

## **Water Infrastructure**

### **Funding for Water Infrastructure is Falling Short**

#### **Background:**

Minnesota is facing a funding crisis for water infrastructure. Our precious rivers, streams and safe drinking water are being threatened by a significant shortfall in funding available to maintain, replace or upgrade aging facilities. The MPCA has identified more than 1300 wastewater and collection system projects (totaling more than \$4.2 billion) that are in need of funding. Even in the land of 10,000 lakes, there are areas in Minnesota where clean drinking water is threatened or in short supply.

Substantial increases are needed for clean water and drinking water revolving funds, Wastewater Infrastructure Funding (WIF) Program, expansion of the program for drinking water and increasing the maximum cap per project for the Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) Program, increasing grant levels and continuing the Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program to help small communities with technical assistance grants and construction loans.

Increases in funding of these programs would be a strong start in addressing the water infrastructure needs of communities around the state. The increased funding and in particular, raising grant caps, would allow many communities that currently cannot afford to participate in these programs to pursue funding to address their water infrastructure needs.

Our members are the designers of these systems and are entrusted by our clients to help them with addressing their water infrastructure needs. These proposals are a path for many of our clients who currently do not have the financial capability with the current programs funding levels to begin making the needed improvements to their systems.

#### **ACEC/MN Position**

Minnesota must address its aging water infrastructure. We strongly support increased funding to address these needs and statutory changes that will allow higher grant levels for these projects.

#### **Action Requested:**

- Contact your legislators and explain that Minnesota's water infrastructure needs a significant increase in funding to address the current and future needs of its citizens.

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