

## Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act of 2009 (H.R. 4202/S. 3561)

### What the Bill Seeks to Do

- The legislation seeks to establish an Office of Green Infrastructure within the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) as well as a competitive grant program that provides resources for the planning and implementation of green infrastructure projects.
- Some highlights of the bill include:
  - ✓ The House bill will provide \$1.2 billion in planning, development and implementation grants for community-based green infrastructure projects (*Senate bill does not specify authorization levels*):
    - **Planning and Development Grant:** The bill would authorize \$100 million per year with a maximum award of \$200,000 per recipient.
    - **Implementation Grant:** The bill would authorize \$200 million per year with a maximum award of \$3 million per recipient.
    - Federal share may not exceed 65 percent of the total project cost.
  - ✓ Both bills establishes Centers of Excellence for Green Infrastructure which would:
    - Conduct research and develop recommendations for implementing best management practices based on geographic region.
    - Provide technical assistance to smaller communities that lack in-house expertise

### Stormwater Management: Needs are Large Throughout the Nation

- As communities gain stormwater management responsibilities the need for additional funding, technical assistance, and access to best practices continues to grow.
- As a result of these increasing responsibilities, the 2008 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) shows **\$42.3 billion is needed for stormwater management**. Of this amount, \$17.4 billion is required for Green Infrastructure projects.
- The \$42.3 billion encompasses the needs of only 22 percent of permitted MS4 communities therefore **actual needs are likely much higher, possibly in the range of \$200 billion** according to CWNS findings.

### Economic and Environmental Benefits of Green Infrastructure

- Stormwater runoff is a large contributor to water quality degradation. Green Infrastructure captures and treats runoff on-site and lessens its impact on our Nation's rivers and tributaries.
- Additional benefits include reduced flooding, reduced energy use, increased community green-space and property values, improved urban livability, environmental sustainability and cost savings over "grey infrastructure" solutions.

*The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) is the leading advocate for national policies that advance clean water and a healthy environment. NACWA represents the collective interests of over 300 clean water utilities—dedicated public servants and true environmental champions that treat eighty percent of all sewered communities.*