



**TRUTH FROM  
THE TAP**

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A campaign of the National Association of Water Companies

## **WATER COMPANIES AND U.S. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE BY THE NUMBERS**

WATER PROFESSIONALS PROUDLY SERVE AND PARTNER WITH CITIES AND TOWNS  
ACROSS THE U.S.

- **73 million Americans:** Water companies provide services to more than 73 million Americans every day.
- **4.6 billion gallons/day and 1.7 trillion gallons/year:** Water companies produce 4.6 billion gallons of drinking water every day and 1.7 trillion gallons every year.
- **100,000 miles of pipes maintained:** Water companies maintain 100,000 miles of water pipes to serve their customers.

OUR COUNTRY'S INFRASTRUCTURE CRISIS IS REAL AND WATER COMPANIES OFFER  
MUCH-NEEDED INVESTMENT

- **D Grade:** Our nation's drinking water infrastructure received a "D" grade on the American Society of Civil Engineers 2017 Infrastructure Report Card. The nation's wastewater infrastructure fared slightly better, receiving a D+ grade.
- **16% water loss:** In the United States, due to aging infrastructure, we lose 16% of our treated water before it even reaches the customer. That's more than 7 billion gallons of treated water lost each day.
- **700-850 main breaks a day, costing \$3 billion per year:** Studies suggest that between 700 and 850 water main breaks occur each day in North America, causing more than \$3 billion in repair costs annually.
- **\$600 billion in investment needed:** The U.S. EPA projects \$472.6 billion is needed to maintain drinking water infrastructure between 2015 and 2035. Combined with wastewater needs, the EPA projects more than \$600 billion is needed over 20 years for necessary infrastructure improvements.
- **\$3 billion invested each year by 10 largest private water companies:** The ten largest water companies in the U.S. invest \$3 billion annually to improve community tap water systems. Notably, this is a larger sum than the current total federal appropriation for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs, which total approximately \$2.8 billion annually.

## WATER COMPANIES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORTED MUNICIPAL WATER SERVICES FOR CENTURIES

- **200 years:** Water companies and public-private partnerships have been around for more than 200 years.
- **97% contract renewal rate:** Data shows that communities that partner with a water company are overwhelmingly satisfied with performance and service, as evidenced by a 97% contract renewal rate.
- **24% lower cost:** Public-private partnerships have been shown to lower a system's operating costs by 24 percent on average.

## WATER COMPANIES HAVE AN EXEMPLARY WATER QUALITY COMPLIANCE RECORD

- **Water companies are 24% less likely to violate SDWA:** According to an analysis of EPA data from 2010-2013, drinking water systems owned and operated by professional water companies are 24% less likely to violate the Safe Drinking Water Act than government-run utilities.
- **NAWC members have far fewer EPA enforcement actions per 1 million customers:** Water companies have far fewer EPA violations, fines, or work orders under the SDWA. According to an analysis of EPA data from 2001 to 2011, NAWC members had 0.09 EPA enforcement actions per 1 million customers, while all other drinking water utility operators had 30.03 EPA enforcement actions per 1 million customers.
- **Private ownership “significantly associated” with higher compliance:** The largest and most comprehensive analysis of water quality data ever conducted found that private ownership of a community water system resulted in higher SDWA compliance rates over a 34-year period.

### Sources

<sup>i</sup> “Private Water Service Providers Quick Facts” NAWC Factsheet; “Drinking Water Case Study” NAWC.

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000 Community Water System Survey.

<sup>iii</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000 Community Water System Survey.

<sup>iv</sup> American Society of Civil Engineers, “2017 Infrastructure Report Card”

<sup>v</sup> EPA, “Water Audits and Water Loss Control for Public Water Systems”; Center for Homeland Defense and Security, “America’s Infrastructure: Where Are We Headed?” January 2016.

<sup>vi</sup> John C. Matthews, Ryan J. Stowe, and Samuel T. Ariaratnam for the Water Research Foundation, “Main Breaks: State of the Science” February 2015.

<sup>vii</sup> U.S. EPA, “Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment” Sixth Report to Congress, March 2018; U.S. EPA, “Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center” accessed June 2016.

<sup>viii</sup> Based on data from annual reports for American Water, Aqua America, SUEZ, California Water Service Group, American States Water Company, San Jose Water Company, Aquarion / Eversource, Middlesex Water Company, Connecticut Water Company, and Artesian Resources Corporation.

<sup>ix</sup> National Council for Public-Private Partnerships, “Top Ten Facts About P3s”; York Dispatch, “York Water Co. celebrates 200th anniversary” 23 February 2016.

<sup>x</sup> Public Works Financing Annual Water Partnerships Survey, 2010-2016.

<sup>xi</sup> Water Partnership Council, “Establishing Public-Private Partnerships for Water and Wastewater Systems: A Blueprint for Success” 2003.

<sup>xii</sup> David Konisky, Georgetown University, and Manny Teodoro, Texas A&M University, “When Governments Regulate Governments” November 2014.

<sup>xiii</sup> Global Water Intelligence, “Investor-Owned Water Firms Boast Sterling SDWA Record” October 2011.

<sup>xiv</sup> Allaire, Wu and Lall in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, “National Trends in Drinking Water Quality Violations