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June 7, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Paradise Sewer Project – Regionalization Connection Payment in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Paradise, located at 5555 Skyway, Paradise, California 95969. The funding would be used for three primary components: Core Collection System, Export Pipeline System, and Extended Collection System. The Core Collection System would support the centralized businesses and housing in Town, including approximately 1,500 parcels along the Skyway, Clark Road, and Pearson Road corridors. The proposed Export Pipeline System would start at the southern end of the Core Collection System as a gravity sewer line and would continue southwest approximately 18 miles to the City of Chico for connection to the Chico Water Pollution Control Plant. The requested funds will fund the Connection Payment from the Town of Paradise to the City of Chico for the capacity of their Water Pollution Control Plant (464,000 gallons per day of wastewater). The Connection Payment, when received by the City of Chico, will be used for planned upgrades and adjustments to their Water Pollution Control Plant to accommodate the increased growth observed by the 2018 Camp Fire and planned Paradise Sewer Project. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Paradise Sewer Project is the culmination of over 50 years of efforts to modernize wastewater collection and distribution in Paradise. The lack of a sewer has hampered the Paradise economy for decades, and after the Camp Fire has stalled efforts towards economic recovery. The Paradise community has prioritized affordable housing, which has been difficult to develop to date without a sewer system to handle higher densities. Improving Paradise groundwater is also a community priority, which the sewer project would address by decreasing septic tank discharges. Each of these three project benefits were identified as priorities in the Long-Term Community Recovery Plan, a document created through resident input in the months after the 2018 Camp Fire.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.

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 "Doug LaMalfa". The signature is stylized with a large "D" and "L".

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress