



January 31, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As your administration prepares to submit its FY24 budget request to Congress, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) respectfully asks that you seek full funding for essential water infrastructure funding programs at the Environmental Protection Agency.

While the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 provided an historic infusion of nearly \$50 billion over five years for several water infrastructure programs at EPA, these dollars do not negate the need for strong regular, annual appropriations. Especially considering that EPA has found that the nation’s drinking water systems require more than \$470 billion worth of improvements over the coming 20 years, just to maintain current levels of service, the federal government must maximize its investment in the nation’s water systems in FY24 and in the future.

To this end, AMWA asks that your administration request full authorized funding for EPA’s drinking water infrastructure programs in FY24, including:

- **\$3 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)**, to support capitalization grants to states that in turn offer low-interest loans to communities carrying out water infrastructure projects that benefit public health or facilitate compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Fully funding the DWSRF will help states maintain adequate resources to fund these projects even if a portion of the funds are redirected by Congress to support congressionally directed spending priorities.
- **\$50 million for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program**, which offers competitive, low-cost financing to help communities pay for large-scale drinking water and wastewater projects that are generally expected to cost at least \$20 million. Because WIFIA funds are leveraged, and the program therefore only requires a small appropriation in relation to its potential loan capacity, this investment would support several billion dollars in direct credit assistance for water projects nationwide.

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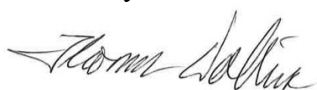
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- **\$50 million for the Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program**, which was authorized in IIJA to help drinking water systems prepare to withstand the effects of natural disasters and cyber threats. Eligible projects include those that conserve water or increase the efficiency in its use, modify or relocate infrastructure threatened by natural hazards or extreme weather, or deploy measures to reduce a water system's cyber vulnerabilities.
- **\$100 million for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water grants**, which offer direct funding to help communities reduce risks associated with lead in drinking water by fully replacing lead service lines or conducting inventory inspections to determine where lead pipes are located.
- **\$40 million for the Voluntary School and Child Care Program Lead Testing and Reduction Grant Program**, which offers direct funds to local educational or daycare facilities to remediate the threat of lead in drinking water within their own buildings, such as replacing outdated drinking water fountains.

In addition, we urge you to seek funding for EPA's Rural and Low-Income Water Assistance Pilot Program, which is authorized to award up to 40 grants to support municipally operated water and wastewater affordability programs across the country through direct aid to eligible household, lifeline rates, bill discounts, and other hardship provisions. Last year's omnibus appropriations bill provided EPA with \$3 million to carry out a needs assessment that must be completed before this pilot program can begin awarding funds, but AMWA urges you to request funding in FY24 so the program may become operational as soon as possible after the needs assessment is completed.

Again, we appreciate your administration's commitment to promoting public health and drinking water quality, and we urge you to submit an FY24 budget to Congress that requests fully authorized funding for these and other critical drinking water infrastructure programs.

Sincerely,



Thomas Dobbins
Chief Executive Officer

cc: The Honorable Michael Regan
The Honorable Radhika Fox