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## GOVERNOR CULVER ANNOUNCES \$155 MILLION TO FUND 79 WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

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DES MOINES – Governor Culver announced today the state recently allocated more than \$155 million to 79 water quality projects across Iowa through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), including sewage system upgrades and improved drinking water treatment.

The United States Congress allocated \$77 million in ARRA funding to Iowa – \$53 million for clean water projects and \$24 million for drinking water improvement projects. Regular SRF dollars supplemented the federal stimulus money.

The selected wastewater projects will create a total of \$95.4 million worth of water quality improvements. They include the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities, upgrade of sewer systems, correction of combined sewer overflows and storm water management projects.

The drinking water projects will generate \$60.2 million worth of water system improvements. These drinking water infrastructure projects include the construction of water treatment facilities, water storage, upgrade of distribution systems and development of new water sources.

“By spreading the ARRA money to many projects, we were able to help more communities with loan forgiveness, and get more work done to protect public health and the environment to move Iowa forward,” said Governor Chet Culver.

“Each community received 20 percent to 50 percent of the project costs in loan forgiveness, helping keep user rates down while improving water and sewer infrastructure,” said Patti Cale-Finnegan, DNR’s SRF coordinator.

Congress stipulated that at least 20 percent of the ARRA projects must be “green.” Cale-Finnegan said these projects “go above and beyond traditional improvement practices.” SRF

distributed 22 percent of the wastewater and storm water money and 23 percent of the drinking water money to green projects. Cale-Finnegan said some of these new and innovative green projects include the construction of a wind turbine to supply electricity to the wastewater facility in Osage, the installation of pervious pavers to reduce runoff by cleaning water as it seeps directly down to the soil in Council Bluffs and Charles City, and replacement of water meters with newer leak-detecting models in Dubuque and other cities.

A complete list of the projects listed by city is available at [www.iowadnr.gov/water/srf/stimulus.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/srf/stimulus.html).

When the ARRA bill was signed in February 2009, Congress gave SRF, which is jointly administered by the DNR and Iowa Finance Authority, a Feb. 17, 2010, deadline to allocate the ARRA funding given to the state.

Many of the projects are already under construction, generating jobs and economic activity throughout the state. Cale-Finnegan said the completion dates of projects will vary based on start time and difficulty.

For more information about ARRA or SRF funding, contact Patti Cale-Finnegan at (515) 725-0498 or [Patti.Cale-Finnegan@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Patti.Cale-Finnegan@dnr.iowa.gov) or visit [www.iowadnr.gov/water/srf/stimulus.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/srf/stimulus.html).