



RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress
36th District of California

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

Washington, D.C. Office:
2342 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: [202-225-5330](tel:202-225-5330)

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Septic to Sewer Infrastructure Construction Project in Fiscal Year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians at 23906 Soboba Road, San Jacinto, California 92583.

The funding would be used to defray part of the construction costs for the Septic to Sewer Collection facilities required on currently developed portions of the 7,000-acre Soboba reservation. In addition, the construction will also develop a system of interconnection with an existing Eastern Municipal Water District regional wastewater disposal/recycling system. The planned Septic to Sewer Collection system will ultimately play a key role in advancing the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians' economic development, housing and public health objectives. Development of the sewer and wastewater system will generate expanded employment opportunities during the construction period, provide essential community services, support development of new housing, and protect public health and the environment.

The project will require design and construction of approximately 31,600 feet of new 10-inch PVC sewer pipeline along with approximately 41,000 feet of sewer laterals within the reservation including Soboba Road, Poppet Flats Road, Castile Canyon Road, Silvas Flat Road, Noli Road, and other local roads. The sewer laterals will be designed and constructed to collect wastewater flows from the existing septic inlet systems within the reservation. Currently, there are 256 residential properties with sewer septic systems and 97 planned residential properties in need of future sewer connection. The Tribe also directed its consultant engineer to extend the proposed sewer line to collect wastewater flows from the future Olive Ranch/Ciernia development site along Soboba Road. A new lift station will be designed to collect and deliver flows to a manhole along Soboba Road near the Olive Ranch/Ciernia development site via a 6-inch forcemain. A 15-inch gravity sewer pipeline will collect and convey the wastewater flows from the forcemain along with the flows from the future Olive Ranch/Ciernia development to a connection point to the existing 15-inch sewer pipeline within an EMWD easement.



RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress
36th District of California

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

Washington, D.C. Office:
2342 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: [202-225-5330](tel:202-225-5330)

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Septic to Sewer Conversion project will create a safer and more sanitary living and working environment on the Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians Reservation. The system will provide long-term protection to local surface water, support the development of new housing and create jobs during the construction process. The sanitary sewer system will improve the quality of local services and enhance social equity in the area.

The economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis have contributed to delays and cost increases for the Soboba Septic to Sewer Collection project. Inflation, supply chain issues, material shortages, and rising labor costs have contributed to increasing costs routinely being seen in bids for similar construction projects.

The sanitary sewer system improvements to be built by SBLI will benefit the entire community for generations to come. The project will create construction jobs, support future new housing, and contribute to a healthier living environment.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development – Economic Development Initiative (EDI) guidelines indicate project funding may specifically be spent for “...construction and capital improvements of public facilities (including water and sewer facilities...)”. The sanitary sewer collection system improvements included in this funding request clearly meet these guidelines. As outlined above, the Soboba Septic to Sewer Collection system improvements are a totally appropriate use of taxpayer funds for economic development purposes.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in the project is eligible under the under one or more of the following criteria of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program: 5305(a)(2) – the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, or installation (including design features and improvements with respect to such construction, reconstruction, or installation that promote energy efficiency) of public works, facilities (except for buildings for the general conduct of government), and site or other improvements.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,


Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress