



Scott Taylor

California Stormwater Quality Association
Chair

Randy Neprash

Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition
Vice Chair

Jennifer Watson

Tennessee Stormwater Association
Treasurer

Member Organizations

Alabama Stormwater Association

Arizona Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities

California Stormwater Quality Association

Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition

Georgia Association of Water Professionals

Indiana Association for Floodplain & Stormwater Management

Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership

Kentucky Stormwater Association

Louisiana Urban Stormwater Coalition

Maine Water Environment Association

Montana MS4 Communities

Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition

Nebraska Floodplain & Stormwater Managers Association

Pennsylvania Water Environment Association

Tennessee Stormwater Association

Utah Stormwater Advisory Committee

Virginia Municipal Stormwater Association

Washington Stormwater Center

Water Environment Federation

Seth P. Brown, Ph.D., P.E.

National Municipal Stormwater Alliance
Executive Director

July 17, 2020

Members of the United States Congress
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Increased Funding for Stormwater Infrastructure to Stimulate the Economy and Protect Communities

Dear Members of the United States Congress:

As the Senate works to support the nation during the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, we are writing on behalf of the National Municipal Stormwater Alliance (NMSA) to urge you to provide funding support for stormwater infrastructure investments needed for communities to address water quality and localized flooding priorities. Like funding for other forms of water infrastructure, investments in stormwater infrastructure create local jobs, generate revenues for the government and businesses, and help protect communities from environmental and public health risks. NMSA, an organization representing MS4-permitted stormwater programs in over 3,000 communities across 18 states in all regions of the country, compiled information on stormwater projects that are "ready-to-go" for investment, and we wish to share this information with you.

The largest increasing source of water pollution in the U.S. is urban stormwater runoff. This runoff reduces water quality in receiving waters as well as increasing the scale and impact of localized flooding. Over 95% of water sector investments come from local sources. While local drinking water and wastewater programs rely exclusively on rate payer fees, the vast majority of funding for stormwater programs originate from local government general funds. With local economies devastated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ability for communities to address needed stormwater investments will be severely challenged without federal support.

We have estimated the potential for stormwater infrastructure to contribute to economic recovery investments by reaching out to our member network, and have compiled a list of "ready-to-go" stormwater infrastructure projects that communities can implement within 24 months if funding were to be provided. **The estimated value of these projects is \$1.3 billion.** This list was compiled to capture the projects that would likely not be included in Clean Water Act State Revolving Fund (SRF) Intended Use Plans (IUPs) as these lists



are often used to develop “shovel ready” lists for the Clean Water sector. However, over the history of the SRF program, less than 5% of projects listed in IUPs qualify as stormwater projects. The 2018 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Needs Assessment Survey led by the Water Environment Federation produced an estimated annual funding gap of \$7.5 billion exist, so it is likely that the value provided through our recent effort is low compared to the total overall national investment needed.

Studies show that investments in Clean Water investments, such as urban stormwater infrastructure, can provide an economic return as high as 3:1. this means an investment of \$1.3 billion could generate up to \$3.9 billion in economic activity for communities at a time when local economies are in the most need of economic stimulus arguably since the Great Depression. The value of these investments goes beyond economic activity generated. Providing clean water and enabling the capacity of a community to sustain critical natural resources is a clear strength for both public health as well as economic stability and growth – these are critical elements that attract businesses and residents upon which healthy future economic development depends.

Communities have been hit hard by recent events and our constituents appreciate your support for federal funding that will accelerate our economic recovery and invest in our stormwater infrastructure. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Seth Brown, the executive director of the National Municipal Stormwater Alliance, at 202.774.8097 or seth.brown@nationalstormwateralliance.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Taylor".

Scott Taylor, PE, D.WRE
Chair, National Municipal Stormwater Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Watson".

Jennifer Watson
Secretary, National Municipal Stormwater Alliance

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Neprash".

Randy Neprash, PE
Vice Chair, National Municipal Stormwater Alliance

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Seth P. Brown".

Seth P. Brown, PE, PhD
Executive Director, National Municipal Stormwater Alliance