

**BOROUGH OF RED BANK
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH**

RESOLUTION NO. 22-119

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLEAN WATER, HEALTHY FAMILIES, GOOD JOBS

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 Borough Council of the Borough of Red Bank that the Borough 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

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilwoman Mirandi						
Councilwoman Sturdivant						
Councilwoman Triggiano						
Councilman Ballard						
Councilman Zipprich						
Councilwoman Horgan						
Mayor Menna						
ON CONSENT AGENDA	Yes <u> </u>	No <u> </u>				

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Red Bank, In the County of Monmouth at a Meeting held on May 11, 2022.

Laura Reinertsen, Borough Clerk