



August 30, 2022

The Honorable Faisal Amin
Chief Financial Officer
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Chief Financial Officer Amin,

On behalf of the hundreds of public wastewater treatment and drinking water utilities we represent throughout the U.S., we strongly urge you to request robust funding for the water infrastructure programs authorized in the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)* in your Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Budget Request.

BIL represents the largest investment in water infrastructure the federal government has ever made. We are extremely grateful for this investment in our local economies, our public health, and the environment.

However, while BIL included significant direct appropriations for core programs like the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds, BIL did not appropriate funds to numerous other water infrastructure programs established or reauthorized in the law. The funding gap between FY24 authorizations and appropriations for these programs totals over \$1 billion. In addition, BIL authorized another \$3 billion to each the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds in FY24 to ensure that the BIL direct appropriations are additive, not simply replacing annual funding over the five years of the bill.

The BIL also authorized but did not provide funding for the creation of an EPA pilot low-income water customer assistance program. Unfortunately, this provision was not included in the President's FY23 Budget Request, nor has it been included in the House and Senate FY23 appropriations bills. Federal assistance for households struggling to pay their water and sewer bills would go a long way to ensuring clean, safe, reliable water services for all Americans, and we hope that progress will continue to build toward a reliable federal program addressing this need. Emergency funding was provided for this purpose for the first time during the pandemic in the *American Rescue Plan Act* and the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*, but this money will dry up in 2023 and more funding will be needed to address this issue long-term. We urge you to request that Congress provide robust funding to EPA in FY24 to back the creation of 40 low-income assistance pilots.

All sectors of the economy and every single U.S. citizen relies on water infrastructure every day. The water infrastructure provisions were some of the most bipartisan portions of the IJA bill – largely drawn from S. 914, the *Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021* (DWWIA) that passed the Senate on April 29, 2021, with a vote of 89-2. As work gets underway in earnest on the FY24 Budget Request, we urge you to propose full funding for these EPA water programs.

This Administration should be proud of its work for the American people to prioritize water. Fully funding these vital programs is needed to maximize the impact of this work on communities and the environment. We look forward to working with you to ensure those efforts are realized.

Sincerely,



Adam Krantz
CEO
National Association of Clean Water Agencies



Tom Dobbins
CEO
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies

Cc:

Michael S. Regan – Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
Radhika K. Fox – Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency