The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program accelerates investment in our nation’s water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects.

ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE PROGRAM

BORROWER: City of Joliet
LOCATION: Joliet, Illinois
WIFIA LOAN AMOUNT: $220,989,947
TOTAL WIFIA PROJECT COSTS: $454,555,055
POPULATION SERVED BY PROJECT: 150,000 people
NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED: 4,540 jobs

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Joliet’s Alternative Water Source Program will provide a sustainable, high-quality source of drinking water to the City of Joliet and neighboring communities. The city’s primary water source, deep sandstone aquifers, will be unable to support regional demand by 2030. With this loan, the City of Joliet will modernize its existing water distribution system, including building new pumping facilities and replacing deteriorating and undersized water mains. These improvements will reduce water loss in the system from over 30 percent to below 10 percent which is required to become a Lake Michigan water user by State of Illinois regulation and the Great Lakes Compact. This loan will also support the identification and replacement of lead water service lines in the community. This is the second loan under a master agreement that will commit over $340 million in WIFIA financial assistance to the City of Joliet to implement its Alternative Water Source Program.

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Identifies and replaces of lead water service lines in community.
- Supports development of a critically needed new water source for the city and neighboring communities.
- Reduces water loss by up to 2.5 million gallons per day and supports compliance with regulatory requirements to become a Lake Michigan water user.
- Saves the City of Joliet approximately $71 million by financing with a WIFIA loan.