



Municipal Water and Wastewater

Funding

- **Aging infrastructure:** Much of the water infrastructure that serves municipalities is reaching the end of its useful life. In a 2020 report, Colorado Concern identified a \$17.6 billion inventory of eligible water and wastewater projects in Colorado. The need for funding for infrastructure projects consistently outpaces the available state and federal funding resources.
- **Small, rural or disadvantaged communities:** the State of Colorado has no dedicated, reliable direct grant assistance program for disadvantaged communities' water and wastewater project needs. the Small Community Drinking Water and Wastewater Grant Program intended to help local governments afford the cost of their improvements is infrequently funded and rarely able to award grants.
- **State fees levied on municipal water use:** CML has opposed multiple bills, all of which ultimately failed to pass in the Colorado General Assembly, which would place a fee on municipal customers' water use to fund state water programs. Such actions are inequitable and place a burden on municipal customers to fund state programs which may not directly benefit them.

Water quality

- **Increasingly stringent standards:** Properly treating wastewater and providing clean drinking water is a shared responsibility between the State of Colorado and local governments as a cooperative effort to provide for the health and welfare of all citizens and the environment. Increasingly stringent water quality standards mandated from the state and federal government without corresponding funding means that many systems will continue to struggle to fund projects they are required to complete.
- **Emerging contaminants:** Such as PFAS and PFOA are of increasing concern to municipalities and municipal water providers, both in terms of health and safety and the massive cost of treating these substances.
- **Wildfire:** Municipal water quality and infrastructure suffers greatly from wildfires. CML typically supports wildfire mitigation policies and funding.
- **Climate change:** Increasingly warm waters in reservoirs across Colorado have led to an increase in algal blooms, some of which can produce cyanotoxins, which can be harmful to people and animals.
- **Invasive species:** Contamination of municipal reservoir infrastructure by Quagga and Zebra mussels brought in through recreation and boating is on the rise. Dedicated funding for Colorado Parks and Wildlife boat inspections is critical for municipalities to protect their infrastructure.

Water availability

- **Climate change:** A warming climate has implications on the quantity, quality and timing of mountain snowmelt, which provides water to municipalities across Colorado.
- **Drought:** More frequent and longer periods of drought places additional strains on already stressed municipal water systems.