



COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0509

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee of Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for the Oakley and Bethel Island Community Recycled Water Project in the fiscal year 2022 Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

The project sponsor for this project is the Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD), located at 450 Walnut Meadows Drive, Oakley, CA 94561.

The area served by ISD and Diablo Water District (DWD) is experiencing explosive growth due to increased affordable housing. The current population of Oakley is approximately 42,000 and 2,100 for Bethel Island (based on the latest data from the State of California Department of Finance). By the year 2040 the total population for the area is projected to grow to 64,000, representing a 49% increase.

This project will provide direct benefit to the communities of Oakley and Bethel Island by providing a sustainable, drought tolerant source of water. Drinking water for the communities of Oakley and Bethel Island come from two primary sources: groundwater and surface water. Surface water is imported from the Delta by a regional wholesale provider. It is pumped from river intakes and conveyed to a local water treatment facility in Oakley. Groundwater is pumped from two local wells owned and operated by DWD. Due to high hardness of the groundwater, it must be blended with surface water to ensure it meets quality standards. The relatively high hardness levels of groundwater creates a desire for DWD to seek other sources of water. Ironhouse Sanitary District (ISD) produces exceptionally high-quality recycled water and is an ideal candidate as an alternative water source for DWD.

The Oakley and Bethel Island Community Recycled Water Project represents a good use of taxpayer dollars, as funding will be used to provide drought resistant water sources through water reuse, leveraging the community investment in wastewater treatment and expanding its use to its highest beneficial use. Diversifying the water portfolio with recycled water for DWD will help prepare the growing community for the future. Drought threatens to decrease local surface

water supplies. Recycled water will provide a local water source that will be drought resilient as well as a recovery resource solution that will benefit both the existing and future community. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry McNerney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress