

## ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

**TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
APRIL 2022**

### **ALDOT Director John Cooper Speaks at AUCA Spring General Meeting**



### **Director's Comments:**

On April 8th, the AUCA Board of Directors held an Emergency Board Meeting to discuss the current price escalation and supply chain issues adversely impacting our industry. As a result, AUCA has drafted a letter (found on page 2) and will be attempting to distribute this information to Engineers and Owners throughout the state.

Additionally, AUCA will be resuming our Industry Lunch Meetings after a two-year hiatus. Price escalation and supply chain issues will be the presented topic at all meetings. Please make plans to join us and let your concerns be heard.

*Tim*

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*AUCA President Tim Gilliam from John Plott Company and Board of Directors Member Larry Logsdon from Wallace Jordan Ratliff & Brandt converse with ALDOT Director John Cooper about price escalation following the AUCA Spring General Meeting on April 21st in Montgomery.*



April 18, 2022

**Re: Utility Contract Pricing Escalation Issues**

To whom it may concern:

Events such as the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic and more recent Russia-Ukraine conflict have created extraordinary and unusual cost volatility impacting the cost of many areas of raw materials and supplies used in utility construction projects. The impact is widespread. In addition to material cost increases, inflationary pressures exist in all aspects of the distribution chain. The result is that utility contractors are receiving steady communications from its suppliers about price increases. And suppliers are not allowing purchases for a set or fixed amount. Instead, they are requiring that contractors agree to pricing mechanisms that increase the sales price consistent with inflation in the suppliers' costs as measured by certain indexes. The result is that the actual supplier sales price contains a cost volatility adder that tracks increases. Just some of the supplier correspondences are attached for examples and your reference.

Similarly, utility contractors in Alabama should have a contractual mechanism to cover and pass along its supplier costs increases. We understand that awarding authorities in other areas have taken steps to achieve a mutually beneficial solution to this problem by adding provisions to its invitations to bid and construction contract that permit an equitable increase in the contract sum equivalent to actual price escalation. Fortunately, there are pricing benchmarks that allow the price adjustments to be calculated in an objective, measurable, and even-handed manner.

As such, we respectfully ask that you consider immediately adding a price increase mechanism, similar to what is required by suppliers, to account for these ubiquitous cost increases. It is frequently noted that the polestar and focus of publicly bid contracts is to act in the best interest of the public. Adding a pricing increase method certainly would go a long way to accomplish this goal and be in the best interest of all involved.

If you need any additional information from us or would like to discuss this further, please know that we are available. Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely,

Alabama Utility Contractors Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Ayers', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Tim Ayers  
Executive Director

Alabama Utility Contractors Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 383185 Birmingham, AL 35238-3185  
Phone: (205) 582-9436 Fax: (205) 582-9155 [www.aluca.org](http://www.aluca.org)

*AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:*

**Corporate Sponsors:**



AN ARTERA COMPANY



**W.R. Mitchell Contractor, Inc.**



**Hole Sponsors:**

**Alabama 811  
BenSource Employee Benefits  
Consolidated Pipe & Supply  
Evergreen Siteworks  
Ferguson Waterworks  
Greenhalgh Insurance  
Johnson & Associates Engineering**



# *AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:*



*AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:*



***AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:***



***AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:***



***AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:***



*AUCA appreciates the many sponsor companies, volunteers, and participants that graciously made this event possible.*

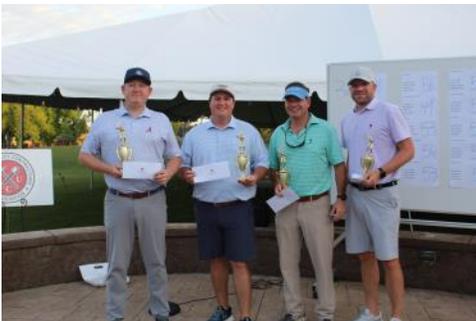


# AUCA Spring General Meeting & Golf Tournament:

## Team and Individual Golf Prize Winners:



**1st Place Team:**  
**Southern Pipe & Supply**



**2nd Place Team:**  
**Marsh McLennan Agency**



**NTS Putting Contest Winner:**  
Andrew Rockwell



**3rd Place Team:**  
**CLS General Contractors**



**Closest to Pin Hole #2:**  
Bill Palmer *(Award accepted by teammate Ty Patterson)*



**Longest Drive:**  
Sonny Peake



**Closest to Pin Hole #16:**  
Bobby Huffman



*Upcoming Meetings & Events:*

**AUCA Industry Lunch Meetings**

After a two-year absence due to Covid-19, we will be resuming our AUCA Industry Lunch Meetings in the month of May. Price escalation and supply chain issues will be the presented topic at all meetings. Please make plans to join us and let your concerns be heard.

**Wednesday, May 4th - Tuscaloosa Area**

12:00 P.M.

Dreamland Bar-B-Que - Northport  
101 Bridge Avenue  
Northport, AL 35476

**Tuesday, May 10th - Birmingham Area**

Location To Be Announced

**Thursday, May 12th – Mobile Area**

Location To Be Announced

**Thursday, May 19th – Huntsville Area\***

Location To Be Announced

*\*Revised Date*



***AUCA 2022 Fall General Meeting  
& Sporting Clay Shoot***  
**Thursday, October 13, 2022**  
**Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club**  
**Montgomery, AL**



SPONSORED BY:  
CITY OF CLANTON

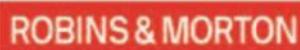


# CHILTON COUNTY JOB RECRUITMENT & TRAINING DAY

## MAY 17 2022

COLLEGE NOT AN OPTION?  
THIS EVENT IS FOR YOU!

### PARTICIPATING COMPANIES



JEFFERSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, CLANTON CAMPUS

1850 LAY DAM RD, CLANTON, AL 35045

DOORS OPEN AT: 8:00AM

## ONSITE HIRING

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
205.755.6840  
DSTREET@CLANTONAL.GOV  
CLANTONAL.GOV



## Virtual Stakeholder Meeting on OSHA Initiatives to Protect Workers from Heat-Related Hazards

May 3, 2022

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM Central Time

OSHA is hosting a virtual public stakeholder meeting on the agency's activities to protect workers from heat-related hazards. This half-day meeting will allow stakeholders an opportunity to learn about and comment on the various efforts the agency is taking to protect workers from heat-related hazards, as well as hear about the agency's rulemaking process and ways for the public to participate. The agency will also provide an overview of the Heat Illness Prevention Campaign, compliance assistance activities, and enforcement efforts.

This stakeholder meeting will provide an opportunity to learn about and comment on the various efforts the agency is taking to protect workers from heat-related hazards, as well as hear about the agency's rulemaking process and ways for the public to participate. The agency will also provide an overview of the following three topics:

- Heat Illness Prevention Campaign
- Compliance Assistance Activities
- Enforcement Efforts

The meeting will take place virtually using Zoom and will be available for concurrent viewing by the public on the DOL YouTube channel. The meeting will be broadcast in English and Spanish and may be archived for future viewing.

OSHA plans to use this meeting to establish an open dialogue with stakeholders. At the end of each OSHA information session, stakeholders will have an opportunity to ask questions about the presentations. Additionally, this meeting will include public comment and testimony periods during which OSHA is interested in receiving feedback from stakeholders.

If you would like to attend, provide public comment, or ask questions, please register for this meeting. To present public comments during the meeting, you must indicate your intent to speak in the form below. In order to accommodate many speakers, public comments will be limited to no more than three minutes during this meeting. The duration of speaking time is subject to change, and the time allotted for each speaker will be finalized upon the close of registration. Although OSHA welcomes all comments and seeks to accommodate many speakers at the meeting, it may not be possible to accommodate all stakeholder requests to speak at the meeting. The order of speakers will be determined based on affiliation and will be confirmed with speakers prior to the event. Those who cannot attend the meeting and those who are unable or choose not to make verbal comments during the meeting are invited to submit their comments in writing to OSHA at the conclusion of the meeting, or submit them electronically to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), Docket No. OSHA-2022-0006. You may submit comments and additional materials until August 1, 2022.



## News & Notes:



### OSHA NATIONAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM ON OUTDOOR AND INDOOR HEAT HAZARDS

**OSHA is launching a targeted program to protect workers across the nation from the increasing threat of heat-related illness.**

#### What is the National Emphasis Program (NEP) on heat?

- The NEP creates, for the first time, a nationwide enforcement mechanism for OSHA to proactively inspect workplaces for heat-related hazards in general industry, maritime, construction, or agriculture operation alleging hazardous exposures to heat (outdoors and/or indoors). This means that OSHA can now launch heat-related inspections on high-risk worksites before workers suffer preventable injuries, illnesses, or fatalities.
- The NEP encourages employers to protect workers from heat hazards by providing employee access to water, rest, shade, adequate training, and implementing acclimatization procedures for new or returning employees. It contains both enforcement and outreach/compliance assistance components.
- The NEP establishes heat priority days when the heat index is expected to be 80°F or higher. On heat priority days:
  - OSHA will initiate compliance assistance in the targeted high-risk industries.
  - OSHA will also continue to inspect any alleged heat-related fatality/catastrophe, complaint or referral regardless of whether the worksite falls within a targeted industry of this NEP.
- OSHA will conduct programmed (pre-planned) inspections in targeted high-risk industries on any day that the National Weather Service has announced a heat warning or advisory for the local area.
- OSHA also recognizes that many businesses want to do the right thing by developing heat illness prevention plans to keep their employees safe.
  - On heat priority days, OSHA field staff will engage in proactive outreach and technical/compliance assistance to help keep workers safe on the job.

#### Impacted Industries

- The NEP targets over 70 high-risk industries based on:
  - Bureau of Labor Statistics data on incidence rates of heat-related illnesses and number of employee days away from work rate;
  - Elevated numbers of fatalities or hospitalizations reported by employers to OSHA; and
  - Highest number of heat-related general duty clause 5(a)(1) violations and Hazard Alert Letters over a 5-year period (1/1/2017 thru 12/31/2021), or highest number of OSHA heat inspections since 2017.

#### Why is the NEP necessary?

- The danger of extreme heat increases each year due to continuing effects of climate change.
  - 18 of the last 19 summers were the hottest on record.
- Workers suffer over 3,500 injuries and illnesses related to heat each year.
- Low-wage workers and workers of color disproportionately make up the population of employees exposed to high levels of heat, intensifying socioeconomic and racial inequalities.

#### What are the timeframes?

- The NEP is effective on April 8, 2022, and will remain in effect for three years unless canceled or extended by a superseding directive.

[OSHA.GOV/HEAT](https://www.osha.gov/heat)

## News & Notes:

### **2022 AUCA Membership Dues Renewal:**

AUCA 2022 Membership Dues Notices have been distributed. Please be on the lookout for the notice. We are grateful to the many companies that have already paid their 2022 AUCA dues. For those that have not yet renewed, please make arrangements to submit your payment as soon as possible to ensure no interruption of membership benefits.

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.

### **AUCA New Member Company:**

**TTL, Inc.**

Company Representative: Steve Newton

[www.ttlusa.com](http://www.ttlusa.com)



One free online request or call gets member utilities marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

For example, if you need to dig on a Saturday, state law requires that you must wait two full working days not counting the day of notification to Alabama 811 to allow for the locate request to be completed and underground facilities located.

**ALABAMA 811**  
[www.al811.com/homeowners](http://www.al811.com/homeowners)

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:  
Contact 811 Before You Dig.**



## News & Notes:

### **Cogongrass Campaign Addresses Threat to Alabama:**

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) has initiated a new social media campaign to raise awareness of the dangers cogongrass poses to the state. With agriculture and natural ecosystems at risk, ADAI is calling on Alabamians to recognize this threat and share the information.

Cogongrass has now infested more than 75 percent of Alabama's counties. This federally regulated noxious weed was introduced in the U.S. in 1911 as packing material in the port of Mobile. In the decades since, it has greatly expanded and become more dangerous.

Cogongrass chokes out forests and hunting lands, threatening habitats. It inhibits the growth of other plants and ruins pasturelands, as livestock have trouble eating or digesting it. The weed is also highly flammable and increases the risk of devastating wildfires.

Considering how widespread cogongrass is, the cost to eradicate the grass is high, exceeding \$300 per acre or \$60 million in taxpayer dollars. The annual loss of forest productivity alone is \$50 per infested acre or \$7.5 million.

Cogongrass is difficult to control due to the ease of which it spreads along rights of way. Some varieties are also sold at nurseries and used by landscapers, increasing the spread. Cogongrass contaminates machinery, clothing, soil and vehicles that come into contact with the weed. Because of this, if found, no attempt to remove it should be made. Rather, it should be reported immediately.

Visit [www.alcogongrass.com](http://www.alcogongrass.com) to learn how to spot cogongrass and report it when it blooms again in the spring. To report cogongrass, call (334) 240-7225, or use the SEEDN (Southeast Early Detection Network) app, downloadable for Apple® and Android® devices at [www.alcogongrass.com](http://www.alcogongrass.com).



**DON'T LET  
COGONGRASS  
CHOKES  
ALABAMA**

RECOGNIZE IT. REPORT IT.

**REPORT COGONGRASS  
NOW BEFORE IT SPREADS.**

**ALCOGONGRASS.COM**

## *Alabama Legislative News:*

The 2022 Alabama Legislative Session came to an end just before the stroke of midnight on Thursday, April 7th when the House and Senate adjourned Sine Die. For the 2022 regular session, lawmakers met for 29 of the possible 30 legislative meeting days and introduced a total of 873 bills (534 in the House, and 339 in the Senate). They also passed the largest ever Education Trust Fund and General Fund budgets at \$8.3 billion and \$2.74 billion respectively. Both budgets are at record levels, partly because of the flow of billions in federal COVID-19 relief money to Alabama's economy over the last two years. Gaming bills to let voters decide whether to have a lottery and/or casinos did not come up for a vote in the House or Senate.

In January, Governor Ivey put the regular session on hold for a five-day special session to appropriate \$772 million in federal money the state received for COVID-19 recovery. As a result of Act #2022-1, our industry should see a quick influx of new infrastructure project opportunities. Alabama also expects to receive another \$1 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act by the summer, and lawmakers anticipate returning to Montgomery for another special session to decide how that money will be spent.

But for now, most legislators seeking re-election will turn their attention to the campaign trail. The 2022 election calendar includes a May 24th primary, June 21st primary run-off and a November 8th general election.

### **Bills of Interest Signed Into Law in 2022:**

#### Act #2022-1 (HB1) - Supplemental Appropriations from the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund

To make supplemental appropriations from the American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, the American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Revenue Replacement Fund, and the American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022.

#### Act #2022-34 (HB21/SB17) - Crime of Unauthorized Entry of a Critical Infrastructure

Relating to critical infrastructure; to amend Section 13A-7-4.3, Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for the crime of unauthorized entry of a critical infrastructure, including by certain unmanned aircraft systems; to provide additional penalties; and in connection therewith to have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended by Amendment 890, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended.

#### Act #2022-35 (HB34/SB68) - WWTP Loan Payback Period Extension

Relating to construction of wastewater treatment facilities; to amend Section 22-34-11, Code of Alabama 1975; to extend the loan payback period for a loan by the Alabama Water Pollution Control Authority to a local governing body to finance construction expenses of a wastewater treatment facility in certain circumstances.



(Continued on page 17)

## Alabama Legislative News:

(Continued from page 16)

Act #2022-73 (SB97) - Sunset Law Review for Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute  
Relating to the Alabama Sunset Law; to continue the existence and functioning of the Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute until October 1, 2023.

Act #2022-117 (SB125/HB255) - Broadband (Constitutional Amendment)  
Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901; to authorize the state, a county, or a municipality to grant certain monies to public or private entities for broadband infrastructure.

Act #2022-125 (SB123/HB189) - Broadband  
Relating to the Connect Alabama Act of 2021; to amend Sections 41-23-271, 41-23-273, and 41-23-274, Code of Alabama 1975; and to specify the minimum service threshold; to authorize the Alabama Digital Expansion Division chief to enter nondisclosure agreements; and to revise the expenditure of the Connect Alabama Fund and allow for annual revision of the program funds.

Act #2022-138 (SB124/HB298) - Broadband  
Relating to the Alabama Broadband Accessibility Act; to amend Sections 41-23-211, 41-23-212, 41-23-213, and 41-23-214, Code of Alabama 1975; to increase the minimum threshold speeds for broadband service grants; to include references to the Alabama broadband mapping program and state-wide connectivity plan; to revise criteria and eligibility for the awarding of grants; to revise the window for grant applications; to revise the grant application procedures; and to allow for a project extension in certain circumstances.

Act #2022-252 (HB391/SB290) - Business Privilege Tax  
Relating to the levy and amount of business privilege tax; to amend Section 40-14A-22, Code of Alabama 1975, to provide for a reduced minimum business privilege tax of \$50 for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022; to provide a full exemption from the business privilege tax on amounts due of \$100 or less for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

Act #2022-284 (HB336) - Plumbers and Gas Fitters Examining Board  
Relating to plumbers and gas fitters; to amend Sections 34-37-1, 34-37-3, and 34-37-6, Code of Alabama 1975, to add definitions for residential dwelling, residential gas fitter, residential plumber, and residential plumber or gas fitter assistant; to replace a journeyman plumber with a residential plumber as a member of the board; to expand examination options for a journeyman plumber or gas fitter; and to add new provisions governing apprentice to journeyman/master ratios.

Act #2022-288 (HB148) - Privately Owned Sewer Systems Using Public Rights-of-Way in City Limits  
To propose a local constitutional amendment to the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, for Tuscaloosa County, relating to privately owned sewer systems; to bring certain privately owned sewer systems that use public rights-of-way of public roads in the city limits of Lake View under the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission.

Act #2022-301 (SB224) - Unemployment Compensation  
Relating to unemployment compensation; to amend Section 25-4-77, Code of Alabama 1975, to require an unemployed individual to search for work a certain number of times per week to be eligible to receive unemployment benefits; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.



## *Alabama Legislative News:*

(Continued from page 17)

### Act #2022-367 (HB419) - Division of Construction Management Inspections

Relating to construction of certain property; to amend Sections 16-1-2.4, 16-1-2.5, 41-4-400, and 41-4-401, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to construction at educational facilities; to further provide for inspection of certain projects at educational facilities by the Division of Construction Management; to further provide for contracts between educational entities and the Division of Construction Management; to further provide for reports by the Division of Construction Management to the Legislature; to provide a limited exception for ongoing projects; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

### Act #2022-369 (SB305) - Portable Electric Generators

Relating to utilities; to provide certain requirements on the use of portable electrical generators; to provide criminal penalties for a violation; and in connection therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Amendment 621 of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended by Amendment 890, now appearing as Section 111.05 of the Official Recompilation of the Constitution of Alabama of 1901, as amended.

### Act #2022-372 (SB321) - Business Licenses

Relating to municipal business licenses; to amend Section 11-51-194, Code of Alabama 1975; to clarify that a business that provides rental services in a municipality, but has no other physical presence in the municipality, may be required to purchase a delivery license to deliver rented property.

### Act #2022-376 (SB317) - Agriculture Authorities

Relating to agricultural authorities; to amend Section 11-20-73, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the powers of the authority, including the power of the authority to enter into agreements with private entities, the power to sell its property to a person or governmental entity, and the power to enter into long-term contracts or agreements for sewer service with a neighboring municipality or a utility board of the municipality; to amend Section 11-20-80, Code of Alabama 1975, to exempt the authority from planning and zoning requirements; and to amend Section 11-20-81, Code of Alabama 1975, to specify that the exemption of the authority from all state, county, and municipal sales and use taxes is granted to the authority as a governmental entity and that the authority would be entitled to a certificate of exemption in order to claim the sales and use tax exemptions on purchases and to further provide for the authority to be exempt from local taxes.

### Act #2022-378 (SB33) - Water Utilities

Relating to nonprofit corporations that provide water service to the public; to allow a nonprofit corporation to be audited or examined by the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts.

### Act #2022-414 (SB336) - South Baldwin Regional Workforce Development Authority

Relating to Baldwin County; to establish the South Baldwin Regional Workforce Development Authority; to provide for the composition, powers, duties, and meetings of the board of directors of the authority.



## Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Dan Kennedy - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

**April 5, 2022**

### **CWCC DC "Fly-In" / Business Meeting**

We will be getting back to business in person in DC this spring. It's important to note that the House and Senate officials began implementing a three-phase reopening of the Capitol to visitors and the general public. This opens the possibility for in person Hill visits in capitol building, subject to the discretion of each member. In addition, last month D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser dropped the city's requirement that people show proof of coronavirus vaccination before entering most businesses in the city. We will stay on top of the local situation and advise of any changes if they arise.

Our strategy is to delay the visit a month for restrictions to be lifted and the weather to improve. Fingers crossed it plays out this way. Our trip to DC this year is aligned with ARTBA's Federal Issues Program and Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC) Fly-in taking place Sunday, May 15th through Tuesday, May 17th at the Hyatt Regency Washington (on Capitol Hill). You do not need to register for the ARTBA program to participate. Details are as follows:

**CWCC Business Meeting**  
**Monday, May 16th 4:00 – 6:00 PM**  
**Hyatt Regency Washington (400 New Jersey Ave NW)**  
**Capitol Room**

We invite you to join us in person or virtually. Please RSVP by Friday April 29th. Please email Dan Kennedy at [kennedy@utcanj.org](mailto:kennedy@utcanj.org) including who is planning on attending in person or virtual. Virtual access will be provided well in advance of May 16th. We will be endeavoring to get through business by 5:30, concluding with some pre-dinner refreshments and light fare.

For those that are interested, ARTBA events will begin with optional activities on Sunday, followed by a full slate of meetings and sessions on Monday. The TCC portion will begin with a reception Monday evening, then group briefings on Tuesday, with the opportunity to do Hill visits on Tuesday into Wednesday as needed. For those that wish to do in-person Hill visits, please start planning early as pandemic-related restrictions are still likely to be in place.

CWCC members are also invited to attend the Water Week virtual programs, scheduled for April 24-30th, by nature of our partnership with the US Water Alliance. We will share details of those events closer to the event.

You will be receiving a draft of our congressional "asks" shortly. These asks can be delivered to your delegation members in person in DC, in person in your home states or remotely, at your preference. What is most important is that they are delivered in a way that works best for your organization.



## *Clean Water Construction Coalition Report*

*(Continued from page 19)*

### **Scaled Back Version of “Build Back Better” May Move**

According to Key Advocates, a 50-member majority is poised to confirm Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court by the end of the week, Democrats say they will quickly turn to trying to rebuild the bill once known as Build Back Better (BBB). But rather than a redux of the slow-motion collapse of that \$1.7 trillion plan, they say they’ll swiftly meet Manchin where he is. Manchin (D-W.Va.) is open to a smaller bill focused on raising taxes on the rich and big corporations married with prescription drug reform and climate spending. He wants roughly half of any new revenues from the bill to go toward deficit reduction, and Democrats say that — if they can pass the package — they’ll sell it this fall as a cost-cutting law that makes the wealthy pay their fair share. It remains unclear what infrastructure funding would be included in this scenario.

### **President’s FY23 Proposed “Water” Budget**

On March 28, the President released his FY23 Budget. It includes \$1.638.8B for the Clean Water SRF and \$1.126.1B for the Safe Drinking Water SRF. See last line below - amounts are in addition to the SRF funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Budget provides roughly \$4B for water infrastructure, an increase of \$1B over the 2021 enacted level. These resources would advance efforts to upgrade drinking water and wastewater infrastructure nationwide, with a focus on underserved communities that have historically been overlooked. The budget funds all of the authorizations in the original Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021, including the creation of 20 new targeted water grant programs and an increase of over \$160M above 2021 enacted levels for the Reducing Lead in Drinking Water grant program. The budget also maintains funding for EPA’s State Revolving Funds (SRF) at 2021 enacted levels, which would complement the \$23.4B provided for the traditional SRF programs in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



## *Fleet Safety:*

*Provided by Marsh McLennan Agency—Southeast Risk Control Services*

### **10 Tips to Keep in Mind this Distracted Driving Awareness Month**

- **Stow Your Phone:**  
Turning off the phone and putting it in “do not disturb” mode can help remove the temptation to browse online at a red light or respond right away to a text message.
- **Vow Not To Multi-Task:**  
Anything that occupies your mind or vision can be a distraction behind the wheel. Make time at home to eat meals or put on makeup, so you can focus on the road.
- **Don’t Be A Distraction:**  
Avoid calling or texting family members and friends when you know they are driving to avoid distracting them.
- **Watch Your Volume:**  
Loud music can drown out warnings from others and sirens. Keep your music’s volume at a level where you can still hear other vehicle’s horns.
- **Keep Kids and Pets Safe:**  
Make sure kids are in proper car seats and that pets stay secured in their zone in the back of your vehicle. It can also help reduce distractions if pets are not roaming about the car.
- **Plan Your Route Before You Leave:**  
Programming your navigation system while you drive can take your eyes off the road. It’s better to ask a passenger to do it or to enter your destination before you leave home.
- **Speak Up:**  
If you see someone texting or otherwise driving while distracted, say something and let them know that you are not comfortable with that behavior. Encourage your children to do the same when they are passengers in a friend’s car. It could save a life.
- **When Fatigue Hits, Pull Over:**  
Fatigue is a serious driver distraction. In the worst-case, fatigue may cause you to fall asleep in the driver’s seat. If you start to feel tired, pull over to rest safely. Remember, rest stops are not only for truckers.
- **Avoid Reaching:**  
Resist the urge to reach for items if they fall while driving.
- **Don’t Eat While Driving:**  
Eating while driving is a distraction especially drive through items that you have to unwrap or remove from packaging. It doesn’t take long to eat a sandwich before you hit the road again.



Alabama Utility Contractors Association  
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Birmingham, AL 35238-3185  
Phone: 205-582-9436  
Fax: 205-582-9155  
E-mail: tim@aluca.org

***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](http://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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