

A Clean Water Caucus Briefing: Building Water Resiliency—From Wet Weather to Drought

Resilient infrastructure that protects public health and environmental quality can help ensure critical wastewater treatment operations continue during periods of extreme weather. Investments to improve resiliency also save money. In fact, studies suggest that for every dollar invested in building community resiliency through pre-disaster mitigation, Americans could save \$3-\$4 in natural disaster recovery costs.

Recent Midwestern flooding over the 2015 holiday inundated and closed multiple wastewater treatment plants along the Mississippi River, providing an unfortunate reminder of the challenges wastewater treatment systems face during wet weather events. In addition to needing to manage dramatic increases in flow during wet weather events, treatment plants are often located by design in the lowest-lying points of their communities, increasing their susceptibility to inundation. The threat of inundation is shared by wastewater utilities in many coastal areas. The Clean Water Caucus briefing will include perspectives and experiences from utilities as diverse as St. Louis and Miami-Dade County.

At the opposite extreme, water shortages and severe drought in the West are spurring increased attention toward recycling and reusing wastewater as a cost-effective, environmentally-sound means to replenish water supplies. Water reuse is particularly relevant in regions facing severe drought and/or groundwater depletion, yet is starting to attract attention from communities around the U.S. as a means to help address local water challenges. The briefing will include industry leaders working in this sector.

Efforts to address resiliency in the face of extreme weather events are a key part of how the nation's wastewater and stormwater management utilities are transforming into *Utilities of the Future*. The briefing will explain transformations underway in communities around the U.S. toward building water resilient communities.

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: 2253 Rayburn House Office Building

Format:

I. Introductory remarks by Clean Water Caucus Co-Chairs Rep. Duncan and Rep. Lipinski

II. Panel presentation

- Brian Hoelscher, Executive Director, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
- Bertha Goldenberg, P.E., Assistant Director, Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department
- Carly Foster, CFM, AICP, Senior Planner, ARCADIS
- Dr. Howard Botts, Chief Scientist, CoreLogic Insurance and Spatial Solutions

Facilitator: Adel Hagekhalil, Assistant Director, City of Los Angeles – LA Sanitation
Chair, National Infrastructure Advisory Council's Study Group on Water Resiliency
President, National Association of Clean Water Agencies

III. Post-presentation opportunity for attendee interaction with presenters and additional invited utilities or industry representatives.