



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 30 2008

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OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The Honorable Stephen L. Johnson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Johnson:

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) and the Watersheds and Coastlines Workgroup (WAC) appreciates EPA's support and efforts to keep watershed needs and watershed management efforts on the forefront of priority issues.

The LGAC and Watersheds and Coastlines Workgroup would like to highlight that according to the 2004 Clean Watershed Needs Survey, (CWNS) there are approximately \$38.3 billion in unmet needs and this estimate is underreporting agricultural and small community needs. We urge you to work with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to broaden the scope of the (CWNS) and emphasize nonpointsource (NPS) related pollution as well as funding sources. Additionally for future reporting a more timely release of information would be desirable.

In recognizing the very important role of state and local leadership, the Watersheds and Coastlines Workgroup has produced a synopsis of the Clean Watershed Needs Survey. This synopsis highlights what type of data is included in the report and how important participation in this data collection survey is for local governments and small communities. In a continuing effort to do outreach, we will make this synopsis available to local governments and small communities.

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) and the Watersheds and Coastlines Workgroup (WAC) commends the efforts of EPA's Office of Water (OWM) and their ongoing efforts to simplify the data collection process to allow for increased participation from small communities.



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In an effort to increase intergovernmental collaboration, we stand committed as partners to ensure that local governments and small communities are made aware of the importance that watersheds and their management are to a clean and sustainable environment.

Sincerely,

B. Roy Prescott
Chair, LGAC

Roy Prescott

Jimmy Kemp,
Chair, Watersheds
and Coastlines Workgroup

cc: Ben Grumbles