



## STAY INFORMED ON IMPORTANT ISSUES AND EVENTS

BY CAROL BATTERTON

### WEF/AWWA "WATER MATTERS" FLY-IN

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) will, once again, join together to strengthen the voice of the entire water community on Capitol Hill by presenting the second annual *WEF-AWWA "Water Matters" Fly-In*. Scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, and Thursday, March 8, 2012 in Arlington, VA. WEAT and TAWWA will join together to attend this meeting which will include visiting with congressional staff on Capitol Hill.

There are a number of issues the clean water and drinking water communities can take to Congress together, specifically WIFIA and infrastructure issues. This second annual *"Water Matters" Fly-In* builds on the momentum and exposure gained from last year's successful Fly-In and presents an excellent opportunity to educate our Congressional Representatives on water issues.

The event will begin on Wednesday, March 7, with briefings and discussions of current clean water and drinking water issues currently before Congress followed the next day by scheduled visits with state representatives. In addition, the *Fly-In* will include a reception for participants and invited congressional guests in the Rayburn House Office Building, on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, March 7 at 6:00 p.m. A breakfast and a concluding luncheon to share information and lessons learned will take place on Thursday, March 8.

You must register to attend, but there is no registration fee for WEAT members. Members are responsible for their own travel arrangements. Please contact me if you are interested in attending this event. More information is available on the WEF website at <http://www.wef.org/governmentaffairs/default.aspx>.

### EPA'S INTEGRATED MUNICIPAL STORMWATER AND WASTEWATER PLANS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published notice in the Federal Register on January 11, 2012, announcing a series of workshops to solicit comments on their proposed integrated planning framework to help municipalities prioritize their infrastructure investments. The purpose of the framework is to maximize water quality benefits and consider various innovative approaches, such as green infrastructure, that may be more sustainable.

The EPA held a series of workshops to solicit the individual views of stakeholders on the use of integrated municipal stormwater and wastewater plans to meet the water quality objectives of the Clean Water Act (CWA). EPA asked for statements and input from the interested public by February 29, 2012. The draft framework includes overarching principles, principles to guide the development of the plan, and key elements of the plans.

More information is available at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/integratedplans.cfm>.

### H204TEXAS COALITION

WEAT has renewed its membership in H204Texas Coalition and plans to continue participation in this effort to secure funding for the State Water Plan. This diverse group of stakeholders plans to continue to meet during this legislative interim to develop funding pro-

posals for the Texas Legislature to consider in 2013. The coalition has formed a subcommittee to explore fee options and plans to kick off a public awareness campaign in September on the need to fund the State Water Plan.

### TCEQ PROPOSES REVISED COMPLIANCE HISTORY RULES

The TCEQ proposed revised Compliance History rules on January 25, 2012. The proposed revisions were the result of changes made by HB 2694 (TCEQ's Sunset Bill) in the last regular session of the Texas Legislature. For wastewater treatment plants, notable changes are the grouping of facilities by NAICS code which will allow sewage treatment plants to have a separate classification grouping. The Commission anticipates holding a public hearing on March 6, 2012. Public comments will be accepted until March 12, 2012. Anticipated adoption date is June 27, 2012.

### HORIZON CONFERENCE

Please mark your calendars for the next Horizon Conference, which is scheduled for November 13, 2012. WEAT and TACWA will once again co-host this conference which will provide a preview on important water quality issues and goals for 2013 and the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislative Session. The one-day event will be held at the Long Center for the Performing Arts in Austin, TX, from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.

Program topics include: legislative and regulatory water quality priorities, state water planning, funding, environmental flows, surface water quality standards, climate change, protecting Texas primacy, as well as national water quality priorities. Stay tuned for more information and registration details. ➔

"THE PURPOSE OF THE FRAMEWORK IS TO MAXIMIZE WATER QUALITY BENEFITS AND CONSIDER VARIOUS INNOVATIVE APPROACHES..."