President Signs WRRDA into Law
NWC Praises Passage of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act

ARLINGTON, VA – This morning, President Obama signed the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 into law. The final conference report -- the first comprehensive water resources legislation since 2007 -- was adopted in an overwhelming fashion by both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The National Waterways Conference commends Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Barbara Boxer, Ranking Member David Vitter, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster and Ranking Member Nick Rahall for their leadership in advancing this important legislation.

Recognizing that reliable water resources infrastructure is fundamental to America’s economic and environmental well-being, and is essential to maintaining our nation’s competitive position within the global economy, this law reforms and streamlines the project delivery process, avoids unnecessary duplication and coordinates reviews among various federal agencies. It strengthens the nation’s waterborne transportation network and establishes a comprehensive levee safety program to provide protection from flooding for the nearly 50 percent of Americans who live in counties with levees or related flood protection infrastructure.

NWC President Amy Larson praised the project authorizations included in the legislation, stating that “these much-needed Congressional authorizations will allow local communities, working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to address critical water resources needs, providing for safety and economic security.”

Investments in water infrastructure projects are investments in our nation’s long-term security. We appreciate the President’s signature on this critical legislation, clearing the way for necessary development and improvements in the nation’s infrastructure, creating good jobs, ensuring public safety and improving America’s global competitiveness.

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*The National Waterways Conference, established in 1960, is dedicated to a greater understanding of the widespread public benefits of our nation’s water resources infrastructure. Our mission is to effect common sense policies and programs, recognizing the public value of our nation’s water resources and their contribution to public safety, a competitive economy, national security, environmental quality and energy conservation. Conference membership is comprised of the full spectrum of water resources stakeholders, including flood control associations, levee boards, waterways shippers and carriers, industry and regional associations, port authorities, shipyards, dredging contractors, regional water supply districts, hydropower producers, engineering consultants, and state and local governments.*