

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM & REGIONAL WATER QUALITY ISSUES

Highlights of 2014 Activities & Priorities for 2015

Tanya T. Spano
Chief, Regional Water Quality Management

11/21/14

CBPC MEETING

OVERVIEW

- **Highlights:**
 - Update on CBP activities & plans for 2017 Mid-point Assessment
 - Recap of 2014 Regional Water Quality activities & issues
 - Suggested 2015 Priorities
- **Recommendations:**
 - COG Legislative Priorities – CBPC Input
 - CBPC Priorities
 - Water Infrastructure Letters of Support

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM

2017 MID-POINT ASSESSMENT STATUS

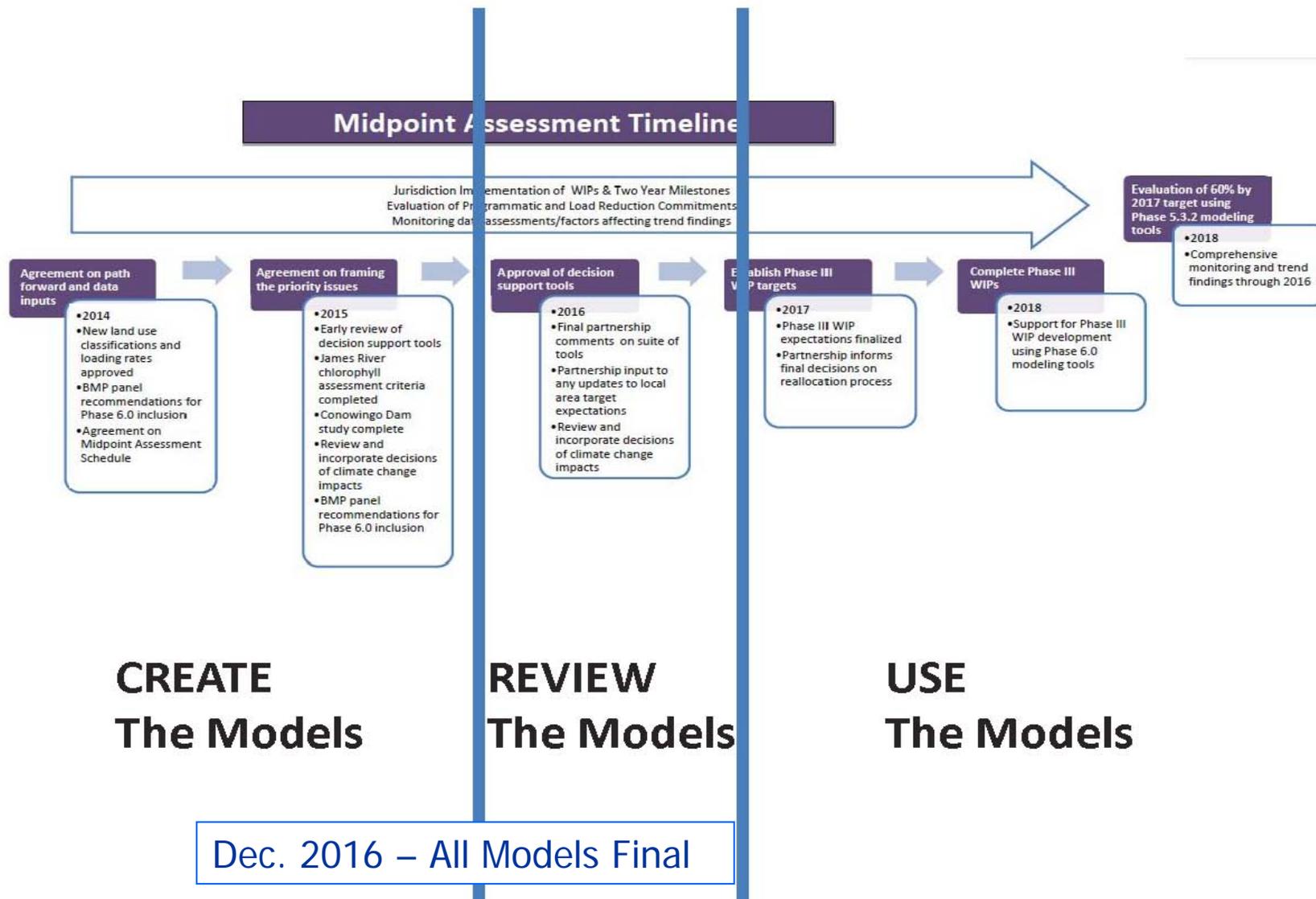
- Schedule
- Technical
- Issues

11/21/14

CBPC MEETING

3

MID-POINT ASSESSMENT TIMELINE



MODEL CHANGES

IMPROVEMENTS

- **Overall Structure**
 - Make more transparent & improve links to other models
- **Calibration**
 - Expanded data set; more explicit edge of field/edge of stream/small stream delivery factors
- **Land Use**
 - Use local data where available – effort well underway
 - Phase 3 – Local land use data due NLT May 31, 2016
 - Better account for land use-loading relationships
 - Phase 6 (vs. Phase 5)
 - Expand Urban land uses – 7 (vs. 4)
 - Account for - CSOs, MSIV, Federal land, biosolids land application, septic, etc.

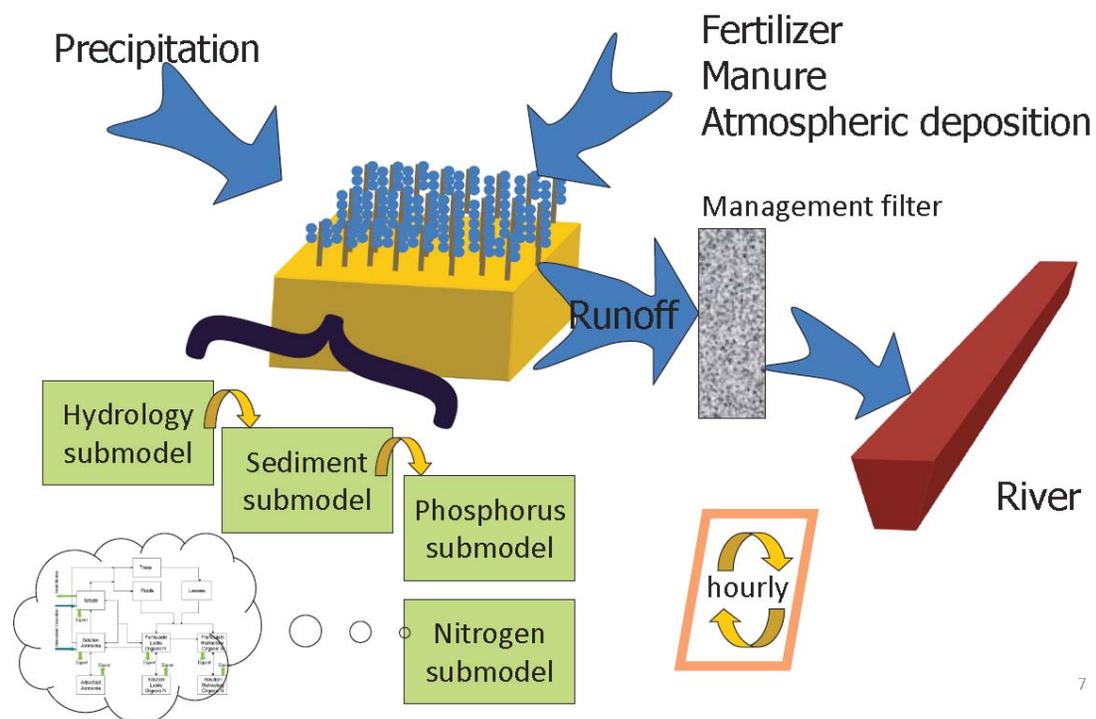
11/21/14

MODEL CHANGES

- **BMPs**
 - Use new/approved BMPs and updated efficiencies
- **Agriculture**
 - Revising land uses – based on annual crop data
 - Revising fertilizer inputs
 - New BMP effectiveness
 - Process for counting voluntary BMPs
- **Climate Change**
 - Identify what the water quality impacts may be
 - Determine if/what/how to reflect those impacts in models
- **Toxics**
 - Not currently part of Bay Nutrient & Sediment TMDL efforts

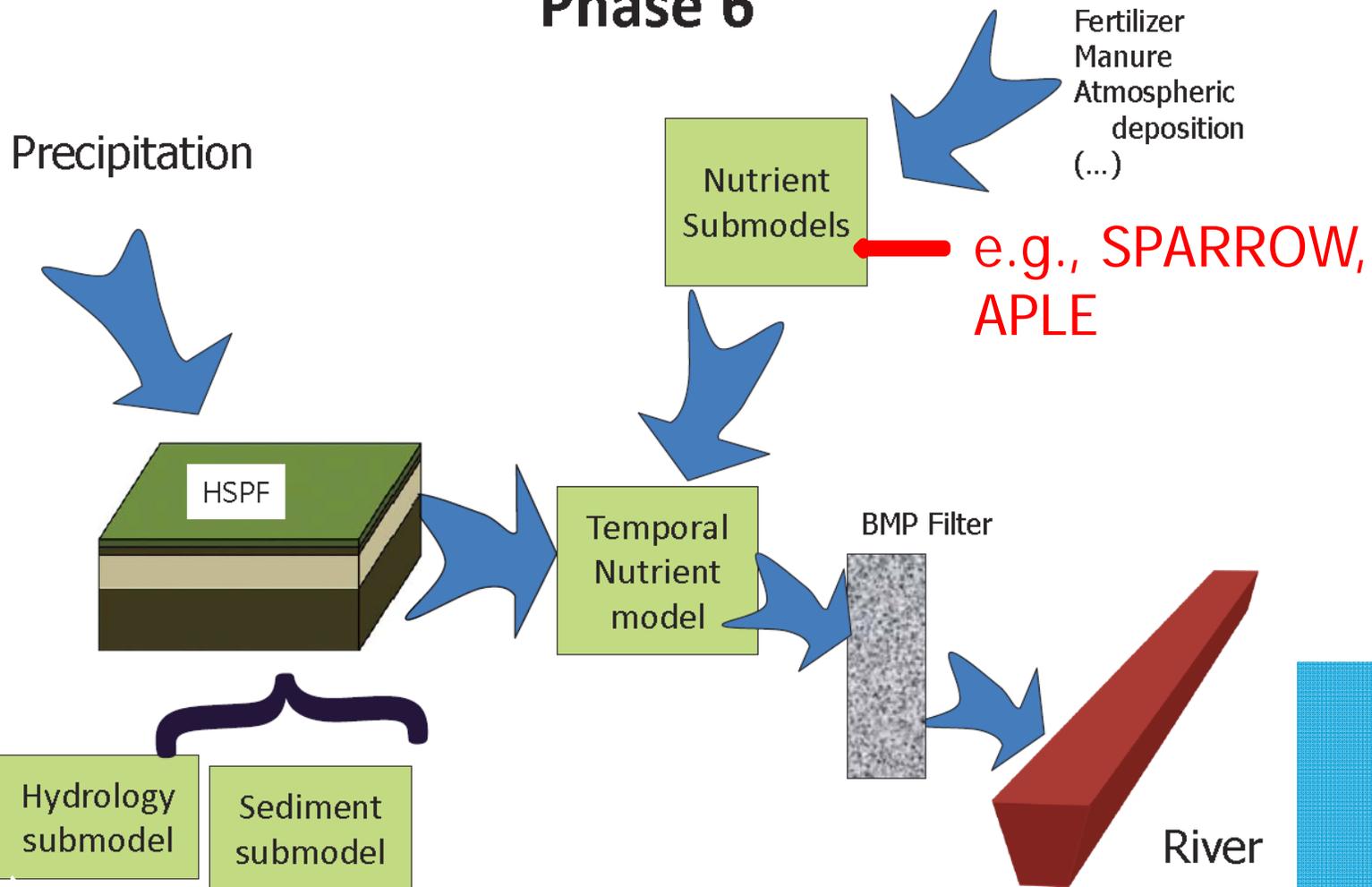
11/21/14

PHASE 5 MODEL STRUCTURE



PHASE 6 MODEL STRUCTURE

Phase 6



MODEL CHANGES

MODEL CHANGES - ISSUES

- Accuracy of data
- Land use, current BMPs, clean up of historical BMP data
- Calibration & reworking of regional factors
- Scale & Accuracy of estimated loads at county or sub-county scale
- Discrepancies with monitoring data (lag times - ?)
- How to address Climate Change impacts
- If/how Toxics issues are linked to nutrient/sediment issues

MID-POINT ASSESSMENT ISSUES

- **Loads**
 - Shift of state/sector allocations – need to revise Phase 3 WIPs?
 - Phase 6 model likely to have winners and losers among ag, urban and forestry relative to Phase 5.3.2
- **Conowingo Dam**
 - Initial report is out – planned presentation to WRTC & CBPC
 - Estimated significance:
 - Bay-wide to offset a 1% nonattainment:
 - *About 4.4 Mlb TN & 0.41 Mlb TP vs. a nutrient reduction solely from the Susquehanna River watershed to offset the increase in DO nonattainment from Conowingo Reservoir infill would be about 2.4 Mlb of TN, or alternately a reduction of 0.27 Mlb TP.*
 - Questions:
 - Assessment of sediment versus nutrient loads and their water quality impacts
 - Assignment of additional loads

MID-POINT ASSESSMENT ISSUES

- **Overall loads should be about the same – but sector loads could shift significantly in certain areas**
- **What does progress to-date look like?**
 - Based on implementation vs. monitoring data
- **Climate Change**
 - How to incorporate climate change impacts – water quality and/or loads?
 - How does that affect the 2025 goal?
- **Does EPA re-open the TMDL?**
- **Does the Partnership revise the 2025 implementation goal?**

11/21/14

CBPC MEETING

11

RECAP of 2014 Regional Water Quality Activities & Issues

11/21/14

CBPC MEETING

12

2014 REGIONAL WATER QUALITY – RECAP

Key Initiatives & Deliverables

- Input on Bay Program's new Bay Agreement - **DONE**
- Continued collaboration w/ US Conference of Mayors, WEF & others to advocate for:
 - Affordable, feasible, sustainable & holistic solutions – **ONGOING**
 - Water jobs/economic benefits efforts - **PENDING**
- Potomac River & Local water quality trends factsheets – **DONE**
- Regional Water Resource Infrastructure Forum (w/ COG's members & national organizations; complement to COG's Regional Infrastructure report & Region Forward efforts) – **BEING PLANNED (Spring 2014)**
- WRTC focused technical exchanges/workshops – **DONE/ONGOING**
 - **Local Water Quality-Wastewater Success Stories**
 - **Stormwater Workshop w/ Board of Trade**
- Outreach products to communicate the benefits & challenges of these water resource issues for COG's members – **ONGOING**

2014 REGIONAL WATER QUALITY – RECAP

Upcoming

- Conowingo Dam & Bay TMDL/Water Quality Implications – January 2015
- Legislation – January 2015
- Climate Change Summary & Potential Recommendations – March 2015
- DC Water's Green Infrastructure Initiative – 2015 (TBD)
- Stormwater Program Updates (regulatory & Prince George's Co. P3 effort) – Spring 2015
- Potomac & Bay Water Quality Trends & Challenges (updates) – Spring 2015
- Jobs Initiatives – Existing Efforts/Potential COG Role (TBD)
- **Other Topics?**

PROPOSED FY16 PRIORITIES

Overall Water Quality Goal & Key Drivers

Goal – Continue to protect water quality & public health in a sustainable & affordable manner for the region.

Drivers:

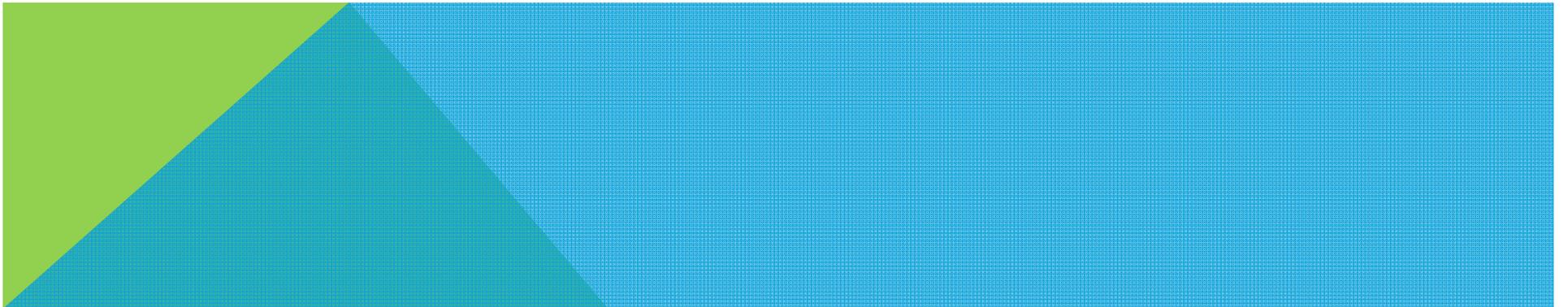
- Permits and other regulatory requirements
- Chesapeake Bay restoration requirements
- Local water quality and restoration goals
- Other environmental objectives
- [Plan for implications of climate change & ensure sustainability](#)

Challenges & Priorities

COG's local governments and water utilities will need to address the following challenges:

- Maintain existing/aging infrastructure
- Build/implement new technologies & systems
- Meet existing/new regulatory requirements, schedules & deadlines
- Address extreme weather/climate change impacts
- Respond to emerging issues & meet multiple environmental objectives
- Prepare to sustain efforts in face of continued growth and TMDL limitations
- Address overall fund needs in an affordable & sustainable manner
- Address work force issues

Recommended CBPC 2015 Legislative Priorities



COG'S 2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES - COG WIDE PROCESS

CBPC may make minor or major refinements to last year's Priorities.

Staff recommendations:

- a) reformat 2014 Priorities to highlight priority areas
- b) add some specifics under 2014 priorities, and
- c) Add a few 2015 priorities

Executive Committee

Will determine Board's focus at the January 14th board meeting
2014 focus was on the region's infrastructure

COG Board

Will be endorsing 2015 Legislative Priorities at their January 14th board meeting.

CPBC meeting is January 16.

2014 WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PRIORITIES:

- Endorse Affordability Criteria- Endorse establishing for affordability criteria for financing water infrastructure projects.
- Ensure Regulatory Feasibility- Endorse legislation that supports a feasible pace for MS4 stormwater permits, and applies the “Maximum Extent Practicable” standard.
- Grant regulatory flexibility -Support streamlining and prioritization of permits, such as the Integrated Permitting approach.
- Support funding mechanisms for local governments such as tax credits and infrastructure banking.

RECOMMENDED 2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

- **Recommend: Refinements to 2014 priorities to enhance focus, and incorporate additions:**
- **Endorse Affordability Criteria-** Endorse establishing for affordability criteria for financing water infrastructure projects.
- **Ensure Regulatory Feasibility-** Endorse legislation that supports a feasible pace for MS4 stormwater permits, and that stormwater permits apply the “**Maximum Extent Practicable**” standard.
 - Add: Ensure that burden does not shift to local governments to compensate for delayed permits. Support mechanisms for generating local funding for stormwater management.
- **Grant regulatory flexibility - Support streamlining and prioritization of permits, such as the Integrated Permitting approach.**

RECOMMENDED 2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Support funding mechanisms for local governments such as tax credits, infrastructure banking.

Add: WIFIA, state revolving funds (SRFs), and & maintaining tax exemption status.

New Additional Priorities:

- Water sector job training and local employment
- Water-energy nexus
- Climate Change: Funding, technical support and elimination of barriers for doing robust climate change analysis, adaptation planning and implementation.
- Water Security?
- Drinking Water?

11/21/14

NON-WATER, LINKED COG 2014 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

1. Increased Transportation Funding

Funding to enhance stormwater management, such as green streets.

2. Energy Efficiency & Productivity

Support for legislation that benefits the energy/water nexus & related efficiencies and sustainability efforts

3. Workforce Development and Support Local Economies

- Support educational programs and technical training that lead to water sector jobs (wastewater, stormwater, drinking water)
- Foster a strong local economy by training and hiring local water sector specialists.

The background features a large green triangle on the left side, a teal triangle at the bottom left, and a large blue area on the right. The blue area has a fine halftone dot pattern. The text is centered in the white space between the green and blue areas.

**LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR
WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
FUNDING**

RATIONALE FOR LETTERS SUPPORTING FEDERAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING IN 2016 BUDGET

- At the May CBPC Meeting, WEF, NACWA, and AWWA presented the merits of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving funds (SRFs) funding.
- CBPC Members voiced support for maintaining the tax exempt status of municipal bonds & WIFIA.

RATIONALE FOR LETTERS SUPPORTING FEDERAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING IN 2016 BUDGET

COG Board briefed in April and June about Water Infrastructure as part of 2014 Focus on Regional Infrastructure

April – Briefed on drinking water infrastructure daily demands, annual costs, challenges and funding mechanisms were discussed by a panel of water experts that included the Washington Aqueduct, DC Water, Prince George's County and Stuart Freudberg. The panel was introduced by Penny Gross.

June – Briefed on wastewater and stormwater infrastructure challenges, regulations and innovations were introduced by Tanya Spano, and further presented by a panel that included NACWA, Fairfax County, and AquaLaw.

CBPC - September Meeting & Blue Plains Tour

Briefed about the *National Economic and Labor Impacts of the Water Utility Sector Report (September 2014)*, produced by the Water Research Foundation in cooperation with the Value of Water Coalition, which illustrates the importance of water infrastructure investments to the economy, economic growth, and jobs.

WEF'S LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING

1) Letter to Congressional Appropriations Committee and Subcommittee requesting WIFIA Funding Be Appropriated

In early November 2014, WEF and other leading water organizations sent letters to Congress, requesting that Congress and the EPA Administration provide full funding to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), authorized in June 2014, and to include it in EPA's FY15 and FY16 budgets.

2) Letter to OMB requesting SRF funding and Tax-exempt Municipal Bonds be maintained in the 2016 Budget

WEF and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), along with other water agencies, AWWA and AMWA, requested that the funding level for the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving funds (SRFs) be maintained and no changes be made to the tax benefits of tax-exempt municipal bonds.

RECOMMENDED CBPC ACTIONS

- 1. Agree on FY15 Legislative Priorities**
- 2. Identify 2015 Areas of Focus for CBPC (& FY15 RWQM Work Program)**
- 3. Endorse Letters of Support for Water Infrastructure Initiatives**