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

- **C- Grade:** Our nation’s drinking water infrastructure received a “C-” grade on the American Society of Civil Engineers 2021 Infrastructure Report Card and our wastewater infrastructure received 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.
- **$3.9 billion invested each year by 10 largest private water companies:** The ten largest water companies in the U.S. invested more than $3.9 billion in 2021 to improve community tap water systems. These are dollars coming from the private sector and not out of a municipal budget.
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

1. “Private Water Service Providers Quick Facts” NAWC Factsheet; “Drinking Water Case Study” NAWC.
14. Allaire, Wu and Lall in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, “National Trends in Drinking Water Quality Violations...