



washington dc update

February 16, 2012

Implications of the FY13 Proposed Federal Budget

The water resources community believes in the importance of our mission including providing for the future infrastructure needs of the nation. But a review of the FY13 budget released yesterday should make us ask whether we are talking just to each other and failing to make much of an impression with Federal policymakers.

The proposed Federal budget for FY13 totals \$3.8 trillion. But water infrastructure funding from the EPA SRF program and the Bureau of Reclamation Water and Related Resources account totals just \$2,843,635,000. Perhaps the Congress will increase these figures and also add some Environmental Infrastructure funding to the Corps of Engineers Construction Account. But even if they do, that still means that Federal water resources infrastructure investment for FY13 will be less than one-tenth of one percent of the budget.

Just in case you missed our earlier report, the breakout of these figures is:

\$1,175,000,000	EPA Clean Water SRF
\$ 850,000,000	EPA Drinking Water SRF
\$ 818,635,000	Bureau of Reclamation Water and Related Resources
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\$2,843,635,000	TOTAL

Things are clearly out of kilter with this picture. On one hand, the Federal commitment to water infrastructure is declining despite a consensus that hundreds of billions of dollars are needed. On the other hand, the number, complexity, and cost of regulations created by the Federal government is rapidly increasing.

One of the goals of the WESTCAS Phoenix Workshop on February 23rd is to identify and develop new ideas for tapping into the private investment community for much needed water infrastructure funding. But this effort must be also be complimented by an insistence that the Federal government continues to play a positive role, both through the regular appropriations process and also with a sensible regulatory agenda as well.

February 23rd should be a busy day.

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