

# Memorandum of Agreement between the Water Environment Federation & the National Association of Clean Water Agencies

The Water Environment Federation and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies have distinct but complementary missions and areas of expertise.

NACWA's mission as a 501(c)(6) organization is to represent U.S. publicly owned treatment works through advocacy in the legislative, regulatory, and judicial arenas at the federal and state levels.

WEF's mission as a 501(c)(3) organization is to provide technical information and educational opportunities to clean water professionals, policy makers, and to the general public in pursuit of preserving and enhancing the global water environment.

Both organizations recognize that sound public policies regarding clean water, and public support for clean water infrastructure and programs, depend upon understanding of our key issues by the public and policy makers at the federal, state, and local levels of government. This understanding is directly related to the quality, quantity and consistency of information provided by the clean water community.

Both organizations are seeking ways to enhance and improve upon current institutional mechanisms for conveying this essential information.

In recognition that public utilities are on the front line as our nation seeks to achieve clean water, the following activities, programs, and projects are entered into by terms of this agreement:

1. Enhanced information sharing between the organizations to facilitate the development and implementation of coordinated positions on legislative or regulatory topics of concern to the clean water community. To facilitate information sharing it is anticipated that public agency representatives, who are active in both organizations, will be designated as liaisons to committees and workgroups as appropriate;
2. Establish a grassroots network at the state and regional level to increase awareness of critical clean water issues and to provide a practical means by which the clean water community can convey its needs, concerns, and expertise to the general public and policy makers at the federal, state, and local levels.
3. Continuation of the *National Clean Water Policy Forum* as an annual event;
4. Creation of an Advocacy Center during *WEFTEC* to showcase advocacy-based information and complementary educational materials prepared by NACWA and WEF, as well as offering online opportunities for *WEFTEC* attendees to contact policy makers on key issues;

5. Enhance the *WEFTEC* program through a WEF and NACWA-organized regulatory roundtable breakfast and/or similar activities;
6. Making NACWA member agency contact information available to WEF for the sole purpose of public education, management, and technical outreach;
7. Making WEF Member Association contact information available to NACWA for the sole purpose of advocacy outreach;
8. Prominent links to each organization on the appropriate section of the other Organization's web site;
9. Publication of NACWA-authored columns and opinion pieces on selected legislative, regulatory, or legal topics in WEF periodicals, such as *WE&T*;
10. High-profile complimentary exhibit space for NACWA at *WEFTEC* and WEF exhibits at NACWA meetings;
11. Continued collaboration between the two organizations on leadership development for utility managers; and
12. Collaboration and cost-sharing on technical projects and publications where appropriate, and identification of other special projects that can be undertaken.

#### **Benefits for Public Utilities, the Clean Water Community and the Public**

- Provides for greater coordination of effort and improved outreach to NACWA member agencies, WEF Member Associations, and other stakeholders.
- Provides tangible evidence that NACWA and WEF are working together to provide the highest level of service possible to their members.
- Ensures the legislative, regulatory, and legal issues of concern to public clean water agencies are addressed in a coordinated and complementary manner that draws on the strengths of each association.
- Reduces duplication of effort between the organizations.

Endorsed by NACWA's Board of Directors – September 19, 2006  
Endorsed by WEF's Board of Trustees – October 20, 2006