



The U.S. Conference of Mayors Water & Wastewater Agenda

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Washington, DC
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Presented By:
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History

December , 2009 –Mayors Met with EPA and DOJ to discuss concerns with CSO Consent Decrees

October, 2010 – USCM submits Recommendations to EPA to Increase CSO/SSO Flexibility & Achieving Clean Water Goals

- Financial Capability of Cities
- Benefits
- Green Infrastructure
- Carbon Footprint Considerations

Numerous Meetings Are Held Between USCM and EPA/DOJ



Results

April, 2011 – EPA Releases Green Infrastructure Memo

June, 2012 – EPA Releases Integrated Planning Memo

January, 2013 – EPA Releases Memo on Assessing Financial Capability for Municipal Clean Water Act Requirements (ongoing dialogue between USCM/NLC/NACo & EPA/DOJ– next meeting 10/10/13)

Mayors recognize that EPA can only go so far in providing flexibility in the Clean Water Act .



2013 USCM Adopted Resolutions

SAFEGUARDING MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEMS

- Calls on the President and Congress to create new and improved funding mechanisms for public water systems and encourages cities to assert water as a priority.



2013 USCM Adopted Resolutions (cont)

Supporting Consideration of Fiscal Impacts in Establishing Compliance Schedules For EPA Permits & Development of Federal Funding For Planning, Monitoring & Implementation of U.S. EPA Permit Requirements

- Urges EPA to promulgate rules applicable to all regions that require the consideration of financial impacts on communities & their residents prior to establishing the permit obligations and compliance schedules for any CWA permit, and
- Ensure that those permits allow for local governments to maintain existing stormwater systems while making progress on clean water goals in a sustainable manner and within a community's financial capability;
- Urges Congress to appropriate funding to assist with CWA obligations.



2013 USCM Adopted Resolutions (cont)

Resolution To Reinstate A Federal, State And Local Government Partnership For Achievable And Affordable Water Quality Improvements

- Urges Congress to determine that capital grants to cities are necessary to meet CWA mandates; re-establish a joint environmental stewardship with cities; and to assure that the costs of sustaining the infrastructure and operations of water and wastewater systems of cities do not unjustly burden low and moderate income households nor create burdensome costs for business enterprises,
- Appropriate sufficient funding for capital grants to cities facing mandates levied by the CWA, and
- Enact a variety of amendments to the CWA to address concerns related to unfunded federal mandates.



Water Quality

Improvement Act of 2013

Legislative language developed by Mayor David Berger of Lima, OH with input from other communities

Recognizes that EPA is Constrained in Flexibility by Provisions of the Clean Water Act

Goal – to provide either money or flexibility to meet Clean Water Goals in an affordable manner



Water Quality Improvement Act of 2013

Restoring the Federal-Local Partnership:

- Authorizes \$3 billion in grants/year for 5 years for sewer overflow control grants, treatment plant upgrades, stormwater controls, and to retire related debt.
- Extends Repayment Period of State Revolving Loan Funds to 30 years or the design life of the project. Authorizes \$2 billion/year for 5 years.
- Would bar EPA from extracting monetary penalties from communities for past violations if they agree to take action to address CWA mandates & demonstrate reasonable progress.



Water Quality

Improvement Act of 2013

Ensuring Affordability:

- Unaffordable is defined as costs of more than 2% of actual household income on more than 20% of the households in the service area.
- Through Integrated Planning, cities will establish priorities and schedules, and will be able to limit expenditures to a cost ceiling determined by their community-specific affordability limit.
- Communities are in compliance as long as they make reasonable progress towards meeting mandates that are affordable.
- EPA can make measures affordable with funding or a longer implementation timeframe (40 years)



Water Quality Improvement Act of 2013

Ensuring Flexibility:

- Allows communities to meet water quality standards over time (longer than a permit term), and to modify control measures over time, as warranted, if a city is meeting multiple mandates with an integrated plan.
- Allows for 10 year permits.
- Allows EPA or a state to issue a permit for unavoidable sanitary sewer overflows.
- Allows for blending and peak flow treatment facilities as long as water quality standards are met.



Next Steps

Two Prong Approach:

- Continue Dialogue with EPA and the Regions
- Look for Legislative Sponsors – House and Senate



Thank You

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