

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.

NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND WATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT

BORROWER: Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of

Pottawatomi Indians' Utility Authority (a.k.a. Gun Lake Tribal

Utility Authority)

LOCATION: Shares geography with the State of Michigan

WIFIA LOAN AMOUNT: \$56 million

TOTAL WIFIA PROJECT COSTS: \$70 million

POPULATION SERVED BY PROJECT: 10,574 people

NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED: 630 jobs



Photo credit: Gun Lake Tribe

WEBSITE: www.epa.gov/wifia EMAIL: wifia@EPA.gov

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Gun Lake Tribal Utility Authority's New Wastewater Treatment Plant and Water Treatment Plant Project will improve and expand the water and wastewater systems to meet the needs of its commercial customers now and in the future. The Authority will utilize WIFIA financing to design and construct a new wastewater treatment plant, new water treatment plant, groundwater wells, and an elevated water storage tank. The project also includes water meters to improve water loss monitoring. This updated infrastructure will provide a safe drinking water supply and avoid potential untreated wastewater discharged into nearby waterways. With this project, customers will benefit from improved drinking water and wastewater resiliency, redundancy, and cybersecurity. This WIFIA loan provides environmental, economic, and societal benefits to this small Tribal community with environmental justice concerns.

PROJECT AND FINANCING BENEFITS

- Improves drinking water and wastewater resiliency, redundancy, and cybersecurity.
- Creates the opportunity for economic development and additional jobs for the Tribal community.
- Original loan executed in 2023 saves the Gun Lake Tribal Utility Authority approximately
 \$25 million compared to typical market financing.
- Re-execution of the WIFIA loan in 2024 saves the Gun Lake Tribal Utility Authority an additional \$4 million.

