



December 2025 Monthly Update

Appropriations Developments and January Funding Deadline

Members of Congress have left DC for the holidays without passing any of the nine remaining appropriations bills for fiscal year 2026. Among these nine measures is the Interior-Environment bill, which provides funding for EPA water infrastructure programs. Upon their return in the first week of January, lawmakers will be up against the clock to negotiate and pass these bills ahead of the January 30 funding deadline to avoid another government shutdown.

Before breaking for the holidays, Senate Appropriators indicated that they were close to moving a five-bill minibus package that included the EPA funding measure. They ultimately balked on releasing the bill and holding votes before the end of the year, but we can expect that negotiations will pick up immediately in early January.

Current and CWCC are continuing to advocate for increased funding levels to our core programs. In mid-December, we re-shared CWCC's FY26 appropriations letter with all appropriations committee members. We are also coordinating directly with appropriations committee staff to urge that the 24% funding cuts proposed in the House's bill from this summer are not included in final legislation. We are also working between the lines to thwart a late-breaking effort from Senate appropriators to divert 8% of lead service line replacement funds for other purposes.

We will continue to keep the coalition apprised of developments related to the FY26 bills, as well as any updates on the potential for a full-year continuing resolution (CR) or another government shutdown.



Release of FY25 Lead Service Line Replacement Funding

In late November, [EPA announced the release of the long-delayed FY25 Lead Service Line Replacement \(LSLR\) funding](#), totaling \$3 billion nationally. This funding was on hold earlier in the year as EPA finalized its updated state allotment formulas and addressed implementation questions related to prior-year funding.

In addition to releasing the FY25 funds, EPA also announced that it would be reallocating past years' funding that went unobligated in certain states. More specific information about how this reallocation will be carried out will be available in the coming months, and Current will provide an update on which states will see increased funding for this purpose as we learn more.

Status of EPA Water Program Renewal Efforts

Congressional activity continues around legislation to renew EPA water infrastructure programs that are set to expire after FY26. The programs covered under this legislation will include the State Revolving Funds (SRFs), WIFIA, and several other small grant programs that support drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater investments. This will be the first bill to set authorized funding levels for these programs since the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021.

Three congressional committees have jurisdiction over this legislation – the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (wastewater/stormwater), House Energy and Commerce Committee (drinking water), and Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (all water issues). Current is regularly engaging with these committees and their member offices to gather the latest information on the development of this bill.

CWCC recently finalized and circulated a letter outlining priorities for EPA water program renewals. The letter is attached alongside this update, and we encourage all coalition members to share it with their own state congressional delegation offices now or in January.

CWCC is also participating in broader coalition efforts with national water sector organizations, including endorsing a sign-on letter to congressional committees urging them to increase authorized funding levels for water programs. This same coalition also held a December 10 congressional staff briefing that Current and CWCC helped to plan.



Federal PFAS Activity and Defense Authorization Developments

While no major EPA drinking water regulations were finalized in December, federal activity related to PFAS contamination continues to evolve.

Earlier this year, EPA announced that it will be maintaining maximum contaminant levels for PFOA and PFOS, while reconsidering compliance timelines for these contaminants, and rescinding regulations for four additional PFAS compounds. A rulemaking to formalize these changes will be proposed and opened for public comment in the early months of 2026.

On Thursday, December 18, the [House Energy and Commerce Committee held a hearing](#) on the impacts of EPA designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). The hearing's panel of witnesses included representatives from water utility associations and related organizations. In the hearing, Republican members generally advocated for a CERCLA exemption for "passive receivers" of PFAS contamination such as water utilities, while Democrats pushed back and opposed opening up CERCLA to industry-specific exemptions.

On Wednesday, December 17, Congress also passed a bipartisan compromise version of the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). While primarily focused on defense policy, the bill includes provisions related to PFAS contamination associated with military installations. These provisions expand testing and reporting requirements and include limited measures related to providing alternative drinking water supplies for affected households. While not a direct source of infrastructure funding, these provisions reflect continued federal attention to PFAS-related drinking water challenges.

Water Week 2026

Planning continues for CWCC participation during Water Week 2026, scheduled for the week of April 13, 2026.

A flyer to save the date and provide key information on broader Water Week activities on Tuesday, April 14, as well as CWCC-focused programming and Hill meetings on Wednesday, April 15, and Thursday, April 16, was shared in November and is attached alongside this update.



As a reminder, we are asking that coalition members share whether they are planning to attend, as well as what their tentative headcount will be, by **Friday, January 9**. Email Kyle England at kyle@utcanj.org to share this information.

With a firmer headcount in place, CWCC and Current will finalize additional details such as our meeting location, logistics for scheduling and preparing for Hill meetings, a guest speaker/presentation program, social events, and more.