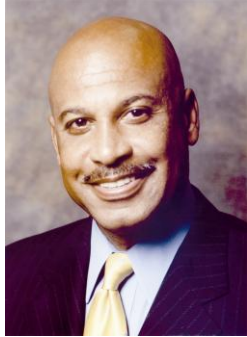


Message from the Chairmen

(From the March 30, 2004 Urban Water Council Newsletter)



Mayor Douglas Palmer
Trenton, NJ



Mayor David Wallace
Sugar Land, TX

The Urban Water Council (UWC) held its first meeting of 2004 in conjunction with the 72nd Winter meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, DC, on January 22. In keeping with our efforts to stay in touch with all relevant federal agencies and departments that deal directly with water resources, the keynote speaker was the Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lt. General Robert Flowers. The Corps has a long tradition of helping America's cities deal effectively with water resources. General Flowers joined us in Washington to hear about the special needs of cities, and to tell mayors that the Corps does not plan to impose federal solutions but wants to work with mayors to improve water resources and the role they play in the local economy.

Jim Hanlon, Director of the EPA's Office of Wastewater, addressed mayors on EPA's continuing support for cities. Citing the growing experience with Environmental Management Systems (EMS), Jim stated that cities implementing EMS have met with extraordinary success with environmental compliance and have realized average cost savings in wastewater management of up to 20 percent.

The UWC continues to monitor the stormwater overflow issue known as "by-pass and blending." We provided Jim with a letter supporting the EPA's proposed policy clarification on this subject. The UWC urged EPA to move swiftly to adopt the policy proposal that would provide certainty on an issue that has long divided the different EPA regional offices and has left cities in limbo.

These and other stories are included in this newsletter. The newsletter is one of a number of communication tools the UWC uses to keep our mayoral colleagues informed of water resource issues. If you have water issues (e.g., infrastructure needs, watershed management, etc.) we encourage you to share them with the UWC at our meetings held around the nation each year. Our next meetings will be held in Washington, DC, April 27-28 and the week of June 25 in Boston at the U.S. Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting. Please join us.