

## Clean Water For All Campaign

### Water Infrastructure Priorities

#### *Increasing Federal Investment*

1. Water infrastructure funding should include sustained investments to remedy deficient drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.
2. New and innovative sources of water infrastructure funding are needed, as are increases to existing sources of funding and financing such as the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds.
3. Funding should be available for predevelopment grants, technical assistance, building new water infrastructure, repairing existing infrastructure, and deconstructing outdated infrastructure.
4. New water infrastructure funding should expand or complement the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds, not replace them.
5. Federal funding for water infrastructure should not come at the expense of reductions in federal funding for new or existing environmental investments or regulatory programs.

#### *Establishing Better Incentives for States*

6. Federal water infrastructure financing should create incentives and opportunities for states to increase their investments when they have the means to do so, but without reducing federal spending or transferring burdensome responsibilities to state and local governments, and/or communities.
7. Funding distribution should incentivize cross-departmental and multi-jurisdictional coordination and management of water infrastructure.

#### *Maintaining and Enforcing Environmental Standards*

8. The National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act protect public health and the environment and promote a thriving economy. Protections found in these bedrock environmental laws should not be sacrificed in the name of permit streamlining. Water infrastructure funding and financing must be contingent upon compliance with these laws and all environmental protections provided by the law during the planning and construction of water infrastructure projects.
9. Wastewater and stormwater utilities should be encouraged to use integrated planning to achieve prompt compliance with existing obligations under the Clean Water Act and maximize water quality improvements that protect public health and the environment.
10. Water infrastructure funding should encourage projects that reduce energy usage and that do not exacerbate air pollution, habitat and climate impacts.

11. Federal agencies must fully enforce the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act as well as other laws and regulations that are protective of the environment and public health.

#### *Encouraging Natural Infrastructure*

12. Water infrastructure funding should require the use of natural infrastructure solutions, including source water protection, fish and wildlife habitat protection, floodplain restoration, water use efficiency, nature-based flood damage reduction, and green stormwater infrastructure, by requiring the consideration of these options before implementation of conventional methods
13. Funding mechanisms should support investment in the research and implementation of innovative natural and nature-based solutions.
14. Water infrastructure investments should include sustained investments in ecosystem restoration that produce multiple landscape-scale benefits.

#### *Prioritizing Investment to Address the Greatest Need*

15. Water infrastructure funding must be prioritized for communities that have critical infrastructure needs and lack the ability to meet those needs by raising or repaying funds from local sources.
16. Infrastructure investments should be directed to drinking water systems with the greatest water quality problems, based on a comprehensive review of available data and research.

#### *Helping Local Communities*

17. Utilities, states, and the federal government should ensure high caliber drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services are affordable to all, by adopting and supporting (a) low-income customer assistance programs and water conservation assistance, and (b) water affordability programs that are codified into policy, including equitable rate structures and strategies that reduce system-wide capital and operating costs borne by all customers.
18. Water infrastructure funding should continue and expand technical assistance programs such as those under USDA's Rural Utilities Service, National Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency programs. These services should be available to State Revolving Fund awardees.
19. Communities must be meaningfully engaged, consulted, and invited to take part in planning and project implementation to ensure project benefits are maximized for the community. Communities receiving funding for water infrastructure updates should be required to consider community benefits agreements accompanying projects.

### *Investing in America's Workers*

20. Water infrastructure investments should result in high road employment through the enforcement of the Davis Bacon Act prevailing wage, project labor agreements, green job opportunities, local job training programs, and Buy American domestic sourcing requirements.
21. Water infrastructure investments should target inclusion of disadvantaged workers and firms for training, jobs and contracts in design, construction, operations and maintenance of water infrastructure.

### *Anticipating Future Needs*

22. Water infrastructure investments must support projects that are designed, sited, and built with the full consideration of the immediate and future impacts of climate change and the expected intensification of extreme weather events resulting in increased flooding and drought conditions.
23. Water infrastructure investments must be sized and timed to match realistic customer usage, grounded in demand forecasts that fully account for established trends in household and commercial water efficiency.
24. Infrastructure funding should not incentivize reckless sprawl development and should incentivize creative system restructuring to address management, operational and compliance deficiencies.