

## **FY23 Appropriations Bill Includes \$18.6 Million for Lewis & Clark**

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**Tea, SD** – The FY23 Appropriations Bill that was signed into law on December 29, 2022 by President Biden includes \$18.6 million for ongoing construction of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (L&C). This total includes the \$6.6 million proposed by the Administration, as well as the \$12 million congressionally directed spending request made by Senators Amy Klobuchar, Mike Rounds and Tina Smith.

“This critically needed funding will be used to cover the remaining costs of four projects currently under construction that were planned to be paid for over two fiscal years. These projects include two segments of the Madison service line (combined 32 miles), the one-million gallon water tower just west of Sheldon and improvements at the water treatment plant. The latter includes adding more high service pumps among other things. No new contracts will be awarded with these funds. Our thanks and appreciation to Senators Klobuchar, Rounds and Smith for requesting the additional funding on our behalf, as well as to the rest of the tristate congressional delegation for their continued strong support to get us across the finish line,” said Executive Director Troy Larson.

The Bureau of Reclamation is expected to soon announce how much funding L&C will receive in FY23 from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. L&C officials anticipate it will be in the range of \$55 million to \$65 million. These funds will be used to award new projects that are part of the “base system” of 44.19 million gallons a day.

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**BACKGROUND:** Lewis & Clark was incorporated in January 1990 and the congressional authorization was signed into law in July 2000. It is a non-profit wholesale provider of water to its member cities and rural water systems in southeast SD, northwest IA and southwest MN. The water source is a series of wells adjacent to the Missouri River and has a treatment plant near Vermillion. Construction began in 2004 and Lewis & Clark started delivering water in 2012. The System is currently serving water to 15 of its 20 members. Members yet to be connected include Hull, Sioux Center, Sheldon, Sibley and Madison. It is anticipated all member will be connected by late 2024 or early 2025.