

	U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Grant Agreement	GRANT NUMBER (FAIN): 50000224 MODIFICATION NUMBER: 0 PROGRAM CODE: 4C		DATE OF AWARD 08/29/2024
		TYPE OF ACTION New		MAILING DATE 09/04/2024
		PAYMENT METHOD: ASAP		ACH# 10114
		RECIPIENT TYPE: State		
RECIPIENT: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION VERMONT One National Life Drive Davis 1 Montpelier, VT 05620-0001 EIN: 03-6000274		PAYEE: DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION VERMONT 1 National Life Drive Main Building, 2nd Floor Montpelier, VT 05620-3522		
PROJECT MANAGER Eric Blatt 1 National Life Drive Davis 3 Montpelier, VT 05620-3520 Email: Eric.Blatt@Vermont.gov Phone: 802-595-4901		EPA PROJECT OFFICER Clare Oconnor 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912 Email: Oconnor.Clare@epa.gov Phone: 617-918-1548		EPA GRANT SPECIALIST Flower Armijo Mission Support Division 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912 Email: Armijo.Flower@epa.gov Phone: 617-918-1923
PROJECT TITLE AND DESCRIPTION Supplemental Clean Water State Revolving Fund Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Fiscal Year 2024 This agreement funds a capitalization grant, funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) (PL 117-58), for the recipient's Clean Water State Revolving Fund program. The recipient of these funds provide low interest financing to numerous subrecipients. The anticipated deliverables include financing, planning, design, and construction of eligible water quality improvement and protection projects. The expected outcomes are to improve and protect water quality and public health. The intended beneficiaries include citizens throughout the State. No subawards are included in this assistance agreement.				
BUDGET PERIOD 10/01/2024 - 09/30/2031	PROJECT PERIOD 10/01/2024 - 09/30/2031	TOTAL BUDGET PERIOD COST \$ 13,396,800.00	TOTAL PROJECT PERIOD COST \$ 13,396,800.00	
NOTICE OF AWARD Based on your Application dated 07/11/2024 including all modifications and amendments, the United States acting by and through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hereby awards \$ 11,164,000.00. EPA agrees to cost-share 83.33% of all approved budget period costs incurred, up to and not exceeding total federal funding of \$ 11,164,000.00. Recipient's signature is not required on this agreement. The recipient demonstrates its commitment to carry out this award by either: 1) drawing down funds within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date; or 2) not filing a notice of disagreement with the award terms and conditions within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. If the recipient disagrees with the terms and conditions specified in this award, the authorized representative of the recipient must furnish a notice of disagreement to the EPA Award Official within 21 days after the EPA award or amendment mailing date. In case of disagreement, and until the disagreement is resolved, the recipient should not draw down on the funds provided by this award/amendment, and any costs incurred by the recipient are at its own risk. This agreement is subject to applicable EPA regulatory and statutory provisions, all terms and conditions of this agreement and any attachments.				
ISSUING OFFICE (GRANTS MANAGEMENT OFFICE)		AWARD APPROVAL OFFICE		
ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS U.S. EPA, Region 1, EPA New England 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912		ORGANIZATION / ADDRESS U.S. EPA, Region 1, EPA New England R1 - Region 1 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 Boston, MA 02109-3912		
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY				
Digital signature applied by EPA Award Official Arthur Johnson - Director, Mission Support Division				DATE 08/29/2024

Budget Summary Page

Table A - Object Class Category (Non-Construction)	Total Approved Allowable Budget Period Cost
1. Personnel	\$ 237,699
2. Fringe Benefits	\$ 171,274
3. Travel	\$ 0
4. Equipment	\$ 0
5. Supplies	\$ 1,513
6. Contractual	\$ 267,936
7. Construction	\$ 0
8. Other	\$ 12,651,561
9. Total Direct Charges	\$ 13,329,983
10. Indirect Costs: 0.00 % Base -	\$ 66,817
11. Total (Share: Recipient <u>16.67</u> % Federal <u>83.33</u> %)	\$ 13,396,800
12. Total Approved Assistance Amount	\$ 11,164,000
13. Program Income	\$ 0
14. Total EPA Amount Awarded This Action	\$ 11,164,000
15. Total EPA Amount Awarded To Date	\$ 11,164,000

Administrative Conditions

National Administrative Terms and Conditions

General Terms and Conditions

The recipient agrees to comply with the current EPA general terms and conditions available at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/epa-general-terms-and-conditions-effective-october-1-2023-or-later>.

These terms and conditions are in addition to the assurances and certifications made as a part of the award and the terms, conditions, or restrictions cited throughout the award.

The EPA repository for the general terms and conditions by year can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/grants/grant-terms-and-conditions#general>.

A. Correspondence Condition

The terms and conditions of this agreement require the submittal of reports, specific requests for approval, or notifications to EPA. Unless otherwise noted, all such correspondence should be sent to the following email addresses:

- Federal Financial Reports (SF-425): rtpfc-grants@epa.gov and Project Officer on Page 1 of Award Document.
- MBE/WBE reports (EPA Form 5700-52A): Grants Specialist on Page 1 of Award Document AND Larry Wells, Disadvantaged Business Utilization Program Manager: rl_mbewbereport@epa.gov.
- All other forms/certifications/assurances, Indirect Cost Rate Agreements, Requests for Extensions of the Budget and Project Period, Amendment Requests, Requests for other Prior Approvals, updates to recipient information (including email addresses, changes in contact information or changes in authorized representatives) and other notifications: Grants Specialist and Project Officer on Page 1 of Award Document.
- Payment requests (if applicable): Grants Specialist and Project Officer on Page 1 of Award Document.
- Quality Assurance documents, workplan revisions, equipment lists, programmatic reports and deliverables: Project Officer on Page 1 of Award Document AND R1QAPPS@epa.gov.

Programmatic Conditions

FFY 2024 BIL/IIJA CWSRF General Supplemental Programmatic Terms and Conditions

A. Payment Schedule

The recipient agrees to accept grant funds that will be released by EPA utilizing the ASAP payment method. Access to these funds will be in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Payment Quarter</u>	<u>Payment Date</u>	<u>Payment Amount</u>
FFY2025/Quarter 1	10/1/2024	\$2,791,000.00
FFY2025/Quarter 2	01/1/2025	\$2,791,000.00
FFY2025/Quarter 3	04/1/2025	\$2,791,000.00
FFY2025/Quarter 4	07/1/2025	\$2,791,000.00

B. State Match

The recipient agrees to deposit into its State Revolving Fund (SRF) a match equal to at least 20 percent of the amount awarded in the capitalization grant.

C. Intended Use Plan and Operating Agreement

The entire contents of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) SFY 2024 Intended Use Plan (IUP) and (if applicable) the Operating Agreement (OA) are incorporated hereto by reference and made a part of this Assistance Agreement.

The State is required to have a final intended use plan (IUP) approved by EPA Region 1 prior to drawing any federal funds from this capitalization grant. Once the draft IUP has been public noticed and comments have been reviewed and incorporated, the final IUP will be submitted to the EPA Region 1 Project Officer for review.

D. Amended Cash Draw Proportionality

As of November 18, 2022, recipients are no longer required to comply with the cash draw rules in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) regulations at 40 CFR 35.3155(d)(5)(i) and (ii) and 40 CFR 35.3160(b)(2)-(4) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) regulations at 40 CFR 35.3560(f) and (g) and 40 CFR 35.3565(b). For further details on this change, see the linked [notification memo](#) from Division Directors Raffael Stein and Anita Maria Thompkins dated November 30, 2022.

E. Travel

EPA approves the use of Federal funds for travel budgeted in capitalization grants for implementing the Clean Water SRF (CWSRF) program. The recipient agrees to use CWSRF funds to participate in training and professional development activities integral to the effective implementation and management of the CWSRF program.

F. SRF Data System and Environmental Benefits Reporting

The recipient agrees to input data, as required by EPA, into the SRF Data System. The recipient of funds for the State Revolving Funds (SRF) from the BIL, also known as the IIJA, 2021, P.L. 117-58, agrees to comply with all requests for data related to the use of the funds under Title VI of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and to report all uses of the funds no less than quarterly, as the Environmental Protection Agency specifies for the SRF Data System. This reporting shall include, but not be limited to, data with respect to compliance with the Green Project Reserve and additional subsidization requirements as specified in P.L. 118-42) (the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024), and P.L. 117-58, respectively. EPA agrees to provide technical assistance to the state in its use of the SRF Data System.

G. Annual Reporting

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.329 and 40 CFR 35.3165 the recipient agrees to provide in its Annual Report information regarding key project characteristics, milestones, and environmental/public health protection results in the following areas: 1) achievement of the outputs and outcomes established in the IUP; 2) the reasons for delays if established outputs or outcomes were not met; 3) any additional pertinent information on environmental results; 4) compliance with the Green Project Reserve requirement; and 5) use of additional subsidization.

H. Program Income from Administrative Fees

Program income earned during the grant period may be used for the specific purposes identified in 2 CFR 200.307 and 2 CFR 1500.8. The recipient agrees to comply with EPA's "Guidance on Fees Charged by States to Recipients of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program Assistance" issued October 20, 2005, as amended by subsequent guidance. Specifically, the State has agreed: 1) to maintain records which account for fees separate from the CWSRF project fund, 2) to identify in the IUP all types of fees charged on loans, including the fee rate, and the amount of fees available, and 3) to include in the annual report the types of fees charged on loans, the amount of fees collected, and how those amounts were used.

I. Signage Required

1. Signage Requirements

a. Investing in America Emblem: The recipient will ensure that a sign is placed at construction sites supported in whole or in part by this award displaying the official Investing in America emblem and must identify the project as a "project funded by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" or "project funded by President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act" as applicable. The sign must be placed at construction sites in an easily visible location that can be directly linked to the work taking place and must be maintained in good condition throughout the construction period.

The recipient will ensure compliance with the guidelines and design specifications provided by EPA for using the official Investing in America emblem available at: <https://www.epa.gov/invest/investing-america-signage>.

b. Procuring Signs: Consistent with section 6002 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. 6962, and 2 CFR 200.323, recipients are encouraged to use recycled or recovered materials when procuring signs. Signage costs are considered an allowable cost under this assistance agreement provided that the costs associated with signage are reasonable. Additionally, to increase public awareness of projects serving communities where English is not the predominant language, recipients are encouraged to translate the language on signs (excluding the official Investing in America emblem or EPA logo or seal) into the appropriate non-English language(s). The costs of such translation are allowable, provided the costs are reasonable.

2. Public or Media Events

EPA encourages the recipient to notify the EPA Project Officer listed in this award document of public or media events publicizing the accomplishment of significant events related to construction projects as a result of this agreement and provide the opportunity for attendance and participation by federal representatives with at least ten (10) working days' notice.

J. Green Project Reserve

The recipient agrees to make a timely and concerted good faith solicitation for projects that address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities. A good faith solicitation must be open to all GPR eligible projects in each of the four GPR categories. The State's annual open solicitation for projects will be deemed sufficient for these purposes as long as that solicitation was open to all GPR eligible projects in each of the four GPR categories. The recipient agrees to include in its IUP such qualified projects, or components of projects, that total an amount equal to at least 10 percent of its capitalization grant. The state must document the GPR solicitation process in its IUP and Annual Report and explain, if applicable, why GPR projects totaling at least 10 percent of the capitalization grant were not able to be funded. Any State not meeting the 10 percent requirement must outline in the Annual Report how they will expand their GPR solicitation for the following year.

K. Additional Subsidization

The recipient agrees to use 49 percent of the funds made available in the capitalization grant to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients or project types as described in section 603(i) of the CWA in the form of forgiveness of principal or grants (or any combination of these), which shall be used only where such funds are provided as initial financing for an eligible recipient or to buy, refinance, or restructure the debt obligations of eligible recipients only where such debt was incurred after November 15, 2021.

L. Geospatial Data Standards

All geospatial data created must be consistent with Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) endorsed standards. Information on these standards may be found at www.fgdc.gov.

M. American Iron and Steel (AIS)

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this award term and condition—

(1) “iron and steel products” mean the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(2) “steel” means an alloy that includes at least 50 percent iron, between .02 and 2 percent carbon, and may include other elements.

(b) *Domestic preference.*

(1) This award term and condition implements Title VI of the CWA by requiring that all iron and steel products used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance or repair of a public water system or treatment work are produced in the United States except as provided in paragraph (b)(2) of this section and condition.

(2) This requirement shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency finds that—

- (i) applying the requirement would be inconsistent with the public interest;
- (ii) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities and of a satisfactory quality; or
- (iii) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(3) The Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act requirement does not supersede the AIS requirement, and both provisions still apply and work in conjunction.

(c) Request for a Waiver under (b)(2) of this section

(1) Any recipient request to use foreign iron or steel products in accordance with paragraph

(b)(2) of this section shall include adequate information for Federal Government evaluation of the request, including—

- (A) A description of the foreign and domestic iron, steel, and/or manufactured goods;
- (B) Unit of measure;
- (C) Quantity;
- (D) Cost;
- (E) Time of delivery or availability;
- (F) Location of the project;
- (G) Name and address of the proposed supplier; and
- (H) A detailed justification of the reason for use of foreign iron or steel products cited in accordance with paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

(2) If the Administrator receives a request for a waiver under this section, the waiver request shall be made available to the public for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request.

(3) Unless the Administrator issues a waiver of this term, use of foreign iron and steel products is noncompliant with Title VI of the CWA.

(d) This term and condition shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

N. State Cybersecurity

(a) The recipient agrees that when collecting and managing environmental data under this assistance agreement, it will protect the data by following all applicable State law cybersecurity requirements.

(b) (1) EPA must ensure that any connections between the recipient's network or information system and EPA networks used by the recipient to transfer data under this agreement, are secure.

For purposes of this Section, a connection is defined as a dedicated persistent interface between an Agency IT system and an external IT system for the purpose of transferring information. Transitory, user-controlled connections such as website browsing are excluded from this definition.

If the recipient's connections as defined above do not go through the Environmental Information Exchange Network or EPA's Central Data Exchange, the recipient agrees to contact the EPA Project Officer (PO) and work with the designated Regional/Headquarters Information Security Officer to ensure that the connections meet EPA security requirements, including entering into Interconnection Service Agreements as appropriate. This condition does not apply to manual entry of data by the recipient into systems operated and used by EPA's regulatory programs for the submission of reporting and/or compliance data.

(2) The recipient agrees that any sub-awards it makes under this agreement will require the subrecipient to comply with the requirements in (b)(1) if the sub-recipient's network or information system is connected to EPA networks to transfer data to the Agency using systems other than the Environmental Information Exchange Network or EPA's Central Data Exchange. The recipient will be in compliance with this condition: by including this requirement in sub-award agreements; and during subrecipient monitoring deemed necessary by the recipient under 2 CFR 200.331(d), by inquiring whether the subrecipient has contacted the EPA Project Officer. Nothing in this condition requires the recipient to contact the EPA Project Officer on behalf of a subrecipient or to be involved in the negotiation of an Interconnection Service Agreement between the subrecipient and EPA.

O. Internal Controls for Financial Transactions

The recipient agrees to use procedures consistent with “zero-trust” (never trust, always verify) for all financial transactions with SRF funds. These procedures must include verbal verification with a trusted recipient representative of all financial account information both initially and prior to any changes in financial account information.

P. Davis-Bacon Labor Standards

1. Program Applicability

a. Program Name: Clean Water State Revolving Fund

b. Statute requiring compliance with Davis-Bacon: Section 602(b)(6) of the Clean Water Act

c. Activities subject to Davis-Bacon: Treatment works constructed in whole or in part with assistance made available by a state water pollution control revolving fund authorized under Title VI of the Clean Water Act.

d. The recipient must work with the appropriate authorities to determine wage classifications for the specific project (s) or activities subject to Davis Bacon under this grant (or cooperative agreement).

2. Davis-Bacon and Related Acts

[Davis-Bacon and Related Acts \(DBRA\)](#) is a collection of labor standards provisions administered by the Department of Labor, that are applicable to grants involving construction. These labor standards include the:

Davis-Bacon Act, which requires payment of prevailing wage rates for laborers and mechanics on construction contracts of \$2,000 or more

Copeland “Anti-Kickback” Act, which prohibits a contractor or subcontractor from inducing an employee into giving up any part of the compensation to which he or she is entitled; and

Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which requires overtime wages to be paid for over 40 hours of work per week, under contracts in excess of \$100,000

3. Recipient Responsibilities When Entering Into and Managing Contracts:

a. Solicitation and Contract Requirements:

i. Include the Correct Wage Determinations in Bid Solicitations and Contracts: Recipients are responsible for complying with the procedures provided in [29 CFR 1.6](#) when soliciting bids and awarding contracts.

ii. Include DBRA Requirements in All Contracts: Include the following text on all contracts under this grant:

“By accepting this contract, the contractor acknowledges and agrees to the terms provided in the [DBRA Requirements for Contractors and Subcontractors Under EPA Grants](#).”

b. After Award of Contract:

i. Approve and Submit Requests for Additional Wages Rates: Work with contractors to request additional wage rates if required for contracts under this grant, as provided in [29 CFR 5.5\(a\)\(1\)\(iii\)](#).

ii. Provide Oversight of Contractors to Ensure Compliance with DBRA Provisions: Ensure contractor compliance with the terms of the contract, as required by [29 CFR 5.6](#).

4. Recipient Responsibilities When Establishing and Managing Additional Subawards:

a. Include DBRA Requirements in All Subawards (including Loans):

Include the following text on all subawards under this grant:

“By accepting this award, the EPA subrecipient acknowledges and agrees to the terms and conditions provided in the [DBRA Requirements for EPA Subrecipients](#).”

b. Provide Oversight to Ensure Compliance with DBRA Provisions: Recipients are responsible for oversight of subrecipients and must ensure subrecipients comply with the requirements in [29 CFR 5.6](#).

5. The contract clauses set forth in this Term & Condition, along with the correct wage determinations, will be considered to be a part of every prime contract covered by Davis-Bacon and Related Acts (see [29 CFR 5.1](#)), and will be effective by operation of law, whether or not they are included or incorporated by reference into such contract, unless the Department of Labor grants a variance, tolerance, or exemption. Where the clauses and

applicable wage determinations are effective by operation of law under this paragraph, the prime contractor must be compensated for any resulting increase in wages in accordance with applicable law.