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Mitchell, Williams, Selig, Gates & Woodyard, P.L.L.C.



Walter Wright, Jr. wwright@mwlaw.com (501) 688.8839

Clean Water/Drinking Water State Revolving Funds: Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Approves Projects Totaling \$153 Million

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The Arkansas Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Commission approved \$153 million for drinking water and wastewater related projects.

52 entities will receive the funds.

Funding for these projects is derived from the federal Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. Drinking Water State Revolving Funds are authorized by the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Acts. They are utilized to upgrade water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure and provide low-interest, flexible loans for water infrastructure are provided. Such funding is administered by the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Division in the state of Arkansas.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency operates these State Revolving Fund programs through appropriations. The states then use these federal grants to capitalize State Revolving Fund loans. Subsidized loans are provided, but states can provide grants or a negative-interest-rate loan if they so choose.

1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act specifies the percentage of State Revolving Fund appropriations that a state receives (i.e., an "allotment"). Such percentages provide a minimum share of 0.5% to each state.

The funding is critical as local governments struggle to address costly wastewater and drinking water infrastructure needs.

A copy of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission list of entities receiving funds and a description of the projects and loan amounts can be found <u>here</u>.