

NACWA Supports an Integrated Planning Approach to Clean Water Act Obligations

Through its *Money Matters...Smarter Investment to Advance Clean Water™* campaign, NACWA has been a leader in advocating for an integrated planning approach to help communities better address the growing financial and compliance challenges posed by the Clean Water Act (CWA). Integrated planning enables municipalities to prioritize competing and costly wet weather, stormwater, nutrient-related, and other requirements to achieve maximum water quality benefit for ratepayers. This approach optimizes limited community resources by encouraging more sustainable and innovative solutions, such as green infrastructure, that improve water quality and enhance the vitality of local communities.

NACWA Supports the Clean Water Affordability Act of 2012 (S. 2094)

Senator Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) introduced S. 2094 to help communities meet their CWA obligations in an affordable and integrated way. Highlights of the legislation include:

- \$1.8 billion to address sewer overflows;
- Requiring that the integrated planning approach for CWA obligations be available to all communities;
- Encouraging the use of green infrastructure for managing wet weather issues;
- Requiring EPA to revise guidance on determining a community's financial capability to meet CWA obligations.

Recent Developments in Integrated Planning

- In February 2012, NACWA provided detailed comments on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) municipal integrated planning framework, urging the Agency to move forward with this initiative to provide communities with greater flexibility to achieve CWA goals. The final EPA framework is expected in late April or early May.
- April 2012, the City of Philadelphia and EPA announce a partnership to implement Philadelphia's Green City, Clean Waters program, using an integrated planning approach. This broad multi-decade investment program in green stormwater management practices will reduce sewer overflows to the City's waterways and enhance Philadelphia's overall urban environment and is being touted as an example of a successful integrated planning approach.

NACWA urges Congress to support integrated planning and to work with us to ensure EPA moves forward diligently with it.

For questions or more information, please contact NACWA's Hannah Mellman at hmellman@nacwa.org.