



CITY OF ARROYO GRANDE CALIFORNIA

July 23, 2018

The Honorable Brenda Burman
Commissioner
Bureau of Reclamation
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

**SUBJECT: WaterSMART Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Grant Endorsement,
Central Coast Blue**

Dear Commissioner Burman:

The City of Arroyo Grande supports the City of Pismo Beach's application for Federal funds that would support the planning and design of Central Coast Blue. Central Coast Blue will provide communities in southern San Luis Obispo County with a new, locally-controlled and drought-proof water supply.

Central Coast Blue will inject highly purified recycled water into the Northern Cities Management Area (NCMA) of the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin (SMGB) to prevent groundwater contamination caused by seawater intrusion. The SMGB is a source of drinking water for more than 200,000 local residents and millions of visitors annually, supports 57,000 acres of irrigated agriculture and is identified as a High Priority Basin as designated by the California Department of Water Resources in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Central Coast Blue leverages significant local funding with State funding, and includes new and innovative technology, including injection of highly purified recycled water from the Pismo Beach and the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District's Wastewater Treatment Plants into the groundwater basin, to form a seawater intrusion barrier. Once implemented, Central Coast Blue will significantly increase water supply reliability for the municipal, rural residential and agricultural pumpers that rely upon groundwater from the SMGB.

Central Coast Blue is a critical project for the region and will provide the following benefits:

- Enhances local water supply reliability for the users that rely upon groundwater from the Santa Maria Groundwater Basin



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- Protects a critical groundwater supply by preventing seawater intrusion and improves groundwater water quality through injection of high quality water
- Increases groundwater recharge and improves sustainability for the SMGB, a High Priority Basin, which supplies drinking water for more than 200,000 people and 57,000 acres of irrigated agriculture
- Utilizes new and innovative technology to produce advanced purified water
- Leverages local and State funding sources
- Benefits disadvantaged communities by improving water supply resiliency

The funding request included in the City's application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART initiative "Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects under the WIIN Act" is critical for the project's success. Combined with the participating agency contributions and state funding, the federal funding provided through the grant will allow the City and the project partners to take the next critical steps for Central Coast Blue.

The City of Arroyo Grande supports the efforts being undertaken by the City of Pismo Beach, the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District and other stakeholder agencies to improve water quality and supply for the region.

Sincerely,

Jim Bergman
City Manager