

MAKING THE CASE FOR GREATER INVESTMENT IN CLEAN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The Need for Greater Investment Continues to Grow

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate a \$500 billion investment gap for water and wastewater infrastructure over the next twenty years to address aging and ailing pipes and systems.
- The decline in federal funding has shifted the financing burden to local ratepayers who are seeing their rates rise nationally at double the rate of inflation. Ratepayers also currently shoulder approximately 97% of the costs of clean water projects. Today, 40% of households across America are paying more out of their disposable income for wastewater management than what EPA says is affordable.

Investments in Clean Water Make Sense for the Economy, Environment, and Public Health

- **Increases in Economic Activity and Job Creation:** Leading economists estimate that for every \$1 billion invested in water and wastewater infrastructure, 28,500 construction, engineering and manufacturing jobs are created, \$3.4 billion is added to the GDP, and personal income is boosted by \$1.1 billion.
- **Protection of Water Quality:** Data suggests that without substantial increases in investment in today's clean water infrastructure, water quality gains made since enactment of the Clean Water Act may be erased.
- **Protection of Public Health:** Over \$40 billion in documented, ready-to-go water and wastewater infrastructure projects exist across the Nation and, as Hurricane Sandy recently made clear, these projects are critical to ensuring basic sanitation and water service to communities from coast to coast.
- **Increases in Private Sector Development:** Clean water infrastructure is critical for private sector development as well. For every \$1 billion in new investment in core infrastructure, we can expect an extra \$840 million added to GDP each year from the private economy, of which about \$141 million is from increased manufacturing sector output.

For more information, contact: Hannah Mellman at hmellman@nacwa.org, Steve Dye at sdye@wef.org, or Carrie Capuco at ccapuco@werf.org.