

control up to the \$450 million it had promised this year.

Otherwise, he said, the State will have to advance some \$17 million to make up the Federal deficit for sewage-treatment projects planned in Maryland.

In a letter to the president, released today, Governor Agnew noted that the administration had budgeted for only \$200 million of the \$450 million Congress had authorized in the Clean Water Restoration Act.

The Governor said that for the last five years Maryland has recognized that water pollution control "is not purely a local affair," and that the State should share with communities and with the Federal government the cost of pollution control projects.

"Under this arrangement the Federal dollars allotted to the State are distributed among all eligible projects and the difference between the Federal money and a fixed percentage is made up with State funds," the Governor explained. "Last year the guaranteed Federal-State grant was 50 percent, the same as it had been for five years."

He said that because of insufficient Federal funds, the State had to pay 38 percent of the cost of such projects last year, while the Federal government paid only 12 percent in an arrangement that should have been shared 20 percent by the State and 30 percent by the Federal government.

"Over the last 10 years the Federal grant for projects has amounted to approximately 10 percent, even though they were eligible for 30 percent," the Governor said.

"In the face of that poor record of meeting even its base 30 percent promise, the Clean Water Restoration Act increased the promise to as much as 50 percent.

"Maryland again rose to the occasion. The General Assembly this year passed and I signed a bill providing a bond issue to insure that every eligible project will receive a 75 percent combined Federal-State grant whether it is built this year or next.

"If the Federal government produces the money to back the incentives promised in the Clean Water Restoration Act, Maryland will pay no more than its rightful share. If the Federal government does not appropriate enough money to pay its share, Maryland will be forced to pick up the full burden or lose momentum in its fight to control water pollution.