The Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) respectfully submits a statement for the record for the January 19, 2007 hearing being held by the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment titled: “The Need for Renewed Investment for Clean Water Infrastructure.”

CMAA is a twenty-five year old national industry association whose mission is “to promote professionalism and excellence in the management of the construction process.” CMAA represents more than 4,000 private and public firms, agencies, and individuals throughout the nation who are dedicated to the practice of construction management (CM).

Construction management is a professional service that applies effective management techniques to the planning, design, and construction of a project from inception to completion. This discipline and management system has been developed expressly to promote the successful execution of capital projects for owners. More and more public and private owners are relying on construction managers to represent them on projects and to utilize their expertise to control time, cost, and quality—resulting in the successful completion of all types of projects, including water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

It is clear that our clean water infrastructure network is: 1) critically important to the daily lives of all Americans; 2) becoming increasingly aged and deteriorating rapidly; and 3) in immediate need of substantial and consistent federal investment. For years, efforts to maintain and improve upon our nation’s clean water infrastructure have been under-funded and in some regions—neglected. This trend must change considering how essential it is for our drinking water to be safe and reliable, our wastewater to be properly treated and reclaimed, and for our environment to be protected. CMAA strongly believes that before we face a major clean water crisis
throughout our communities, it is essential that our nation’s water and wastewater infrastructure becomes a national priority.

Congress annually appropriates clean water funding through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF), but the needs of state and local communities have clearly outweighed this investment. The Environmental Protection Agency, Government Accountability Office, and the Water Infrastructure Network (of which CMAA is a member) have independently confirmed that a water infrastructure funding gap of between $300 and $500 billion will exist over the next 20 years. The result is that billions of dollars per year are needed over the next two decades to address problems associated with aging infrastructure, increasing demands on the system, and federal mandates for clean water and safe drinking water programs.

The status quo related to federal investment of clean water infrastructure is simply not getting the job done and state and local communities are feeling the burden. CMAA supports increased funding for the Clean Water SRF, which has been significantly reduced in recent years. In addition, a long-term, dedicated funding source must be identified. Any subsequent clean water legislation should include language identifying or establishing a dedicated source of revenue for clean water, such as a federal clean water trust fund. Trust funds currently exist for transportation infrastructure ($35 billion/year) and airport infrastructure ($8 billion/year) and have proven to be an effective source of infrastructure investment.

As clean water investment legislation is developed, CMAA would also request that any language related to contracts and subcontracts using clean water infrastructure funding for program management, construction management, planning studies, feasibility studies, architectural services, preliminary engineering, design, engineering, surveying, mapping, and related services be awarded in the same manner as contracts for architectural and engineering services are awarded under chapter 11 of title 40, United States Code, or an equivalent qualifications-based method of selection. Qualifications-based selection is essential for the proper procurement of these professional services.

CMAA applauds Chairwoman Johnson, Ranking Member Baker, and the Subcommittee for holding this important hearing. The construction management industry is committed to working with Congress on this important issue and looks forward to reviewing future clean water investment legislation.