



# Environmental Facilities Corporation

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## **EFC Approves \$35.5 Million in Grants and Loans for Drinking Water and Wastewater Treatment System Improvements in Nine Communities**

### **Storm Protection Funds Will Fortify City of Kingston Water System**

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corp. (EFC) today approved \$35.5 million in grants and low-cost loans for nine infrastructure projects across the state, including \$2.7 million for storm-protection upgrades to the City of Kingston's water treatment system.

"New York State is helping local governments protect their water supplies through new infrastructure and upgrades designed to protect water-treatment facilities and keep them operating during severe storms," said EFC President and CEO Matthew Driscoll. "New York State is determined to build back better and stronger from Superstorm Sandy. This major investment will help protect critical infrastructure in Kingston from storm damage and maintain drinking water service for the city's residents and businesses."

"Communities must be able to protect and enhance water quality for its residents and businesses and environment," said Joe Martens, chairman of EFC's Board of Directors and Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). "That is why Governor Cuomo created the Storm Mitigation Loan Program to assist local governments in strengthening long-term resiliency for wastewater and drinking water treatment facilities in areas impacted by Hurricane Sandy."

EFC is the arm of Governor Andrew Cuomo's administration that helps communities pay for major improvements to their drinking water and wastewater systems.

EFC approved a \$679,737 grant and more than \$2 million in interest-free financing to Kingston for a series of flood-protection and other storm-mitigation measures for the city's drinking water system. An emergency generator will be installed at the Foxhall Avenue Pump Station, which serves Benedictine Hospital among other customers. Other storm-related projects include:

- several improvements to the Edmund T. Cloonan Water Treatment Plant, including new filters to treat water with high turbidity and allow the plant to operate at full capacity during a storm;
- installation of flood-protection barriers and the sealing of manholes in the plant floor to protect the plant from flooding; and,
- the purchase and installation of a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system to allow remote monitoring and operation of critical water system facilities. With a SCADA system, engineers will be able to remotely monitor water levels in the city's water tanks as well as pump status. The new system will also include intrusion alarms and other security measures to provide more security.

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The \$407 million storm program is administered by EFC, DEC and the Department of Health with grants available for up to 25 percent of a project's cost and a zero-interest loan for the remaining costs. The fund is available for storm-mitigation projects that will protect water systems in the 14 counties impacted by Superstorm Sandy: Bronx, Greene, Kings, Nassau, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Suffolk, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

EFC also approved another \$8.6 million in grant funds and loans today for three projects under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, which is jointly administered by EFC and DOH:

- **Town of Cape Vincent** (\$2,852,000; \$806,503 grant and \$2,045,497 interest-free loan). The town will construct a new water distribution system to serve Water District #6, an area currently served by inadequate private wells. This project will also replace a regulated water system, the Tibbett's Point Hostel, which is in violation of the Surface Water Treatment Rule;
- **Village of Pawling** (\$2,847,610 short-term loan; \$949,203 interest-free, \$1,898,407 low-interest) The village plans to install a microfiltration treatment system to cleanse surface water from the Upper and Lower Pawling Reservoir and end the use of contaminated wells.
- **Town of Marcellus** (\$2,936,128 long-term loan) This 30-year, interest-free loan will refinance a short-term loan that allows the towns of Marcellus and Skaneateles to construct a new distribution system for the Limeledge Water District and a new common connection with the Onondaga County Water Authority.

“DOH is pleased to work with our partners at EFC to ensure the availability of safe drinking water for these communities,” said DOH Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker. “Financing through the Storm Mitigation Loan Program and New York’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund will help these and other municipalities across our State achieve important public health goals.”

EFC also approved more than \$24 million in financing for wastewater improvement projects in:

- **Oneida County** (\$12,745,218, split equally between interest-free and low-interest loans). Sewer and manhole repairs will take place throughout the Oneida County Sewer District. This financing also includes the cost of on-going camera inspections to assess sewer conditions, dye testing, flow metering, a treatment plant evaluation and manhole inspections – all aimed at preventing excess water from entering the collection system and causing overflows at the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station;
- **Rensselaer County** (\$8 million in short-term, interest-free and low-interest loans). Three pump stations – the Monroe Street Pumping Station, the 106th St. Pumping Station and the Wynantskill Pumping Station – will be upgraded with new equipment, SCADA monitoring and building improvements.
- **Town of Aurelius** (\$2,587,313 long-term loan). A 30-year, interest-free loan will pay for costs associated with the installation of a new sewage system to replace aging, defective septic systems along Cayuga Lake and the Seneca River.
- **Town of Inlet** (\$601,500 long-term, interest-free loan). A 30-year interest-free loan will pay for costs associated with a recently completed wastewater collection and treatment facility. The new treatment facility will be located near Fern Park and eliminates sewage discharges from previous on-site septic systems.

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- **Town of Wolcott** (\$250,000 short-term, interest-free loan). The town will receive an additional \$250,000 in no-interest loans to assist in financing the Blind Sodus Bay wastewater collection system. EFC previously closed \$1.25 million in short-term loans for this project, which involves the abandoning of all existing septic systems in the town that border Blind Sodus Bay, replacing them with individual pump stations and a low-pressure sewer force main system.

New York State leads the nation with the largest annual investment in water-quality infrastructure of any state. Since 2011, New York State has financed more than \$6.7 billion in critical water and wastewater infrastructure investments – the largest four-year investment since the inception of the revolving loan funds in 1987.

In addition, today the board unanimously confirmed Sabrina Ty as EFC's President and CEO starting July 1, when Matthew Driscoll will depart to become Department of Transportation Commissioner.

The state revolving loan funds are administered by the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, on behalf of the Department of Environmental Conservation, and jointly with the New York State Department of Health. For the 2015 federal fiscal year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency allotted New York State \$155 million for wastewater and related projects under the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and \$42 million for the state's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.

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