

Lewis & Clark Receives \$60 Million in FY23 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

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Tea, SD – The Bureau of Reclamation announced today that the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System (L&C) is receiving \$60 million in FY23 from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Combined with the \$18.6 million included in the FY23 Appropriations Bill that was signed into law on December 29, 2022, it brings total FY23 funding to \$78.6 million for ongoing construction of the tristate drinking water project.

“The \$60 million will be used for the Sibley service line, Sibley meter building and Phase 3 of the water treatment plant. Among other things, Phase 3 includes two more solids contact basins, a second gravity thickener and another lime slaker. This funding does not get us across the finish line in terms of completing the 44.19 MGD base system, but it gets us really close. Depending on the FY24 funding levels from the Appropriations Bill and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we hope next year will be the last year federal funding is needed for the base system,” said Executive Director Troy Larson.

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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. Hull and Sioux Center are expected to be connected in April 2023, Sheldon in late 2023/early 2024, Madison in mid-2024 and Sibley in late 2024/early 2025.