

On April 6, 2021, Governor Scott released his [proposal](#) for investing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds in Vermont. The \$2.7 billion package of aid for Vermont represents an enormous opportunity for Vermont to address multiple priorities across the State. Wise investment of these funds will help spur our economy and enable us to plot a course for Vermont's future. After accounting for portions of this funding that are already directly appropriated, there is still ~\$1 billion left for the State to allocate over the next four years. I would like to take this opportunity to remind regulators of the significant funding gap that exists for water quality projects across Vermont, but specifically in the City of South Burlington.

In the City of South Burlington alone, there exists approximately \$54M in water quality investment opportunity over the next 10 years, with \$32M needed for projects currently scheduled through 2024. A significant portion of this figure (\$21.6M) is related to the State's new ["3-acre" stormwater permit](#), which was required by the Vermont legislature as part of the [Vermont Clean Water Act of 2015](#) (Act 64). This total includes both the public and private investment that will be needed to achieve permit compliance. We also have the opportunity to significantly invest in our wastewater infrastructure. This would include refurbishment of aging pump stations and sewer pipe, as well as an upgrade of an existing wastewater treatment facility. Nearly \$6M worth of wastewater investment opportunity exists prior to 2024, and that number increases to nearly \$21M if brought out to 2031. The City could also make nearly \$1M worth of investment in its drinking water infrastructure before 2024.

The above figures are for one community in the State. If you add up the water quality needs and investment opportunity statewide that value is in excess of \$300M before 2024. As discussion related to ARPA funding progresses over the next few weeks, I encourage legislators to make an investment in Vermont's water quality and increase the proposed ARPA allocation from \$170M to a value closer to \$350M.