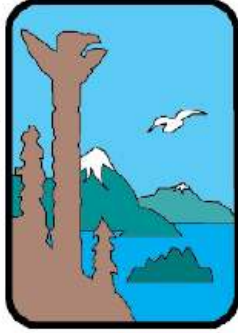


**ALASKA**  
Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation



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## **Stimulus funds speed up drinking water and wastewater improvements across Alaska**

### **State worked with communities to allot \$40 million ahead of federal deadline**

(Juneau, Alaska) – Close teamwork between the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation’s Municipal Grants and Loans program and local communities has pumped around \$40 million of federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds into Alaska’s economy.

The stimulus funds went to 46 water and wastewater projects across the state and are now under contract ahead of the federal government’s Feb. 17 deadline. Alaska is the first state in EPA’s Region 10 to have all its stimulus funds committed ahead of the deadline.

“Many communities are struggling to begin or complete critical projects, especially in these difficult economic times. These stimulus funds are allowing communities to bolster infrastructure that ensures safe drinking water and proper sanitation for residents. They are also helping to create jobs,” said DEC Commissioner Larry Hartig.

Ketchikan, Sitka, Fairbanks, Dillingham and Soldotna are among the Alaska communities seeing the immediate benefits of the funds.

“We are in the middle of renovating one of our well houses with the stimulus funding,” said Steve Bonebrake, Soldotna public works director. “The best wall in that building used to have one inch of insulation, but when it is complete we will have six inches of sprayed foam insulation everywhere and R60 insulation in the ceiling. This will save us a ton of money on heating long term.” He says local construction workers are also benefiting from the winter project.

The Recovery Act funds are being dispensed as low interest loans, some with unusually high subsidies requiring only ten percent or less of the original loan to be paid back. This arrangement makes some of the funds essentially a 90 percent grant.

“Communities around the state have worked hard to get their projects designed and out to contract in a very short timeframe,” said Mike Lewis, DEC’s program manager for Municipal Grants and Loans. “This compressed timeframe has been a challenge for all of us, but we are now seeing the results.” Alaska’s list of communities (ordered alphabetically), projects and recovery act funds they received follow. At least 20 percent of projects will promote green practices such as water and energy efficiencies.



A worker lays blueboard insulation above a newly installed water distribution main for Nikishka Bay Utilities in Kenai. The \$2.1 million project was part around \$40 million in stimulus funds distributed through the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. (More photos available, upon request.)

Alaska communities, projects and their share of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds

<b><u>System Owner/Location</u></b>	<b><u>Project</u></b>	<b><u>Amount \$</u></b>
Craig	Port St. Nicholas Gravity Sewer	488,000
Craig	Water Distribution Improvements	500,000
Dillingham	Water System Improvements Phase 1.3	250,000
Fairbanks Northstar Borough	Solid Waste Landfill Partial Closure	2,500,000
Fairbanks- Golden Heart Utility.	23rd Avenue Water Main Replacement	1,189,883
Haines	A/C Pipe Replacement	563,558
Homer	PRV Replacement	215,000
Homer	Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation	1,404,645
Homer	Purchase of New Street Sweeper	145,355
Homer	Midhill PRV Vault Stairway	190,000
Kenai	16" Water Main, Bridge Access Road	2,222,000
Kenai	Kenai Bridge Access Road Sewer Main	2,222,000
Kenai Peninsula Borough	Nikiski North Star Elementary School Point of Use	84,000

Kenai- Nikishka Bay Utilities	Reservoir, Pumping & Distribution Upgrade, Ph I	200,000
Kenai-Nikishka Bay Utilities	Reservoir, Pumping, and Distribution Upgrade, Ph II	1,917,297
Ketchikan	Baranof Reservoir Replacement Site Develop.	1,223,924
Ketchikan	Tongass Avenue Sewer Replacement Phase II	2,222,222
Mat-Su Borough	Talkeetna Community Water Upgrade	1,050,000
Mat-Su Borough	Garden Terrace Water Service Replace.	391,630
Mat-Su Borough	Region Resource Recovery & Train Fac.	1,700,000
North Pole	Sewer Lift Station Renovation	1,922,222
North Pole	Jet-Vac Truck	300,000
North Pole	Water Meter Replacement for Water Conservation.	100,000
North Pole	Water Pump Efficiency Improvements	600,000
Palmer	Steel Water Main Replacement	2,500,000
Palmer	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements, Phase. I	2,500,000
Seward	Lift Station No. 3 Building Electrical	278,000
Seward	N. Seward Water Storage Tank & Pump Fac.	610,000
Sitka	Oja Street Drinking Water System Rehab.	285,000
Sitka	Halibut Point Road Water Main Replacement	457,000
Sitka	Water Storage Tank-Coating and Protection	617,000
Sitka	Oja Street Sewer Main Replacement	319,405
Sitka	Brady Street Sewer Rehabilitation	445,000
Sitka	Mills Street Water Main Loop Installation	199,000
Sitka	Sawmill Creek Road Sewer Upgrade, Phase 3	1,455,081
Skagway	WWTP MBR Upgrade	1,428,000
Soldotna	Storm Water Outfall Protection	1,200,000
Soldotna	Sewer Lift Station Upgrade	475,000
Soldotna	Water System Improvements	873,084
Wasilla -Swiss Castle Estates Water	Rehabilitation & Expansion of Water Treatment Plant	50,000
Wasilla	Reservoir Insulation Improvements	305,000
Wasilla	Replacement Vactor Truck	300,000
Wasilla	Garden Terrace Water Main Extension- Abby Bl.	575,000
Wrangell	Street Sweeper	214,870
Wrangell	Water Storage Tank	347,024
Wrangell	Landfill Closure	997,000