

NWRA Western Water Seminar
Flagstaff, Arizona
July 30, 2014

WRRDA & Working with the Corps of Engineers

"Working with the Corps"

PANEL MEMBERS

- Ron Sullivan, Board Member, Eastern MWD
(Pacific Division perspectives)
- Mike Rickman, Deputy Director, North Texas MWD
(Southwest Division perspectives)
- Commissioner Robert Johnson
(Bureau of Reclamation/NWRA perspective)

Working with the USACE

CURRENT STATUS

WRRDA and its
Implementation

FY15 Appropriations

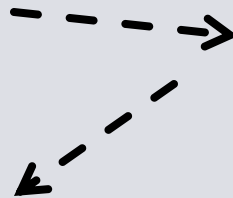
NWRA – Engaging USACE

PERSPECTIVES WORKING WITH THE CORPS

Ron Sullivan, EMWD and
Pacific Division

Mike Rickman, NTMWD and
Southwest Division

Robert Johnson, Exec Vice
President, NWRA



WRRDA



- Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (PL 113-121)
 - First WRDA in seven years
 - First “policy” WRDA
 - Passed by large majorities
- Overview
- Implementation Guidance

WRRDA was great. It was bipartisan, it was collegial, it was productive, it was all good, and Billy Shuster deserves a ton of credit for it.” Get out the song books! . Ranking Democrat member, Tim Bishop, on the House Transportation & Infrastructure

Overview (from Committee briefing points)

- **Reforms Bureaucracy, Accelerates Project Delivery, and Streamlines Environmental Reviews**
 - Sets hard deadlines on the time and cost of studies
 - Consolidates or eliminates duplicative or unnecessary studies and requires concurrent reviews
 - Streamlines environmental reviews and improves coordination
- **Fiscally Responsible**
 - Deauthorizes \$18 billion of old, inactive projects that were authorized prior to WRDA 2007
 - More than fully offsets authorizations with deauthorizations
 - Sunsets new authorizations to prevent future project backlogs
 - Reduces the inventory of properties that are not needed for the missions of the Corps
- **Strengthens Oversight, Transparency, and Accountability**
 - NO earmarks
 - Establishes a new, transparent process for future bills to review and prioritize water resources development activities with strong Congressional oversight

Overview (from Committee briefing points)

- **Increases Flexibility for Non-Federal Interests and Leverages Private Sector Investments to Federal Funding**
 - Maximizes the ability of non-federal interests to contribute their own funds
 - Expands the ability of non-federal to contribute funds to expedite of permits
 - Establishes a Public Private Partnership Program
 - Creates innovative methods to invest in and finance water resources
- **Enhances Safety and Protects Communities**
 - Strengthens dam and levee safety
 - Improves Army Corps of Engineers responses to extreme weather events
 - Encourages resilient construction techniques

WIFIA with warts & SRF enhanced

- Includes WIFIA under Title V
- Offers new low-interest loans for major drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects
- Cost at least \$20 million (or \$5 million if the project serves a community of 25,000 people or fewer)



Some disappointing WIFIA warts:

- Limit WIFIA funding to no more than 49 % of a project's total cost
- AND prohibits the use of tax-exempt financing on any project that also receives a WIFIA loan (need to eliminate this provision through future legislation)

WRRDA

Implementation Guidance

Guidance is critical, particularly with WRRDA being focused on policy – *when, how and at what level of COE will it be developed?*

NWRA Input?

1. Participate in Corps “Listening Sessions”
2. NWRA letter on specific provisions or concerns

Listening Sessions

Potential Interest to NWRA – Water Supply Perspective

- I.
 - ✓ Title VI – Deauthorization
 - ✓ Sections 1014-1024/1043
 - NF Sponsor engagement
 - Drive “CW Transformation”
- II.
 - ✓ WIFIA
- III.
 - ✓ Title X – Levee / Dam Safety
- IV.
 - ✓ Sections 1046/1051 – Water Supply

- **Category/Session I (August 13, 2014)**
 - Deauthorizations & Backlog Prevention
 - Project Development and Delivery (Including Planning)
- **Category/Session II (August 27, 2014)**
 - Alternative Financing—Contributions
 - Alternative Financing—Title V
 - Credits
- **Category/Session III (September 10, 2014)**
 - Levee Safety
 - Dam Safety
 - Regulatory (including 408)
- **Category/Session IV (September 24, 2014)**
 - Non-Federal Implementation
 - Water Supply and Reservoir
 - Navigation

Ron Sullivan, Eastern MWD

Perspectives from Pacific Division NF Sponsor

FY15 Congress Plus-ups

Both House & Senate Appropriations approved significant increases to President's request.

Corps of Engineers

Investigations

House

Senate

+\$35,000,000

+\$45,000,000

Construction

+\$579,500,000

+\$296,000,000

O&M

+\$305,000,000

+\$200,000,000

*NF sponsors need to recognize that these additional pots of money are used on Administrations' priorities unfunded from previous FY work plans. Does not expand the project list . **NWRA may want to provide input on the use of these added funds.***

Mike Rickman, North Texas MWD

Perspectives from Southwest Division NF Sponsor

NWRA Engagement Issues

- Implementation Guidance

WS provisions and specific issues

- Funding

Use of Congressional adds/priorities

Corrections to WIFIA

- Corps Dam/Levee Safety

WS concerns not in prioritization to fix dams

- Corps Infrastructure Strategy

Ensure priorities maintained for existing reservoirs

Robert Johnson, NWRA

Perspectives from Bureau of Reclamation & NWRA
Engagement Comments
