

## AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO ADDRESS CLEAN WATER CHALLENGES

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.

### Support Affordability Legislation

- H.R. 3862, *The Clean Water Affordability Act*, would codify integrated planning to ensure it is available to all communities; extend EPA permit terms up to 25 years for communities with an approved integrated plan; and require EPA to revise guidance on determining a community's financial capability to meet CWA obligations. The bill was introduced by Representatives Bob Latta (R-OH) and Tim Walz (D-MI).
- H.R. 2707, *The Clean Water Compliance and Ratepayer Affordability Act*, would create a new pilot program for communities to develop integrated plans and extend CWA permit terms up to 25 years for pilot communities with an approved plan. The bill was introduced by Representatives Steve Chabot (R-OH) and Marcia Fudge (D-OH).
- In 2012, Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced S. 2094, *The Clean Water Affordability Act*, that would also reauthorize the Wet Weather Grants Program to help communities tackle sewer overflows and encourage use of green infrastructure for managing wet weather. Senator Brown plans to reintroduce this bill in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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

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