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April 20, 2021

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2021 APR 22 PM 2:11  
CITY OF HOLYOKE

Holyoke City Council  
City of Holyoke  
536 Dwight Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040

**RE: American Rescue Plan**

Dear Council Members:

The Holyoke Water Works (HWW) respectfully requests the Holyoke City Council allot funding from the City's forthcoming American Rescue Plan (ARP) to the HWW to pay for a portion of the Comprehensive Capital Improvement Projects funded under the \$13.39 and \$6.54 million bond authorizations. These projects are critical to ensure a reliable and adequate supply of water to the City that meets all state and federal water quality regulations.

Beyond the obvious impacts to health, the COVID-19 pandemic has created financial hardships for residents, property owners, and businesses this past year. HWW has taken steps to alleviate this hardship, including short-term payment plans and the temporary suspension of the shut off program for delinquent accounts. The past year's events as well as other fiscal constraints have continued to result in the postponement of much needed infrastructure projects. The American Rescue Plan allocation funds are intended to replace lost or reduced revenues as a result of the pandemic, and fund investments in water infrastructure projects, among other things. As such, we are requesting that a portion of the funds be allocated to the HWW to allow us to continue our goal of improving the City's water system infrastructure.

With the \$13.39 and \$6.54 Million bonds for the Comprehensive Capital Improvements Project currently underway, four (4) high priority projects have been identified that would qualify for the ARP and are specific to addressing City-wide water quality and fire protection issues. The projects include the following:

Project Title	Estimated Total Project Cost <sup>1</sup>
Phase 2A Water Main Replacement	\$2,240,000
Phase 2B Water Main Replacement	\$4,794,000
West Holyoke Water Storage Tank	\$3,145,000
Whiting Street Reservoir Dam Improvements	\$3,456,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,635,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>Based on bids received to date or current estimates through 4/14/2021

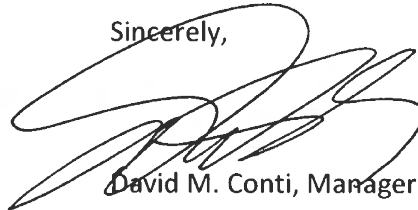


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Qualifying for the ARP will help to reduce the scheduled water rate increases necessary to fund these projects. The proposed rate increase to cover the \$13.39 and \$6.54 Million bonds is projected to increase the current water rate from \$0.4709/100 gallons to \$0.5909/100 gallons (\$0.12/100 gallons). HWW is hoping to decrease these proposed rate increases by funding some portions of the cost using the ARP allotment to the City of Holyoke.

The Board of Water Commissioners is committed to implementing these projects within the time frame allocated under the program should the City Council approve funding to the department. We appreciate your consideration in helping us accomplish these goals today, which will aid in the long-term recovery of the department and our community as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Conti', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

David M. Conti, Manager

Cc: Terence Murphy, Mayor of Holyoke  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Darleen Buttrick, Tighe & Bond

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