

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROPOSED CUTS TO THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) BUDGET AND
STATE REVOLVING FUNDS (SRFs)**

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plays a critical role in protecting public health and the environment through enforcement of clean air and clean water standards, hazardous waste management, and environmental remediation; and

WHEREAS, the EPA administers the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), which provide essential financial support to states and communities for wastewater and drinking water infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, proposed federal budget cuts to the EPA and SRFs would significantly undermine local efforts to maintain, repair, and upgrade critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, water quality and environmental protection are foundational to public health, economic development, ecological sustainability, and climate resilience; and

WHEREAS, federal investment in clean water and environmental protection has historically enjoyed bipartisan support and provides a high return on investment through job creation, pollution reduction, and long-term cost savings; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of underfunding the EPA and SRFs could include increased incidences of waterborne illnesses, environmental degradation, and infrastructure failures that threaten communities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, water is an essential component of nearly every aspect of life—it is either a part of the products we use or plays a critical role in their production, sanitation, or delivery, and proper wastewater disposal is necessary to protect both human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, water and wastewater-related infrastructure must function continuously, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and requires consistent maintenance, upgrades, and expansion to meet existing and growing demand; and

WHEREAS, systems for water supply, delivery, control, and wastewater treatment must be adapted to meet the challenges posed by changing operational conditions and regulatory requirements; and

WHEREAS, water and wastewater utilities require adequate and sustained funding to effectively address these pressing needs and ensure long-term sustainability and resilience; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), as well as other federal revolving funding sources, have helped such utilities fulfill their responsibilities for the past thirty years; and

WHEREAS, over the past thirty years, the SRFs have helped New Jersey finance below market loans for 1,666 water/sewer projects through \$7.6 billion in SRF permanent loans and \$1.48 billion in short-term SRF construction loans; and

WHEREAS, these projects have generated 140,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY2026 Federal Budget would decrease the SRFs by 89 percent and reduce NJ's full SRF allocation from \$84M to \$9M; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has declared that this draconian cut would be tantamount to “kneecapping” the infrastructure financing programs that are vital to local utilities and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) has expressed strong support of SRF funding in recent hearings and has urged its members to advocate for SRF funding; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority ("Authority") agrees with NACWA and AMWA on the vital importance of the State Revolving Funds; and

WHEREAS, the Authority's users have directly benefitted from the SRF program funding assistance for several projects completed with I-Bank funding, and anticipates utilizing funding for needed upgrades and the replacement of aging infrastructure in the future; and

WHEREAS, a proposed 54 percent cut to the overall budget of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would severely harm the residents of this state and the environment, and threaten to reverse decades of progress in environmental protection and improvement to public health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority strongly opposes the proposed cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) budget and State Revolving Funds (SRFs), and urges the United States Congress and the President to maintain or increase funding for the EPA and SRFs to ensure continued progress in protecting public health and the environment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authority calls on our local, state, and federal elected representatives to actively work toward the full restoration of both SRF funding and the EPA budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Administrator of the EPA, and the Congressional delegation representing the persons and entities located within the service area of the PRBRSA.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Pequannock River Basin River Sewerage Authority at its regular meeting held on May 21, 2025.



Dave Desai, Secretary