JAY OBERNOLTE EIGHTH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT, RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET



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Congress of the United States Bouse of Representatives

April 28, 2022

Chair Rosa DeLauro House Committee on Appropriations H-307 The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515 Ranking Member Kay Granger House Committee on Appropriations 1036 Longworth HOB Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the City of Twentynine Palms Wastewater Treatment Facility in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Twentynine Palms, located at 6136 Adobe Road, Twentynine Palms, California 92277.

The City of Twentynine Palms is a Disadvantage Community (DAC) by State of California Standards. The population of the City is 28,000 and is the host City for the Marine Corps Air/Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) as well as the main entrance to Joshua Tree National Park. With all of these attributes, the City is on septic tanks instead of a centralized sewer system. With the exception of seven package treatment plants, the City, as mentioned, is exclusively on septic tanks. Coming out of the COVID 19 pandemic, the City has seen a resurgence of development in our community with those coming to visit Joshua Tree National Park and those looking to relocate out of urban areas. So with that, there is a need to protect our most precious commodity, water, and eliminating a barrier to build housing, which is a major need for our community. The City Council is in complete support of the project to sewer a portion of the community as a phase 1 construction approach. The City has begun the process with State Water to have a feasibility, environmental, and preliminary design. And the goal is to be shovel ready for the ability to access 100% funding from the State of California's septic to sewer conversion program in phase 1 for \$71M by second quarter of 2023. The City though is in need of additional dollars to complete all the engineering task to be shovel ready, and the financial support needed is \$1.275M.

The City anticipates using \$1.1 million of the funding for the Collection System Final Design (full design), \$50,000 for outreach efforts to the community, and \$125,000 for an owner's representative for the project. Funding for the required 20% match will come from City funding.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

In alusta

Jay Obernolte Member of Congress