



E C O S

PRESS RELEASE

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ECOS Welcomes Federal MOU on Water Infrastructure Disaster Response

Washington, DC – The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), the national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental commissioners, applauds a new agreement between U.S. EPA and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to speed the availability of funding used to restore vital water infrastructure in times of disaster. The federal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a framework for EPA-funded State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs to assist and collaborate with FEMA disaster assistance grant programs.

“It is essential that states be supported by federal partners during times of crisis and natural disaster,” says ECOS President Becky Keogh, Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. “This MOU is an excellent example of affording flexibility to state and local governments to bring rapid resources and recovery for infrastructure critical to protection of human health and the environment.”

“This MOU allows state agencies to better serve our communities impacted by federally declared disasters,” adds ECOS Vice President Jim Macy, Director of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. “The clarity that this MOU provides will allow state SRF programs to offer 0% bridge loans so communities can deliver clean drinking water and effectively manage wastewater to help our communities recover quickly and return to normal operations. Reliable infrastructure is the key to community success.”

The MOU and a fact sheet are available [here](#).

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