

## NACWA Targeted Action Fund FY 2010 Continuing Project Budget Analysis

The following provides a description of, and justification for, each item proposed for continuing funding in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Targeted Action Fund (TAF).

### Litigation

#### General Legal Support

The proposed TAF funds of \$50,000 will be used throughout FY 2010 to consult and retain outside counsel on various regulatory and legal issues, conduct NACWA's legal advocacy, and for general litigation support. As an example of the how this fund is used, the activities funded through the *General Legal Support* line item in FY 2009 thus far include: membership in the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA) Legal Committee, legal work related to sewage sludge incinerator regulations, legal research support, and general litigation support.

### Ongoing Initiatives/Coalition Work

#### Advocacy Support

Fiscal year 2009 TAF funds in the amount of \$72,000 were used for general advocacy support. These funds continue to help ensure that NACWA has a strong message on climate change, proposed watershed legislation, chemical security and that strong advocacy documents exist to support these positions. This advocacy support has also been critical to helping us ensure that NACWA's message is carried successfully to Capitol Hill and to EPA. The funding for Fiscal Year 2009 has been used to retain the services of The Accord Group and has aided NACWA's efforts to help ensure the broadest possible access to key Members of Congress on a broad array of issues of importance to the wastewater utility community, including those discussed above. Issues such as climate change, NACWA's ongoing effort refine and introduce its watershed bill, and chemical security are heating up and it is important to continue this funding at the \$72,000 level for FY 2010.

#### Water Infrastructure Network

NACWA serves as Chair of the Water Infrastructure Network (WIN). WIN is recognized on Capitol Hill and by the trade media as an influential voice on wastewater/water infrastructure funding issues. Hill staff, the press, stakeholder organizations, the investment community, mayors' and governors' offices and educational institutions routinely call on WIN when they have questions regarding the funding of the nation's water and wastewater infrastructure. The membership of WIN works to support both short-term funding (EPA's state revolving fund programs through annual appropriations and reauthorization efforts) and, as its top priority, long-term funding initiatives, especially the creation of a trust fund to finance wastewater infrastructure projects. As Administrator and Chair of the WIN coalition, NACWA plays an important role in building a wide-ranging stakeholder organization to ensure the future of the nation's wastewater and water agencies.

The \$25,000 for FY 2009 is being used to supplement contributions from other WIN member organizations to retain the services of The Accord Group, maintain the WIN website, and fund communications and outreach efforts. Tremendous progress has been made over this past year toward the establishment of a clean water trust fund – and a great deal of this success is owed to the WIN coalition speaking with a unified voice on this important issue. With the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on revenue sources for a trust fund due out in May, the WIN effort will be critical to continuing to develop momentum on behalf of a clean water trust fund. The proposed amount of \$25,000 for FY 2010 will ensure continuation of these ongoing efforts.

#### CleanWater Central

The *CleanWater Central* database serves as a central hub for current future data collection activities, such as the *NACWA Financial Survey* and *NACWA Index*, and as a repository for information vital to the wastewater treatment community. NACWA and WERF launched the database during the NACWA 2003 Summer Conference in Boston and continue to expand the amount of information in the system and the number of regular users. The proposed funding of \$12,200 for FY 2010 will cover half of the contract expenses (NACWA and WERF equally share the cost) to maintain the database as well as the Internet hosting fees for the database and website. Maintenance includes daily and weekly information backups, a rigorous quality assurance program to verify all newly entered information, and other database maintenance activities. The \$12,200 will also enable NACWA to use the *CleanWater Central* contractor to conduct small surveys of its members at no extra cost.

#### Participation in the Federal Water Quality Coalition

For the past several years, NACWA has maintained an associate membership in the Federal Water Quality Coalition (FWQC). The FWQC is a broad coalition of stakeholders, including industry and municipalities focused on water quality issues such as water quality criteria, mercury issues, permitting, and total maximum daily loads. The proposed FY 2010 funding of \$15,000 would cover NACWA's discounted annual dues in the Coalition and give the Association access to critical leveraging opportunities and information. The FWQC provides valuable assessments of a broad range of water quality issues and how they may affect municipalities, giving NACWA staff a valuable resource for ascertaining when to weigh in on behalf of the membership. This leveraging of resources has enabled NACWA to cover a much broader array of water quality issues.

#### Service Charge Index

Since 1992, the Association has published the *NACWA Index* annually to track average single-family residential service charge increases as measured against the rate of inflation. Because there is a wide range of rate structures used by utilities (e.g., one or a combination of flat rates, fixed or tiered volume rates, tax rates, etc.), the average annual single-family residential sewer service charge (inclusive of collection and treatment) provides a consistent benchmark to measure changes in the price of service among public utilities nationwide. Total funding requested for this effort in FY 2010 is \$2,750. These funds are allocated each year towards survey form creation and data analysis.

#### Water for People

Water for People is an organization dedicated to ensuring that all people have access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and basic health services. Their objective is to help people in developing

countries improve their quality of life by supporting the development of locally sustainable drinking water resources, sanitation facilities and health and hygiene education programs. NACWA has appointed a member representative to serve on the Board of Water for People and has committed to make a contribution in FY 2010 of \$5,000.

#### Peak Performance Awards

NACWA's *Peak Performance Awards Program* recognizes member agency facilities for excellence in wastewater treatment as measured by compliance with their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements. This program has honored growing numbers of NACWA member agency facilities since its inception in 1987. The ongoing request for FY 2010 is \$10,000 to fund the analysis of data and the identification of honorees for this successful program.

#### International Outreach

International outreach funds have provided the Association with increased visibility on the international stage. FY 2010 funding of \$15,000 will allow NACWA to participate in future international outreach opportunities.

#### Government Affairs Rapid Response Fund

The FY 2009 \$50,000 has been used to undertake time-sensitive priority projects to maximize the success of NACWA's key advocacy efforts. Funds were used to support the joint NACWA/WEF/American Public Works Association (APWA) Clean Water Advocacy Center at WEFTEC and enabled the Government Affairs staff to respond to critical issues on short time fuses related to the economic downturn, greenhouse gas emission issues, development of NACWA's draft watershed bill, participation in a congressional field hearing on infrastructure issues, and outreach to the incoming administration. The \$50,000 request for FY 2010 will help ensure the stability of the fund as the Association faces a more aggressive, environmentally-focused Congress and Administration that will demand targeted and swift advocacy responses.