



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES



June 24, 2025

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior and Environment
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Murkowski and Ranking Member Merkley:

The undersigned groups write in support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency raising awareness of the importance of digital and intelligent water solutions in utilizing the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF). This program represents the dedicated federal infrastructure assistance program that assists local communities meet federal mandates to ensure safe, reliable and affordable water supplies and water quality improvements. As the committee considers Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations for the SRF, we urge you to include report language that directs USEPA to issue guidance that clarifies SRF assistance is available to support the adoption and deployment of intelligent water technologies and facilitates the digitalization of water data to deliver cost efficiencies.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, maintaining current levels of water and wastewater services will require nearly \$750 billion of federal, state and local investments over

the next 20 years. Independent estimates place this figure over \$1 trillion. The demands to address emerging constituents of concern and nutrients to cite two examples is only increasing capitol demands. Congress can address this matter, without impacting the deficit, if it simply directs USEPA to issue guidance that advises utilities about the use of intelligent water technologies through the SRF.

Over the past several decades, the federal government has invested hundreds of billions of dollars to help local communities comply with the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. Today, utilities are confronted with increasingly complex and costly treatment standards to address nutrients, PFAS and other emerging constituents of concern. These needs are exacerbated by antiquated treatment and conveyance systems. By leveraging the annual federal appropriations to enhance the use of intelligent water technologies and data driven solutions, we can deliver capital investments that help communities meet federal mandates while modernize our water infrastructure through the investments. The time has arrived for federal investments to be connected to a priority to ensure that our limited financial resources are stretched and this can be realized if incentives are created to adopt smart water technologies.

For these reasons, we strongly request that you provide report language directing USEPA to leverage the federal partnership to encourage the adoption of smart technologies that can help to reduce capitol expenditures, reduce operations and maintenance costs, and extend life cycles of utilities. Each of these benefits will help to stretch the purchasing power of the SRF and reduce upward pressures on rates that impact ratepayers.

Sincerely yours,

Association of California Water Agencies
Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
California Association of Sanitation Agencies
National Association of Clean Water Agencies
National Rural Water Association
National Water Resources Association
Water Environment Federation