



Media Backgrounder on EPA Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2010

(Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations)

On June 25, 2009, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2996, the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies for FY2010 Appropriations, a spending bill that will fund the Environmental Protection Agency at \$10.6 billion beginning October 1st. This will be \$100 million more than the Obama Administration's budget request for EPA in FY'10, and more than a third larger -almost \$3 billion above-last year's EPA appropriation.

As passed by the House, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) will receive \$2.3 billion; the Drinking Water SRF will receive \$1.4 billion; there will be an additional \$160 million in direct grants to communities for water infrastructure; and 20% of each SRF would be made available as part of a broader effort to promote green infrastructure, and water or energy improvements, and other environmentally innovative projects.

THE WATER RESOURCES COALITION BACKGROUND VIEW

For many ears, the U.S. Congress has failed to provide enough funding to reduce the staggering backlog of clean drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure across the nation. The failure to provide sufficient assistance to state and local governments to resolve this backlog poses a risk to the health of every American. The EPA's 'Gap Analysis' for clean water and wastewater infrastructure spending uncovered a \$535 *billion* deficit between the totality of Congressional spending to date and the level determined necessary "to deliver safe drinking water to our taps" by the professionals of that Agency.

Investments in these systems pay substantial dividends -not only to stimulate local economies with good-paying jobs but to safeguard public health and to preserve our environment. It is well documented that wastewater treatment plants prevent billions of tons of raw sewage and other industrial and pharmaceutical pollutants each year from reaching America's rivers, lakes, and coastlines. In so doing, they are the single most important factor to prevent water-borne disease; to make our waters safe for fishing and swimming; and to preserve natural treasures such as the Chesapeake Bay, the Great Lakes, and the Colorado River in perpetuity, for succeeding generations of Americans.

"The Coalition is quite pleased by the decision of the House to go beyond the Obama Administration's request for these vital programs," stated Julia Anastasio, Vice-Chair for the Coalition's EPA Water Resource Programs. "This funding, coupled with the efforts of the Senate to authorize new funding through S. 1005, (the Water Infrastructure Financing Act) and the House action on H.R. 1262 (the Water Quality Investment Act) are important steps in closing the gap on EPA's water infrastructure program," Anastasio concluded.

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Please see contact information below

The Water Resources Coalition was established in 2007 to promote the development, implementation and funding of a comprehensive national water resources policy. With member organizations representing state and local governments, conservation, engineering and construction, ports, waterways and transportation services, the Coalition works to ensure that a comprehensive, national water resources policy is developed, implemented and funded to provide a sustainable, productive economy; a healthy aquatic ecology; and public health and safety. For more information, please visit the Water Resources Coalition Web site at www.waterresourcescoalition.org.

For Additional Information:

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