



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

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Newell Creek Pipeline Replacement project in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Santa Cruz, located at 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. The funding would be used for construction to replace approximately 2,600 lineal feet of the Newell Creek Pipeline located within a steep hillside off Brackney Road in rural Ben Lomond and relocate the pipeline within geologically stable ground for both landslide and earthquake protection.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because there is a strong community need to mitigate the risk of damage to the Newell Creek Pipeline (NCP) in the Brackney and Ben Lomond community in the San Lorenzo Valley. The Santa Cruz Water Department (SCWD) provides drinking water to nearly 100,000 customers in Santa Cruz County (approximately one-third of the total County population), which includes the City of Santa Cruz, University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC), a portion of the City of Capitola, and coastal agricultural lands located north of the City. SCWD's service area includes many critical business and government services vital to the economic health of the community at large. The service area includes the County seat (including the County Sheriff's Office and Main Jail), County operational maintenance yards, and County Health Services), many hotels, hospitality services, and tourist destinations (including the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk), essential health services like Dominican Hospital, and farmlands along the north coast. At times, the NCP is the only source of water supply to the Graham Hill Water Treatment Plant and to SCWD customers, visitors, and UCSC students.

SCWD relies solely on local water supplies, including surface and groundwater, with no ability to import water from the State or other large regional sources. When flowing surface sources are not available due to water quality impacts from droughts or storm flows, SCWD conveys raw water from its sole surface water storage reservoir (Loch Lomond Reservoir) to GHWTP via the

NCP. NCP allows SCWD to switch from surface water sources to the Loch Lomond Reservoir as needed based on surface water quality and quantity. Therefore, NCP is an essential pipeline year-round yet is critical during winter storms and increasingly frequent drought events.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Panetta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress