

What Is Working for Small and Rural Community Water Development, Compliance, and Public Health Protection

USDA Funding Request – FY 2011

Rural Water thanks the Congress and their staff for your support for the rural water grassroots initiatives. Over 90% of U.S. community water systems serve less than 10,000 persons. These communities have the greatest difficulty providing safe and affordable public drinking water and sewer services because of their limited economies of scale and lack of technical expertise. Next year the burden placed on rural and small communities will continue with the expansion of water regulations (including arsenic, radon, disinfection byproducts, the ground water treatment rule, total maximum daily load rules, and stringent re-permitting of wastewater permits – in addition to the over 80 EPA rules that are currently on the books). The initiatives that are achieving results within the USDA for rural and small community development, compliance, public health protection, and preventing contamination of water supplies are detailed in rural water's 2010 Report to Congress [www.ruralwater.org/report]. We urge Congress to prioritize these initiatives in the FY 2011 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. Each of the following priorities is authorized in the Farm Bill and included in the President's budget.

- **\$15.49 million for Circuit Riders within the Rural Utility Service:** Since 1980, Circuit Riders have provided on-site assistance to small communities in all states for water infrastructure development, compliance, training, certification, operations, management, rates, disaster response, and public health protection – all necessary to encourage local responsibility and local solutions for protecting and enhancing water resources. The initiative's mission is to assist communities in providing safe, affordable and sustainable water service.
- **\$6.4 million for the Grassroots Source Water Protection within the Farm Service Agency:** This is the only statewide local initiative ensuring environmentally progressive local land-use decisions without the controversy of regulatory programs. This increase will provide each state rural water association with one full-time person to organize and assist rural communities, farmers, and other land-use interests in the implementation of source water protection plans (including non-point source protection practices in agriculture regions).
- **\$650 million for Rural Water Infrastructure Grants and Loans:** A small town's viability is directly related to its water supply and sanitation. To overcome their lack of density, rural communities have turned to USDA water loans and grants to build or extend water systems and repay the loans at reasonable rates and terms. Without this assistance, they could not construct new systems, expand existing ones, or comply with mandates. The increase is necessary to meet the current demand in addressing small and rural communities' water supply and sanitation needs. The technical assistance portion of this account should be increased to \$23 million to increase the number of wastewater assistance technicians available to small communities.

(\$ millions)	FY09	FY10	FY11 Request
Circuit Rider	14.0	15.0	15.49
Source Water	5.0	5.0	6.4
Grants/Loans	556.3	568.7	650

Grassroots Environmental Protection in Rural and Small Communities

National Rural Water Association (Duncan, Oklahoma)

Please contact our Washington office with questions: 202-742-4350 or info@ruralwater.org

USDA FY2010 Appropriations

111TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
1st Session } 111-279

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES PROGRAMS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.—Ordered to be printed

Ms. DELAURO, from the Committee of Conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

12

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out wellhead or groundwater protection activities under section 12400 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-2), \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

page 22

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Native American organization to provide technical assistance for rural water systems for tribal communities: Provided further, That not to exceed \$15,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for contracting with qualified national organizations for a circuit rider program to provide technical assistance for rural water systems: Provided further, That of the amount appropriated under this heading the amount equal to the amount of

page 22

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants for the rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B and described in sections 306C(a)(2), 306D, 306E, and 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$568,730,000, to remain available until expended, of which not

What is Working in Rural and Small Communities for Environmental Protection, Compliance, and Public Health Protection

EPA Funding Request – FY 2011

Rural Water thanks the Congress and their staff for your support for the rural water grassroots environmental and compliance initiatives and again asks you to prioritize funding for these local initiatives in the Fiscal Year 2011 EPA appropriations bill. Specifically, we urge you to include **\$16.8 million** for rural water technical assistance, source water protection, and ground water protection efforts. According to small and rural communities, the RURAL WATER local initiatives are the most effective environmental protection efforts for drinking water & wastewater, ground water, source water, compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act, and other federal laws. The National Rural Water Association, through the state rural water associations in all 50 states, annually performs over 31,000 on-site technical contacts to small and rural water supplies – and trains over 17,000 local water personnel. This direct assistance has improved the level of small community compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act to the same compliance levels as urban communities with greater technical resources.

The technical staff in each state provide in-the-field training, on-site technical assistance and source water protection planning. They have become the point people for compliance and water related public health protection in small rural communities. The source water/watershed protection initiative assists local communities to develop and manage effective watershed protection plans for the reduction of pollution in rivers, streams, lakes, bays and oceans – including participation in regional watershed initiatives.

As Congress analyzes competing requests for EPA funding priorities, small and rural communities urge Congress to compare the results and accomplishments of these efforts documented in our 2010 Report to Congress [www.ruralwater.org/report] to any other environmental protection program. The rural water initiatives are authorized in the Safe Drinking Water Act [42 USC § 300j-1, Technical Assistance and Training], have been operating in every state for the past 20 years and have been the main source of compliance and assistance for small and rural communities to meet federal standards.

(\$ millions)	FY09	FY10	FY11 Request
Rural Water EPA Technical Assistance	11.5	13.0	16.8

Grassroots Environmental Protection in Rural and Small Communities

National Rural Water Association (Duncan, Oklahoma)

Please contact our Washington office with questions – 202-742-4416 or info@ruralwater.org

EPA FY2010 Appropriations

111TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
1st Session } { 111-316

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

OCTOBER 28, 2009.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DICKS, from the committee of conference,
submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2996]

page 110

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT

Environmental Protection/National Priorities.—The conference agreement provides \$16,950,000 for this program and allocates the funds as proposed by the House instead of a competitive grant program as proposed by the Senate. The conferees have agreed to the following allocation of funds: \$13,000,000 for the National Rural Water Association;