**NRWA Stands up for the SRF Update**: Proponents of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) are urging Congress to repeal the ban on the use of WIFIA loans and tax-exempt debt as part of the temporary extension of the highway trust fund that is likely to pass Congress in the coming weeks ([more](http://www.landlinemag.com/Story.aspx?StoryID=29429#.VawoCvlVikp)).  The House of Representatives approved a temporary extension of the current transportation program on July 15.  The House-passed legislation did not include the repeal of the WIFIA ban on tax-exempt financing.  Senate leaders have not announced whether they will attempt to pass a similar temporary extension or a multi-year transportation bill.  Senate action is expected this week.  NRWA will be urging Senators on the Finance Committee, who would have to approve the repeal of the ban, to consider that WIFIA allows federal water infrastructure subsides to circumvent eligibility of their states’ most needy communities, and that the funds (i.e. the cost of removing the ban) for WIFIA could be better spent for water infrastructure by allowing for the interest on a U.S. Department of Agriculture guaranteed water infrastructure loan to be tax-exempt. This would ensure that the new federal subsidies (or tax breaks) are directed to the community water projects that are in the greatest need and most limited in financial resources.

**Appropriations Update**: Most all Congressional appropriations bills have passed the House and Senate appropriations committees.  However, final passage of these appropriations bills appears to be contentious and a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to extend the fiscal year and keep the government open is a near certainty.  Senate Democrats are threatening to filibuster appropriations bills on the Floor in order to force Republicans into budget talks designed to increase federal spending.  The House has been stalled in moving bills to Floor over controversial votes that caused the House leadership to pull some appropriations bills from consideration.  Assuming a short-term CR passes, Congress will likely try to assemble an omnibus appropriations package.  But the path to an omnibus may be equally troubled as Democrats may object to the current binding overall federal spending levels that include the threat of sequestration. The White House has threatened to veto any spending bill that would hold to the sequester.  If Congress cannot find a path to pass an omnibus package, a scenario for a yearlong CR could evolve.

**New Study Finds Contaminants in California Public Water Supplies** ([more](http://www.fresnobee.com/news/article27332311.html)).

**Water Privatization Trends**: Global trend – around 180 cities in 35 countries have returned control to municipalities in the past 15 years, including Jakarta ([more](http://theconversation.com/what-next-after-jakarta-ends-water-privatisation-40157)).

**Wisconsin DNR Says Drinking Water Supply Remained Safe and Affordable in 2014**:  WI Rural Water says the good news about the state’s drinking supply is "thanks to shared efforts by local water suppliers, the state, and professional associations."  Public water systems continued their strong performance during the year, with 95.5 percent or 10,904 of 11,420 systems meeting all health-based standards, a level virtually unchanged from the prior year.  "Wisconsin's public water systems serve their communities well, providing citizens with a safe, reliable and affordable supply of drinking water," said Jill Jonas, director of DNR's Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater ([more](http://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/?id=491#art1)).

**DHS Webinar on California’s Adaptation Strategies and Challenges for Addressing Changing Precipitation Patterns and Drought on July 24, 2015** ([Register](https://www.govevents.com/login.php?return_url=%2Fdetails%2F16905%2Fwebinar-on-californias-adaptation-strategies-and-challenges-for-addressing-changing-precipitation-patterns-and-drought%2F)).

**Five in Custody for Trying to Poison Drinking Supply in Kosovo**: A group suspected of a terrorist plot to contaminate the water supply in the Kosovar capital of Pristina has been apprehended following exhortations on recent videos released by the Islamic State to poison the country’s food and water supplies ([NY Times](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/13/world/europe/kosovo-charges-5-people-in-plot-to-poison-water.html?emc=eta1&_r=0)).

**Scientists Report Progress in Combating Cryptosporidium**: In the developing world, small children, especially small malnourished children, are very susceptible to death from Cryptosporidium.  A new technology called CRISPR is making it far easier to modify the genes of Cryptosporidium to find ways to treat against it ([Nature Journal](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature14651.html)).

**EPA Webinar: Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR)**: On July 30th, EPA will hold a webinar to discuss the 2nd round of LT2ESWTR source water monitoring, analysis of source water samples, and reporting requirements ([register](http://login.icohere.com/registration/register.cfm?reg=1877&evt=LT2&code=flyer&t=489855538&t=1437346206853)).

**National Rural Water Association**

**Contact:**Mike Keegan, Policy Analyst <[keegan@ruralwater.org](mailto:keegan@ruralwater.org)>

**(Washington, DC)**