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March 29, 2024

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Garamendi
U.S. House of Representatives
2004 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Laphonza Butler
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: SUPPORT – Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District Community Project Proposal, Secure Funding to Address and Resolve Significant Sewer Deficiencies on Mare Island

Dear Senators Padilla and Butler and Representative Garamendi,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write to you in support of the Mare Island Sewer Rehabilitation Project that will be submitted for Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Community Project Funding consideration. The Mare Island Naval Shipyard was transferred to the City of Vallejo under the BRAC process in 1996. At the time, sewer infrastructure on the island was maintained and operated by the U.S. Navy. The sewer infrastructure was not in very good condition when it was transferred and has continued to deteriorate over the past 28 years while development on the island is planned and implemented.

The Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District operates and maintains the sewer infrastructure on Mare Island. There is currently not enough revenue generation from sewer rates on the island to pay for the needed improvements, and the District serves a significant number of low-income individuals and families on the mainland who cannot afford to have their sewer rates increased to pay for this deteriorating infrastructure on the island. There are several federal facilities on the island that will benefit from the needed sewer rehabilitation, including a V.A. Health Center, a U.S. Army Reserve Center, and a dry dock facility that services NOAA, U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard ships.

While redevelopment is progressing, there are significant portions of the island where the current conditions of sewer infrastructure have reached a critical point where Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) of groundwater into the sewer system can overwhelm the existing pump stations and pipes. There is real and significant risk of sewer overflows into the San Pablo Bay and San Francisco Bay, and therefore, this effort will address the most pressing I&I issues and significantly reduce the risk of untreated sewage from ever reaching the Bay.

As you know, there are significant disadvantaged communities within the Vallejo area. Unfortunately, the State Water Board's "broad brush" definition of a Disadvantaged Community excludes Vallejo, meaning that the area is not eligible for economic assistance under the IJJA and CWSRF grant programs. It is for these reasons that I request you please consider this project for federal funding under the Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Community Project Funding.

Honorable Alex Padilla
Honorable Laphonza Butler
Honorable John Garamendi
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Thank you for your continued support and consideration of this critically important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch N. Mashburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mitch Mashburn, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

The Honorable Mike Thompson, U.S. Representative
The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator
The Honorable Lori D. Wilson, California State Assemblymember
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors
Jeff Tucker, Director of Finance/Treasurer, Vallejo Flood & Water District
Paragon Government Relations
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Inc.