



Department of Environmental Protection

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Bethany A. Card
Secretary

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

May 25, 2022

Dear Municipal Official:

You are receiving this letter because the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) needs your assistance completing the 2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS or 'survey') to identify and document the expected costs of the Commonwealth's capital investments needed to meet the water quality and water-quality-related public health goals of the Clean Water Act. This information is being accepted electronically **no later than October 30, 2022**, through MassDEP's eSRF portal.

The 2022 CWNS is the USEPA's 17th nationwide survey. This survey communicates to Congress current estimates for the Clean Water Act (CWA)-related needs of the nation and each state, including territories. The USEPA conducted the first survey in 1972 and continued biennially until 1992. From 1996 to 2012, the USEPA conducted the survey every four years. The last survey was conducted in 2012.

Congressional Mandate

The CWNS is required under Section 609 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, that amended the CWA. The Act requires the USEPA, in partnership with the states, to "conduct and complete an assessment of capital improvement needs for all projects that are eligible under Section 603(c) for assistance from State water pollution control revolving funds; and submit to Congress a report describing the results of the assessment." The Report to Congress is used to allocate assistance to the states. The CWNS result is included in the allotment formula for the Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program.

Section 516 of the Water Quality Act of 1987 also requires the Report to Congress to include a comprehensive analysis of the national requirements for treating wastewater to meet water quality objectives. Therefore, the USEPA collects information (regardless of existing need) on the type of treatment systems already in place or needed to support this analysis.

Tie to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program was established under Section 603(c) of the CWA to fund water quality protection efforts. The program was established in 1987 with three eligibilities: the construction of publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), implementation of a nonpoint source (NPS) management program, and the development and implementation of a National Estuary Program (NEP) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan. Since then, the CWSRF eligibilities have expanded, first through the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 and again with the passage of America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. As the CWSRF has broadened its funding eligibilities, the

le in alternate format. Contact Glynis Bugg at 617-348-4040.TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

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USEPA has also broadened the scope of the survey, reflecting the expansion of types of projects eligible for CWSRF financing

To encompass needs for all projects that are eligible for the CWSRF, the 2022 CWNS is collecting technical and capital needs data for construction costs of POTWs, inventory of existing and proposed wastewater conveyance and treatment facilities, nonpoint source (NPS) best management practice (BMP) implementation, desalination, water efficiency, and renewable energy projects.

The 2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey

Needs are documented projects or portions of projects and associated capital costs that address a water quality or water-quality-related public health problem. Projects included in the survey must not have external funding in place, cannot have been started as of January 1, 2022, and should be expected to occur within the next 20 years.

In the 2022 CWNS, the USEPA will report technical and needs data for:

- Publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment facilities
- Stormwater and combined sewer overflows control facilities
- Nonpoint source pollution control projects
- Decentralized wastewater management

The USEPA collects information about these facilities and projects including:

- Estimated needs to address water quality or water quality related public health problems.
- Location and contact information for facilities and projects.
- Facility populations served, flow, effluent, and unit process information.
- Nonpoint source pollution control best management practices.

Your community may need to fill out multiple surveys because each survey is unique to each infrastructure type: wastewater treatment plant, collection, combined sewer overflow, stormwater, nonpoint source, and decentralized wastewater treatment, and technical.

2022 CWNS

Where does your wastewater go to? Which **Infrastructure Types** does your Municipality have?



Wastewater
Treatment Plant



Collection



Combined Sewer Overflow



Stormwater



Nonpoint Source



Decentralized Wastewater
Treatment

- **Your municipality will have one or more of the above infrastructure types**
- **A unique survey is required for each infrastructure type listed above.**
- **Needed projects / activities must**
 - ✓ address a water quality or human health problem
 - ✓ be supported with documentation
 - ✓ Projects must be unfunded as of 1/1/2022 and expected to occur within the next 20 years
- **Supporting document(s) describe the solution to the pollution problem (i.e., the project/ activity) and the solution's costs**



Guidance and Instructions on how to submit the CWNS surveys can be found online at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/state-revolving-fund-applications-forms>, [2022 CWNS Presentation.PDF](#) and the [eSRF Portal](#).

If you are interested in learning more about the survey, you can view the results from the last survey (conducted in 2012) here: (<https://ordspub.epa.gov/ords/cwns2012/f?p=cwns2012:3>), and you can read the last Report to Congress here:(<https://www.epa.gov/cwns/clean-watersheds-needs-survey-cwns-2012-report-and-data>)

Assistance for Communities

MassDEP is contracting with pre-qualified consultant companies to assist communities to complete the surveys at no cost to the community.

If you would like assistance from a pre-qualified consultant, please contact Ashraf Gabour by email at ashraf.gabour@mass.gov so that a consultant can be assigned to assist your community.

MassDEP Contacts:

For questions about the survey:

Ashraf Gabour at ashraf.gabour@mass.gov

Phone: (617) 556-1076

For questions about existing wastewater facilities:

Lealdon Langley at lealdon.langley@mass.gov

Phone: (617) 574-6882

Data Entry inquiries:

SRF Data Support Team at srfmadep@mass.gov

MassDEP appreciates your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Maria E. Pinaud, Director
Division of Municipal Services

1 <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-117hr3684enr/html/BILLS-117hr3684enr.htm>

2 <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/sewer-overflow-and-stormwater-reuse-municipal-grants-program>