ACEC RECOVERY AGENDA:
WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

R3 Rescue/Recover/Rebuild

ACEC AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

Congress should include a robust water infrastructure component to an infrastructure-based recovery agenda in 2020, built around investments in ports and waterways, flood control, hydropower, and water and wastewater programs under a new Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). A critical priority for this agenda should be significant increases in funding for the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) state revolving fund (SRF) programs and other grant and financing mechanisms to support community drinking water and wastewater needs. This investment is particularly timely to assist states and municipalities to recover from the pandemic and address public health threats.

Key Points

» Industry and labor studies of past water infrastructure investment have found that $1 billion invested in water infrastructure creates over 23,000 jobs.

» According to the EPA, drinking water and wastewater systems will need at least $750 billion over the next 20 years to maintain current levels of service.

» There is a $100 billion backlog of authorized Corps of Engineers water resource projects.

ACEC's Water Priorities

» Reauthorize WRDA to support more resilient design, increase funding and financing options to reduce project backlog, and remove barriers to non-federal sponsor investments.

» Increase funding for the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water SRF programs and require the use of Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) for engineering on federally funded drinking water projects.

» Reauthorize and provide increased funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.

» Support the USDA Rural Development Water & Wastewater Loan and Grant Program with increased loans and grant funding.

» Ensure that policies to analyze and regulate PFAS follow an evidence and risk-based assessment process.

» Oppose so-called "open competition" language that seeks to mandate materials such as plastic pipe and interfere with decisions that should be made by licensed engineers.

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Beaver Creek Fish Passage
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