

Congress Recesses: Congress has adjourned for a five week summer recess. The Appropriations Committee will use the summer recess to being the groundwork for a stopgap Continuing Resolution (CR) and potential omnibus. Some sort of CR will be needed before October 1 to keep the government open.

Senate Passes Bill to Advance WIFIA, House Action Expected in the Fall: The Senate included a provision in their recently passed transportation bill to eliminate the current prohibition on the use of tax-exempt municipal bonds in combination with funds under the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA). Under the current law, WIFIA loans are limited to covering a maximum of 49 percent of a project's total anticipated cost, and tax-exempt financing (such as municipal bonds) may not be used to pay for the remaining 51 percent. The House is expected to take up their version of a transportation bill in the fall.

Primacy Agencies and WIFIA: Utah Rural Water has shared the rural water effort ([Senate statement](#)) to question the WIFIA modification with their friends at the Utah primacy agency. NRWA is very interested in any comments from state primacy agencies on this issue.

Creative Solutions from California Rural Water to Deal with Drought: CRWA member, [Herlong Public Utility District](#) is exploiting USDA [Rural Development Rural Home Repair](#) loans and grants to connect homeowners to their new sewer system that is under construction.

Denver Water Debates Fluoridation ([more](#)).

Legionnaires' Disease Outbreak in New York City: Four fatalities from 65 cases. Five cooling towers in the South Bronx have been found to be contaminated with legionella bacteria, which can sicken people when water droplets are released into the air from the towers. Some Bronx residents, fearful that their tap water was contaminated, have taken to drinking bottled water ([NYTimes](#)).

House Passes REINs Act: The Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act passed the House last week. The bill calls for House and Senate approval of any new major rule before it takes effect as a deterrent for costly regulations that stymie economic growth. A Senate companion bill, S. 226, has been introduced.

Contamination Results in New Water System in Wisconsin: State officials are proposing a new municipal water system for the village of

Unity as a solution to widespread groundwater contamination discovered last year. The cost of the community well is estimated at \$1.5 million. EPA's emergency response superfund will likely cover 100 percent of the cost of the project ([more](#)).

Naegleria Fowleri Detected in Louisiana Drinking Water: State officials have confirmed the presence of a brain-eating amoeba at a water station in Ascension Parish which serves 1,800 residents in a small community. Officials have ordered a 60-day chlorine burn to eliminated any remaining threat ([more](#)).

National Rural Water Association

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