

Campaign to Fix EPA Funding: The legislation to mandate that EPA follow Congressional intent has been passed by the Senate ([S. 611](#)). The challenge now for NRWA is to press for the bill ([H.R. 2853](#)) to pass the House. For this to occur the House Energy and Commerce Committee must advance the bill to the House Floor (this is typically accomplished by having the committee pass the bill). NRWA is urging the committee to take quick action on the bill, and not attach any additional provisions to the bill, to allow an enacted bill to be operative in this fiscal year.

NRWA and Food & Water Watch Stand Up for the SRFs: Last week, the Senate started debate on the a comprehensive transportation reauthorization bill ([more](#)). The Senate version of the bill includes a provision to remove the ban on use of tax-exempt financing under the Water Finance Infrastructure and Innovation Act (WIFIA). The House version of the bill does not include the removal of the ban. Last week, NRWA and Food & Water Watch urged the Senate to use the additional funding (tax-breaks) needed to pay the cost of removing the ban by used for the SRFs or USDA's water initiative (NRWA [statement](#) and Food & Water Watch [statement](#)). In countering NRWA's statement, WIFIA supporters state, "*WIFIA is for projects that fall outside the scope of the SRFs because of their size and cost...*" However, the Safe Drinking Water Act does not limit eligibility for SRF funding based on size or cost (e.g. New York City is budgeted to receive funding for 25 DWSRF projects this year, five project costs are over \$100 million and one project cost is over \$1 billion ([cite](#)). Moreover, large communities receive the majority of SRF funds.

ISIS Using Chlorine Gas from Water Utility: "ISIS likely took chlorine from water purification plants in areas it overran. In related attacks, about 40 troops and Shia armed fighters were slightly affected by the chlorine, showing symptoms consistent with chlorine poisoning, such as difficulty in breathing and coughing," ([Aljazeera News](#)).

EPA Region 10 Chief Calls for Conservation Partnerships: Appearing at the National Association of Conservation Districts summer meeting, EPA Region 10 Administrator Dennis McLerran said, "*We sometimes take a bad rap at EPA - sometimes we deserve that, oftentimes it's a lot of rhetoric. Sometimes we use the hammer to bring people to the table, but we can use a 'velvet hammer' in some instances. The key to this is for people to actually work with their local NRCS program, their local conservation district and have practices that don't get them to that place in the first place.*"

Iowa Chlorine Leak Prompts Evacuation: A chlorine leak at Clear Lake's Water Treatment Plant prompted an evacuation of surrounding homes and HAZMAT crews ([more](#)).

Amid Epic drought, California Farmers Turn to Water Witches ([more](#)).

Training: RCAP and AWWA no cost training in [Ohio](#), [Indiana](#), [Utah](#), [Washington](#), [Florida](#), [Minnesota](#), Louisiana, and [South Dakota](#). EFCN and AWWA Host "Setting Water Rates using a Complimentary Excel-based Model" Webinar ([more](#)).

AWWA's Community Engineering Corps (CE Corps) Helps Small, Underserved Towns: "Everybody has heard of Doctors Without Borders and lawyers who do pro bono work – but volunteer engineers? In February 2014, the Community Engineering Corps (CE Corps) was created to help communities throughout the United States that are too poor or small to hire help. It is a partnership of the American Water Works Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and Engineers Without Borders—USA (EWB-USA). In the CE Corps' first year, 25 communities submitted applications for assistance. A team of engineers reviews each application to determine the nature of the project and whether the community truly can't afford engineering services. So far, 20 of the project applications have been approved and are in various stages of development ([ASDWA](#)).

EPA Webinar on Corrosion Control for Drinking Water Systems ([July 28](#)).

National Rural Water Association

Contact: Mike Keegan, Policy Analyst <keegan@ruralwater.org>
(Washington, DC)