

preparing projects for funding so they can take advantage of available monies – as well as state technical assistance to operate and maintain their facilities.

Some of this info was included in the DEQ Update presentation made at the UP Rural Water Conference, the Fall UP Water Institute and the Michigan Section AWWA Annual Conference, and will likely be in the DEQ Update at the four Fall Regional Meetings in October.

You may want to share this info with your staff that could receive calls.

Richard

From: Taft, Jim [<mailto:jtaft@asdwa.org>]

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2015 9:56 AM

To: Jim Taft

Subject: Alert about Soon-to-be Published Associated Press Story on Aging Water Infrastructure

Good morning State Drinking Water Administrators –

We wanted to share this AWWA alert with you (our thanks to AWWA), along with some suggested talking points, for your consideration and use, as you interact with your local press and other stakeholders.

The Associated Press has apparently been working on a drinking water study for several months and is expected to release, some time on Friday, a multi-media news package about the state of drinking water infrastructure, quality, and supply. While we're not able to see and react to the article yet, we believe it will speak to the magnitude of the infrastructure gap in this country and the state of aging and decaying infrastructure -- that is largely hidden from the public. We believe it will also address the issue of appropriated but unspent funds (i.e., ULOs) as well as touch on contaminated sources of drinking water. To prepare for questions that may arise in your states, we've prepared the attached set of Qs and As.

Please let us know if you have any questions on these materials or need more background information. Thank you.

Jim Taft

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ALERT!

TO UTILITY MEMBERS

Public Affairs Advisory

Who: AWWA

What: Associated Press series on water

When: Friday

AWWA has learned that on Friday the Associated Press will release a multi-media news package about the state of water infrastructure, quality and supply.

AP has been working on this series for several months, and water utilities should be prepared to answer local questions that arise from the reports. Utilities may wish to reach out to their local media before Friday, offering to provide perspective that makes the series more relevant to local audiences.

The overarching theme of the package, as stated in an article that appeared online before the official series release date, appears to be:

"Around the country, scores of decaying drinking water systems built around the time of World War II and earlier are in need of replacement. The costs to rebuild will be staggering. The costs of inaction are already piling up. The challenge is deepened by drought conditions in some regions and government mandates to remove more contaminants.

"At stake is the continued availability of clean, cheap drinking water — a public health achievement that has fueled the nation's growth for generations."

Among the topics the series will explore are:

- Aging and failing pipes

AWWA urges members to use the AP series as a springboard for urging Congress to repeal the ban on using tax-exempt debt in combination with Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loans. Key points: 1) Two trillion dollars in water and wastewater projects are needed over the next 25 years. 2) WIFIA could fix more with less if only tax-exempt debt were allowed to fund the non-WIFIA portion of projects.

Find more information on how Congress can improve WIFIA [here](#). AWWA's Buried No Longer report is also helpful in framing the scope of the drinking water infrastructure challenge.

- Increasing rates
- Harmful algal blooms and cyanotoxins (Find helpful resources in AWWA's Cyanotoxins Resource Community)