

## House Approves \$13.8 Billion ACEC-Backed Water Infrastructure Bill, Expands QBS

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The House of Representatives approved major water infrastructure legislation this week that significantly boosts investment in municipal wastewater projects. The ACEC-supported package also includes a new mandate to require city and county water utilities to use QBS on federally funded water projects.

The House Water Quality Investment Act (H.R. 1262), authorizes nearly \$13.8 billion over five years for project funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. The bill expands the use of SRF funds to energy and water efficiency audits of local treatment operations and evaluation of efficiency opportunities. It also encourages alternate and innovative processes, materials and

technologies that provide greater environmental benefits.

The bill extends Clean Water SRF loans to 30 years of the design life of the project and authorizes \$2.5 billion in new funding for sewer overflow grants to states, and \$250 million for a pilot water reuse and recycling program.

The measure also includes a significant expansion of QBS, mandating its use for all Clean Water SRF-funded projects. The Senate is expected to act on a larger water package later in the spring.

## City of Fountain Utilities Department Receives QBS Colorado 2009 Award

The QBS Colorado awards program recognizes public and private entities that make exemplary use of the QBS selection process at the state and local levels.

In March 2009, Rick Coldsnow, P.E., former QBS Colorado Board Member and President of the Professional Engineers of Colorado and Dave Krenck, P.E., President of the Colorado Engineering Council presented Michael R. Fink, P.E., F.NSPE, Water Resource Engineer for the City of Fountain Utilities Department with the 2009 QBS Award for Professional Procurement Services.



*Dave Krenck, P.E. (left), Rick Coldsnow, P.E. (center), Mike Fink, P.E., F.NSPE (right)*  
Photo Credit: Linda Hobbs

## QBS Colorado Delivers Message to Graduating Engineers

Peter Marxhausen, an Instructor in the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Colorado in Denver, is a believer in Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS). He knows that using the most qualified design professionals is paramount to the long-term performance of any project. Mr. Marxhausen invited QBS Colorado into his classroom to help pass on that message to nine up-and-coming engineering students in his Senior Design course.

Paul Bakken and Andy Garner with QBS Colorado answered the call on Monday, March 2, 2009 with a presentation to the students to help explain the QBS process. The presentation was focused on the many benefits that using QBS can provide to an owner, with a focus on getting the best long-term value.

The course had been focusing on engineering ethics, so the QBS discussion of various procurement methods and some of the real dangers of the "low bid" process fit right in with the student's curriculum in the weeks leading up to the QBS presentation. The students asked several questions that helped the group clarify the process and seemed to really take the message to heart.

Marxhausen and QBS Colorado plan to make the presentation a regular part of each semester's Senior Design course. QBS Colorado is very grateful to Mr. Marxhausen for his support of QBS and the opportunity for continued outreach.

## QBS Colorado Forum

QBS Colorado will be presenting its 2009 Forum titled Qualifications Based Selection, What is the Value? on October 20, 2009 from 7:00 am to 9:30 am at the Police Protection Agency Event Center, 2105 Decatur Street, Denver. There will be officials from three front range cities who will speak to the benefits of following QBS guidelines.

This will be an open forum, to discuss qualifications based selection including its value to the project, barriers to successful processes, and implementation strategies. The forum is free of charge with a continental breakfast served. For more information contact Sue Bertram at [sue@bertramlaw.net](mailto:sue@bertramlaw.net).

## Previous QBS Colorado Award Winners

Previous QBS Colorado Winners include:

- Cherry Creek School District
- Jefferson County School District
- Town of Castle Rock
- City of Salida
- Weld County
- Aurora Water Department
- Fort Collins Utilities

National Award Winner:

- Jefferson County School District

National Award Runner-up:

- Aurora Water Department

QBS Colorado salutes these public agencies for their commitment to the QBS Process and we can connect interested parties to these entities for information on the advantages realized from using QBS and details on how the QBS process is implemented at each entity.

Do you know of an agency that follows QBS guidelines and is deserving of the state award? Nominate them. Contact Sue Bertram, [sue@bertramlaw.net](mailto:sue@bertramlaw.net) for a nomination form.

## QBS Good Guys

The agencies listed below understand the benefits of following QBS guidelines and we commend them for their use of the process.

- Town of Superior
- City of Greeley Public Works Department
- Fort Collins Utilities
- Aurora Water Department

- City of Aurora Utilities
- Town of Erie
- City of Fountain
- Weld County
- City and County of Denver
- Aurora School District
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration

## RFP Responses

When price-based Request for Proposals are brought to the attention of the QBS Colorado Board, we make immediate contact with the agency. A letter explaining the benefits of following QBS procedures along with one of our brochures and our recent newsletter is mailed; a follow-up phone call from a board member is later placed. In the first half of 2009, we have responded to RFPs issued from the following agencies: City of Thornton, City of Cherry Hills Village, Park County Libraries, Adams County, Arapahoe County, Town of Basalt, Denver International Airport, City and County of Denver Public Works Department, Mesa

County Public Works Department, Brighton Parks and Recreation, Arvada Public Works Department, Arvada Parks and Recreation, Metro Denver Wastewater, Denver Museum of Science and Technology, Federal Heights and Denver Housing Authority.

Forward copies of current RFPs that violate Colorado's Mini Brook's Bill and RFPs seeking professional design services based on price competition to Sue Bertram at [sue@bertramlaw.net](mailto:sue@bertramlaw.net) and the QBS Colorado Board will respond appropriately.

## QBS Presentation to APWA

As an outreach effort, QBS Colorado made a presentation to the Colorado APWA (American Public Works Association) Management Conference 2009 on May 7th at the Red Lion Hotel in Denver. The Conference Theme was "Navigating Change for Success" and QBS Colorado's presentation addressed change in Procurement of Professional Services as a positive effort.

Mike Fink, P.E., F.NSPE from NSPE-Colorado, presented a PowerPoint presentation to the attendees (approximately 150 were in attendance)

and questions ranged from where the impetus to adopt QBS in local government originated while other questions addressed actual operations of the QBS Procurement Process.

This audience, Public Works Management personnel, is a specific target demographic for QBS Colorado. The audience was receptive to the QBS message and quite interested in the actual operations of such a program.

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For More Information on QBS, visit

[www.acec-co.org/qbs](http://www.acec-co.org/qbs)