



Water Finance Newsletter



February 2020

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EPA AT 50: EPA CELEBRATES PROGRESS IN PROTECTING AMERICA'S WATERS

As part of EPA's 50th anniversary commemoration, the agency is kicking off a month-long look at progress in protecting America's waters. This month the agency will highlight its efforts related to protecting America's waters, including clean water infrastructure, safe drinking water, surface water protection, and emerging challenges.



"In honor of EPA's 50th anniversary, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the progress we have made in protecting our nation's waters to help support our health, our environment and our economy," said EPA

Assistant Administrator for Water Dave Ross. “This week, we are highlighting the agency’s investment in water infrastructure projects that provide current and future generations with a healthier environment and stronger economy.”

WIFIA ISSUES \$59M LOAN TO COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



On February 7, EPA announced a \$59 million Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan to the Coachella Valley Water District in California to help finance stormwater channel improvements that will better manage heavy rains to protect the communities’ surface

waters and public health.

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) will develop two projects that make stormwater channel upgrades to improve water quality and support the economy in the Coachella Valley. The projects will increase capacity to capture and safely convey stormwater, helping Coachella Valley Water District meet stormwater management goals. The projects will help direct stormwater runoff away from nearby and adjacent properties, preventing run-off, silt, and other debris from impacting a wide area of land and water. In addition, by better managing stormwater in the event of a 100-year storm, the projects will allow for removing lands from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area for a 100-year storm event.

On February 6, EPA released its first-ever [WIFIA Annual Report](#). Through 2019, the WIFIA program has financed more than \$3.5 billion in loans, which has saved borrowers \$1.2 billion dollars and has helped improve water quality for more than 20 million Americans.



WIFIA loans can finance a wide range of drinking water and wastewater projects, including traditional drinking water and wastewater treatment plants and conveyance systems, water recycling and desalination plants, drought prevention and mitigation projects, stormwater management, green infrastructure, non-point source pollution control and source-water protection. Eligible WIFIA borrowers include local, state, tribal, and federal government entities; partnerships and joint ventures; corporations and trusts; and State Revolving Fund programs.

FY 2020 STATE REVOLVING FUND ALLOTMENT ANNOUNCED

EPA's State Revolving Funds have helped provide \$180 billion in project financing to over 41,000 water quality infrastructure projects and 15,000 drinking water projects across the country.

On February 11, EPA [announced new funding in the amount of \\$2.6 billion for State Revolving Funds](#) (SRFs) to assist states, tribes and territories across the country with infrastructure that protects surface water and safe drinking water. The agency is providing approximately \$1.6 billion in new federal grant funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). This funding is available for a wide range of water infrastructure projects, including modernizing aging wastewater infrastructure, implementing water reuse and recycling and addressing stormwater. More than \$64 million in CWSRF grant funding is available to tribes, certain U.S. territories and the District of Columbia for infrastructure projects.

EPA will also provide than \$1.07 billion in new federal grant funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). This funding can be used for loans that help drinking water systems install controls to treat contaminants such as PFAS and improve distribution systems by removing lead service lines In addition, more than \$50 million in DWSRF grant funding will be for

tribes, U.S. territories and the District of Columbia to use for drinking water system upgrades.



EPA RELEASES DWSRF CYBERSECURITY, DATA MANAGEMENT, AND SOURCE WATER PROTECTION RESOURCES

EPA released three sets of fact sheets and case studies on DWSRF eligibilities. These documents highlight ways that water systems may support cybersecurity measures, manage and leverage data, and protect source water with DWSRF funding. The data management and source water protection fact sheets also include case studies of states and communities utilizing DWSRF funding for these purposes. EPA also recently hosted a webinar showcasing how states are using DWSRF set-asides to protect drinking water sources through preventative measures.

EPA ANNOUNCES DWSRF WATER RIGHTS FUNDING POLICY

EPA announced a new policy for using the DWSRF. EPA will now allow DWSRF funding to be used for purchasing rights or access to new sources of drinking water under certain circumstances. This change will allow public water systems to switch water sources in the event of contamination or to obtain rights or access to new water sources in the event of drought or

other hydrological changes to meet current water needs. EPA's new policy responds directly to the needs and requests of the states and public water systems, while improving public health protection. Additionally, it emphasizes EPA's commitment to increase the use and need of available DWSRF funding.

FUNDING SPOTLIGHT: CITY OF DANVILLE, KY

Even though the [City of Danville](#) WTP performance was steady, they undertook this capital improvements project to proactively address concerns about meeting the Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts (DBP) Rule. The primary raw water source, Lake Herrington, is a deep lake with a modest surface area and prone to seasonal total organic carbon spikes, manganese events, and lake turnover.



This DWSRF project consisted of several components, including the following:

- re-purposing around 16,000 square feet of existing WTP facilities to incorporate new filtration, chemical feed, operations laboratories, and administration and support facilities;
- constructing a new chemical building to house nine chemicals;
- implementing six new granular filters, eight new pumps, four granular active carbon (GAC) contactors, and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) improvements; and
- upgrading the 80-year-old raw water intake facility.

The challenges of this project included expanding and upgrading the WTP on the existing site while maintaining constant water production to several surrounding counties, re-purposing the existing historic structures, and incorporating cutting-edge treatment technologies. The Kentucky DWSRF program provided approximately \$12.5 million for this project, with another \$15 million from USDA. This project was completed in June 2017 and

provided 60,000 residents throughout four counties with improved drinking water quality

WEBINARS AND TRAINING

Upcoming:

February 18, 1:00 - 3:00 (EST)

Creating the Water Workforce of the Future Webinar Series

Please join EPA and other partners to hear how utilities can collaborate with to reach the next generation of the water workforce.

[Register](#)

About EPA's Water Finance Programs

EPA supports new and innovative approaches to financing water infrastructure that help existing dollars work smarter and harder. Our funding programs and tools help communities build and maintain water infrastructure projects that protect human health and the environment.

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