

Water Sector Statement on Climate Change and Water Resources May 20, 2008

The hydrologic cycle is expected to be increasingly affected by climate change: more intense storms; more intense and prolonged droughts; altered water quality conditions; greater flood potential. Accordingly, water, wastewater and stormwater utilities, including those in the COG region, are increasingly concerned. Recently eight water resources umbrella groups issued a "Water Sector Statement on Climate Change and Water Resources."

Contributing Organizations:

- Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies* (AMWA)
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies* (NACWA)
- Water Environment Federation (WEF)
- American Water Works Association (AWWA)
- Water Utility Climate Alliance
- National Association of Water Companies
- National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Associations
- Western Urban Water Coalition

Key Points

- "... ensure that water resources are a central element of any federal legislation that establishes a framework for a comprehensive national response to climate change."
- "...there is already strong evidence that climate change is having an impact on the world's water resources."
- The coalition calls on Congress to:
 1. "Establish a comprehensive, coordinated and federally sponsored applied research program..."
 2. "Increase federal and other financial support, including utilization of greenhouse gas emission auction revenues, to assist drinking water, stormwater, flood management, and wastewater utilities to adapt to climate change and address environmental and public health risks..."
 3. "Provide federal support and incentives to enable utilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions when feasible."

Water Environment Federation (WEF) Update on Climate Legislation June 17, 2008

- On June 4, 2008, Congressman Ed Markey (D-MA) introduced H.R. 6186, "Investing in Climate Action and Protection Act (iCAP)"
- Establishes a cap & trade system and other measures to reduce emissions of GHGs
- The goal: reduce global warming pollution by 85% by 2050
- To be covered under C&T: power plants; large industrial facilities; entities that produce or import petroleum- or coal-based liquid or gaseous fuels; entities that produce or import various GHGs such as hydrofluorocarbons; natural gas local distribution companies; and geological carbon sequestration sites.
- Other entities, including wastewater treatment plants, subject to mandatory performance standards.
- C&T auctions to take place between 2012 and 2020.
- At least ½ of the auction proceeds (estimated at \$4.3 trillion) are to provide tax relief.
- The remainder is to fund a series of programs such as promotion of low carbon technology and creation of a National Climate Change Adaptation Program.
- Other CC legislation is anticipated in the next Congress. The perspective of water resources agencies will be important.

* The following utilities in the COG region are members of NACWA or AMWA or both: Alexandria Sanitation Authority; Arlington County; DC-WASA; Fairfax County; Fairfax Water; Loudoun Water; Prince William county Service Authority; WSSC.