

NATIONAL WATER REUSE ACTION PLAN

COMPLETED ACTION



Action 6.2B Continue to Actively Support and Communicate the Eligibility of Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Funding for Water Reuse

Background

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act ([WIFIA](#)) program accelerates investment in our nation's water and wastewater infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost, supplemental credit assistance under customized terms to creditworthy water and wastewater projects of national and regional significance. Financial constraints are frequently cited as a challenge for implementing infrastructure improvements, including water reuse, and WIFIA seeks to provide financing for large projects.

The WIFIA [statute](#) explicitly lists water recycling projects as eligible for WIFIA financing, and it is important to ensure that water reuse is explicitly included in WIFIA program implementation materials as eligible for funding. This can help make sure that prospective borrowers are fully aware of the available project options for using WIFIA financing and that the WIFIA program is able to identify and support beneficial projects.

Action Team

Action Leader

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

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- For additional information, the WIFIA program can be contacted at wifia@epa.gov

Accomplishments

Through the implementation of this action, the two intended outcomes of demonstrating the eligibility of water reuse projects in the WIFIA program and identifying water reuse projects that have been financed by WIFIA were achieved.

- To demonstrate the eligibility of water reuse projects, a comprehensive list of WIFIA materials explaining eligibilities was developed ([Milestone 3](#))
- Examples of water reuse projects financed by WIFIA loans were integrated into presentations at conferences, WIFIA information sessions and webinars
 - WIFIA Past Webinars:
<https://www.epa.gov/wifia/wifia-past-webinars>
 - July 30, 2019. WIFIA Program: Arizona Water Reuse Symposium, Flagstaff, Arizona: https://watereuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/A1.7-Dorfman_07.30.2019-Arizona-Water-Reuse.pdf
- The level of support for water reuse projects is captured in the WIFIA Reuse Project list ([Milestone 1](#) – last updated 4/5/2021)



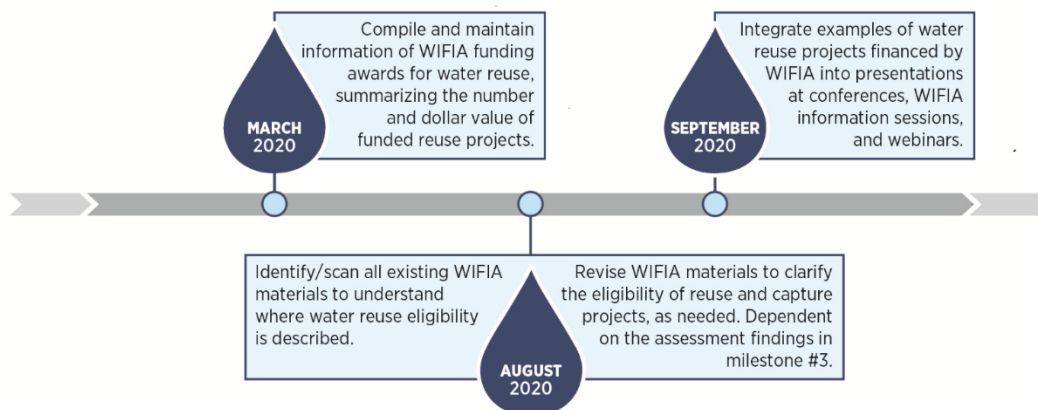
Groundbreaking Ceremony for Pure Water Oceanside

Action Impact

Highlighting the eligibility of water reuse projects in WIFIA is a simple way to help address funding challenges that communities face in implementing water reuse. By ensuring that potential borrowers are well-informed about the project eligibilities, communities can have greater flexibility in pursuing water infrastructure improvements that meet their specific needs. As of March 2021, 46 WIFIA loans have closed providing approximately \$9 billion in credit assistance to help finance \$19 billion for water infrastructure projects, which are expected to create 47,000 jobs. Of these closed loans, over \$1 billion in credit assistance have been issued for seven water reuse projects.

- [Hampton Roads Sanitation District's Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow \(SWIFT\) project](#) in Virginia Beach, Virginia - \$225 million
- [Soquel Creek Water District's Pure Water Soquel project](#) in Soquel, California - \$88.9 million
- [City of Oceanside's Pure Water Oceanside and lower recycled water distribution system expansion project](#) in Oceanside, California - \$69.1 million
- [Orange County Water District's Fountain Valley groundwater replenishment expansion project](#) in Fountain Valley, California - \$135 million
- [City of San Diego's Pure Water San Diego project](#) in San Diego, California - \$614 million
- [City of Morro Bay's Morro Bay Water Reclamation Facility project](#) in Morro Bay, California - \$61.7 million

Action Implementation Process



Future Activity

- In a January 2021 [press release](#), EPA invited 55 new projects to apply for WIFIA loans, including four water reuse projects. These projects are expected to provide water infrastructure upgrades for 30 million Americans while creating over 40,000 jobs.
- As formal applications are submitted for these projects, as well as water reuse projects that were previously invited to apply, the WIFIA program will continue to award loans for water reuse projects. WIFIA and the Water Reuse Team will continue to collaborate to identify opportunities to support water reuse and highlight success stories.

Additional Resources

- Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA): <https://www.epa.gov/wifia>
- [WRAP Action 6.1](#) Compile Existing Federal Funding Sources for Water Reuse and Develop an Interagency Decision Support Tool
- [WRAP Action 6.2A](#) Clarify and Communicate the Eligibility of Water Reuse Under the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Programs