

NACWA Supports an Integrated Planning Approach To Address Clean Water Act Obligations

Through its [*Money Matters...Smarter Investment to Advance Clean Water™*](#) campaign, NACWA has advocated for policies 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 CWA requirements to address wet weather challenges, reduce nutrients discharges, better control emerging contaminants, and ensure continued investment in basic infrastructure to achieve maximum water quality benefits for ratepayers. Integrated Planning optimizes limited community resources by encouraging adaptive management approaches and more sustainable and innovative solutions, such as green infrastructure, that improve water quality and enhance the vitality of local communities.

In June 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the [*Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework*](#) to provide further guidance to state EPA offices and state and local governments in developing and implementing effective integrated plans under the CWA. Several U.S. cities already have implemented or are developing integrated plans. These cities include Baltimore, MD; Springfield, MO; Seattle, WA; Lima, OH; and Philadelphia, PA.

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

Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced The Clean Water Affordability Act to help communities meet their CWA obligations in an affordable and integrated way. This legislation would:

- Reauthorize the Wet Weather Grants Program to help communities tackle sewer overflows;
- Codify Integrated Planning to ensure it is available to all communities;
- Encourage use of green infrastructure for managing wet weather; and
- Require EPA to revise guidance on determining a community's financial capability to meet CWA obligations.

NACWA also supports the Representative Bob Latta's (R-OH) related bill, *The Clean Water Affordability Act of 2011* (H.R. 1187) that would also require EPA to revise its financial capability guidance.

NACWA urges Congress to pass these bills and support integrated planning as a new way for communities to meet their CWA obligations.

For more information, contact:

Hannah Mellman, NACWA's Legislative Manager, at 202.833.4655 or hmellman@nacwa.org.