



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Information Summary

January 17, 2008

Subject

Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007

Policy Question

Should AMWUA take a position on the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007?

Summary

Congressman James Oberstar of Minnesota, and Senator Russell Feingold of Wisconsin, have introduced "The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007" (HR 2421 and S 1870, respectively) as amendments to the Federal Clean Water Act (Act). These bills may be introduced again in 2008 and there has been an indication that hearings in the House and/or the Senate will be scheduled.

This legislation is proposed in response to recent Supreme Court decisions that define the jurisdiction of the Federal government over the nation's waters, including what bodies of water are included within "waters of the United States" and "navigable waters", as these terms are used in the Act. These terms are important because their definition affects the authority of the Federal government to address water quality in a number of areas, including the Act's NPDES permit program under Section 402 and the Act's dredge and fill program under Section 404.

Under section 402, all point source discharges into navigable waters, e.g. a wastewater treatment plant discharging treated effluent into the Salt River, are required to apply for and obtain an NPDES permit from EPA or the State DEQ, in the case of Arizona, before they can discharge. In the case of Section 404, any dredge or fill activities, e.g. construction and operation of recharge basins in the Salt River, are required to apply for and receive a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) prior to the commencement of any activities in the river bed. Traditionally, the COE has been rather conservative in its interpretation of the waters subject to its Section 404 jurisdiction. Under the Clean Water Restoration Act, the COE would be required to expand its jurisdiction to situations, which it has historically maintained are not navigable waters.

Water interest groups such as the Central Arizona Project, the Arizona Agribusiness Council, and the Irrigation and Electrical Districts Association of Arizona oppose the Clean Water Restoration Act. Municipal members of the National Water Resources Association, Western

Urban Water Coalition and Western Coalition of Arid States (see attached) have indicated opposition expressed concerns. In general, environmental groups (such as the Sierra Club, the Clean Water Network, and U.S. PIRG) and hunting and fishing organizations support the bill. Governor Napolitano has been reported to be in support of the Clean Water Restoration Act.

Considerations

Opponents of the legislation assert:

1. The legislation does not “reaffirm” or “clarify” the original intent of Congress, but would broaden the jurisdiction in a way that causes the jurisdiction to be more ambiguous than under current administration of the Clean Water Act.
2. The provisions would broaden the authority to include virtually “all wet areas within a state including impoundments, groundwater, ditches, pipes, streets, gutters, and desert features.” (Waters Advocacy Coalition)
3. Provisions would expand Federal jurisdiction into areas traditionally regulated under state and local authority.

AMWUA staff and member water advisors are concerned that passage of the Clean Water Restoration Act will create uncertainty and increased regulatory burdens. The Central Arizona Project is concerned the bill will result in expansion of 404 permitting to the detriment of carrying out recharge activities. The Arizona Agribusiness Council is concerned the legislation will remove current exemptions from 404 permitting and would impact the state and local land use planning authority.

Supporters assert:

1. The definitions are consistent with the original intent of the Clean Water Act.
2. Current Federal guidelines exempt too many bodies of water.
3. Virtually all water sources will eventually impact waters under the jurisdiction of the United States.

Prior Committee Action

The Clean Water Restoration Act was discussed at the October 10, 2007 meeting of the Management Board and at the October 18, 2007 meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors asked that this item be postponed until additional information was available.

Recommendation

At its January 9th meeting, the Management Board recommended approval by the Board of Directors to indicate AMWUA’s support for the positions indicated in the “Draft Testimony of Mark T. Pifher, Deputy Director, Aurora Water, City of Aurora, Aurora, Colorado.”

Attachments

1. Oberstar/Feingold Clean Water Act Legislation
2. Letter from CAP re: Oberstar/Feingold Legislation

January 17, 2008 - Board of Directors Agenda Item 7 (Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007)

3. Draft Testimony of Mark T. Pifher, Deputy Director, Aurora Water, City of Aurora, Aurora, Colorado, before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Hearing on H.R. 2421, “The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007”
4. Summary of Pifher Testimony

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H:\Packets\FY 2008 City Managers Board\JANUARY\Final Version\Agenda Item #7 – Info Summary – Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007

Oberstar/Feingold CWA Legislation

Introduction

Municipal entities engage in water, wastewater and stormwater activities which are often times subject to the mandates of the federal Clean Water Act. Despite assurances to the contrary, the Oberstar/Feingold legislation does attempt to broaden the reach of the CWA beyond its historical boundaries. At the very least, it attempts to legislatively overrule recent Supreme Court interpretations of the Act. Hence, if the legislation is enacted, municipalities face the prospect of additional regulatory constraints, together with associated permitting delays and increased costs.

Naturally, certain activities not currently covered under the federal Act may fall under individual state laws. In such instances, additional federal requirements may now apply and federal oversight of state decisions will become more pervasive.

Potentially impacted activities include the following.

A. Wastewater Discharges

1. With the reach of the Act encompassing ephemeral and intermittent streams, normally dry washes, and “isolated” waterbodies, including wetlands, previously exempt discharges under federal law, for which no NPDES permit was required, may now fall within the permitting scheme. That is to say, discharges which previously were not to “waters of the U.S.”, and hence exempt, would now be covered activities.
2. On a similar note, formerly “zero discharge” activities, i.e. land application facilities and certain lagoon facilities, may now require permits due to potential groundwater impacts or surface water discharges to formerly non-jurisdictional waters.
3. Use of “constructed wetlands” for treatment, if found to be jurisdictional, may be a less attractive treatment alternative. Regulatory constraints will limit their use, despite the cost effectiveness and the environmental enhancements associated therewith.

B. Water Activities

1. The construction of water delivery infrastructure, e.g. wells, ditches, canals, pipelines, diversion structures, etc. will more often require Section 404 dredge and fill permits as more waterbodies are determined to be jurisdictional. This will greatly increase the time and cost associated with project completion.
2. Even if “nationwide” Section 404 permits can be obtained for water infrastructure projects, there is a greater chance that the newly created federal nexus will be pervasive enough to trigger NEPA review for activities within an infrastructure corridor. Naturally, the need for individual permits would cause this to occur. This greatly

increases project time and costs, as the entire NEPA process, from alternatives analysis to final ROD, would need to be followed.

3. Normal and necessary infrastructure maintenance, repair and replacement activities could now similarly trigger regulatory review.

4. To the extent Section 404 permitting was triggered, state Section 401 certifications would also need to be obtained, including accompanying anti-degradation reviews.

5. Certain routine activities, such as the use of blow-off valves, could now require regulatory approval if located in close proximity to what would now be considered jurisdictional waters.

6. Should the EPA “water transfers” rule not be adopted and/or the courts determine that mere water transfers from one waterbody to another require NPDES permits, the reach of such covered transfers would expand in proportion to the increased reach of jurisdiction over waterbodies.

C. Stormwater Activities

Many of the same concerns identified above under wastewater and water activities would also apply to stormwater activities. This includes regulatory oversight associated with: (i) the construction of new infrastructure; (ii) the maintenance, repair and replacement of existing infrastructure; and (iii) the use of constructed wetlands as a treatment technique.



P.O. Box 43020 • Phoenix, AZ 85080-3020
23636 North Seventh Street • Phoenix, AZ 85024

623-869-2333 • www.cap-az.com

April 11, 2007

The Honorable Ed Pastor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable John Shadegg
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Jeff Flake
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Harry Mitchell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Trent Franks
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Rick Renzi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20505

RE: The Clean Water Authority Restoration Act

Dear Arizona Representatives:

Congressman James Oberstar of Minnesota has written you urging you to cosponsor and support the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act of 2007. We urge you not to do that. Congressman Oberstar's bill would cause significant harm to water providers in Arizona and throughout the West.

The stated purpose of this bill is to expand to its constitutional limits the authority of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers over waters of the United States. However, what the bill would really do is codify the agencies' worst excesses under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Section 404 provides for the issuance of permits for "dredge and fill" activities in waters of the United States. Common sense tells you that this program is intended to protect real waters and wetlands. Over the years, however, the agencies have required permits for construction activities in dry washes in the desert southwest and for fill activities in abandoned quarries because ducks have landed on water that has collected there. Such abuses have led the United States Supreme Court to strike down the agencies' exercise of Section 404 jurisdiction in such cases, most

Arizona Senators and Representatives

April 11, 2007

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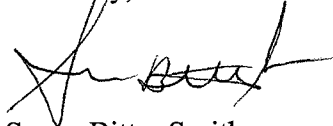
recently in two decisions in which the Court urged the agencies to correct these abuses with appropriate changes to the rules under which the program is administered. The Supreme Court's decisions have led those of us regulated under Section 404 to hope that some rationality will finally be brought to the Section 404 permit program. If Congressman Oberstar's bill becomes law, that will not occur.

The Central Arizona Project has experienced the breadth of the Section 404 permit program first-hand, in trying to carry out recharge activities for the benefit of the water users in central and southern Arizona. These recharge projects, constructed in dry riverbeds or desert washes, have required Section 404 permits more often than not, with all of the expense and delay that that necessarily entails. Often the requirement to obtain a Section 404 permit also leads to demands from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service that the permit applicant mitigate, at significant additional cost in time and expense, asserted impacts on endangered species or designated critical habit. Even if the regulated entity believes that no Section 404 permit is legally required, it is even more time consuming and expensive to challenge the agencies' exercise of Section 404 jurisdiction, so permits are sought and the extortion is paid. More recently, the Corps of Engineers has even begun requiring Section 404 permits for artificially constructed water delivery facilities themselves (ditches and canals), foreshadowing major problems for water providers if this trend is permitted to continue, as it surely will if the Oberstar bill becomes law.

No expansion of the Section 404 permit program is required in order to protect genuine waters and wetlands. The agencies already have ample authority to do that. Indeed, the agencies' current administration of the program already exceeds their statutory authority, as the Supreme Court has held. If anything, Section 404 jurisdiction should be further narrowed, not expanded, as the Oberstar bill would do.

Please do not support this ill-considered legislation.

Sincerely,



Susan Bitter Smith
President

SBS:cv

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Jon Kyl
The Honorable John McCain

Before the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Hearing on H.R. 2421
“The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007”

Testimony of
Mark T. Pipher
Deputy Director, Aurora Water
City of Aurora
Aurora, Colorado

Submitted on behalf of municipal members of
Nation Water Resources Association (NWRA),
Western Urban Water Coalition (WUWC) and
Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS)

December 6, 2007

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Mark Pifher and I am here today to provide the perspective of Western municipal water and wastewater utilities who share concerns over the current language contained in the “Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007.” This group includes certain members of the Western Urban Water Coalition (WUWC)¹, the National Water Resources Association (NWRA), and the Western Coalition of Arid States (WESTCAS), such as Las Vegas, Denver, Tucson, Phoenix, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Diego County Water Authority, Las Cruces, Colorado Springs, and Albuquerque. Over the years, I have been an active member of these organizations participating, in particular, on their Clean Water Act committees. I am also the immediate past director of the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, where I was responsible for the state implementation of all aspects of the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. However, I do not appear today on behalf of the Division or the State of Colorado. I am currently the Deputy Director for Water Resources in Aurora, Colorado, the state’s third largest municipality and the sponsor of an innovative \$750 million dollar water reuse project, which is now under construction and which was recently favorably referenced in a New York Times article on Western water supply challenges.

I. Introduction

Western municipalities, and in particular their water, wastewater and stormwater utilities, always have been, and will remain, strong supporters of the basic tenets of the federal Clean Water Act. After all, this statutory program assists in protecting and enhancing the source water upon which these cities rely to provide clean, safe drinking water to their citizens. It is these same municipalities who are partners with the state and EPA in implementing the pretreatment, stormwater and source water assessment programs; who construct wetlands as natural purification alternatives; who install, operate and maintain reuse and recycled water supply projects to maximize a scarce resource; who invest in the technology and plant improvements necessary to restore our impaired waterbodies under the total maximum daily load (TMDL) program; and who engage in pollutant trading efforts in order to assist under-funded nonpoint sources. Hence, I appear before you today not to undermine any efforts at strengthening water quality protection, but simply to express concerns over the potential impacts of the language found in H.R. 2421, with the hope that together we can address any legitimate concerns.

With the above as background, let me briefly identify some of the potential issues from the perspective of “on-the-ground” Western entities with water supply and wastewater/stormwater treatment responsibilities.

II. Expansion of traditional federal jurisdiction and creation of uncertainty.

As proposed, the bill would redefine “waters of the United States” so as to include the full panoply of wet areas from mud flats to intermittent streams to prairie potholes and “all impoundments of the foregoing, to the fullest extent that these waters, or activities affecting these waters, are subject to the legislative power of Congress under the Constitution.” I will leave it to others, including our University professor panelists, to

¹ “WUWC members from Portland, Seattle, and _____ do not join in this testimony.”

address the legal fine points of the Commerce Clause, the Supremacy Clause, the Necessary and Proper Clause and other constitutional provisions that may be brought to bear under this very expansive definition. For purposes of my testimony, I will simply note that in interpreting this language one would assume that the courts, which unfortunately will see many cases should the legislation be adopted, would look, in part, to the “Findings” section of the bill for guidance. There are a number of references, under this section which, depending upon how they are ultimately interpreted, may create the necessary federal nexus where such a connection did not previously exist. These references from Section 3 include the following:

- “Any part of an aquatic system” that may be interconnected with surface waters, potentially including “groundwater.”
- Certain ephemeral and seasonal streams (depending on how they are ultimately defined).
- The “draining” of wetlands.
- Source water protection areas (as compared to the waterbodies therein).
- Bird watching, photography and general recreational activities.
- Bird and wildlife protection under treaties.
- The protection of federal “land”.
- Flood control activities.

The above references, when combined with the fact that the new definition of “waters of the United States” would now encompass “activities affecting these waters” as compared to the waters themselves, may result in an expansion of jurisdiction under the Act that will unduly constrain state and local flexibility, while greatly increasing the time and costs associated with meeting water supply and wastewater treatment obligations. It may impinge upon local land use and water resource planning and undermine the timely completion of necessary projects, such as those authorized in the recent WRDA legislation.

III. Impacts on Western water supply activities.

Much of the West is rapidly growing, yet “water short.” As noted below, the situation may only be exacerbated by forecasted climate change. The expansive language of the legislation could unduly complicate, delay, and increase in cost the installation of necessary water supply infrastructure or, in a worst case scenario, foreclose certain water supply options altogether. For example:

- As more waterbodies are determined to be jurisdictional, the construction of necessary water delivery infrastructure, e.g. wells, ditches, canals, pipelines, diversion structures, etc. will more often require Section 404 dredge and fill permits from the Corps.
- Even if Section 404 permits, be they “nationwide” or “individual” in nature, can be obtained for such infrastructure projects, there is a greater chance that the newly created federal nexus will be pervasive enough to trigger NEPA review for activities

occurring within the infrastructure corridor. This too will greatly increase project time and costs, as the entire NEPA process, from alternatives analysis to the final ROD, would need to be followed.

- Normal and necessary infrastructure maintenance, repair and replacement activities could now similarly trigger regulatory review, be they related to pipelines, ditches, canals, reservoirs, etc.
- Certain routine activities, such as the use of blow off valves along water supply pipelines, could require regulatory approval if located in close proximity to what would now be considered “jurisdictional waters.”
- Should the EPA “water transfers rule” as previously proposed not be adopted and/or the courts determine that the mere transfer of water from one waterbody to another requires an NPDES permit, the reach of such regulated transfers could expand in proportion to the increased reach of jurisdiction over waterbodies.
- Given the enormous federal land footprint in the West, many Western storage and conveyance facilities are currently located on these lands. New “high elevation” storage options, and even many lower elevation alternatives, would be similarly located on Forest Service or BLM lands. There may be greater difficulty securing permit renewals or obtaining permits in the first instance for such facilities given the expansive language in the bill.
- On a related note, the West is the home to many American Indian tribes to which a trust responsibility is owed. This is reflective in the need to meet tribal water allocations, which often times requires the construction of water storage and conveyance facilities. This legislation may make meeting those obligations even more expensive and difficult, leaving long term municipal water supply options in doubt.
- Recovery programs and habitat conservation plans under the Endangered Species Act are often times dependent upon water management activities, including water infrastructure installation. Making completion of these activities more onerous and expensive is counter productive and simply adds to the burden of project sponsors such as Western municipal water suppliers.
- New energy development activities, such as coal bed methane production, can have associated water discharges which create both eco-systems and valuable water supplies for other beneficial uses, including municipal supply. Flexibility in the treatment of such water sources, which are often discharged to dry arroyos, may be lost.

IV. Impacts on Western municipal wastewater discharge activities.

Western wastewater treatment facilities face a host of challenges, not the least of which is often-times the absence of any significant dilution flows at the point of discharge. “End-of-pipe” effluent limits are common. In many places, the wastewater discharge constitutes the majority of the flow (effluent dominated) or all of the flow (effluent dependent) in the stream. In addition, many treatment systems belong to financially challenged small, rural municipalities who utilize lagoon technology, with periodic

groundwater or surface water discharges. Any expansion of CWA jurisdiction may further complicate, or increase in cost, wastewater treatment efforts at a time when infrastructure monies are already in short supply. For example:

- The construction of necessary wastewater collection systems and associated lift stations may more often trigger Section 404 review, increasing costs and delays.
- With the reach of the Act now encompassing all ephemeral and intermittent streams, normally dry washes and isolated waterbodies, including isolated wetlands, previously exempt discharges for which no NPDES permit was required may now fall within the permitting scheme.
- Formerly, “zero discharge” activities, i.e., land application facilities and certain lagoon facilities, may now require permits due to potential groundwater impacts or surface water discharges to formerly non-jurisdictional waters.
- The use of “constructed wetlands” for treatment, if such are found to be jurisdictional, may be a less attractive treatment alternative. Regulatory constraints may limit their use, despite the cost effectiveness and environmental enhancements associated therewith.
- Recent efforts by EPA and stakeholders to develop policies governing water quality standards for effluent dependent and even effluent dominated waterbodies, including the advancement of a net environmental benefit concept designed to ensure the continuation of ecosystem supporting discharges, may prove more difficult.
- The bill may eliminate the exemption under current regulations for wastewater treatment systems.
- The bill may hinder the development and implementation of wastewater reclamation and reuse projects depending upon their design, e.g. groundwater recharge, and location, e.g, discharging to normally dry streambeds.
- Expanded jurisdictional issues might discourage innovative treatment technologies from being applied to produced water resulting from oil and gas production, or might discourage saline and brackish water treatment for augmenting sparse water supplies.

V. Impacts on Western stormwater control activities.

Much of EPA’s focus over the last few years has been on controlling wet weather flows. Municipalities, along with the states, have been front line players in attempting to achieve stormwater related water quality protection goals. This includes both the utilization of local land use authority and the construction of municipal stormwater control facilities, including retention and detention basins. Once again, as noted below, climate change may only add to the difficulty and costs associated with these activities. Further CWA regulatory constraints may similarly increase the local burden. For example:

- The construction of new stormwater collection and retention/detention infrastructure may face the same additional Section 404 regulatory burdens faced by those constructing water and wastewater infrastructure.

- Similarly, the maintenance, repair and replacement of such stormwater infrastructure may become more difficult.
- The geographic areas where stormwater can be channeled without triggering regulatory consequences may be more closely circumscribed.
- As is the case with wastewater treatment options, the use of constructed wetlands may become a less attractive alternative.
- The cost of best management practice (BMP) implementation may significantly increase, as more areas would qualify as “waters of the United States” warranting protection.
- The proposed language changes may adversely impact stormwater management activities that are limited to water supply enhancement, such as: stormwater management projects that are being proposed on a watershed scale as a means to increase the availability of water supplies for western municipalities through large surface water harvesting projects; stormwater capture and infiltration through shallow basins to the subsurface for groundwater recharge; and green building projects that capture stormwater from rooftops and parking structures for reuse.

VI. Impacts of climate change.

In the West, municipalities are closely following the science of climate change and proactively developing climate adaptation strategies. If current projections hold true, there may be earlier and potentially more rapid snow melt runoff (the source of much needed water storage); less precipitation in the form of snow and more in the form of rain; more intense, flashy summer storm events; an overall drop in basin-wide precipitation; and an increase in evaporation and evapotranspiration, increasing overall water demands. In response to these predictions, western municipalities may find it necessary to:

- Increase reservoir storage so as to capture snowmelt and rain events when available and create additional “buffering” capacity for dry periods.
- Enhance stormwater management systems to handle extreme rainfall events, including flooding.
- Maximize hydropower generation to off-set infrastructure costs and reduce carbon footprints.
- Increase “underground” storage through recharge systems.
- Expand water collection systems, including pipelines, ditches, canals, etc.
- Take advantage of desalinization technologies for inland brackish and saline water resources and for water produced in association with oil and gas production.
- Capture and manage water from cloud seeding projects.

To the extent these types of responsible and forward looking adaptation measures require either infrastructure or the discharge of water, any expansion of the reach of

“jurisdictional waters” will only complicate, delay, and increase in cost their implementation.

VII. Conclusion

Western municipal interests face daunting challenges in the years ahead as they strive to meet both water supply and wastewater/stormwater treatment obligations. They are partners, along with EPA and the states, in the Clean Water Act regulatory regime and are dedicated to the protection of our most valuable resource – water. However, as we move forward, the language of the Act must be clear, so as to avoid costly litigation and regulatory delays, and flexible, so as to be able to adapt to changing conditions and new hydrologic scenarios. While proceeding with appropriate water resource planning at the state and local level.

In addition, the long recognized deference to state and local control over land use and water development activities, as embodied in Sections 101(b), 101(g) and 510 of the Act, must be honored. Though the goals of H.R. 2421 are laudable, the current language affords neither clarity nor flexibility, and constitutes a federal intrusion on traditional local perogatives. Western municipalities nevertheless stand prepared to work cooperatively with Congress and other stakeholders on solutions to clearly identified problems, so as to insure that the over-arching goals of the Act, as originally envisioned by Congress, are met.

Summary of Testimony of Mark T. Pifher Regarding the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007

I. Introduction

- a. Western municipalities remain strong supporters of the basic tenets of the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007.
- b. The goal is not to undermine efforts to strengthen water quality protection, but to express concerns regarding draft language and encourage Congress to address those concerns.

II. Expansion of Traditional Federal Jurisdiction and Creation of Uncertainty

- a. Court interpretation of the “Findings” section of the bill may create the federal nexus to expand jurisdiction under the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007.
- b. Expansion of federal authority will unduly constrain state and local flexibility and increase the time and cost associated with meeting water supply and wastewater treatment obligations.
- c. Federal authority may impinge upon local land use and water resource planning.

III. Impacts on Western Water Supply Activities

- a. Expansive language could complicate, delay or increase the cost of infrastructure development or prohibit water supply options.
- b. Increased regulatory review of proposed water development projects.

IV. Impacts on Western Municipal Wastewater Discharge Activities

- a. Wastewater discharges in western states are different because there is an absence of dilution at the point of discharge. Discharges are frequently all or the majority of the flow in a stream.
- b. Many treatment systems utilize lagoon technology, which may be included under federal jurisdiction.
- c. Expansion of federal authority will complicate or increase the cost of wastewater related infrastructure at a time when money is in short supply.

V. Impacts on Western Stormwater Control Activities

- a. Municipalities have been leaders in using land use authority and construction of stormwater control facilities. Legislation may make these efforts more difficult.
- b. Regulatory constraints will increase the local burden to achieve stormwater goals.

VI. Impacts of Climate Change

- a. In response to climate change predictions, western municipalities may need to:
 - i. Increase reservoir storage
 - ii. Enhance stormwater management systems
 - iii. Maximize hydropower generation
 - iv. Increase underground storage
 - v. Expand water collection systems

- vi. Expand the use of desalinization
- vii. Use cloud seeding projects
- b. Any expansion of the scope of the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007 may complicate, delay or increase the cost in meeting these goals.

VII. Conclusion

- a. Western municipalities need clear language to avoid costly litigation and regulatory delays.
- b. Regulatory structure must be flexible to allow adaptation to changing conditions.
- c. Language must include deference to local control over land use and water development activities.

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