

December 10, 2021-- *Updated December 14, 2021*

Re: Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds for water infrastructure investments

Dear Gov. Murphy, Senate President Sweeney, and Speaker of the Assembly Coughlin,

On behalf of the *50 (updated 12/14)* organizations listed below—including residents, water utilities, nonprofit organizations, local governments, and businesses—we write to urge you to use a significant portion of the state’s available American Rescue Plan Act “State Fiscal Recovery Fund” (SFRF) monies to support a generational investment in modernizing New Jersey’s critical water infrastructure. These funds would benefit communities across New Jersey. To redress historic and ongoing inequities, these investments should prioritize disadvantaged communities (including funds provided as grants rather than loans).

As you know, our state has massive, unmet needs for investment in water and wastewater infrastructure, which is vital to the health and economic well-being of all New Jerseyans. The urgent needs include funding for removal of all lead service lines (as required by legislation enacted this year); reduction of sewage overflows (as required by state-issued permits); treatment of so-called “emerging contaminants,” PFOA and PFOS (as required by state regulations); stormwater management and flood mitigation; ensuring systems are climate-resilient; making water and sewer service affordable for all households, regardless of income; and providing technical assistance to disadvantaged communities to ensure they can access available funds.

Although federal funds from the recently enacted Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will provide a critical infusion of money for water, New Jersey’s share will only address a fraction of the state’s challenges. New Jersey should join more than 18 states that are using a portion of their SFRF funds (in some cases well over \$1 billion) for water infrastructure investments and household water affordability assistance.

As you determine how to allocate the billions of dollars in remaining SFRF funds, we urge you not to pass up this historic opportunity.

Sincerely,

Adham El-sherbeini  
Resident of Newark

Andrew Kricun  
Resident of Gloucester Township, NJ

Alan Hunt  
Musconetcong Watershed Association

Ashlee Smith  
AmeriCorp NJ watershed ambassador  
program

Amy Goldsmith  
Clean Water Action

Bill Cesanek, AICP  
Resident of East Brunswick, NJ; Planning  
Consultant in NJ

Brenda Toyloy  
The Art of Survival Corp. (ASC)

Caroline Koch  
WaterNow Alliance

Dan Kennedy  
UTCA of NJ

Dennis W. Palmer  
The Landis Sewerage Authority

Doug O'Malley  
Environment New Jersey

Ed Potosnak  
Executive Director, New Jersey League of  
Conservation Voters

Faith Teitelbaum  
Long Branch NJ

Fred Sickels  
Director Division of Water Supply &  
Geoscience, Retired

Gail Lalla  
Resident of Edison

Gregory Remaud  
NY/NJ Baykeeper

Guo Cai OuYang  
Immigrants & Minorities Unify Services  
Association (IMUSA)

Allen W Kratz  
Resilience Works, LLC

Heather Knizhnik  
NJDEP

Jennifer Harris

Joel Rosa  
City of Perth Amboy

John A. Thonet  
Thonet Associates, Inc.

John Marciszewski  
SmartCover Systems

Kimi Wei  
The Wei LLC

Laurie Howard  
The Passaic River Coalition

Lawrence Levine  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
(NRDC)

Lorraine Salamanca  
Hazen and Sawyer

Michel Boufadel  
New Jersey Institute of Technology

Peter Kasabach  
New Jersey Future

Michele Langa  
Hackensack Riverkeeper

Nicole Miller  
NewarkDIG

Patricia Lindsay-Harvey  
Willingboro Municipal Utilities Authority

Richard Calbi Jr.  
Ridgewood Water

Richard Dovey  
ACUA

Rosana Da Silva  
New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary  
Program

Ryan Berger  
Drinking Water Coalition of New Jersey  
(DWCNJ)

Ryan Krause  
South Monmouth Regional Sewerage  
Authority

Sally Rubin  
Great Swamp Watershed Association

Sapana Gandhi  
Rutgers

Sarah O'Leary  
Greater Newark Conservancy

Scott Dvorak  
The Trust for Public Land

CC: Kevin Drennan  
Matt Peterson  
Mark Magyar  
Skip Cimino  
Catherine Tung  
Hannah Thonet  
Dennis Zeveloff  
Jane Cohen  
Shawn Latourette

Sheila Baker Gujral  
Association of New Jersey Environmental  
Commissions (ANJEC)

Shereyl Snider  
East Trenton Collaborative

Stephen D. Marks  
Resident of Kearny, Hudson County

Tim Dillingham  
American Littoral Society

Yvette Jordan

Katie Angarone  
Jane Rosenblatt  
Pat Gardner  
David Zimmer  
Joe Fiordaliso  
Bob Brabston  
Thomas Koenig

Although each of the signatories is a member of Jersey Water Works, Jersey Water Works does not take a position on this matter and each of the signatories is signing on their own behalf.

*Additional signatures as of 12/14/21:*

Gwen Macchione

Michael Furrey  
Agra Environmental and Lab Services

Pam H. Mount  
Sustainable Lawrence

Shyam Marwala  
City of Newark