

Arid West Watersheds Wastewater Grant Program

WESTCAS

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Why Federal Grants?

- **Local governments in the Arid West**
 - ...Must replace aging infrastructure**
 - ...Are required to fund increasingly stringent regulatory mandates**
 - ...Are pursuing sustainability goals/water reclamation**



Inadequate Funding of National Water Policy Goals

- **Clean Water Act (CWA) established national commitment and goals...**

...yet significant federal grant funding for these clean water goals and necessary treatment facilities has been severely diminished since 1970s



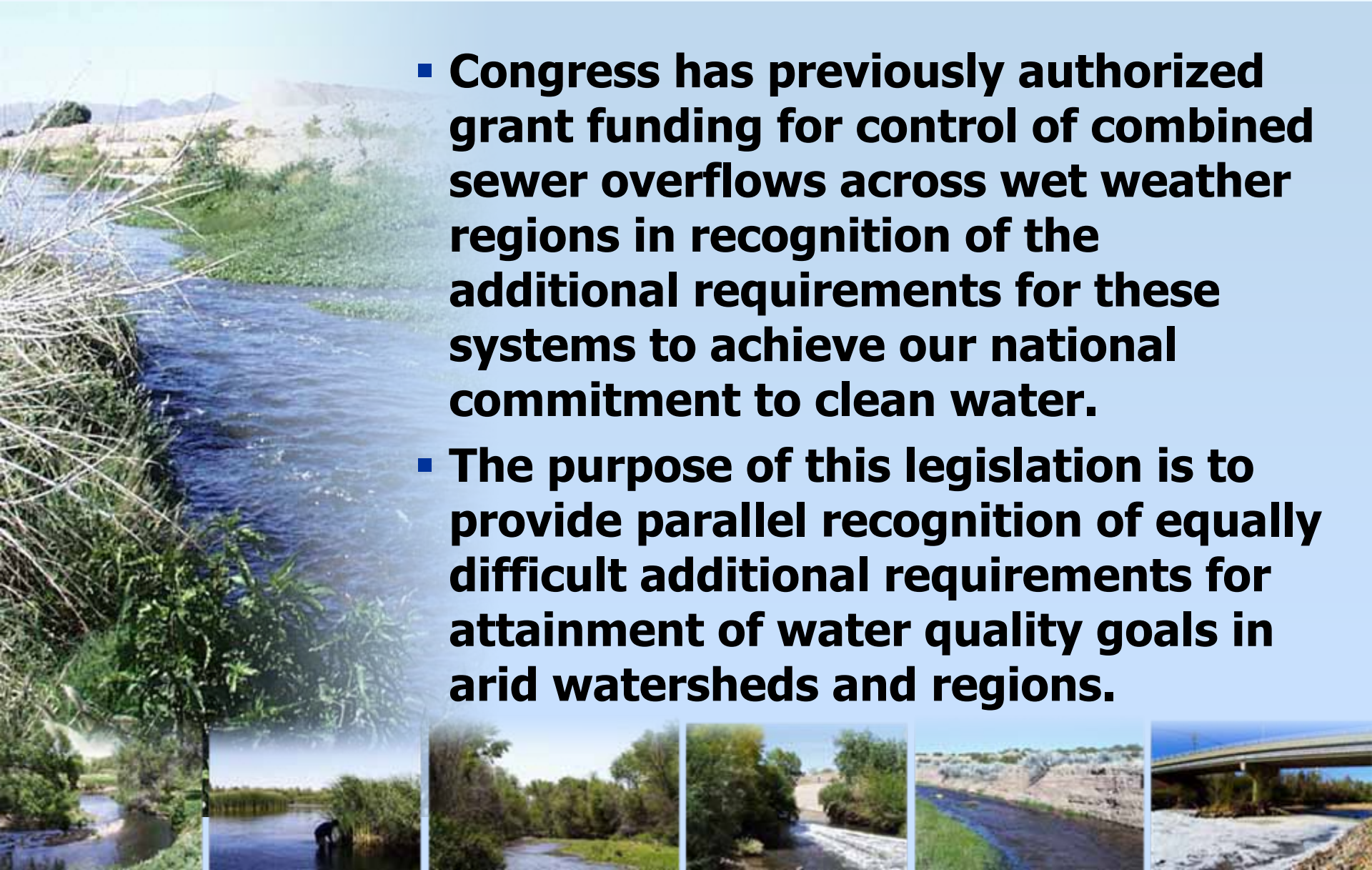
Inadequate Funding of National Water Policy Goals

- **Clean water is a national priority, yet 97% of construction costs are locally funded, including all SRF paybacks**
- **Reliance on local funding is forcing wastewater user fees to increase 6% above inflation**
- **\$10 billion+ fund is needed to meet the annual gap in wastewater construction**
- **Currently, only State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans and congressional earmarks are available**



Proposed Arid West Watersheds Wastewater Grant Program

- **Congress has previously authorized grant funding for control of combined sewer overflows across wet weather regions in recognition of the additional requirements for these systems to achieve our national commitment to clean water.**
- **The purpose of this legislation is to provide parallel recognition of equally difficult additional requirements for attainment of water quality goals in arid watersheds and regions.**



Proposed Arid West Watersheds Wastewater Grant Program

- **Authorizes grants for construction of wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities in arid west watersheds**
- **Authorizes up to \$500,000,000 for direct grants to municipalities and districts and grants through SRFs**
- **Authorizes 55% federal share, 45% local share**



Legislative Approaches

- **Amendment to Clean Water Act**
- **Amendment to State Revolving Fund Appropriation**
- **Amendment to proposed Water Protection and Reinvestment Trust Fund**
- **Tiger Grants and ARRA funding**
- **National Infrastructure Bank**



Support the Arid West Watersheds Wastewater Grant Program !!

- Have your organization provide a letter of support to WESTCAS
- Spread the word among your associates and water industry professionals
- Actively participate in advocacy efforts for the program...

...Make it *Your Program*

