



# City of Sierra Madre

March 12, 2009

The Honorable David Dreier  
233 Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dreier:

On behalf of the City of Sierra Madre, I am writing to thank you for your support of our City and its previous federal priorities. The cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre respectfully request \$3.265 million in the FY 2010 Energy and Water appropriations bill, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Construction General account [(as authorized under the authority of Section 5039 of PL 110-114 (WRDA 2007))] for the Arcadia/Sierra Madre Phase I Water Environmental Infrastructure Restoration Program for specific water system restoration programs aimed at assuring supply reliability as well as protecting and enhancing water quality in each of the cities' domestic water systems.

WRDA 2007 authorized \$20 million for the planning, design and construction of water infrastructure projects associated with the implementation of the recommendations contained in the East Raymond Basin Water Resources Plan (ERBWRP). Collaborating with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre completed the ERBWRP in 2006. Cost sharing ratios under this program are projected to be 75% (Federal) and 25 % (Local) for planning, design and construction.

The quality and reliability of drinking water supplies for the cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre are at risk due to deteriorating water infrastructure, declining groundwater levels in the East Raymond Basin and from the potential impact from a major seismic event in the region. The ERBWRP has identified the need for the planning, design and construction of several key projects, which will optimize water conservation in the East Raymond Basin watershed, reduce the need for imported water, enhance water supply reliability and safeguard the quality of the drinking water supplies in the communities. Improvements to dams, water supply facilities, conveyance pipelines and groundwater supply spreading facilities are needed to lower the risk of damaging these drinking water supplies due to the failure of these water infrastructure systems following a major seismic event. Improvements required to insure a reliable supply of safe drinking water include

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the rehabilitation of dams, spreading basins, diversion structures, tunnels, and construction of additional wells.

This \$3.265 million appropriation request will provide for the following projects within the cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre:

### **Joint East Raymond Basin Water Resources Program Projects**

#### **Santa Anita Debris Dam Improvements**

This project will provide for the design of improvements to the Santa Anita Debris Dam located on Santa Anita Creek upstream of the Santa Anita Spreading Grounds facility operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW). Upgrading this facility to meet State of California Division of Safety of Dams seismic reliability requirements will ultimately allow for increased groundwater replenishment of the East Raymond Basin groundwater supplies from local storm runoff sources. Federal Request = \$525,000 (FY10).

#### **Santa Anita Creek Diversion System Rehabilitation**

This project provides for the construction of the Santa Anita Creek Diversion Structure Rehabilitation project located adjacent to Santa Anita Creek, upstream of the Santa Anita Debris Dam. This structure provides for the diversion of streamflow to the City of Sierra Madre's Spreading Grounds and is a key element not only in the City's water supply system, but for the East Raymond Basin as a whole, which is largely dependent upon this water resource. The project will provide for an upgrade of the diversion forebay structure as well as the diversion gatehouse and related mechanical, control and monitoring equipment. Federal Request = \$841,500 (FY10).

#### **Santa Anita Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation**

This project provides for the rehabilitation of the Santa Anita Spreading Grounds located adjacent to Santa Anita Creek, downstream of the Santa Anita Debris Dam. These spreading grounds were constructed in 1950 by the Corps and are operated by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The project would regrade the spreading basins and modify their hydraulic operation to increase efficiency of spreading runoff in Santa Anita Creek, to augment groundwater supplies in the East Raymond Basin. Federal Request = \$598,900 (FY10)

### **Joint Extraction Well - Cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre**

The Corps' Seismic Reliability Study in 1997 identified the need for additional backup water supply wells providing water supplies to service areas in both the Cities of Arcadia and Sierra Madre. Funding will be for the design and construction of one high capacity water supply well, which could provide a backup supply in the event of a major earthquake event. The cities are highly dependent upon local groundwater supplies.

Recent drought years have lowered the pumping levels of the existing wells and the new wells would be drilled and set at an optimum level for groundwater exaction. This project would include well design, hydro-geological services, as well as drilling and equipping construction contracts. This water supply well project is planned to provide increased system reliability, assurance of water quality and fire protection in the residential and commercial areas adjacent to the San Gabriel Mountains. It will also develop supplemental supplies to provide emergency water supply to the City of Sierra Madre, as noted in the Seismic Reliability Study. Federal Request = **\$1,300,000 (FY10)**.

Please see the attached briefing sheet for additional information.

Again, thank you for your support of our FY 2010 federal priorities. Your efforts, and that of your staff, are greatly appreciated. If further assistance is needed, please feel free to contact me directly or Bruce Inman, Director of Public Works, City of Sierra Madre (626) 355-7135.

Sincerely,



Kurt Zimmerman  
Mayor