Federal Legislative Opportunities for Funding Water Recycling in 2016:
A Western Recycled Water Coalition Perspective

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Agenda

1. Western Recycled Water Coalition Background

2. Federal Legislative Funding Accomplishments

3. Introduced Legislation

4. Federal Legislative Opportunities for Funding in 2016
Western Recycled Water Coalition

A Collaborative Approach to Developing Sustainable Water Supplies

2015 Project map

- 24 members
- Cities, Districts, IOWU’s
- 27 Projects
- 100,000 AFY
Western Recycled Water Coalition

A Collaborative Approach to Developing Sustainable Water Supplies

- 2016 Project Map – in development
  - Cities, Districts, IOWU’s
  - CA, HI, ...
  - >37 Projects
  - >200,000 AFY
Water Resources Reform & Development Act

June 10, 2014

WRRDA – included Clean Water Act Amendments

- SRF Eligibility for investor-owned water utilities
- Additional incentive & subsidization for “to address water-efficiency goals”
- WIFIA explicit RW eligibility, project bundling, extended repayment terms
- 12/1/15 Hwy Bill agreement – fixes prohibition on using tax-exempt bonds in combination with WIFIA Loans
Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)

State Water Resources Control Board provided loan incentive for recycled water

- Proposed 13/14 by WRWC w/WateReuse CA & CASA
- Board passed Resolution March 18, 2014
  - $800 M in 1% interest financing for RW
  - Successful >45 projects, seeking >$1.9 B, developing >210,400 AFY
- Dec. 2 application deadline
  - Nov. 9 - Met with Water Board and DFA Staff
  - Nov. 24 - Joint letter w/CASA, WateReuse & ACWA requesting extension/expansion of the program
On-going Drought

- Entering 5th year of drought
- Nov. 13 Executive Order 8-36-15
- Prop. 1, $625 M thru WRFP
- CA Survey >$5 Billion in projects planned
Federal Legislation Introduced in 2015

**January 15**

**March 4**
H.R. 1278/S. 741, Capps/Cardin *Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Sustainability Act of 2015*

**July 9**
Federal Legislation Introduced in 2015

- **July 8**: H.R. 2983/S. 1837, Huffman/Boxer, *Drought Recovery and Resilience Act*
- **July 13**: H.R. 3045, McNerney, *California Water Recycling and Drought Relief Act*
# Federal Legislative Opportunities in 2016

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<td><strong>Drought Bill</strong></td>
<td>Sen. Murkowski - Oct. 8 hearing, discussions w/Sen’s Feinstein &amp; Boxer et al., bill TBD</td>
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<td><strong>Project Authorization</strong></td>
<td>Amend/new bill for WRWC’s 2016 Projects</td>
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<td><strong>CWA Reauthorization</strong></td>
<td>Supplement CWSRF $, vehicle for bills</td>
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<td><strong>Loan Program</strong></td>
<td>Support proposals with favorable interest rates &amp; terms</td>
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<td><strong>Grant Program</strong></td>
<td>Competitive, nationwide, EPA administered</td>
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“National Water Recycling and Reclamation Act of 2015”

• Provided draft legislation to Congressional leaders by letter January 2015
• Huffman and Boxer introduced in omnibus *Drought Recovery & Resilience Act*
• Pursuing standalone bill
• Seeking House and Senate Leaders, both parties, in and outside western U.S.
WRWC Proposed Grant Program

“Water Recycling and Reclamation Act of 2015”

- Modeled after TIGER
- Up to 80% grants
- $500 M annual appropriation
- Competitive
- Nationwide Eligibility
- EPA Administered
- Funding Offset
Should water be a national priority?

• Should the federal government significantly invest in recycled water development?
Freshwater Withdrawals as a Percent of Available Precipitation (2005)

Source: EPRI, 2011.
U.S. Population on July 4, 2015 was est. 321,216,397
Per U.S. Census Bureau there is a net gain of 1 person every 16 seconds
http://www.census.gov/popclock/
92 Agencies developing Recycled Water Projects
Almost 900,000 AFY, >$6.4 B costs, need $2.8 B financial assistance

See CA Map (below)

Arizona California Colorado Florida Illinois Missouri Nevada New Mexico North Carolina Pennsylvania Texas Virginia Washington
Should water be a national priority?

We need clean and sufficient water supplies

- Critical for human health, wellness, and the environment
- Critical for the economy – for jobs – for agriculture, manufacturing, power, ...
- Unlike energy (multiple sources) there is no substitute for water
- There are no new sources of freshwater on this planet
Should the federal government significantly invest in recycled water development?

Recycling water produces sustainable, reliable supplies

- It is a largely untapped resource in the U.S.
- Need federal financial assistance to leverage with State and local funds to construct recycled water treatment and distribution systems
  - Public agencies need reasonable payback periods
  - Comparison with other (often subsidized) water rates
Join the Western Recycled Water Coalition

- WRWC Associate and Participant membership levels
- Speak as one voice – unified, urgent message
- Support new, nationwide grant program
  - Seeking House and Senate Leaders, both parties, in and outside western U.S.
- Work together with WateReuse, NACWA, CASA, ACWA and others

Clean and sufficient water supplies are of national importance, and the federal government should significantly invest in recycled water development.
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