

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**PRESIDENT**

**Suzanne E. Goss**

*Government Relations Specialist  
JEA (Electric, Water & Sewer)  
Jacksonville, FL*

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**Julius Ciaccia, Jr.**

*Executive Director  
Northeast Ohio Regional  
Sewer District  
Cleveland, OH*

**TREASURER**

**Karen L. Pallansch**

*Chief Executive Officer  
Alexandria Renew Enterprises  
Alexandria, VA*

**SECRETARY**

**Adel H. Hagekhalil**

*Assistant Director  
Bureau of Sanitation  
City of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA*

**PAST PRESIDENT**

**David R. Williams**

*Director of Wastewater  
East Bay Municipal  
Utility District  
Oakland, CA*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Ken Kirk**

**December 13, 2012**

**The Honorable John Boehner**  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Hal Rogers**  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2406 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Nancy Pelosi**  
House Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**The Honorable Norman Dicks**  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Boehner, Congresswoman Pelosi, Congressman Rogers, and Congressman Dicks:

As Congress prepares an emergency appropriations package to assist recovery efforts in states impacted by Hurricane Sandy, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) urges you to support the President's request for \$60.4 billion in aid for states impacted by Hurricane Sandy and ensure that sufficient money is available to help repair the impacted region's municipal wastewater treatment plants and strengthen their resiliency to withstand future natural disasters.

Hurricane Sandy crippled many wastewater treatment plants in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland, and Delaware, causing major service disruptions and the unfortunate release of hundreds of millions of gallons of raw and partially treated sewage into local waterways, underscoring the need to commit to a federal-state-local partnership to harden these systems against such future catastrophic events. As the New York Times reported in a November 29 article<sup>1</sup>, New York City alone estimates damage from Hurricane Sandy to the wastewater sector will total around \$1.1 billion. Based on preliminary assessments, total damage to the municipal wastewater sector in all of the affected states will far exceed this amount.

---

<sup>1</sup> Schwirtz, Michael. "Sewage Flows After Storm Expose Flaws in System." *The New York Times* 29 November 2012. Available at: [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/30/nyregion/sewage-flows-after-hurricane-sandy-exposing-flaws-in-system.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/30/nyregion/sewage-flows-after-hurricane-sandy-exposing-flaws-in-system.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0)

Local communities already struggling to recover from one of the deepest and most prolonged economic downturns in history should not be asked to shoulder these costs alone – assistance from the Federal government is necessary. Prior to Sandy, utilities in these regions already confronted enormous investment needs to meet regulatory standards related to combined sewer overflows and nutrient control as well as other Clean Water Act requirements. And while much of the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy was unavoidable, the storm served as a painful reminder that much of the country's wastewater infrastructure is in dire need of upgrade and repair. Modernizing and replacing the country's aging water infrastructure is among the top public works priorities our Nation faces, and it will require a serious and long-term investment. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates \$298.1 billion in wastewater and stormwater needs over the next 20 years.

NACWA was pleased to see the Administration request for \$60.4 billion in Federal resources specifically included "efforts to repair damage to . . . public infrastructure and to help communities prepare for future storms." NACWA also urges support for the Administration's request to include \$600 million in the relief package for the affected region's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to help utilities build resiliency to confront future extreme wet weather events that are becoming more and more common. For many years, NACWA has advocated for this type of support for water and wastewater utilities as key first responders dealing with our changing climate. In fact, we have worked closely with key members of the House and Senate on legislation, *The Water System Resiliency and Sustainability Act*, which would target assistance to water and wastewater utilities seeking to improve their systems' resiliency to these weather-related events. Helping our communities adapt to more extreme weather events has never been more important and NACWA urges your support of this critical funding piece.

NACWA is also conducting a survey of its members affected by Hurricane Sandy and will share any relevant financial or other information garnered from this survey as appropriate. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact Hannah Mellman at [hmellman@nacwa.org](mailto:hmellman@nacwa.org) should you need further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K Kirk".

Ken Kirk  
Executive Director

Cc: Members of the House