Update & How to Virtually Lobby Congress***

Prep Webcast  
April 14, 2021  
1 - 2 PM EST



# Webcast Speakers

## WEF

- Charlie Stevens, *Chair, WEF Government Affairs Committee*
- Claudio Ternieden, *Sr. Director of Government Affairs*
- Steve Dye, *Director of Legislative Affairs*

## NACWA

- Nathan Gardner-Andrews, *General Counsel & Chief Advocacy Officer*
- Jason Isakovic, *Director, Legislative Affairs*

## WaterReuse

- Greg Fogel, *Policy Director*

## The Water Research Foundation

- Peter Grevatt, *Chief Executive Officer*

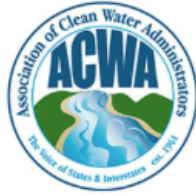


# Webcast Agenda

- **Water Week Zoom-In Webcast and Events**
- **Overview of the State of Things in DC**
- **Policy and Funding Recommendations**
  - Clean Water recommendations
  - Water Reuse recommendations
  - R&D recommendations
  - Low-income assistance & PFAS recommendations
  - Other Priorities
- **Virtual Hill Meetings**



## *Water Week Partners:*





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# Water Week Virtual Events

**Water Week Policy Zoom-In** – Register at [www.WaterWeek.us](http://www.WaterWeek.us)

Tuesday, April 27th, 2 – 4:30 PM ET

**WEF Stormwater Policy Forum** – Register at [www.wef.org/advocacy/water-week](http://www.wef.org/advocacy/water-week)

Monday, April 26, & Thursday, April 29, 1- 3 PM ET

**Resilience Through Collaboration:** First Year Highlights and Future Directions of the National Water Reuse Action Plan – Register at

<https://watereuse.org/event/national-water-reuse-action-year-in-review/>

Thursday, April 29, 2 – 3:30 PM ET

The background of the slide features a perspective view of a series of classical columns, likely from a government building, receding into the distance. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text 'Update from DC'.

# **Update from DC**

# Overview of the State of Things in DC

## President Biden's American Jobs Plan -- Infrastructure Proposal

- \$2 Trillion funded primarily by reversing 2017 corporate and global tax cuts
- Includes funding for Water, Transportation, Broadband, Energy, Housing, Education, R&D, Manufacturing, Homecare, and more programs
- \$111 Billion in Water Infrastructure Provisions:
  - \$45 Billion for Lead Service Lines
  - \$10 Billion for PFAS in Drinking Water
  - **\$56 Billion to “upgrade and modernize” Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Infrastructure for “grants and low-interest loans”.**

# Overview of the State of Things in DC

## **Senate -- Drinking Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, S. 914**

- *Total Bill Cost: \$35 billion over 5 years*
- Clean Water SRF & Drinking Water SRF: *Each* at \$14.65 billion over 5 years
- WIFIA: \$250 million over 5 years
- Low-Income Water Ratepayer Assistance program concept but it needs improvements
- Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants: \$1.4 billion over 5 years
- Alternative Source Water Pilot Program: \$125 million over 5 years
- Wastewater Energy Efficiency Grant Pilot Program: \$100 million over 5 years
- Infrastructure Resiliency & Sustainability Grants: \$125 million over 5 years
- Connection to POTWs Grants: \$200 million over 5 years.
- Water Workforce Grants: \$25 million over 5 years
- And MUCH More...

# Overview of the State of Things in DC

## **House – The Water Quality Protection & Jobs Creation Act of 2021, H.R. 1915**

- *Total Bill Cost: \$50 billion over 5 years*
- Clean Water SRF: \$40 billion over 5 years
- Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants: \$2 billion over 5 years
- State Management Assistance (Sect. 106) Grants: \$2.5 billion over 5 years
- Watershed Pilot Projects Grants: \$1 billion over 5 years
- Alternative Source Water Pilot Program: \$1 billion over 5 years
- PFAS & other emerging contaminants grants: \$1 billion over 5 years
- Indian Tribe Wastewater Grants: \$2.5 billion over 5 years



A row of classical columns receding into the distance, with a semi-transparent text box overlaid. The columns are made of a light-colored material, possibly stone or concrete, and have a fluted design. They are set on a series of steps that also recede into the distance. The lighting creates strong shadows, suggesting a bright light source from the side. The text box is a light gray rectangle with a slight gradient, positioned in the upper half of the image.

# **Policy & Funding Requests**



# Water Week Partners:

## *Joint Water Policy Priorities Document*

<https://www.waterweek.us>





# 2021 Requests to Congress:

## Clean Water Programs

- **Reauthorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program and double the current funding level of \$1.64 billion for FY2022.**
  - *House bill at \$40B/five years; Senate bill at \$14.65B/five years*
- **Reauthorize and provide increased funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.**  
**\$65 million in FY2022**
  - *Senate bill at \$50M/year*
- **Reauthorize and provide increased funding for the US EPA Sewer Overflow Control Grant Program.**
  - *House bill at \$400M/year; Senate bill at \$280M/year*



# 2021 Requests to Congress: Water Reuse Programs

- **Reauthorize the Title XVI-WIIN Water Reclamation and Reuse Competitive Grants Program at \$100 million per year, and appropriate at least \$50 million in FY2022.**

## Title XVI-WIIN Water Reuse Grants Program

- Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act, H.R. 1015 (Napolitano)
  - ✓ Permanent authorization of \$500M
- Support to Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture, and Municipalities Act (Feinstein)
  - ✓ \$250M over five years

# Alternative Water Source Grants Program and Interagency Working Group

- Alternative Water Source Grants reauthorized in Senate EPW Committee bill (\$75M per year for 3 yrs), and House T&I Committee bill (\$200M per year for 5 yrs)
- Interagency Working Group on Water Reuse included in EPW Committee bill, not in House T&I Committee bill



# 2021 Requests to Congress: Water Research

- **Include report language in EPA Science and Technology Account recommending \$20 million for the National Priorities Water Research Grant Program.**
- The Committee Report provides \$20,000,000, which shall be used for extramural research grants, independent of the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grant program, to fund high-priority water quality and availability research by not-for-profit organizations who often partner with the Agency.
- The Agency should strive to award grants in as large an amount as is possible to achieve the most scientifically significant research.
- Funds shall be awarded competitively with priority given to partners proposing research of national scope and who provide a 25 percent match.



# The need for applied research on water topics is great

- There is an urgent need for water research and technology demonstrations
- Because of your support last year, Congress increased funding from \$5 million to \$7.5 million for FY2021. This year we request \$20 million for the National Priorities Water Research Grant Program
  - Examples of critical water research priorities:
    - Fate, transport and effective treatment strategies for PFAS
    - Concurrent management of lead in drinking water and nutrient removal at wastewater treatment plants
    - Efficient and reliable treatment strategies for potable reuse
    - Effective management of pathogens in storm water
    - Steps to ensure safety and sustainability of the water workforce



# 2021 Requests to Congress:

## Low-Income Assistance and PFAS

- **Create a permanent, well-funded Low-Income Water Ratepayers Assistance Program.**
  - Senate bill includes program concept but it needs improvements
  - \$1.136B in aid in FY21 Consolidated Appropriations and American Rescue Plan
- **Hold polluters, and not local water utility ratepayers, responsible for the costs of remediating PFAS that have infiltrated the environment and sources of drinking water.**
  - PFAS Fact Sheet: <https://www.waterweek.us/#resources>



# 2021 Requests to Congress:

## Other Requests

- Reauthorize and fund the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) at an annual level not below its full FY21 authorization of \$1.95 billion.
- Support the USDA Rural Development Water & Wastewater Loan and Grant Program by providing \$1.6 billion in loans and \$600 million in grants.
- Reauthorize and increase funding for the EPA's Innovative Water Workforce Development Grants.
- Reauthorize and increase funding for EPA's Drinking Water System Resilience and Sustainability Program, and expand the program to include grants for Wastewater and Stormwater system resilience.
- Provide \$18 million for the U.S. EPA's National Priorities Water Technical Assistance Program in FY22.

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# Virtual Hill Meetings

# Finding Your Member of Congress

If you don't already have a relationship with your Members of Congress, visit:

[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)


[www.govtrack.us/congress/members](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/members)

Follow links to your Senators' and Representative's websites. Call their offices to ask how to request a virtual meeting with Member of Congress or staffer handling water infrastructure issues.

govtrack.us

HOME BROWSE TRACK ABOUT USE OUR DATA

CONGRESS > MEMBERS OF CONGRESS > MAPS



### Find a Senator or Representative

Use this page to find current Members of Congress by state or district.

#### FIND A SENATOR or REPRESENTATIVE

**By Last Name**

**By State**

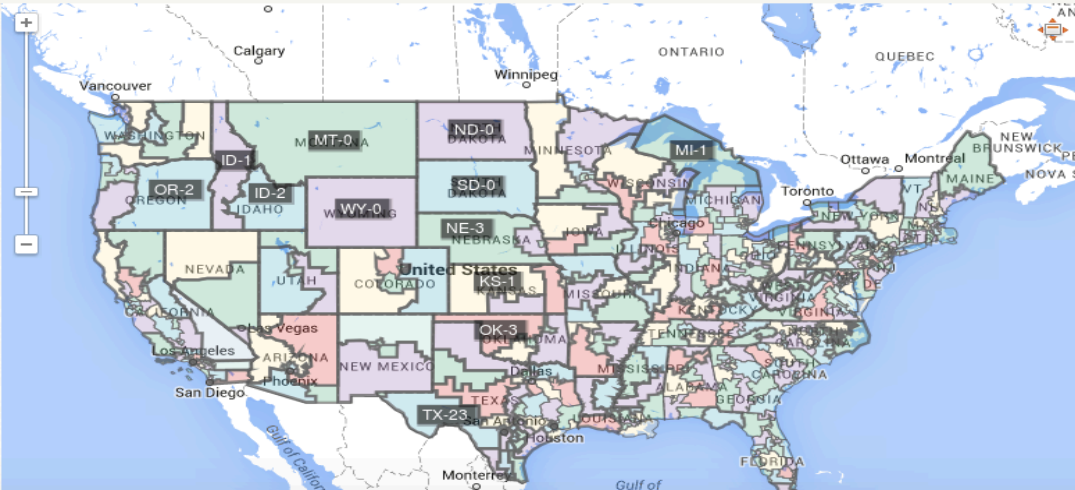
(Select State)

**By Zip Code**

**By Address**

SEARCH

[List all Members of Congress](#)



# What works best:

According to a Congressional Management Association survey of Members of Congress and Senior Staff:

- 95% said that "in-person visits from constituents" would have "some" or "a lot" of influence on an undecided lawmaker.
- 79% said "meet or get to know the Legislative Assistant with jurisdiction over their issue area"
- 91% said it would be helpful to have "information about the impact the bill/issue would have on the district or state."
  - Only 9% report they receive that information frequently.
- 79% said a personal story from a constituent related to the bill or issue would be helpful.
  - Only 18% report they receive it frequently.



# Important to Remember...

- Be punctual -- and be patient!
- Tell them what they need to know about what's going on back home.
- If you don't know the answer to a question, say you don't know -- promise to get back to the legislator or staff with the requested information.
- **NEVER** offer to make a political contribution or pledge of political support!
- Don't look at your smartphone. Silence it!

# Important to Remember, continued...

- ***Make the ask!*** Be clear and concise, and ask who the correct staff person is for following up.
- Don't use acronyms or terms that someone outside of your profession won't understand.
- Thank the legislator and offer to serve as a resource on other water-related issues.
- After the visit, write a thank you letter/email reviewing the key points discussed.

# Virtual Hill Meeting Slide Deck

- Available at [www.waterweek.us](http://www.waterweek.us)
- Optional to use for your virtual congressional meeting
- Please be sure to update the slides prior to each meeting.
- Please be sure to download and share the Water Week Priorities Document with the congressional office prior to the meeting.



# Water Week 2021

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National Water Priorities Slides  
April 2021

Meeting with:  
John Smith  
[Jsmith@emailaddress.com](mailto:Jsmith@emailaddress.com)  
555-555-5555



# Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
  - *Names of meeting participants*
  - *Names of meeting participants*
- Update from (*Name of town, utility, state, organization*)
- Priorities for the Water Sector





# Update from the \_\_\_\_\_

- Include a couple bullet point items about the status of things back home, such as specific water infrastructure projects needed or underway, or an update on the amazing work the employees are doing to protect the community, or any other challenges your organization is facing.
- Feel free to add photos on this slide or create another slide.







# Thank you from the Water Sector

## Coronavirus Relief Legislation:

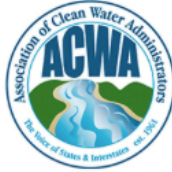
- 1) \$1.136 billion in the FY21 Consolidated Appropriations and American Rescue Plan for immediate assistance to low-income water utility ratepayers
- 2) \$25 billion for Rental Assistance in the FY21 Consolidate Appropriation bill, part of which can be used to pay water bills.
- 3) Extended the Coronavirus Relief Fund until 12/31/2021, which can be used to support water utilities





# Water Week Partners: Joint Water Policy Priorities Document

[www.waterweek.us](http://www.waterweek.us)





- Water Infrastructure Funding **MUST** be included in the Infrastructure!
- Funding **MUST** be as **Grants or Forgivable Loans**.
  - Ratepayers and utilities cannot afford more loans.
  - Currently, federally-subsidized water infrastructure funding provides less than 5% of all local water infrastructure funding.
  - 95% of local water infrastructure funding is covered by ratepayers.
  - There's currently a water infrastructure funding needs gap of \$40 billion annually.
  - Ratepayer arrearages due to COVID-19 is estimated at \$8.7 billion in revenue losses.

## LET'S WORK TOGETHER FOR WATER!

### Before

Congress enacted the 1972 Clean Water Act, most of the wastewater in America released into our waterways lacked proper treatment.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, advances in water and wastewater treatment accounted for nearly a

**50% REDUCTION IN MORTALITY RATES** in America's largest cities.



### After

Implementation of the 1972 Clean Water Act and associated wastewater system improvements and investments, the number of fishable and swimmable waterways nearly doubled.

**\$1 INVESTED** in water and wastewater infrastructure increases long term GDP by **\$6.35**.



**1 JOB CREATED** in water and wastewater leads to **3.68 JOBS** in the national economy.



The World Economic Forum has **DOWNGRADED** America's infrastructure ranking to **16<sup>th</sup>** in the world, from **6<sup>th</sup>** just a few years ago.

The *New York Times* describes U.S. **FAILING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE** as a "ticking time bomb that's ready to go off."



- There are **massive national need** for water infrastructure funding.
- EPA estimates **\$750 billion over the next 20 years** for drinking water and wastewater compliance. This does not include PFAS, lead, and climate change resilience
- **Immediate national need of \$73 billion for water infrastructure projects** that require funding that the SRFs don't have the funding to support. (Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities)





# 2021 Requests to Congress

## Key Water Infrastructure Programs to Fund:

*(see Water Week Policy Priorities Document for more details)*

- Clean Water SRF
- Drinking Water SRF
- WIFIA
- Title XVI-WIIN Water Reclamation and Reuse Competitive Grants
- EPA Sewer Overflow & Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants
- USDA Rural Development Water & Waste Loan & Grant Program
- National Priorities Water Research Grant Program
- Establish a permanent, well-funded low-income water ratepayer assistance program.







# Additional Resources

- Please contact \_\_\_\_\_ at (email address) if you would like a facility tour or a meet & greet with water professionals.
- If you need additional info, please contact \_\_\_\_ at (email address) to be connected with government relations staff from any of the Water Week partner associations.
- Please visit [WaterWeek.us](https://WaterWeek.us) for additional info and materials.





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## Questions or Additional Info:

### WEF

- Claudio Ternieden, [cternieden@wef.org](mailto:cternieden@wef.org)
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- Jason Isakovic, [jisakovic@nacwa.org](mailto:jisakovic@nacwa.org)

### WaterReuse

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### The Water Research Foundation

- Peter Grevatt, [PGrevatt@waterrf.org](mailto:PGrevatt@waterrf.org)

