

APWA *Washington* REPORT

March 2005

INTERGOVERNMENTAL

Public Rights of Way

APWA HOLDS CONGRESSIONAL STAFF BRIEFING ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES

As Congress considers a rewrite of the landmark 1996 Telecommunications Act this year, APWA conducted a Congressional staff briefing in Washington, DC on the issues associated with managing public rights of way. Roger Buell, Rights of Way Manager for the Charlotte, NC Department of Transportation and Chair of APWA's Utilities and Public Rights of Way Committee presented the briefing. Later, Buell met with senior policy officials in the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration and with Congressional staff in the offices of Senators Richard Burr and Elizabeth Dole. The briefing was held March 18, 2005.

Local governments are responsible for managing the construction and usage practices within the rights of way to ensure safe, efficient and effective operation of the infrastructure and access for providers of privately owned services, including telecommunications and cable, Buell explained.

He pointed out that since enactment of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, demand for access to public rights of way has grown as deregulation and new technologies are revolutionizing the way we communicate and deliver information. This poses new challenges and costs to managing the rights of way in the interest of public health, safety and welfare, he continued.

Although the 1996 Act preserved local government authority over management of public rights of way, local authority continues to face challenges, he stated. Buell discussed how local governments are the public trustee of the nation's most valuable public asset, the public rights of way, valued at more than \$7 trillion, and how public rights of way form an essential part of the local infrastructure, providing transportation routes and space for drinking water and sewer pipes, power distribution and communication networks. The briefing was attended by Congressional staff members who work on telecommunications and infrastructure issues.

Buell also highlighted the responsibilities and duties local governments have to manage public rights of way in the public interest, and described the innovative tools, policies and practices which are minimizing disruptions within the rights of way, ensuring its safe and efficient operation and promoting economic growth and better services for citizens.

Rural Infrastructure

APWA TAKES PART IN DC BRIEFING TO OPPOSE CUTS TO RURAL PROGRAMS

APWA and other spokespersons from the National Rural Network, a coalition of more than 50 organizations working together to address the concerns of rural America, released an analysis of the impact of the proposed fiscal year 2006 federal budget on rural programs.

Greg Dore, Road Commissioner, Skowhegan, ME, and member and past chair of APWA's Small Cities/Rural Communities Forum and current member of APWA's Government Affairs Committee, represented APWA at the briefing held in the US Capitol on March 15, 2005.

Titled, *Why Rural Matters: The Rural Impact of the Administration's FY06 Budget Proposal*, the analysis takes an in-

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depth look at how the budget adversely impacts more than 25 funding streams which support public works infrastructure and services, expansion of utilities, economic development programs, health care, education and telecommunications services.

At the briefing, Dore addressed the impact of the proposed elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program on local communities and the impact of cuts to the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund, the Essential Air Service program and US Department of Agriculture's Rural Community Advancement Program.

"While most of our critical infrastructure is underground or quietly operates on the fringes of public awareness, its absence can mean the difference between populations leaving or staying, businesses expanding or stagnating, new enterprises coming or going and most importantly, whether residents have reliable public services now and in the future," Dore said.

Citing as an example how an \$11 million stormwater separation plant being built in Skowhegan, population 9,000, places a much bigger tax burden on Skowhegan residents than on those in a community with a much larger population, Dore added, "simple arithmetic penalizes rural communities for being rural, even though we want and need to maintain and improve our public works." Details of the proposed budget cuts follow:

- The CDBG program provides funding to communities for job creation, expansion of business opportunities, public infrastructure improvements and affordable housing. The program is currently funded at \$4.1 billion, but the current budget proposes eliminating program funding.
- The Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund provides long-term, low interest loans to community wastewater systems for sewage plant construction and upgrades, as well as non-point source pollution control and watershed management. The budget proposes cutting it from \$1.009 billion to \$730 million.
- The Essential Air Services program provides critical funding support to small community airports to maintain air service. The budget proposes cutting it from \$102 million to \$50 million.
- The US Rural Community Advancement Program promotes strategic development activities and collaborative efforts to maximize the impact of federal assistance through consolidating and coordinating funding programs and designing and addressing the varied needs of rural communities. The budget proposes cutting this program from \$716 million to \$522 million.

While in Washington, DC, Dore met with Representative Mike Michaud (D-ME) and with Congressional staff for Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) to discuss the budget cuts' impact on rural communities and also to discuss the impact that the delay in passing a well-funded, multi-year transportation reauthorization bill is having on small and rural communities.

Infrastructure Investment

NEW REPORT CARD GRADES INFRASTRUCTURE AT "D"--DOWN FROM "D+"

APWA joined the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the United States Conference of Mayors in releasing the *2005 Report Card for America's Infrastructure*, which shows that the nation's infrastructure is under-funded and deteriorating. The *2005 Report Card* assigned the nation's infrastructure a grade of "D."

APWA President Tom Trice, Deputy City Manager, Royal Oak, MI and Government Affairs Committee Chair Ben Wolfe, Director of Public Works, Jackson, MS, represented APWA for the release of the 2005 Report Card at a press conference March 9, 2005 IN Washington, DC.

The assessment shows that the condition of the nation's public works infrastructure, including transportation, drinking water and wastewater systems, has declined overall since 2001, when the nation's infrastructure received a grade of "D+." It cites a national infrastructure investment gap which now totals

\$1.6 trillion for needed improvements over the next five years from all levels of government and the private sector.

“We as a nation cannot afford to ignore an infrastructure investment gap that is at the root of our growing traffic

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congestion, our overburdened sewer systems and our aging drinking water infrastructure,” Trice said. “If we hope to remain competitive in the global economy and improve the quality of life in all our communities, we must reinvest in our public works infrastructure.”

The *2005 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure* assesses the same 12 infrastructure categories as its predecessor in 2001: aviation, bridges, dams, drinking water, energy, hazardous waste, navigable waterways, roads, schools, solid waste, transit and wastewater. In addition the assessment added three new categories—public parks and recreation, rail and security.

While there has been some improvement in aviation and schools, ASCE’s analysis indicates that overall conditions have remained the same for bridges, dams and solid waste, and worsened for roads, drinking water, transit, wastewater, hazardous waste, navigable waterways and energy.

For more information about the 2005 Report Card, including grades assigned to the infrastructure categories and state infrastructure statistics, visit <http://www.asce.org/reportcard/2005/index.cfm>

Town Hall Meetings

ASCE-APWA MEETINGS FOCUS ON INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

APWA and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) cosponsored three infrastructure town hall meetings earlier this year, bringing together local leaders, public works officials and civil engineers to discuss their observations and concerns regarding national and local infrastructure conditions. The meetings were conducted in preparation for the release of the latest version of ASCE’s Report Card for America’s Infrastructure in March.

Held in Orlando, Phoenix and St. Louis, the town hall meetings helped raise public awareness about the importance of public works infrastructure and the widening investment gap that is leading to deteriorating conditions and threatening economic growth and a better quality of life. The meetings focused attention on the need for Congress to pass a number of infrastructure bills that have stalled in recent years, including legislation to reauthorize transportation and water infrastructure programs.

The town hall meetings featured APWA and ASCE members as presenters. The Orlando meeting on January 24 included panelists Alan Oyler, Interim Director of Public Works, City of Orlando, Robert Cadle, Division Manager, Orlando Wastewater Administration and Kevin Thibault, Assistant Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation.

The second town hall meeting took place in Phoenix February 17 and included panelists Michael Ellegood, Chief Engineer, Maricopa County Department of Transportation and Wylie K. Bearup, City Engineer, City of Phoenix.

The third town hall meeting on February 24 in St. Louis featured panelists Garry Earls, Director of Public Works, St. Louis County, Jeffrey Theerman, Executive Director, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and David Visintainer, Director, Public Utilities, City of St. Louis.

TRANSPORTATION

TEA-21 Reauthorization

HOUSE PASSES \$284 BILLION BILL; ATTENTION TURNS TO SENATE

TEA-21 reauthorization measures are completed on the House side and partially done in the Senate.

Details follow:

In the House--The House of Representatives March 10 overwhelmingly passed a \$284 billion, six-year highway and transit reauthorization bill, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (TEA-LU), by a vote of 417-9. The bill is similar to the one the House passed last year, but provides an additional \$4.5 billion for authorizations covering 2004-2009.

The bill does not raise current state minimum return of 90.5 percent on revenues paid into the Highway Trust Fund. That is expected to be increased when the bill is negotiated in a House-Senate Conference Committee later this year. Donor states have been pressing for a 95 percent minimum return. However, the bill includes a 're-opener' provision cutting off highway funding from Oct 1, 2005 through August 1, 2006 unless Congress provides sufficient funds for each state to gradually reach a minimum 95 percent return by 2009.

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The 're-opener' has drawn a veto threat from the President.

The bill includes \$11 billion for more than 3,600 high priority project earmarks. The House approved an amendment requiring that the projects be counted in the state formula allocation, meaning that about 93 percent the bill's funding would be drawn from formula funds, which is current law.

Overall, the bill authorizes \$225.5 billion for federal highway programs, \$52.3 billion for federal transit programs and \$6.1 billion for safety programs. Total funding includes \$86 billion already committed for 2004 and 2005.

The House voted to eliminate language in the bill which would have required those states which charge tolls on high occupancy vehicle lanes to eliminate or reduce the cost for low-income drivers. It also approved an amendment expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Transportation should provide additional incentives to encourage the purchase and use of hybrid and other fuel-efficient vehicles. By voice vote, lawmakers approved an amendment to prohibit the sale of traffic signal pre-emption devices by a non-government approved user. The House defeated an amendment to increase total funding to \$318 billion.

In the Senate--One week after the House passed its bill, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved the highway title to the Senate's Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA), on March 16 by a vote of 17-1. Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) voted against the bill. Like its House counterpart, the Senate bill will total \$284 billion, once the transit and safety titles, which are each under the jurisdiction of different committees, are added to the bill.

The measure, which has not yet been numbered, provides \$191.9 billion in guaranteed funding for highway and bridge programs for five years, 2005-2009. It is similar to the bill the Senate passed last year, but rather than guaranteeing each state a minimum 95 percent return on revenues paid the Highway Trust Fund, the bill's Equity Bonus program guarantees donor states a 92 percent rate of return by 2009.

Several amendments were in a manager's package and voted en bloc including provisions to expand the Transportation Systems Management and Operations program to all surface modes.

Several Senate Environment and Public Works Committee leaders indicated that the funding level in the Senate bill is too low and that they will seek to increase funding later in the process. The Administration has issued veto warnings against a bill that exceeds \$284 billion.

The Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee approved a \$51.6 billion transit title on March 17, 2005, by a numinous voice vote. The funds would run from FY 2004 through 2009. The transit legislation will be combined with the Environment and Public Works highway funds making a total of \$283.9 billion.

SAFETEA is expected to reach the Senate floor possibly the third week in April. The Senate Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over safety programs, and the Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the measure's tax provisions, will not mark up their portions of the bill until after the two week recess to begin March 21.

Federal transportation programs are currently operating under a sixth temporary extension due to expire May 31, 2005. Congress must pass and the President must sign a bill into law before that date to avoid the need for a seventh extension of TEA-21, which expired on September 30, 2003.

APWA is urging Congress to act quickly to pass an adequately funded, multi-year authorization which secures an enhanced role for local decision-making and places needed emphasis on flexibility, intermodal goals and on addressing local and regional needs.

Technology and Research

USDOT LAUNCHES NEW TECHNOLOGY AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS ADMINISTRATIONS

Two new agencies in the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) began operations in February 2005. One agency focuses on innovation and research and the other on pipeline and hazardous materials safety. The new agencies were *APWA Washington Report, March 2005*

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created to help USDOT more effectively execute its mission of developing and applying innovative technologies.

The Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) were authorized on Nov. 30, 2004 when President Bush signed the Norman Y. Mineta Research and Special Programs Improvement Act.

RITA will be dedicated to the advancement of the department's priorities for innovation and research in transportation technologies and concepts. PHMSA will oversee the safety of shipments of hazardous materials in the United States and the safety of nation's energy that is transported by pipelines.

RITA will be composed of staff from RSPA's Office of Innovation, Research and Education, and include the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center in Cambridge, MA and the Transportation Safety Institute in Oklahoma City. RITA also will house the Office of Intermodalism and the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. Staff from the former Research and Special Programs Administration's (RSPA) Office of Hazardous Materials Safety and Office of Pipeline Safety will form PHMSA.

APWA filed comments in February in response to USDOT's request for input on RITA's research priorities. The comments included responses from APWA members to questions DOT published in the Federal Register.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/DISASTER MITIGATION

Homeland Security State Funding

SENATOR COLLINS INTRODUCES COMPROMISE BILL

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Susan Collins (R-ME) has introduced legislation, S 21, to provide more homeland security funding for larger states. Debate in Washington has centered around the funding formula because some smaller states receive more money per capita than larger states. A funding formula based on risk was one of the recommendations of the September 11 Commission report. The Collins bill seeks to treat states more equitably than last year's House bill introduced by Chris Cox (R-CA), Chair of the House Homeland Security Committee.

Collins' bill is an attempt at compromise between the contentious Cox bill and the needs of smaller states and advocates of all hazards. Under her bill, all states would still get minimum amounts of funding, but that amount would be reduced from the 75 percent of available funds in the bill as currently written, to 5

percent in the substitute amendment. The Bush administration has proposed 25 percent for each state. The rest would be divided by threat and urban area.

Stafford Act

BILL TO AMEND PRICKLY ISSUES IN INTRODUCED

Representative Alcee Hastings (R-FL) and seven cosponsors introduced H.R. 1137 to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to resolve numerous issues that surfaced after the recent rash of hurricanes.

The amendment allows state and local governments to apply for reimbursement for debris removal in “gated” or private communities, establishes a personnel reserve of professionals that can be called upon in the event of an emergency, and installs a FEMA coordinating officer for the length of the disaster.

FEMA Fraud

FOURTEEN INDICTED FOR FALSE CLAIMS

Fourteen defendants in Miami-Dade County have been indicted on charges of defrauding FEMA with more than \$150,000 in false damage claims. The DHS Office of Inspector General is currently investigating the events and is expected to issue a report this spring. Defendants claimed non-existent damages from hurricane Frances.

Interoperability

NGA SURVEY FINDS PROGRESS ON HOMELAND SECURITY PRIORITIES LACKING

The National Governor’s Association (NGA) polled 38 of 55 state and territorial homeland security advisors last fall to determine progress on homeland security priorities and found that interoperability; more effective information sharing; and identifying risks to and protection of critical infrastructure are the top three unfulfilled priorities.

For more information, the report is available at: www.nga.org/cda/files/0502HOMESEC.pdf

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Threat Response

RAND RELEASES “LESSONS FROM ANTHRAX ATTACKS”

Based on the 2001 anthrax attacks in Washington, D.C., the RAND Corporation has released a report detailing some of the lessons learned about how to communicate more effectively during such emergencies. Audiences affected by the threat, including Senate and Postal workers had various complaints about how and when messages about the anthrax threat were communicated to them. More info is at: www.rand.org

Hazardous Materials

HAZMAT INFORMATION AND REGULATION SOUGHT

Federal and local leaders have renewed their calls for more information and regulation of hazardous materials being transported through high density urban areas. Following the freight train collision in January 2005 that leaked chlorine gas, killed 9 people and sent 240 to the hospital, Representative Ed Markey (D-MA) said he plans to reintroduce a bill that would require DHS to set special rules for the transport of extremely hazardous shipments, including notification of law enforcement authorities.

A bipartisan group of mayors also wrote DHS and DOT requesting notification of hazardous rail shipments through their local jurisdictions. In response to the danger, D.C. City Council approved emergency legislation in early February that bans train and truck shipments of hazardous materials within 2.2 miles of the U.S. Capitol.

Water Utilities Security

SIGNIFICANT RISKS IDENTIFIED IN STUDY OF OPERATING TECHNOLOGY

According to the EPA’s Office of Inspector General (OIG), a study of the Supervisory Control Data and Acquisition (SCADA) technology used to operate water utilities found that many of the networks were developed without much regard to security, thus posing a possible threat.

The report mentions operator errors and corruption, unsecured electronic communications, hardware and software limitations, physical security weaknesses, natural disaster weaknesses among several others. The report found several reasons why utilities have not successfully reduced or mitigated identified vulnerabilities, including lack of funds for the investment, technological limitations, inability to conduct background checks on employees, inability to perform SCADA penetration testing, and breakdown of communication between technical engineers and management.

The OIG recommended that EPA identify impediments preventing water systems from addressing the vulnerabilities and take steps to reduce those impediments. The full report is available at www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2005/20050106-2005-P-0002.pdf

Stadium Events

DHS UNVEILS ONLINE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

DHS's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) Directorate has developed a Vulnerability Self-Assessment Tool (VSAT) for U.S. stadiums that hold more than 30,000 people. For more information, go to www.dhs.gov

Information Sharing

GAO FINDS "FORMIDABLE CHALLENGES" IN NEW HIGH RISK AREA

Since 1990, the Government Accounting Office has reported on government operations that it identifies as "high risk" meaning that the program/department is particularly vulnerable to fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement.

This year GAO identified information sharing as new high-risk area, particularly "establishing appropriate and effective information-sharing mechanisms to improve homeland security."

The report finds that the federal government has "formidable challenges" to sharing information appropriately and in a timely manner. Go to: www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-207 for details.

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Floodplain Studies

CASE STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT DONE

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) in conjunction with the American Public Works Association (APWA) developed for the American Lifelines Alliance (ALA) a series of case studies that document decision-making processes pertaining to flood-preparedness, planning, and post-flood repair/upgrade for local road systems.

The case studies address the system's economic, administrative, and legal operating environment; provide an overview of decision-making processes and offer site-specific examination of decisions plus local and case study team observations of the process. ASFPM and APWA also have made a series of recommendations about the implications of these experiences for future acceptable-risk assessments and decision-making.

ENVIRONMENT

Sewer Security

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES VULNERABLE A NEW GAO REPORT SAYS

Sewer lines are the most vulnerable component of a wastewater treatment facility according to a new report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released March 2, 2005.

The report, *Wastewater Facilities: Experts' Views on How Federal Funds Should Be Spent to Improve Security*, documents concerns that sewers could be used to gain access to surrounding buildings or to inject

hazardous substances that could harm a plant. Other vulnerabilities cited include: storage and treatment of chemicals used in the wastewater treatment process and the automated systems that control vital operations.

Congress has provided very little in the way of funding to increase security measures at wastewater treatment plants. The report encourages funding to be provided to wastewater utilities that serve critical infrastructure, such as public health institutions and governments, commercial, and industrial centers. The report also suggests funding be provided to facilities using large quantities of gaseous chemicals and utilities serving areas with large populations. GAO suggests direct federal grants as the most effective way to distribute the funds.

The report is available online: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d05165high.pdf>

Air Pollution

EPA ISSUES EMISSIONS TRADING RULE TO REDUCE MERCURY FROM POWER PLANTS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule to reduce mercury from coal-fired power plants through emissions trading. The rule anticipates achieving up to 69 percent mercury reduction over the next 13 years. Issued March 15, 2005, the rule will set up an interim emissions cap on mercury emissions equivalent to approximately a 22 percent reduction by 2010.

The electric power industry supports the concept of emissions-trading but environmental groups argue that the Clean Air Act does not permit cap-and-trade to reduce mercury. It is thought that states are likely to reject the rule and develop their own more stringent rules. This will likely cause a “patchwork of rules” that a national plan is designed to prevent.

Electronics Recycling

THREE BILLS INTRODUCED TO ENCOURAGE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Jim Talent (R-MO) introduced legislation that would give industries and consumers tax incentives to safely dispose of old or outdated personal electronics.

The Electronic Waste Recycling and Promotion and Consumer Protection Act, S. 510 was introduced March 3, 2005 and would provide incentives to create the first nationwide electronic waste infrastructure, making it more convenient and cost-effective for consumers to recycle computers, computer monitors, laptop computers and televisions.

The legislation would establish:

- an \$8 per unit tax credit for companies that recycle at least 5000 display screens or computer system units each year;
- a \$15 tax credit for consumers who recycle old computers and TVs, provided they use qualified recyclers;

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- a prohibition on the sale of electronic equipment that contains a display screen greater than four inches;
- a prohibition on putting any computer system unit in a municipal solid waste landfill beginning three years after the bill is passed;
- modifications of EPA’s Universal Waste Rule to classify display screens and system units as universal wastes, allowing for easier recycling, processing and transporting;
- requirements for federal executive agencies to ensure that every display screen or system unit used by the government, is recovered and recycled;

It also would direct the EPA Administrator to conduct a study and recommend to Congress the feasibility of establishing a nationwide recycling program.

Representatives. Mike Thompson (D-CA) and Louise Slaughter (D-NY) January 26, 2005 introduced H.R. 425, the National Computer Recycling Act, legislation that directs the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop and implement a national electronic waste recycling program.

The legislation would direct the EPA to develop a grant program to encourage municipalities, individuals and organizations to start e-waste recycling programs; require a comprehensive e-waste study to be conducted by the EPA which would make ongoing recommendations for addressing the problem; directs the EPA to assess a fee of up to \$10 on new computers in order to fund the grant program and exempt manufacturers and retailers that have existing recycling programs from the fee.

Representative Randy Cunningham (R-CA) in January introduced H.R. 320, the Tax Incentives to Encourage Recycling Act. This bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide incentives to encourage manufacturers of computer, cell phone, and television equipment to operate an environmentally sound recycling program for use by consumers who want to discard the equipment.

Cunningham's office has documented that more than 3000 tons of electronics are discarded every day in America, and 50 million obsolete computers are discarded into community landfills every year. Computers contain lead, cadmium, and chromium that can expose humans and water systems to high levels of carcinogens.

Drinking Water

EPA TO STRENGTHEN THE LEAD-COPPER RULE

Reacting to revelations in January 2004 that drinking water in the District of Columbia had lead levels exceeding the national standard of 15 parts per billion, EPA began a review of the 1991 Lead and Copper rule. The existing rule was issued in 1991 under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

EPA has reviewed the law for over a year and will make at least nine targeted revisions including: strengthening monitoring; requiring water utilities to provide complete information to states and customers; increasing public awareness and education; and clarifying actions water systems must take if high levels of lead are found. EPA hopes to propose the revised rulemaking by the end of 2005 or early in 2006. The review determined that the lead problem is not widespread throughout the United States.

The existing rule requires drinking water utilities to reduce lead contamination by controlling the corrosiveness of the water and, if needed, to replace the lead service lines that carry water from the main lines to customers.

Stormwater

STORMWATER TRAINING SESSIONS

EPA has announced its training schedule for 2005 for state and local stormwater program managers.

Getting in Step with Phase II: A Workshop for Stormwater Program Managers will be held in:

Lexington, Virginia - April 11, 2005

Memphis, Tennessee - May 17 & 18, 2005

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - June 15, 2005

Indianapolis, Indiana - August 3 & 4, 2005

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Workshops will address the six minimum control measures called for by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program Phase II requirements. Go to: www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater and click training.

Water Quality Grants

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR WATER, WASTEWATER, AND STORMWATER PROJECTS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting proposals, due April 22, 2005, for projects to be funded by the Water Quality Cooperative Agreement allocation. These projects advance the

state of knowledge, gather information, or transfer information. Research projects may include the application of established practices when they contribute to learning about an environmental concept or problem. For more information, go to: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=877>

Recycling

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING FUNDING AVAILABLE IN SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

EPA Region 4 (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN) is soliciting proposals for cooperative assistance agreements that address the Resource Conservation Challenge National Priorities. Pre-proposals are due by April 15, 2005. For more information, go to: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=881>

Brownfields

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Nominations for the Phoenix Awards to honor individuals and groups who are working to solve the critical environmental challenge of transforming abandoned industrial areas into productive new uses are being sought. Criteria for the awards focus on the magnitude of the project, innovative techniques, solutions to regulatory issues, and community impact. Deadline is June 30, 2005. Go to: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=884> for details.

Water Quality

NATIONAL WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT DATABASE POSTED ON EPA'S WEB SITE

The EPA Office of Water has released the first-ever interactive database of state water quality assessment data, which provides the public with easy Web access to water quality information at the state and local levels. This initial Web release of the 2002 National Water Quality Database summarizes electronic data for 32 States. Remaining states should be added to the database by March 31, 2005. Go to: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=880> for details.

Coastal Issues

NEW REPORT PROJECTS POPULATION TRENDS ALONG COASTAL UNITED STATES

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has released a new report, "Population Trends Along the Coastal United States: 1980-2008," which presents an overview of coastal population trends from 1980 to 2003 and projected change in coastal population by 2008. The report provides coastal resource managers and stakeholders with information to enhance coastal management decision making. For more information, go to the following URL: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=882>

Land Use

LGEAN OFFERS ONLINE LAND USE DECISIONMAKING TOOL

Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN) has launched an online tool to help local government planners measure the water quality impacts of land use changes. Based on community-specific climate data, the online tool estimates changes in recharge, runoff, and nonpoint source pollution resulting from proposed development. For more details go to: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=592>

State Advocacy

RECYCLING INITIATIVES

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed elimination of more than 90 Boards and Commissions including the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). The CIWMB was established in 1989, by Assembly Bill 939, which set the state's landmark 50 percent waste reduction and recycling goal. The Board has responsibility for the implementation, oversight and enforcement of dozens of waste reduction and recycling policies. It receives no general fund monies. Activities are funded by fees on waste haulers for solid waste disposed in the state.

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