



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the 10th Street Combined Sewer Separation in Fort Madison, Iowa, in Fiscal Year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Fort Madison, Iowa, located at 811 Avenue E, P.O. Box 240, Fort Madison, IA, 52627.

The funding would be used for a sewer separation project in Fort Madison. The City of Fort Madison has an old, combined sewer system (CSS) in the East portion of the community. The combined sewer system is located between 6th Street and 10th Street, generally from the bluff towards the Mississippi River. The system discharges into an interceptor sewer under low flow conditions. During periods of increased runoff following rain events or snow melt, the flow in the combined system exceeds the capacity of the interceptor sewer and flows directly to the Mississippi River. The City has been addressing their combined sewer overflows (CSO) by constructing separated storm sewer and sanitary sewer systems. Four areas remain to be separated and are identified by the streets that run through the center of the service areas for the combined sewers. The remaining areas to be separated are 10th Street, 9th Street, 8th Street and 7th Street. This project focuses on the 10th Street basin which includes sanitary sewer extending from the Mississippi River up to Avenue C and following Old Denmark Road up to Denmark Hilltop (see map in supplemental materials). This project will include installation of a new storm sewer from the outfall at the Mississippi river north to Avenue G. Storm sewer will also be installed from Avenue C to Denmark Hilltop to separate the upper section. The remaining sewer lines between Avenue C and Avenue G will be disconnected from the combined sewer and connected to the existing sanitary sewer network. The combined sewer line will be converted to a separate storm sewer and connected to the new storm sewer at Avenue G. Between Avenue H and the Mississippi River, the storm sewer will cross three railroad lines. Due to river levels, railroad requirements and soil conditions, the crossing will require two parallel bored lines connected to structures at either end. Construction of the project will require significant roadway reconstruction in addition to the sewer and storm sewer installation.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it impacts a large percentage of residents in Fort Madison, the funds will help keep the future costs of user fees lower, and it will improve water quality. The City of Fort Madison is under an Administrative Consent Order from the EPA to eliminate the combined sewer outfalls. This CO identifies seven specific projects that the city will undertake to eliminate the combined sewer outfalls by set dates. Three of the seven projects have been completed. This project will be the first of the four remaining sewer separation projects to meet the Consent Order. This project is located right in the heart of Fort Madison and will directly impact hundreds of households and several businesses within a few blocks of the project. Additionally, as part of the entire city sewer system, it will impact every

resident within the Fort Madison community. Furthermore, these funds for this project will keep down the cost of sewer user fees in the future. The remaining four sewer separation projects that are to all be completed by 2039 are anticipated to cost between \$30 and \$40 million dollars. To cover this expense would require increases in user fees. Any grant dollar reduces the need to raise sewer rates. This is especially important for a community with an aging and slowly declining population, as higher fees will continue to drive people away from the community. Lastly, as per the intent of the Clean Water Act and sewer separation requirements, this project will improve water quality. This is done by decreasing the amount of pollutants that enter the Mississippi River untreated which is listed for numerous water quality impairments.

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 that reads "Mariannette Miller-Meeks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.
Member of Congress