The mission of AMSA, an association of the nation's largest publicly-owned wastewater treatment agencies, is to assist its member agencies to achieve sound public health and environmental goals for the over 90 million users they serve in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible.
THE FIRST
TWENTY YEARS
OF ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPROVEMENT

APRIL, 1990

THE ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE AGENCIES
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THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS

A look back at the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies’ (AMSA) first twenty years tells a story that is truly remarkable. It is remarkable both in terms of the individuals who played significant roles — and in terms of their collective achievements. You can see these achievements clearly reflected in the nation’s water quality, as well as in the history which follows. What was initially a small group primarily concerned with the federal funding of wastewater facilities, has grown into an association of nearly 115 major metropolitan agencies, serving over 90 million citizens — nationwide — integrally involved in not just water pollution control, but in every facet of environmental improvement and protection.

It all began in 1969 when a committee comprised of 15 large sewerage agencies met to share concerns regarding federal directives for water cleanup. One year later that committee became AMSA, an association committed to working toward the common goals of large wastewater agencies throughout the United States and dedicated to keeping its members informed of changes in technology and legislation, and facilitating improved communication among its member agencies.

The thrust of AMSA’s activities then — and now — focused on three program areas, 1) the review, monitoring and dissemination of technical developments; 2) the review, monitoring and dissemination of management information related to financing, organizing, operating and maintaining large wastewater agencies; and 3) active monitoring, reporting
LEVEL OF TREATMENT (MGD) 1970-1990

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legislators from various parts of the country to focus on the legislation and its importance to your constituency throughout the country — and that helped us a great deal.”

Yes, AMSA is made up of large municipal wastewater management agencies — and all their collective technical and managerial expertise — but AMSA is also made up of individuals. In 1980, on AMSA’s 10th Anniversary, then President K. Ray Harrington observed, “A good deal of the Association’s success must be attributed to the character of the individuals who have shaped its course. Although differing widely in personality, they have always been able to join together, with a one-for-all-and-all-for-one spirit, to work toward common goals. And, despite differences of opinion, many lasting friendships have been formed.”

On our 20th Anniversary we celebrate not only our technical and legislative history, but also all of the individuals that have been a part of AMSA’s first two decades of environmental protection and improvement.
Charles V. "Tom" Gibbs
Municipality of Metropolitan
Seattle, WA
AMSA President 1970-1972

"I often marvel at the ease with which the AMSA concept developed following my initial letters to about 15 of my colleagues in May of 1969. Our first two formation meetings in September and October of that year quickly resulted in a decision to explore the creation of an organization that could speak for the nation's largest sewerage agencies in matters pending before Congress and the then equivalent of the EPA. The articles of incorporation and bylaws were developed within just a few months and in April 1970, AMSA was born.

I particularly remember a meeting in the Spring of 1970 at the old Holiday Inn at Scott Circle in Washington to which we had invited David Dominick, the then Commissioner of the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration. We all knew, and tried to work with, David in our individual responsibilities and had found him to be polite but unresponsive to the needs of the larger cities. When David walked into the room and saw the 15 directors of our nation's largest wastewater agencies assembled as a unit, his demeanor and his responsiveness changed instantly. It was the first of many events in AMSA's early months that demonstrated the wisdom of gathering to achieve our common goals.

In the following two years several of us became frequent commuters to Washington, DC to work on the development of what became PL 92-500. After testifying at many House and Senate Committee meetings and participating in even more work sessions with the professional staffs of the two
committees, we were all very pleased the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, which contained provisions enacting nearly all of AMSA’s original legislative goals, became law.

AMSA’s successes were the result of a lot of hard work from many people, all of whom had more than full time jobs in their own agencies. We certainly proved the value of synergism — the total effect is a lot greater than the sum of the individual efforts.

My compliments to those who have followed me. AMSA continues to reinforce the vision of its founding members.”

Charles B. Kaiser, Jr.
Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, MO
AMSA President 1972-1974

“The idea of an AMSA was started in the very late 1960s. The main impetus for many of the larger agencies was the inequity in grants under Public Law 84-660. That law provided for grants of 33-1/3% but also had a cap of $250,000 per total project, making it difficult for larger municipalities to benefit from the program. Through our efforts, working together, this cap was raised over the years to a maximum of $2.4 million per total project. In 1970-71, the pressure grew for a new and comprehensive Clean Water Act and this created an even greater need for an organization like AMSA.

The one thing that remains in my memory is that through AMSA’s efforts the percent of federal grants not only was increased significantly, the cap was removed. This enabled the larger agencies to really attack the pollution problem. Together we have built billions of dollars worth of interception and treatment facilities.

As a sidelight, we also lobbied hard to make up for grants lost under the old Public Law 84-660. Over much opposition, the AMSA-sponsored Section 206 of the Clean Water Act was adopted. The section
provided for reimbursement for construction started after June 30, 1966 but before July 1, 1971, and for projects constructed between June 30, 1956 and June 30, 1966. This brought increased equity for those larger agencies that had pursued clean-up construction with almost 100% local funding.

This single AMSA effort meant $12 million to the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District and our citizens. We will always be indebted to AMSA.”

Bart T. Lynam
Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago, IL
AMSA President 1974-1977

“I was fortunate to participate in many of the original meetings when AMSA was in the process of being developed. It was at the time I worked for Ben Sosewitz at Metro Chicago. Ben was a founding Board Member. He asked me to substitute for him at some of the AMSA meetings.

The outstanding accomplishment during my term as President of AMSA was the recruitment and successful hiring of Ron Linton as Executive Director at an AMSA meeting in Miami, Florida. The subsequent move to establish the AMSA headquarters in Washington, DC helped to focus AMSA’s energies to the nation’s capital.”

Fred A. Harper
County Sanitation Districts of Orange County, CA
AMSA President 1977-1979

“I have always been proud to be a part of AMSA. The congressional committees and their staffs were always interested in our positions because they knew we were the experts in the water pollution field both from technical knowledge and practical experience with large scale operations.
Also, I have enjoyed the fellowship and friendship of many outstanding leaders in our field throughout AMSA's twenty years. AMSA's conferences have brought political people, state and federal regulatory personnel, environmental activists, and industry representatives to meet with AMSA members on timely matters of immediate concern.

I thank Tom Gibbs of Seattle Metro for getting some of us together 20 years ago to organize what we now know as AMSA. I encourage all present day representatives of the member agencies to actively participate in AMSA's ongoing efforts for environmental excellence.

My sincere best wishes to the AMSA staff, the Board of Directors and the member agencies for continued success.”

K. Ray Harrington
Nashville Department of Water and Sewerage Services, TN
AMSA President 1979-1982

"I have been involved in wastewater treatment services for approximately forty years. This service included over thirty-two years with municipal government and eight years with Consoer, Townsend & Associates.

I am a member of several national and local associations that relate to wastewater treatment. However, none of these associations provided the information or recommended solutions in dealing with the federal requirements of the Water Pollution Control Act enacted by the United States Congress.

From its inception, the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies has provided major sewerage agencies with information related to legislative and financial problems in dealing with the requirements of the Water Pollution Control Act as well as providing the necessary lobbying expertise to assist major sewerage agencies in accomplishing their goals and objectives in wastewater treatment. AMSA has become well-respected over the years by
supplying expert, reliable information to the government's key decision makers. Now members of Congress and the Administration often come to AMSA for advice.”

Joe W. Johnson
City of Houston, TX
AMSA President 1982-1984

"During Joe Johnson's Presidency, we saw AMSA concentrate on improved coordination with EPA and other regulatory agencies. This element of our activities has been very important to all member agencies. AMSA has now gained a strong reputation with all regulatory agencies and is frequently called upon to give their opinion on proposed regulations and activities. Even better, we are "listened to." That has certainly been positive for Houston. We are proud to have been involved in AMSA’s activities and especially to have played a role in its leadership.”

C.J. Smith
City of Houston

Jack Costello
Bergen County Utilities Authority, NJ
AMSA President 1984-1986

"I have been a member of AMSA for twenty years. I was fortunate enough to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for fifteen years, and today I enjoy my status as a past President. Looking back through all the years, AMSA really stands apart for me from other organizations. I think the involvement, from the very beginning, of the AMSA membership and staff working together, and the time and effort donated by the various committee members has created a truly effective industry information nexus. In my past career as an Executive Director of the Authority, my membership with AMSA was a key component in providing me with an information advantage when the Clear Water
Act was developed. It was the input I received from AMSA that made my planning, my permit applications and my construction grant applications timely and effective.

I am confident, judging from the consistent quality of membership and staff through the years, that AMSA will continue into the next decade as one of the leaders in the water pollution control field.”

James R. Borberg  
Hampton Roads Sanitation District, VA  
AMSA President 1985-1988

“The importance of AMSA cannot be overestimated because it provides the most knowledgeable voice in the wastewater profession. There are many government agencies and environmental groups who have some idea of what they want to accomplish, but no group, except AMSA, has the technical knowledge and expertise to provide meaningful comments on the methods and cost of accomplishing these objectives. Without AMSA, the technical and professional input would be left out of the regulatory process.

Even though many AMSA goals are not achieved and we do not completely agree with all federal regulations, without our input we would be facing a far more impractical regulatory climate and the end result would be lower water quality and higher costs.”

Erwin J. Odeal  
Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, OH  
AMSA President 1983-1990

“While AMSA’s President, I was extremely pleased to be part of a continuing effort to actively press for strong technical and scientific bases in the laws and
regulations developed by the federal government. AMSA’s supportive role in the Peer Review Process associated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s sewage sludge technical regulations is clear evidence of this. The expertise of AMSA’s member agencies makes it a leader in this important process. This is an ongoing effort that AMSA must pursue even more vigorously in the future."

Carmine Perrapato  
Passaic Valley Sewerage  
Commissioners, NJ  
AMSA President 1990

“My association with AMSA has been like being a member of a large family...each one working with the other to solve our mutual problems. We are also the type of family that even if a problem only effects a certain group of members, we try to assist them.

I know that with this type of existing relationship, in the future we will continue to be the great association we now are.”
BEYOND 1990
Looking Ahead to the Next 20 Years

In some respects, AMSA has gone full circle since its founding in April of 1970. While its initial emphasis was on securing federal grants funding, the Association expanded its focus over the years to include other major issues of importance to its members, among them sludge management, industrial pretreatment, stormwater management, combined sewer overflows and toxics. All of these issues continue to demand the attention of AMSA and its members. How each is addressed is certain to have a significant influence on the nation’s overall water quality agenda into the next century.

The ongoing congressional debate over the future course of the nation’s water quality program will continue to demand AMSA’s attention. And while, in the past, the Association’s primary focus was Clean Water Act amendments and initiatives, today we must address a broadened legislative scope, including Superfund, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Clean Air Act, not to mention coastal zone initiatives. Funding also remains a dominant concern with the federal role in the financial arena in transition and the increasing demands placed on local government to finance federally-mandated environmental improvements. In light of these developments, AMSA will become increasingly proactive on legislative issues and make the case that any new federal initiatives must not only build on past local achievements and successes, but also recognize the need for demonstrating local water quality improvements.

With the passage of legislation, the focus then shifts to the regulatory arena. AMSA has a long tradition of working closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the development of major rules and regulations. This will continue in the Association’s dealings with the anticipated creation of the Department of
Environmental Protection. The knowledge and expertise of the AMSA community will continue as a crucial element in the development of technically sound and scientifically based rules that will address the more complex and complicated nonpoint source related water quality problems of the future. Pollution prevention initiatives will also become increasingly important to AMSA as the tried and proven solutions of the past fall aside to innovative and creative ways to curb pollution.

AMSA will also have to continue to review final Agency rules to determine whether the best interests of its members require legal proceedings. In the future, more situations involving litigation may arise, but this important element in the overall strategy of the Association guarantees AMSA a seat at the table where key regulatory issues are discussed, negotiated and settled. And if AMSA is not among those sitting at that table — the parties who are will ultimately determine the nature and prescriptions of the final rule.

To assist the Association in its dealings with all branches of government, AMSA will pay increasing attention to the development of the Electronic Information System and its corresponding relational database. The purpose of this is twofold; first, to provide an electronic mechanism to enable members to share information quickly and efficiently on a wide range of areas;
and second, to provide the Association itself with the best database available in its dealings with Congress and other federal agencies and departments.

AMS A will also devote considerable attention to the development of public information and educational materials aimed at further enhancing the image of the Association and its members. The large metropolitan sewerage agencies are the foot soldiers in the nation’s march on water pollution, and it’s time to educate officials at the federal, state and local levels, as well as the public at large, that AMSA member agencies are treaters of pollution, not polluters of the nation’s waterways.

AMS A faces difficult challenges in the years ahead, but the dedication and commitment of its members leaves no doubt that these challenges will be met. The Association has grown steadily over the years and will continue to grow and provide the leadership necessary to foster further environmental protection and improvement. A small group of dedicated public servants established AMSA twenty years ago and their commitment to the environment continues today and will continue in the future as the nation advances its water quality objectives and goals into the 21st century.
RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT & SERVICE

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

AMSA's Public Service Award is presented to former or current elected or appointed public officials at the local, state, or federal level of government. The award recognizes the performance of outstanding public service and is presented to individuals who exhibit a particular awareness of the problems faced by municipal wastewater treatment agencies.

Recipients

1983 - The Honorable Biz Johnson
1984 - The Honorable Don H. Clausen
1986 - The Honorable John Blatnick
1987 - The Honorable Jennings Randolph
1988 - The Honorable James L. Howard
1989 - The Honorable Robert Stafford
1990 - Joe G. Moore, Jr.

DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE AWARD

AMSA's Distinguished Performance Award is presented to individuals formerly representing AMSA member agencies for efforts and dedication in the field of water pollution control while the head of their agency.

Recipients

1983 - Gene E. Cronk, City of Tucson, AZ
   - Charles V. "Tom" Gibbs, Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, WA
1985 - Fred A. Harper, County Sanitation Districts of Orange County, CA
- K. Ray Harrington, Nashville Department of Water & Sewerage Services, TN
1986 - Walter Garrison, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, CA
1987 - Carmen F. Guarino, City of Philadelphia Water Department, PA
- Mike Graham, City of San Diego, CA
1989 - Patrick Marchese, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, WI

**PRESIDENT’S AWARD**

AMSA’s President’s Award is presented to individuals currently representing AMSA member agencies. Awardees must hold a top level manager position with a wastewater treatment agency, be active in Association activities and make major contributions towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Association.

**Recipients**

1986 - Charles B. Kaiser, Jr., Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, MO
1987 - John G. Costello, Bergen County Utilities Authority, NJ
1988 - Jon Olson, Sanitary District of Rockford, IL
1989 - George Barnes, City of Atlanta, GA
1990 - John B. Lampe, Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, WA
- Robert P. Miele, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, CA

**ENVIRONMENT AWARD**

AMSA’s Environment Award is presented for outstanding environmental service.

**Recipients**

1984 - James Ellis, Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle, WA
1985 - William A. Hasfurther, City of Baltimore, MD
1986 - Frank B. Whittemore, Narragansett Bay Water Quality Management District Commission, RI
1987 - Robert C. Canham, Water Pollution Control Federation
1988 - Cecil Lue-Hing, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, IL
1989 - James R. Borberg, Hampton Roads Sanitation District, VA
1990 - Leon G. Billings, Former Staff Director, Senate Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution
        - Richard J. Sullivan, Former Chief Counsel, House Public Works and Transportation Committee

MEMBER AGENCY ACHIEVEMENT

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY AWARD

AMSA’s Research and Technology Award is given to an AMSA member agency that produces a technological innovation related to wastewater treatment or sludge utilization and disposal.

Recipient

1990 - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, MD
        “Odor Control Research at the Montgomery County Regional Compost Facility”

PUBLIC INFORMATION AWARD

AMSA’s Public Information Award is presented for outstanding agency public information programs and/or publications.

Recipient

1990 - Unified Sewerage Agency of Washington County, OR
        “Tualatin River Rangers”, 4th Grade Education Program
AMSAGOLD AWARDS
For AMSA member agency facilities consistently meeting every National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit limit in the facility's permit for the calendar year.

AMSASILVER AWARDS
For AMSA member agency facilities having five or less National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit violations for the calendar year.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Ken Kirk
Executive Director
1989-Present

"I was first introduced to AMSA in 1973 when I worked for then EPA Administrator Russell Train on water act issues. The commitment of Chuck Kaiser, Bart Lynam and others made a lasting impression on me, and I was extremely excited five years later when I had the opportunity to work with AMSA and its members. I have worked for AMSA in practically every capacity over the past twelve years and I know firsthand that the commitment, dedication and environmental ethic of its members have made AMSA the strong and solid association it is today. It's still exciting and rewarding working for such a group of environmental professionals."

Ron M. Linton
Executive Director
1976-1988

"When I assumed the responsibility of Executive Director to the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies in January 1976, we immediately held the first of what was to become quarterly meetings between the AMSA Board of Directors and the U.S. EPA Administrator. The principle issue of concern to the board members at that first meeting was the inability of the Agency to produce sludge management regulations. Fifteen years later, AMSA continues to be the leading force working with U.S. EPA to produce effective and meaningful sludge regulations. Nothing demon-


strates better the tenaciousness and commitment of AMSA members towards achieving environmental goals.

I personally enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to this and other AMSA successes, such as the growth of the organization during my tenure from 55 members to more than 100 members today. I am most pleased that AMSA has and will continue to be a leading voice for environmental improvement in this country.”

Preston B. Tack
Executive Director
1973-1975

“Not long before leaving AMSA I learned that associations of consulting engineers and contractors were meeting directly with the EPA Administrator on municipal wastewater treatment matters. This was a surprise because it was AMSA members who hired the consulting engineers and who awarded the construction contracts. AMSA members were responsible for converting federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and dollars into functioning ‘hardware.’ A letter to the Administrator, prepared for then AMSA President Bart Lynam’s signature, and citing the above, resulted in quarterly meetings with the AMSA Board. This recognition of the key role played by the managers of our nation’s municipal wastewater treatment systems was a source of great satisfaction to me.”

COUNSEL

Lee C. White
White, Fine & Verville
AMSA Counsel
1969-Present

“My 20 years of private practice, following a fairly lengthy time in the federal government, has exactly paralleled the life of AMSA as an institution. For me,
it has been a rich and rewarding experience to watch the development of AMSA from a small group of dedicated sewerage agency executives to the very smooth, solid and effective operation that AMSA is in the year 1990. AMSA’s effectiveness at the beginning was a direct result of the credibility of its members who were able to meet and talk with key congressional members and their staffs as PL 92-500, the Clean Water Act, was being hammered out. AMSA had limited objectives and almost all of them were satisfactorily met in that watershed piece of legislation.

AMSA’s fortunes took a good size leap forward when Ron Linton was asked to serve as Executive Director and used his consulting firm as a base for providing staffing for AMSA. Today, with the leadership of Ken Kirk and the excellent people he has working with him, AMSA has emerged as a completely independent stand-alone organization and one that is welcomed and respected in EPA and in Congress.

AMSA’s litigation activities have been somewhat low key and understated through the years. Recently, however, we have pursued a more aggressive course and have begun to use involvement in lawsuits as a means of securing a place at the negotiating table when compromises are being worked out. Filling averages are a little tricky, but we really haven’t lost one yet.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the personal element of my involvement with AMSA and with its wonderful cast of characters from all of the major cities of the United States. It has been a delight to be a member of the AMSA family if only as the wayward son. I know there is a long way to go yet in cleaning up the nation’s waters, but as they say over in Virginia, “We’ve come a long way, baby.”
BOARD MEMBERS
1970-1990
(In order of Election)

Charles V. "Tom" Gibbs
Municipality of Metropolitan
Seattle, WA
President 1970-1972

Charles B. Kaiser, Jr.
Metropolitan St. Louis
Sewer District, MO
Secretary/Treasurer 1970-1971
Vice President 1971-1972
President 1972-1974

Ralph E. "Mike" Graham
San Diego Water Utilities, CA

Ben Sosewitz
Metropolitan Sanitary
District of Greater Chicago, IL

Glen J. Hopkins*
City of Kansas City, MO
Vice President 1970-1971

A.J. Poppowski*
Middlesex County Utilities
Authority, NJ

Wayne Neibel
Memphis Division of Public
Works, TN
Secretary/Treasurer 1972-1973

Art Caster
Metropolitan Sewer District of
Greater Cincinnati, OH

William J. Leve
Hampton Road Sanitation
District, VA
Secretary/Treasurer 1975-1977
Vice President 1977-1978

Bart Lynam
Metropolitan Sanitary
District of Greater Chicago, IL
Secretary/Treasurer 1973-1974
President 1974-1977

Pelham Williams
City of Atlanta, GA

Richard S. Page
Municipality of Metropolitan
Seattle, WA

Fred A. Harper
County Sanitation Districts of
Orange County, CA
Secretary/Treasurer 1974-1975
Vice President 1975-1977
President 1977-1979

William Korbitz
Metropolitan Denver Sewage
Disposal District No. 1, CO
Treasurer 1977-1980

*Deceased
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<td>K. Ray Harrington</td>
<td>Nashville Department of Water and Sewerage Services, TN</td>
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<td>Hugh McMillian</td>
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<td>Bergen County Utilities</td>
<td>Vice President 1982-1984</td>
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<td>Authority, NJ</td>
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<td>Walter Garrison</td>
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<td>Erwin J. Odeal</td>
<td>Vice President 1986-1988 President 1988-1990</td>
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<td>Jack Enger</td>
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<td>Charles Carry</td>
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Patrick Marchese
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, WI

James M. Tarpy
Treasurer 1988-Present
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, TN

Frederick H. Kurtz
Middlesex County Utilities Authority, NJ

Michael A. Reardon
The Metropolitan District (Hartford County), CT

Walter Bishop
East Bay Municipal Utility District, CA

Carolyn Hardy Olsen
City of Atlanta, GA

Rodney Dahl
Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility, UT

Cecil Lue-Hing
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, IL

Dennis Allen
Dallas Water Utilities Department, TX

Dick Brown
Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority, TX
AMSA Members
Agencies shown in bold are
20 year AMSA Members

Jefferson County Commission, AL
Anchorage Water & Sewer Utilities, AK
City of Phoenix, AZ
Pima County Wastewater Management, AZ
City of Little Rock Wastewater Utility, AR
Pine Bluff Wastewater Utility, AR
Chino Basin Municipal Water District, CA
County Sanitation Districts of Orange County, CA
Union Sanitary District, CA
City of Los Angeles, CA
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, CA
East Bay Municipal Utility District, CA
City of Riverside, CA
Sacramento Department of Public Works, CA
San Diego Water Utilities Department, CA
San Francisco Clean Water Program, CA
City of San Jose, CA
Ventura Regional Sanitation District, CA
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, CA
City of Colorado Springs, CO
Metropolitan Denver Sewage Disposal District No. 1, CO
The Metropolitan District (Hartford County), CT
District of Columbia Department of Public Works, D.C.
City of Jacksonville, FL
Orange County Public Utilities, FL
The City of Orlando, FL
Escambia County Utilities Authority, FL
Broward County Office of Environmental Services, FL
City of Tampa, FL
Hillsborough County Public Utilities Department, FL
City of Atlanta - DWPC, GA
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SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO THIS PUBLICATION:

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- FACILITY/INFRASTRUCTURE PHOTOGRAPHS
  Pima County Wastewater Management Department, AZ
  The Metropolitan District (Hartford County), CT
  Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, IL

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