



washington dc update

May 16, 2011

FY12 Funding Cuts Loom for USEPA SRF Program

This past week, House Appropriations Chair Rogers assigned each of his 12 Appropriations Subcommittees the amount of money they will have to spend for FY12. Subcommittees will now produce spending bills that do not exceed this figure. These so-called 302b allocations provide important insights into the future of key Federal water resources programs such as the USEPA's Clean and Safe Drinking Water SRF programs.

The Subcommittee on Interior and Environment has funding jurisdiction over EPA as well as various Department of Interior programs such as the US Forest Service, the National Parks, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

The enacted FY11 funding figure for this Subcommittee was \$29.559 billion. It's FY12 302b allocation is \$27.473 billion, which represents a reduction of \$2.086 billion.

How does this Subcommittee come up with a bill that cuts over \$2 billion from the FY11 spending amounts? Is it going to shut down national parks? Fire thousands of federal workers? The bottom line is that the largest amount of money under the Subcommittee's jurisdiction is the EPA's Clean and Drinking Water SRF programs.

What does that mean? Funding for the Clean Water SRF in the FY11 Continuing Resolution was reduced from \$2.1 billion to \$1.525 billion; and from \$1.387 billion to \$965 million for the Drinking Water SRF. If most of the \$2.086 billion in reductions for FY12 come from these two accounts, they will be only a shadow of their former selves.

So EPA's SRF program has gone from a time of relative plenty, as represented by the \$6 billion in Stimulus funding in 2009 to the point today where the funding cuts are so severe that they may be crippled.

Is this good government policy to "cut" programs that are used by thousands of water agencies and that are for the most part loans that are paid back to the government, at interest? Please think about this and then plan to participate in the WESTCAS Legislative Workshop during the annual conference next month to state your views.

Summary & Take-Away .

Funding Cuts and the

EPA SRF program:

Last week, House Appropriation Subcmts were assigned funding ceilings. The Subcmt over EPA and other Interior agencies was cut by \$2.086 billion from FY11 enacted amount. With the EPA SRF as largest dollar amount program under the Subcmt, we can anticipated major cuts to SRF funding.

Take-Away:

Is this good government policy to "cut" programs that are used by thousands of water agencies and that are for the most part loans that are paid back to the government, at interest? Please think about this and then plan to participate in the WESTCAS Legislative Workshop during the annual conference next month to state your views.

Contact Fred or Tom

Fred Hicks – 703.626.5384
P.O. Box 2115
Springfield, VA 22152-0115
fbhicks@aol.com

Tom Ray – 254.855.0880
P.O. Box 955
Waco, TX 76703-0955
tom@hicks-ray.com



WESTCAS
Western Coalition of Arid States