



Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation State Revolving Fund Program



Project #910001-E, Whittier Lift Station 5 Replacement

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 19, 2024

ADEC awards \$820,000 low-interest loan to City of Whittier for lift station replacement

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) announces the award of a \$820,000 low-interest construction loan to the City of Whittier to replace an aging lift station. As noted in the Capital Improvement Plan, this project is critical due to the high likelihood of failure within the next 2 to 5 years. Replacement of the lift station building and electronics is necessary. The proposed project will include replacing the wet well vault, pumps, valves, piping and controls.

Failure of this critical lift station infrastructure would have catastrophic consequences for the City's ability to manage wastewater for the community, especially in the summer months when cruise ship, tourism, and harbor and port activity impact the City's water and wastewater infrastructure. The Anton Anderson Whittier Tunnel, the only road access to Whittier, reports more than 700,000 visitors annually. Replacement of this critical infrastructure will enable the City to continue to provide safe and effective wastewater treatment and avoid potential adverse impacts to the City's water quality, e.g., treated and untreated sewage discharge into Prince William Sound and surrounding uplands affecting Alaska Railroad Corporation and City and privately owned land, and impacts to local commerce.

In the next two years, a newly constructed cruise ship facility will increase visitors to Whittier by more than 200,000 in the summer and create new economic development opportunities for the visitor industry related to tourism, so the replacement of these facilities are critical to meet the community's needs.

ADEC is authorized by state law to issue loans to borrowers for eligible wastewater system infrastructure projects. Administration of the loan is through the ADEC State Revolving Fund program under the authority of the Alaska Clean Water Fund.

The loan from the Alaska Clean Water Fund for this project carries a finance rate of 2.4625% payable over 20 years. The Alaska Clean Water Fund is capitalized annually by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The Clean Water State Revolving Fund programs operate around the country to provide states and communities the resources necessary to maintain and improve the infrastructure that protects our valuable water resources nationwide.

For more information, contact the SRF Program at dec.srfprogram@alaska.gov.

