



## **Newly Released Data Confirms Trend in Increased Spending for Public Water and Sewer**

**By Rich Anderson**

The U.S. Bureau of the Census recently reported information on local and state government expenditures for FY2006. Data on public water and sewer confirms the long-standing trend of increased spending. Combined local government spending on water and sewer for FY06 was \$85.4 billion; an increase of \$4.4 billion over FY05 (a 5.4 percent increase). By comparison, federal financial assistance through the Clean Water SRF and the Drinking Water SRF loan programs totaled \$1.7 billion for 2006.

Local government spending on sewer increased the most at \$2.5 billion over FY05, (or 6.9 percent). Over the fifteen year period of FY92 to FY06 the average increase in spending on public sewer is 4.7 percent; (and in three of those fifteen years spending decreased over the previous fiscal year). Total spending over the fifteen years is \$405.6 billion.

Local government collects revenues from system users as a government enterprise. FY06 public sewer revenues totaled \$33.8 billion, a 6.5 percent increase over the \$31.6 billion collected in FY05. Revenues from public sewer service generally

increase by an average of 5.4 percent per year. Sewer service revenues, overall for local government, rarely match expenditures; and for FY06 revenues reached 88.9 percent of expenditures. The 15-year average ratio of revenues to expenditures for public sewer is 88.2 percent.

Local government spending on water in FY06 increased by \$1.9 billion over FY05 spending, (or 4.3 percent). Over the fifteen year period of FY92 to FY06 the average increase in spending on public water is 4.8 percent; (only in one of those fifteen years did spending decrease over the previous fiscal year). Total spending on public water over the fifteen years is \$521 billion.

Local government collected \$40 billion in revenues from public water services in FY06, a 7.7 percent increase over the \$37.2 billion collected in FY05. Revenues from public water service generally increase by an average of 5.4 percent per year. Public water service revenues, overall for local government, rarely match expenditures; and for FY06 revenues reached 83.9 percent of expenditures.

## Local Government Expenditures and Revenues for Water and Sewer

<b>Year</b>	<b>Sewer Expenditures (\$ thousands)</b>	<b>Sewer Revenues (\$ thousands)</b>	<b>Water Expenditures (\$ thousands)</b>	<b>Water Revenues (\$ thousands)</b>
<b>FY2006</b>	<b>37,954,564</b>	<b>33,754,490</b>	<b>47,414,872</b>	<b>40,050,488</b>
<b>FY2005</b>	<b>35,490,898</b>	<b>31,570,533</b>	<b>45,480,071</b>	<b>37,184,841</b>
<b>FY2004</b>	<b>33,966,273</b>	<b>29,753,425</b>	<b>44,275,003</b>	<b>35,905,417</b>
<b>FY2003</b>	<b>31,536,919</b>	<b>28,209,878</b>	<b>42,907,605</b>	<b>34,557,818</b>
<b>FY2002</b>	<b>30,207,393</b>	<b>27,078,810</b>	<b>40,169,307</b>	<b>33,077,101</b>
<b>FY2001</b>	<b>27,074,500</b>	<b>25,763,881</b>	<b>36,410,259</b>	<b>30,648,271</b>
<b>FY2000</b>	<b>27,097,840</b>	<b>24,272,968</b>	<b>35,435,003</b>	<b>30,379,194</b>
<b>FY1999</b>	<b>25,851,890</b>	<b>23,644,616</b>	<b>33,924,151</b>	<b>28,916,954</b>
<b>FY1998</b>	<b>24,514,606</b>	<b>22,676,673</b>	<b>31,897,029</b>	<b>27,359,681</b>
<b>FY1997</b>	<b>24,568,324</b>	<b>21,994,668</b>	<b>30,972,565</b>	<b>26,792,031</b>
<b>FY1996</b>	<b>23,137,770</b>	<b>21,040,541</b>	<b>28,765,816</b>	<b>25,311,844</b>
<b>FY1995</b>	<b>22,121,014</b>	<b>19,693,333</b>	<b>27,863,125</b>	<b>23,734,372</b>
<b>FY1994</b>	<b>20,305,401</b>	<b>18,288,996</b>	<b>26,440,863</b>	<b>22,555,530</b>
<b>FY1993</b>	<b>21,687,866</b>	<b>15,969,827</b>	<b>24,433,437</b>	<b>20,322,690</b>
<b>FY1992</b>	<b>20,100,540</b>	<b>15,550,043</b>	<b>24,624,754</b>	<b>19,340,419</b>

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