



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FEBRUARY 2019

Director's Comments:



Alabama Governor Kay Ivey has announced a plan to increase funding for roads, bridges and other state infrastructure by raising the state's gasoline tax 10 cents per gallon over three years. However, the Alabama Republican Party has overwhelmingly adopted a resolution opposing an increase in the state gasoline tax without an offsetting tax decrease. This comes in spite of the support of the tax from the state's top ranking Republicans - Governor Ivey, Speaker of the House Mac McCutcheon, and Senate President Pro-Tem Del Marsh.

When the Alabama Legislative Session begins on March 5th in Montgomery, the gasoline tax will be the primary focus of attention. There has even been talk that the Governor could call for a special session. A special session could provide one possible advantage for the advocates of a tax increase. During a regular session, every bill that passes before the state budgets must clear a procedural hurdle called the budget isolation resolution (BIR) that requires approval by 3/5 of those voting. There is no such requirement during a special session and a tax bill could pass by a simple majority.

AUCA will be paying particularly close attention to this legislation, which would also apply the same rate increases on diesel fuel. However, we will work to propose that any diesel increases do not impact the price of off-road diesel used by construction and power equipment exclusively on jobsites.

If you have any questions or concerns involving the gas tax, or any other proposed legislation, please contact us and let us know how we can help.

Tim

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Upcoming AUCA Events:

**Charge the Hill - Legislative Awareness Day
Wednesday, March 6, 2019**

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

State House Building

11 South Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130



The 2019 Alabama Legislative Session kicks off on March 5th, and there are a large number of new Senators and Representatives.

This is your opportunity as AUCA members to join together in a unified voice to help educate these Legislators on the concerns of the workforce that supplies, installs, and rehabilitates the infrastructure of water, sewer, gas, electrical, telecommunications, and other underground utility systems throughout Alabama.





AUCA 2019 Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament

Thursday, April 18, 2019

Arrowhead Country Club

50 Ocala Drive Montgomery, AL 36117

General Meeting & Buffet Lunch - 11:30 a.m.

Golf Tournament - 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil

(Immediately Following Golf Tournament)



General Meeting & Buffet Lunch

Cost: \$20/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Attend the statewide General Meeting, enjoy a southern buffet lunch and then hear a presentation from our scheduled guest speaker.

11th Annual Golf Tournament

4-Person Scramble Format

Cost: \$600/Team or \$150/Individual

Complete attached registration form and return ASAP.
Hole and Corporate Sponsorship opportunities available.
Sign up now before the event fills up!



Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil

Cost \$20/Person

(Included with Golf Registration or Corporate Sponsorship)

Come out and enjoy networking with your industry peers at our after tournament Low Country Shrimp & Crawfish Boil.



APRIL 18, 2019 - EVENT REGISTRATION FORM



To register, please complete this form and return to the AUCA office by fax or email.

A copy of the registration form should also be submitted with payment.

Registration Deadline is April 12, 2019

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

GOLF TOURNAMENT



4-PERSON TEAM - \$600



INDIVIDUAL - \$150

Includes: Lunch, Golf/cart, goodie bag, beverage tickets, prizes, and Low Country Boil

- 1.) _____
- 2.) _____
- 3.) _____
- 4.) _____

- Handicap: _____
- Handicap: _____
- Handicap: _____
- Handicap: _____

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



CORPORATE SPONSOR - \$250

Includes: Company logo on event signage and promotional materials, and admission for one (1) company representative to General Meeting & Low Country Boil



HOLE SPONSOR - \$100

Includes: Name recognition on hole signage and may set-up tent on course to network with golfers and distribute company prizes or literature during tournament

GENERAL MEETING

General Meeting Lunch: \$20/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

LOW COUNTRY SHRIMP & CRAWFISH BOIL

Low Country Boil: \$20/Person x Quantity () = \$ _____

PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE OR ON DAY OF TOURNAMENT! Return form and payment to:

Alabama Utility Contractors Association

P.O. Box 383185

Birmingham, AL 35238-3185

Phone: (205) 582-9436

Fax: (205) 582-9155

Email: tim@aluca.org

To pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

Upcoming AUCA Events:

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

12:00 p.m.

Arrowhead Country Club

Montgomery, AL

AUCA Local Lunch Meetings

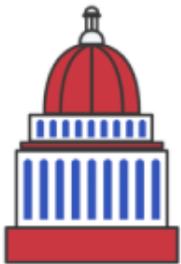
(Dates Subject to Change Due to Legislative Activity)

Huntsville Area Lunch Meeting - March 19, 2019

Birmingham Area Lunch Meeting - March 20, 2019

Mobile Area Lunch Meeting - March 21, 2019

Tuscaloosa Area Lunch Meeting - March 27, 2019



**NATIONAL WATER
POLICY FLY-IN**

**APRIL 3 - 4, 2019
WASHINGTON, DC**

<http://www.waterweek.us/agenda/>

AUCA 2019 Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

October 17, 2019

Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club

Montgomery, AL



News & Notes:

OSHA Increased Penalty Schedule:

OSHA has announced their increased maximum penalty schedule, which is now in effect. Below are the maximum penalty amounts adjusted for inflation as of January 23, 2019:

Type of Violation	Penalty
Serious Other-Than-Serious Posting Requirements	\$13,260 per violation
Failure to Abate	\$13,260 per day beyond the abatement date
Willful or Repeated	\$132,598 per violation

AUCA Scholarship Program:

- AUCA will be awarding two (2) Scholarships worth \$1,500 each.
- Money will be paid directly to the College or Trade School of the applicant's choice.
- The Scholarship Committee will select the two winners from AUCA member company employees, or family members that apply before the April 30th deadline.
- Applications are available on the AUCA website:

<http://www.aluca.org/scholarship-program.html>

P3 Payment Assurance Survey:

AUCA was contacted by the Associated Builders and Contractors North Alabama Chapter regarding the need for potential legislation that would close the loophole that currently exists in Alabama on Public/Private Partnership (P3) project bonding. In Alabama, there are currently no laws in place that require Payment & Performance Bonds on P3 projects.

The ABC has created a brief survey and are trying to reach beyond their membership for feedback. If you would like to complete the survey, you can do so by following this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KX5B793>



News & Notes:

Indiana Bats in Alabama:

AUCA has been contacted regarding projects being impacted due to Indiana bats. The Indiana bat is listed as "endangered" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It was first listed as a result of large numbers of Indiana bat deaths caused by human disturbance during hibernation. It is a small bat with dark gray to blackish, brown fur, found across much of the eastern United States.

There are very special procedures as established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for working near Indiana bat habits in Alabama, which can be found at the following link: <https://www.fws.gov/daphne/es/Bats/Indiana%20Bat.html>. If you have any questions, or concerns on this topic, please contact the AUCA office.

2019 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal

January kicked off the membership renewal period. We are grateful to the many companies that have already paid their 2019 AUCA dues. For those that have not yet renewed, please make arrangements to submit your payment as quickly as possible.

Should you have any questions, need another copy of the invoice sent to you, or wish to pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

OSHA Competent Person Trenching & Excavation Safety Training Class Birmingham, AL - February 22nd



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

FEDERAL BUDGET BILL – A WIN FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

On Friday, February 15, 2019, President Trump signed legislation, approved by Congress to fund the government through September 30, 2019. This avoids a new shutdown that was set to begin on Saturday, February 16, 2019. The broader budget bill does more than simply keep the federal government open. It funds key national priorities, including water infrastructure, negotiated by a bipartisan, bicameral conference committee last week.

EPA's two main water infrastructure programs were clear winners. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CW SRF) was funded at \$1.7 billion (Title II: \$1.4 billion, Title IV: \$300 million), which is equal to the 2018 enacted level and \$300 million above the President's budget request. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DW SRF) was funded at \$1.2 billion, which is slightly higher than the 2018 enacted level and \$300 million above the President's budget request. This figure is consistent with the authorized funding levels reported when the President signed into law (P.L. 115- 270) S.3021, "America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018" and puts funding on track to nearly double the funding by FY21.

It's important to remember that the FY19 / FY18 figures build from the net funding increase from FY17 levels for these two critical programs (an increase of \$600M).

In addition, the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Grants program was funded at \$68 million (Title II: \$10 million, Title IV: \$58 million), which is \$5 million above the FY 2018 enacted level and \$48 million above the President's budget request. Combined with the program improvements for WIFIA, these funds should now complement (not compete) with the CW SRF and the DW SRF programs.

CWCC OFFERS SUPPORT FOR FIVE YEAR CLEAN WATER FUNDING AUTHORIZATION / WATER RECYCLING INVESTMENT AND IMPROVEMENT ACT

Key Advocates is working with bipartisan leadership on Legislation to increase Federal appropriations for several Clean Water Act programs, including the CW SRF. This Legislation is expected to be introduced in the coming weeks.

The focus of this Legislation would be to authorize \$20 billion in Federal grants over five years to capitalize Clean Water SRFs. These funds would provide low-interest loans and additional loan subsidizations (e.g., principal forgiveness and negative interest loans) to communities for wastewater



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

Continued from Page 8

infrastructure. In addition, the Legislation would:

- Authorize \$1.5 billion over five years for grants for State water pollution control agencies to implement State water pollution control programs
- Provide \$600 million over five years for Clean Water pilot programs (including Federal technical assistance and/or grants) for watershed-based or system-wide efforts to address wet weather discharges, to promote stormwater best management practices, to undertake integrated water resource management, and to increase the resiliency of treatment works to natural or man-made disasters
- Authorize \$375 million in grants over five years for alternative water source projects under section 220 of the Clean Water Act, including projects that reuse wastewater and stormwater to augment the existing sources of water; and
- Authorize \$1 billion in grants over five years for states, territories, and tribes to support the control of nonpoint sources of water pollution.

CWCC has agreed to support this effort, based on our review of the draft of the bill as well as a short fact sheet that included the funding levels which would represent significant increases from current levels. Once the Legislation is introduced, we will ask that Members work to support this legislation as a priority.

The CWCC is also supporting H.R. 1162, the "Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act"). This bill is sponsored by Subcommittee Chair Grace Napolitano (CA-32) and would increase funding authorization for the Bureau of Reclamation grant program from \$50 M to \$500 M. These funds would be used to assist water agencies with the expansion, planning, design, and building of water recycling plants and modernizing water infrastructure in California and other western states.



Health & Safety:

Provided by Josh Broaddus @ J. Smith Lanier & Company

How Do Colds Spread?

- Colds can spread person to person; often during casual contact, e.g., shaking hands.
- Researchers know now that the common cold virus, called rhinovirus, can also transfer from an object to a person.
- A rhinovirus can live for an extended period of time on an object called a fomite.
- A fomite is an object that an infected person may touch, such as a telephone handset or a keyboard.
- Later another person touches the same object and transmits the rhinovirus. The rhinovirus can live on a fomite for a matter of days, even when dry.



Wash your hands! Frequent hand washing is a good way to prevent the spread of infection. Nosocomial infections are those that are spread from healthcare worker to healthcare worker or to patients in hospitals. The rate of infections is cut drastically when healthcare professionals are required to wash their hands between treating patients and handling their belongings.

Clean and disinfect surfaces: Another way to prevent the cold virus from being spread is to clean and disinfect surfaces that people with colds may touch, especially during the winter months, when more people are likely to stay indoors because of inclement weather.

Other tips to reduce the spread of colds:

- Use disinfectant wipes and antibacterial hand gel.
- Cover your mouth when you cough and sneeze.
- Stay away from friends, family and co-workers who are ill.
- If you are the one with a cold, do not reuse tissues.
- Talk to your physician if you are a good candidate for a flu shot.

*It is nearly impossible to avoid people who are sick with a cold or flu,
but that doesn't mean you can't avoid infection!*



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***AUCA IS A MEMBER-DRIVEN, NEEDS
FOCUSED TRADE ASSOCIATION CREATED
SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE
UTILITY INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF
ALABAMA.***

**We're on the Web !
www.aluca.org**

Please print out this newsletter to share with others in your company. And, if you are receiving this for the company owner, please print out a copy for him/her.

***Let AUCA Be Your Source For All Your
Training Needs***

Contact the Association Office for more information

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