



New York Water Environment Association, Inc.

The Water Quality Management Professionals

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2008

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81ST ANNUAL MEETING

NYC Marriott Marquis
February 1-4, 2009



20 January 2009

«AddressBlock»

RE: Wastewater Infrastructure Needs

Dear Member of the House:

On behalf of the New York Water Environment Association, and its 2,500 members I would like to thank you for your support of the water infrastructure portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Water is essential to life, and we commend your leadership on this important issue.


As you know the regulatory and environmental demands on wastewater utilities continues to grow as access to funding is declining. It is our hope that the above referenced act will help bring much needed monies to as many communities across the state as possible. NYWEA supports increasing the stimulus package from \$6 to \$12 billion for clean water. We also support maximizing the amount of this proposed appropriation as grant monies rather than low interests loans and loan subsidies that truly result in the initiation of more projects, sooner.

As the members of the House and Senate look at the details of this bill, we would ask that you consider the following:

- The draft House bill includes approximately \$6 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and \$640 million for New York State. We support Governor Paterson's advocacy for \$1.35 billion for the New York State CWSRF. In March 2008, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation issued a report entitled "Wastewater Infrastructure Needs of New York State" that estimated the cost of wastewater infrastructure at \$36.2 billion over the next 20 years. The economic recovery program is an excellent opportunity to meet some of these needs while creating jobs in New York State. The funding should be large enough to make a difference on both fronts.
- We support the plan to allow the States to make decisions regarding how the money is distributed (loans, grants, etc.) and which projects are funded. The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) has the mechanism and resources in place to administer this program.
- In the interest of avoiding bottlenecks in this program, the administrative requirements should be minimized and streamlined. The Federal government should not place new or additional requirements on this funding as the existing CWSRF program has been in place for years and has been successfully implemented.

NYWEA believes that grant subsidization to municipalities will be required to improve water quality, as the estimates for funding from NYSDEC identify \$36 billion is needed over the next 20 years. Again, we commend your commitment and hard work on this important topic.

Very truly yours,


Robert Kukenberger, P.E., DEE
NYWEA President

/Sandi Allen, NYSDEC
Matthew Millea, NYSEFC