# Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF): Background

Agenda Item G
State Water Infrastructure Authority Meeting
January 2014

#### **Outline**

- Federal Program Overview
  - Eligibilities
  - Program Management
  - Capitalization
- State Program Overview
  - Funding Availability
  - Historical fund performance

#### **CWSRF Program**

- Established with Title VI of Clean Water Act (CWA)
  - Projects implement CWA (WWTPs, sewers, etc.)
  - Legislation in 1987
  - Capitalization grants began in 1989
- Low-interest Loan Program
  - Replaced Construction Grants Program
- Capitalized by Federal Grants to State that Require a Match
  - State match equals 20% of federal grant
  - Up to 4% of capitalization grant can be used for administration

#### **CWSRF Eligible Projects**

- Wastewater Treatment
- Wastewater Collection
- Reclaimed Water
- Stormwater BMPs
- Stream Restoration
- Energy Efficiency (at treatment works)



#### **CWSRF Program Oversight**

- State Operated Program with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Oversight
  - Not primacy states either operate or no program
  - EPA reviews / approves capitalization grant
  - EPA conducts annual program review
- State Auditor
  - Required to have independent audits
  - Financial audit (numbers add up)
  - Program audit (followed program requirements)

#### **CWSRF EPA Documents**

- Operating Agreement
  - Provides long-term operating requirements
- Grant Agreement
  - Annual terms and conditions for capitalization grant
- Intended Use Plan (IUP)
  - Detailed operating plan

#### Intended Use Plan (IUP)

#### Purpose

- Explains how the federal funds will be used
- Explains how the CWSRF will operate
- Includes priority rating system

#### Schedule

- Public meeting held annually (April)
- Submitted to and approved by EPA each year
- Is then incorporated into the grant agreement

#### **2013 IUP Changes**

- Loan Maximum
  - Change to ½ available in funding round (was \$50 million) due to less availability
- Schedule
  - Allow more time 24 months from Notice of Intent to Fund (NIF)
- Point System Changes

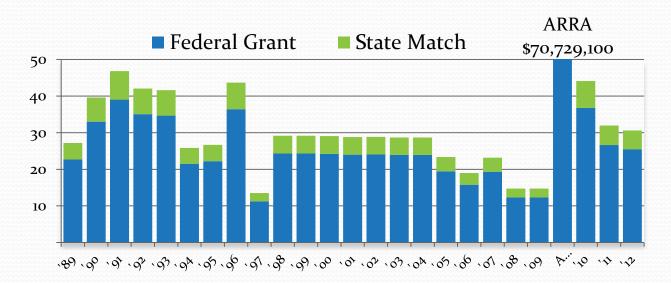
#### **CWSRF Program Requirements**

- Federal Statutes and Rules
  - Clean Water Act requirements
  - Federal grant requirements
    - Davis-Bacon Wage Rates
    - Principle Forgiveness
    - Green
- State Statutes
  - NCGS 159G



## **CWSRF** Capitalization

- Capitalization Provided By Congress through EPA Appropriations Bill
  - NC Allocation = +/- 1.8%
  - NC Population = +/- 3%



#### **CWSRF Needs Survey**

- Needs Survey Conducted Every Four Years
- EPA Criteria for Documented Need
  - For example, project in a capital improvement plan
- Needs for Next 20 years
  - In effect, time period is less due to documentation criteria
  - For example, most CIPs are 5-10 years
- 2012 Survey \$6 Billion for NC

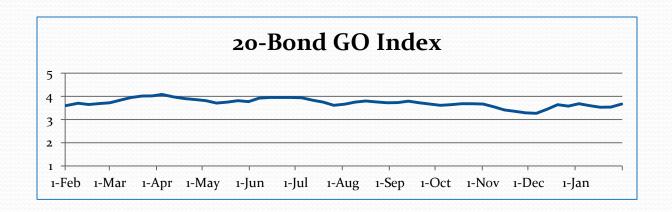
#### 2013 Capitalization

- Appropriations
  - Nationally = +/- \$1.4 Billion
  - North Carolina = \$24 Million
  - State Match = \$4.8 Million
- Principal Forgiveness
  - \$1.1 to \$1.7 Million
- Green Projects
  - \$2.4 Million (10%) goal



#### **CWSRF Program in NC**

- Low-interest Loans
  - ½ Bond Buyer's 20-Bond Index (NCGS 159G-40) max 4%
  - Targeted interest rates available (0% rehab and green)
  - Maximum 20-year term
  - Local Government Commission (LGC) Approves
  - 2% Loan Fee



## **CWSRF Eligible Applicants**

- Public Entity under CWA for Treatment Works
- NCGS Limits
  - Local Government Units
  - Not for profit water corporation



#### **CWSRF Loan Sources**

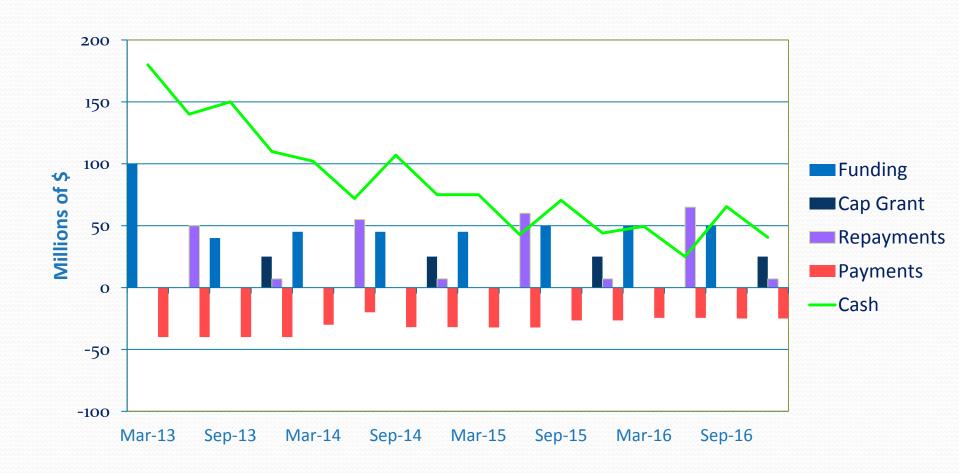
- New Capitalization
  - EPA Capitalization Grant
  - State Match
- Loan Repayments
  - Largest source of fund availability
  - Includes principal and interest
  - Received twice a year
  - Loan repayments allow original capitalization to be used again and again and ...

#### **CWSRF Funding Availability**

- \$40 \$50 Million per Round
  - 2 rounds per year March 1 and Sept. 1
- Principal Forgiveness
  - Qualifications poverty rate and sewer rates/Median Household Income
  - Thresholds set so 50% LGUs in NC qualify
- 0% Interest for Green Projects
  - Examples: stormwater, energy efficiency
- 0% Interest for Rehabilitation Projects
  - Must meet principle forgiveness qualifications

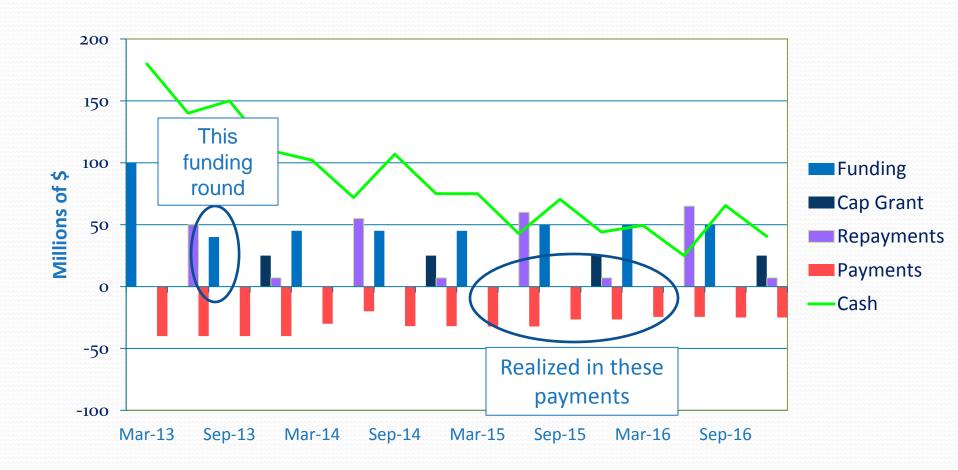
## **Forecasting Funding Availability**

Low point = 3 − 6 months cash reserve



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#### **Program Schedule**

- Once Funded Project Schedule
  - NCGS 159G 2 years maximum
- Pull Down Federal Funds ASAP
  - Draws based on actual project expenses
- Minimize Cash Reserves
  - Fund availability projections
  - Increases assistance over time for given capitalization

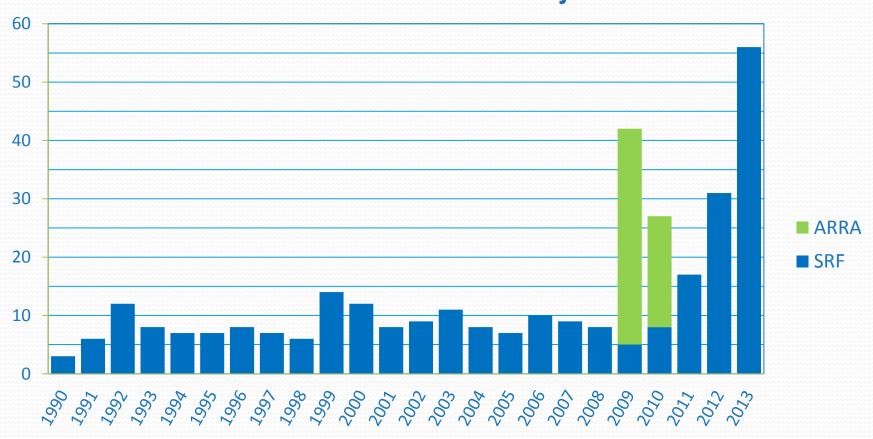
#### **Project Timeline – 24 Month Schedule**

#### <u>Typical September Round – 24 Month Schedule</u>

| Application | 0 |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| ER Prep     |   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| ER Review   |   |   |   |   |   | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |    |    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Design      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   | 10 | 11 | 12                                     | 13 | 14 | 15 |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Plan Review |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |    |    |    | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |    |    |    |    |    |
| Bid         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    | \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\ |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 20 | 21 | 22 |    |    |
| ATA         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 23 |    |
| Contract    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |  |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 24 |

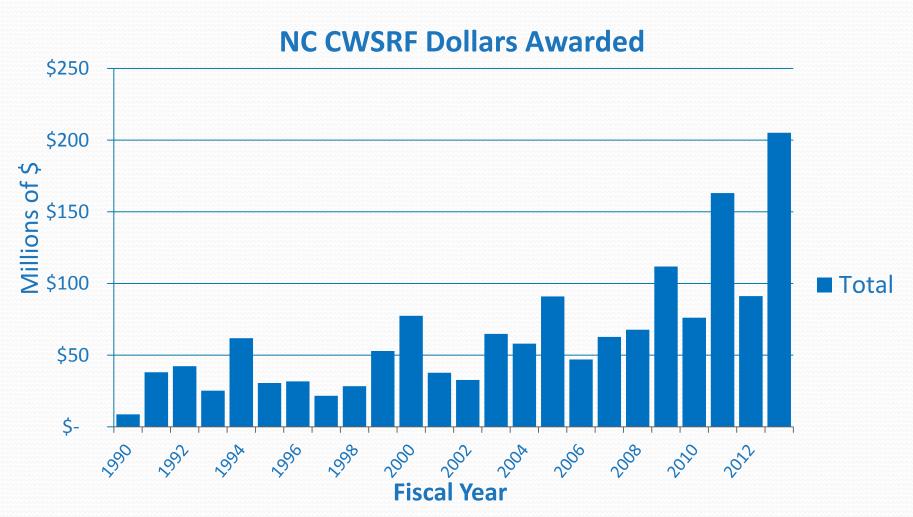
## **Binding Commitments – Projects**

#### **Number of NC CWSRF Projects**



**Fiscal Year** 

## **Binding Commitments – Dollars**



## Questions