

Attachment F

NACWA's Critical Issues Action Initiative Delivers – Clean Water Agency Priorities Protected

Nearly eight month into its fiscal year, NACWA's Board-endorsed and member-supported *Critical Issues Action Initiative* (CIAI) has made significant progress toward generating the data and providing the expertise and analysis needed to ensure that clean water agency interest are effectively represented in the areas of nutrients, climate change, pharmaceuticals, watershed management, infrastructure sustainability and security. The following provides an update on key projects that are a part of this important initiative



- **NOW AVAILABLE:** *Chemical Security Legislation: Economic, Environmental, and Public Safety Implications from a POTW Perspective*
Chemical Security Legislation: Economic, Environmental, and Public Safety Implications from a POTW Perspective, provides a series of key advocacy arguments for use during congressional debate on reauthorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) legislation. The white paper was widely distributed on Capitol Hill and is available for download the NACWA website on the *Security & Emergency Preparedness* page.
- **NOW AVAILABLE:** *Getting Into the Game: How POTWs Can Take Advantage of Carbon Trading*
Getting into the Game: How POTWs Can Take Advantage of Carbon Trading, offers valuable information to agencies confronting complex decisions relating to climate change and helps municipal clean water utilities better understand the challenges and opportunities presented by emerging carbon markets. The publication is available to NACWA members as a free download from the Association's website on the *Climate Change* page and may be purchased by nonmembers on the *Publications* page of NACWA's website at www.nacwa.org.
- **BENEFITS REALIZED:** *Greenhouse Gas Inventory*
Funding through the Association's CIAI significantly enhanced NACWA's comments on EPA's *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2007, Expert Review Draft* and resulted in modifications to EPA's emissions estimation methods, helping to lower the nitrous oxide emissions estimates by over 40 percent. The *Inventory* was also used as the basis for EPA's proposed Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule, which specifically excludes wastewater treatment process from reporting their emissions.
- **COMING SOON:** *Legal & Technical Analysis of Nutrient Issues*
Work to prepare a set of technical and legal arguments against the modification of the definition of secondary treatment to address nutrient discharges at clean water agencies is nearing completion. The report will provide information critical to preventing a wholesale rewriting of the secondary treatment requirements and will serve as the foundation for any legal action that may become

necessary. Association members will also benefit from a critical analysis of the technical challenges and impacts associated with nutrient controls on the environment.

- **UNDERWAY: Peer Review – Pharmaceutical Peer Review Panel**
NACWA and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) will convene a panel of subject matter experts to develop a set of strategic recommendations on the issue of pharmaceuticals in water. The panel's recommendations will be used to inform and guide an appropriate national response to this issue that is rooted in the current state of the science. The first meeting of the panel will take place on July 9 in Washington, DC, with a final report anticipated within six months.
- **UNDERWAY: Viable Watershed Strategy Outreach**
NACWA's Strategic Watershed Task Force released, last year, its *Recommendations for a Viable and Vital 21st Century Clean Water Policy* making key long-term and short-term recommendations toward an implementable watershed approach. Following up on this important document, the Task Force has developed legislation, the *21st Century Watershed Act*. Outreach on the proposed viable watershed strategy – to ensure that NACWA members, key stakeholders, and national policymakers are fully aware and engaged – is underway and being supported by the *CIAI*.
- **ONGOING: Support of Product Stewardship Institute Dialogue on Pharmaceuticals**
NACWA is actively engaged with the Product Stewardship Institute in the Institute's ongoing dialogue on unused pharmaceuticals and take back programs. The first two dialogue meetings have made tremendous progress in improving communication among the key federal agencies responsible for national drug policy and have identified the key obstacles to providing greater access to unused pharmaceutical take back programs nationwide. NACWA *CIAI* funds support the efforts of a Regulatory Workgroup, which is working now to identify and address the governmental barriers to better handling of unused pharmaceuticals, and a third dialogue meeting that will take place this summer in Washington, DC.