

## **Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act ( WIIN Act”): Summary and Relevant Sections**

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the Senate approved of the WIIN Act by a count of 79 votes in favor and 21 votes against, and the bill is now headed to President Obama (a veto is not expected) for approval. The act, which contains the legislation formerly known as the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (WRDA 2016) contains nearly \$10 billion in water infrastructure funding, including aid for Flint, Michigan. The full text of the bill can be viewed [here](#).

Some parts of the bill relevant to states are listed below. For more information, contact ACWA staff [Julian Gonzalez](#) or [Julia Anastasio](#).

### **Title I: Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2016**

- Authorizes 30 US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Projects including ports, channels, locks, dams, and more
- Authorizes studies for future water resources improvements
- Allows USACE to provide technical assistance to a non-federal interest
- Allows for multistate groups to be eligible to work with USACE on water development/utilization/conservation plans
- Instructs USACE to make publicly available, on the internet, all data on planning, design, construction, and operation of water resource development projects, water quality and management projects

### **Title II: Water and Waste Act of 2016**

- Increases to the amount States can reserve from Drinking Water SRF funds for operations
- Authorization of \$170 million to Flint, Michigan through the Drinking Water SRF as well as grants for lead line replacement and lead exposure education.
- Includes a “Sense of Congress” section supporting “robust” funding for State Revolving Loan Funds (SRFs)
- Authorization of \$60M annually through FY 2021 for small and disadvantaged communities to reduce lead in drinking water, including the replacement of lead service lines
- A “Sense of Congress” section recommending approval of \$20 Million under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) for eligible projects in communities with a declared lead disaster

### **Title III: Natural Resources**

- A section (subtitle H) which amends the Water Desalination Act of 1996 to coordinate and focus current federal desalination research and studies on cost-effective methods to derive potable water from saline sources in drought-stricken areas. The program is reauthorized at current levels (\$40 million over five years)
- A section (subtitle J) which provides drought relief to the State of California. Language includes changes to federal water operations in central California, allows water users to accelerate repayment of water projects to the federal government to increase revenue to the U.S. Treasury, and authorizes water storage, desalination, delivery, and water recycling programs with reforms.

**Key Provisions that were removed from the final package included:**

- Integrated Planning
- Affordability
- CW State Revolving Loan Funding