

January 24, 2025

James Payne Acting Administrator U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Acting Administrator Payne,

The Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA), which represents the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) in all 50 states, urges you to use your discretion, as allowed by the <u>Guidance Regarding Section 7 of the Executive Order Unleashing American</u> <u>Energy</u>, to maintain disbursement for and resume the award of capitalization grants for the SRFs.

The SRFs are the nation's premier programs for funding infrastructure that provide safe and affordable drinking water, wastewater services and stormwater management to thousands of communities around the country. Since the programs were established, the state-run, fiscally responsible, subsidized loan programs have used \$77 billion in federal funding to generate more than \$229 billion in financial assistance for more than 70,000 drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects.

With no nexus between the SRFs and energy production or the electric vehicle mandate, normal operations should resume without concerns about conflicts with the new policy required through Executive Order, <u>Unleashing American Energy</u>. Unnecessary restrictions on access to federal funding could delay critical water infrastructure projects, which may increase the risk to public health. Resuming the normal process of approving and awarding capitalization grants and disbursements will ensure these critical water infrastructure projects remain on track, on time and on budget.

Please contact Executive Director Deirdre Finn at <u>dfinn@cifanet.org</u> or (850) 445-9619 with any questions or for more information.

Thanks so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Knecht CIFA President

## About CIFA

CIFA is a national not-for-profit organization of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), the nation's premier programs for funding water infrastructure that protects public health and the environment.

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