



# Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN Act of 2016):

## Federal Funding Opportunities for Water Recycling & Reuse

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# WIIN Act – P.L. 114-322

S. 612, passed 114<sup>th</sup> Congress 12/10/2016

Signed by President Obama 12/16/2016

- Includes 4 titles
  - I) Water Resources Development
  - II) Water and Waste Act of 2016
  - III) Natural Resources
  - IV) Other Matters

# WIIN Act – P.L. 114-322



## General Title Contents

- I) Water Resources Development (Army Corps of Engineers projects)
- II) Water and Waste Act of 2016 (Safe Drinking Water, DAC and small communities; Flint, MI disaster relief; coal combustion residuals)
- III) Natural Resources (tribal & natural resource issues; water desalination; California Water)
- IV) Other Matters (misc., incl. WIFIA)

# WIIN Act – P.L. 114-322



## Natural Resources Title Subtitle J – California Water

- Section 4009 “Other Water Supply Projects”
  - (c) Authorization of **New Water Recycling and Reuse Projects**

# New Water Recycling and Reuse Projects



Creates  
a new  
grant  
funding  
program  
under  
Title 16

- Bureau of Reclamation administered
- No prior project authorization needed for eligibility
- Authorizes \$50 M to program
  - 25% Federal share
  - Planning, design & construction
- Appropriation still needed
  - Legislation will designate funding for specific projects

# New Water Recycling and Reuse Projects



## Specified Process and Timing

- w/in 60 days, Reclamation release Feasibility Study Guidelines
  - 2/10/17 D&S released w/minor revisions
  - Essentially same T16 guidelines updated
- Secretary (of Interior) reviews Studies
- w/in 180 days of study receipt, submits report to House & Senate committees
  - Describes results of study review;
  - Lists any recommendations from Secretary; &
  - Any conditions required for construction.
- If Feasible, eligible to apply

# New Water Recycling and Reuse Projects



## New Competitive Grant Program: Priority for Funding

- Location
  - Project located in area experiencing severe, extreme or exceptional drought at any time in 4-year period before funds are made available
  - Designated disaster area in 4-year period....
- Criteria (meet 1 or more)
  - Likely to provide more reliable water supplies;
  - Likely to increase water management flexibility & reduce impacts on environmental resources from projects operated by Fed & State agencies
  - Regional projects
  - Multiple stakeholders
  - Multiple benefits

# New Water Recycling & Reuse Projects



## Next Steps

- Reclamation contacting sponsors with approved Feasibility Studies
  - Determine project status & timing
  - Interest in Secretary submitting in report
- Reclamation to develop guidelines/Funding Opportunity for new competitive grant program
  - Eligible entities apply
  - Details & Timing TBD

# Title III, Subtitle H – Water Desalination



## Sect. 3801. Reauthorization of Water Desalination Act of 1996

- Expands language, prioritizing research areas
  - Reduce energy consumption; reduce environmental impacts; improve RO technology; portable; renewable energy powered...
- Gives priority funding for development projects that:
  - Are in drought-stricken areas; reduce reliance on imported water supplies that have impact on endangered species; leverage international experience;...)
- Reauthorizes funding through 2021

# Title III, Subtitle J



## Water Desalination Act Amendments

- Secretary of Interior – 25% federal participation in an “eligible desalination project”
  - Ocean or brackish; State, subdivision or public agency; provides federal benefit
  - \$30 M authorized
  - Participation requires request by Governor or listed in State-approved plan
    - Project is feasible
    - Sufficient non-federal funds

# WIFIA Amendments in WIIN

## Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act of 2014



### Sect. 5008 Adds language expanding eligible projects

- ...desalination project, “including chloride control”
- ...water recycling project, “or a project to provide alternative water supplies to reduce aquifer depletion”
- “A project to prevent, reduce, or mitigate the effects of drought, including projects that enhance the resilience of drought-stricken watersheds”

# WIFIA Amendments in WIIN



## Amends WIFIA Program Terms

- Allows for the financing of fees as part of the loan
- Allows costs (incl. in-kind) incurred before securing loan to be credited toward the required 51% project costs provided by other sources

# WIFIA Amendments in WIIN



## Adds Statement

- It is the sense of Congress that -
  - (1) Appropriations made available to carry out WIFIA should be in addition to robust funding for the State water pollution control revolving funds and State drinking water treatment revolving funds
  - (2) The appropriations made available for the funds referred to in paragraph (1) should not decrease for any fiscal year.

# Title II, Subtitle A, Sect. 2101



## Adds Statement

- “It is the sense of Congress that Congress should provide robust funding of capitalization grants to States to fund those States’ drinking water treatment revolving loan funds....and the State water pollution control revolving funds...”

# Contact Information

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