



FACT SHEET

PRIORITY ONE: INVESTING IN CLEAN AND SAFE WATER FOR ALL AMERICANS

Aging Water Infrastructure Threatens Public Health and Safety

- Water main breaks, sewage spills, aging water pipes, and inadequate treatment facilities have created serious public health and safety issues in communities across America.
- More than 20 percent of drinking water is lost and 1.2 trillion gallons of storm water and wastewater overflow every year due to leaks and breaks in our country's 800,000 miles of water pipe and 600,000 miles of sewer lines. (Congressional Budget Office)
- Scientists estimate that more than 7 million people become ill from contaminated water each year. (Natural Resources Defense Council)
- In 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency reported 73,000 sewage spills.
- The U.S. faces a \$300-\$500 billion funding gap over 20 years between what is needed to upgrade and repair the nation's wastewater infrastructure and what is being spent. (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Government Accountability Office, and Water Infrastructure Network)

Water Projects Provide Tangible, Immediate Economic Benefits

- Although President Obama has called for 2,680 water and wastewater infrastructure projects with an investment of \$15 billion, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has identified 4,029 "shovel ready" projects that could create more than 271,000 jobs in 2009 and 2010 for an investment of \$23.4 billion. In addition, the vast majority of equipment and supplies for water projects are made in the U.S., further increasing the immediate economic benefits of these investments.
- For every new job added for local water and sewer facilities, it is estimated that 3.68 jobs are created. (U.S. Department of Commerce)
- Large scale projects include:
 - \$648 million in Atlanta, Ga., for water treatment plants, flood control, water main and pumping station improvements;
 - \$511 million in Los Angeles for flood control, water quality and storm water projects;
 - \$500 million in Austin, Texas, for storm water bypass tunnel, water reclamation initiative, water main improvements and other projects;
 - \$250 million in Philadelphia for city-wide water main improvements, sewer rehabilitations, water treatment plant improvements and other projects.

The Design-Build Project Delivery Approach Is Key to Reinvestment and Recovery Plan

- Design-build is the most efficient and effective approach for getting water projects started and completed faster as one firm assumes responsibility for design, construction and commissioning.
- About 20-30 percent of all U.S. water and wastewater projects already use the design-build delivery mechanism, as opposed to the more traditional design-bid-build approach, and this percentage is growing every year.
- Cape Coral, Fla.; Carson, Calif.; Detroit, Mich.; Erie, Colo.; Fort Myers, Fla.; Goodyear, Ariz.; Lawrence, Mass.; Seattle, Wash.; and Valdosta, Ga. are examples of leading communities that have recently started or completed design-build projects. In addition, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers uses design-build for many of its key projects.