



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Awarded \$5 Million Grant**  
*Funding to be Redirected to Critical Water Projects*

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce it received a \$4,967,622 grant in the form of loan forgiveness from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (CWT). The grant is part of the CWT's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program, which provides low-interest loans to communities across the Commonwealth for drinking water projects.

The Commission had secured a \$25,089,000 SRF loan for its Clearwell and Backwash Pump Station Replacement Project. The project involves constructing a new clearwell and replacing obsolete backwash pumps at West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant in order to protect water quality and assist in achieving regulatory compliance, including for disinfection byproducts such as HAA5.

"We are grateful to the Clean Water Trust for this much-needed grant, which is the second-largest awarded among 26 communities," said Executive Director Joshua Schimmel. "By forgiving close to \$5 million of our SRF loan for this project, we are able to redirect significant funding towards other critically needed infrastructure improvements across our aging drinking water and wastewater systems."

This fall, the Commission announced a \$500 million Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement Program, funded in part through low-interest loans from the SRF as well as a \$250 million low-interest loan from EPA's competitive Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program. The Clearwell and Backwash Pump Station Replacement Project is part of that portfolio.

The clearwell is used to store water for backwashing (cleaning) the rapid sand filters and for plant operations. The existing clearwell was originally constructed in 1925 as a slow sand filter and was later converted to a clearwell in 1974. Due to its age and original purpose, it is prone to issues related to infiltration, structural integrity, and lack of redundancy. The new clearwell will be an underground concrete structure with two chambers to allow for maintenance. The clearwell replacement project commenced in December 2021 with the demolition of slow sand filter chambers to create space for the new project.



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The project also involves the upgrade and replacement of two backwash pumps. The pumps are used to backwash (clean) the rapid sand filters. The existing pumps are obsolete, dating from the mid-1970s, with no availability of replacement parts or service manufacturers. The two new backwash pumps and related systems will provide increased horsepower, energy-efficient motors and controls, and much-needed redundancy.

**About the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission**

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission is an independent, regional public utility that provides drinking water and wastewater service to approximately 250,000 people in the lower Pioneer Valley. The Commission provides retail drinking water service to Springfield and Ludlow and wholesale drinking water to Southwick, Agawam, Longmeadow, and East Longmeadow.

**About the Clean Water Trust**

Chaired by Treasurer and Receiver General Deborah B. Goldberg, the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust is a state agency that improves water quality throughout the Commonwealth by providing low-interest loans to municipalities and other eligible entities. Since its establishment in 1989, the Trust has partnered with MassDEP to help develop and finance approximately \$8.1 billion of water infrastructure projects serving an estimate 97% of the Commonwealth's population.

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