

To: The Honorable James L. Oberstar
From: NACWA
Cc: Ward McCarragher, Sharon Barkaloo, Ryan Seiger
Date: January 17, 2008
Re: Water Infrastructure Investment – Jobs Creation through Economic Stimulus

NACWA represents the nation's publicly owned wastewater agencies that serve the majority of Americans and collectively treat and reclaim over eighteen billion gallons of wastewater every day. We understand that congressional leaders are considering an economic stimulus package that would include \$5 billion for ready-to-go clean water projects.

Yesterday, NACWA sent an informal survey to its public agency members seeking projects that are fully designed and ready to go to construction within 90 days. In less than 12 hours, NACWA has received an overwhelming response from utilities with ready-to-go projects totaling \$719.42 million. This is consistent with surveys completed by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Water Infrastructure Network (WIN), which estimate wastewater infrastructure needs at \$300-500 billion over the next 20 years. Based on these initial responses, NACWA estimates that there is at least \$10 billion in ready-to-go projects nationally.

The initial responses represent wastewater agencies and projects from all regions of the country, including smaller communities such as the Western Virginia Water Authority (Roanoke, VA) and larger communities such as the Orange County Sanitation District in Southern California. A spreadsheet has been attached that breaks down responses by city and state along with estimated project costs. This is only a small sampling of ready-to-go projects and a more detailed analysis will be provided by Tuesday.

NACWA conducted a similar survey in 2001 contacting its members and finding that communities had \$3.208 billion worth of wastewater treatment projects ready to go within 90 days of receiving federal funds. These needs have only grown since 2001 and the economic stimulus provides an excellent opportunity to help municipalities address this need while quickly creating hundreds of thousands of jobs. Each \$1 billion invested in clean water infrastructure generates more than 47,000 jobs. Thus, the proposed \$5 billion investment in water infrastructure being considered would create over 235,000 jobs.

NACWA, as well as America's leading engineering, construction, labor, and conservation groups, are very supportive of the inclusion of \$5 billion for clean water infrastructure projects and look forward to working with you and other stakeholders to develop an effective stimulus package that is timely, targeted, and temporary.