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March 10, 2009

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Judd Gregg
Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sent via Facsimile: (202) 224-7776

Dear Chairman Conrad and Ranking Member Gregg:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) strongly supports President Obama's budget request of \$2.4 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). NACWA represents the nation's publicly owned clean water agencies that serve a majority of the sewered population and collectively treat and reclaim over eighteen billion gallons of wastewater every day.

Though the CWSRF has provided significant clean water benefits, funding for it has continued to fall since fiscal year 2004 when Congress appropriated \$1.35 billion. This decline comes even as reports from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Government Accountability Office (GAO), and Water Infrastructure Network (WIN) estimate the funding need for the next 20 years at \$300 – \$500 billion.

Meanwhile, the nation's clean water agencies continue to struggle to meet increasing challenges placed on aging wastewater infrastructure from population growth, Clean Water Act requirements, and the rising cost of construction materials and labor. NACWA believes the time is right for the federal government to recommit itself to the nation's clean water infrastructure, and fully funding the President's budget request of \$2.4 billion for the CWSRF would be a major step toward a long-term sustainable commitment to our nation's clean water goals.

Once again, we thank you for your support of the nation's publicly owned treatment works and for your help in ensuring the strength and viability of the CWSRF. NACWA looks forward to working with you on a national clean water trust fund for the nation's core wastewater infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Ken Kirk
NACWA Executive Director

Cc: Members of the Budget Committee