

**BOROUGH OF BUENA
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF BUENA MUNICIPAL
UTILITIES AUTHORITY IN SUPPORT OF CLEAN WATER,
HEALTHY FAMILIES, GOOD JOBS**

R-18-2022

WHEREAS, clean water is critical for the economic vitality, environmental health, and quality of life within New Jersey cities; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's aging water infrastructure is in urgent need of extensive upgrades; and

WHEREAS, aging water infrastructure is costly for New Jersey; for example, 130 million gallons of treated drinking water are lost per day to leaky pipes, flooding resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in damage last year alone, and lead-contaminated drinking water has caused immeasurable damage to the health of children, especially in some of the state's most vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, budget constraints, expensive capital requirements, and ongoing operating costs to address these issues can pose major financial challenges; and

WHEREAS, Governor Murphy and the state legislature have an opportunity to make a historic investment in water infrastructure and demonstrate that New Jersey is a leader on one of the most important issues we face; and

WHEREAS, new state mandates for the replacement of lead service lines, removal of PFAs (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination, upgrades to combined sewer systems, and addressing aging and unreliable drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in the face of climate change impacts will require significant local funds; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency estimates that New Jersey will require \$8.5 billion over the next 20 years for drinking water projects and \$17.5 billion over the next 20 years for clean water projects, for a total of at least \$26 billion; and

WHEREAS, these costs will be passed on to customers of drinking water and wastewater systems through user rates and/or increases in property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey received \$6.4 billion from the federal American Rescue Plan Act that may be used for investments in water and sewer infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is receiving \$1 billion over five years from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (aka the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law); and

WHEREAS, investing an additional \$1.2 billion of federal funds in water infrastructure by the State of New Jersey, for a combined total of \$2.2 billion in federal funds, offers a generational opportunity to protect public health and reestablish a state of good repair for our communities' drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems; and

WHEREAS, the investment would also help remove emerging contaminants from drinking water, protect property from chronic flooding, reduce water pollution, increase water system efficiency, and make water bills affordable for everyone, all while creating tens of thousands of jobs.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the Board of the Borough of Buena Municipal Utilities Authority that the Borough of Buena Municipal Utilities Authority endeavors to request that the State of New Jersey/Governor Murphy/New Jersey State Legislature:

1. Commit an additional \$1.2 billion in funding from its American Rescue Plan funds to ensure every community has affordable, safe drinking water, clean waterways, and flood protection; and
2. Grow the amount of federal funding for New Jersey water projects; and
3. Prioritize investments in overburdened communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution shall take effect upon approval by the Borough of Buena Municipal Utilities Authority Board pursuant to law.

ADOPTED: JUNE 8, 2022

ATTEST:

BOROUGH OF BUENA MUNICIPAL
UTILITIES AUTHORITY


CHERYL SANTORE, SECRETARY


JOSEPH SANTAGATA, CHAIRMAN

RECORD OF BOARD MEMBER'S VOTE

Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Did Not Vote
Baker				✓
Delano				✓
Formisano	✓			
Johnston	✓			
Santagata	✓			
Abriola	✓			