To: chandler_morse@flake.senate.gov[chandler_morse@flake.senate.gov]; Chelsea Lett (chelsea_lett@flake.senate.gov)[chelsea_lett@flake.senate.gov]; Chuck Pololak, PhD (chuck_podolak@flake.senate.gov)[chuck_podolak@flake.senate.gov]; Clint Chandler (clint_chandler@flake.senate.gov)[clint_chandler@flake.senate.gov]; julie_katsel@flake.senate.gov[julie_katsel@flake.senate.gov]; kris_kiefer@flake.senate.gov[kris_kiefer@flake.senate.gov]; matthew_specht@flake.senate.gov[matthew_specht@flake.senate.gov]; gina_gormley@mccain.senate.gov[gina_gormley@mccain.senate.gov]; joe_donoghue@mccain.senate.gov[joe_donoghue@mccain.senate.gov]; mark_delich@mccain.senate.gov[mark_delich@mccain.senate.gov]; Meghan Kielty (meghan_kielty@mccain.senate.gov)[meghan_kielty@mccain.senate.gov]; nick_matiella@mccain.senate.gov[nick_matiella@mccain.senate.gov]; rick_stilgenbauer@mccain.senate.gov[rick_stilgenbauer@mccain.senate.gov]; Shay Saucedo (shay_saucedo@mccain.senate.gov)[shay_saucedo@mccain.senate.gov]; Blanca Rubio-Varela (blanca.varela@mail.house.gov)[blanca.varela@mail.house.gov]; carmen.gallus@mail.house.gov[carmen.gallus@mail.house.gov]; ken.montoya@mail.house.gov[ken.montoya@mail.house.gov]; ron.lee@mail.house.gov[ron.lee@mail.house.gov]; Alesia Ash (alesia.ash@mail.house.gov)[alesia.ash@mail.house.gov]; C.J. Karamargin (cj.karamargin@mail.house.gov)[cj.karamargin@mail.house.gov]; Justin Roth (justin.roth@mail.house.gov)[justin.roth@mail.house.gov]; Kristen Douglas (kristen.douglas@mail.house.gov)[kristen.douglas@mail.house.gov]; Pace McMullan (pace.mcmullan@mail.house.gov)[pace.mcmullan@mail.house.gov]; Patrick Ptak (patrick.ptak@mail.house.gov)[patrick.ptak@mail.house.gov]; Clerkin Emerick, Amy[Amy.Emerick@mail.house.gov]; chris.kaumo@mail.house.gov[chris.kaumo@mail.house.gov]; glenn.miller@mail.house.gov[glenn.miller@mail.house.gov]; Jennifer Papworth (Jennifer.Papworth@mail.house.gov)[Jennifer.Papworth@mail.house.gov]; martha.garcia@mail.house.gov[martha.garcia@mail.house.gov]; ruben.reyes@mail.house.gov[ruben.reyes@mail.house.gov]; Jeff Small (jeff.small@mail.house.gov)[jeff.small@mail.house.gov]; penny.pew@mail.house.gov[penny.pew@mail.house.gov]; tom.vanflein@mail.house.gov[tom.vanflein@mail.house.gov]; Trevor Pearson (trevor.pearson@mail.house.gov)[trevor.pearson@mail.house.gov]; adam.deguire@mail.house.gov[adam.deguire@mail.house.gov]; chuck.gray@mail.house.gov[chuck.gray@mail.house.gov]; (jon.mchatton@mail.house.gov)[jon.mchatton@mail.house.gov]; lorissa.bounds@mail.house.gov[lorissa.bounds@mail.house.gov]; Beau Brunson (beau.brunson@mail.house.gov)[beau.brunson@mail.house.gov]; Kevin Knight (kevin.knight@mail.house.gov)[kevin.knight@mail.house.gov]; Oliver Schwab (oliver.schwab@mail.house.gov)[oliver.schwab@mail.house.gov]; David Montes (david.montes@mail.house.gov)[david.montes@mail.house.gov]; Luis Heredia (luis.heredia@mail.house.gov)[luis.heredia@mail.house.gov]; Matt Lee (matt.lee2@mail.house.gov)[matt.lee2@mail.house.gov]; Xenia Ruiz (xenia.ruiz@mail.house.gov)[xenia.ruiz@mail.house.gov]; Bobby Cornett (bobby.cornett@mail.house.gov)[bobby.cornett@mail.house.gov]; dan.hay@mail.house.gov[dan.hay@mail.house.gov]; Ellie Stern (ellie.stern@mail.house.gov)[ellie.stern@mail.house.gov]; shari.farrington@mail.house.gov[shari.farrington@mail.house.gov]; justin.unga@mail.house.gov[justin.unga@mail.house.gov]; Kendra Leiby (kendra.leiby@mail.house.gov)[kendra.leiby@mail.house.gov]; Michael Wong (michael.wong@mail.house.gov)[michael.wong@mail.house.gov]; Michelle Davidson (michelle.davidson@mail.house.gov)[michelle.davidson@mail.house.gov]; alton_garrett@boxer.senate.gov[alton_garrett@boxer.senate.gov]; ameen_khan@boxer.senate.gov[ameen_khan@boxer.senate.gov]; Caridad_Sanchez@boxer.senate.gov[Caridad_Sanchez@boxer.senate.gov]; Joshua_Quigley@boxer.senate.gov[Joshua_Quigley@boxer.senate.gov]; Julissa Delgado

(julissa_delgado@boxer.senate.gov)[julissa_delgado@boxer.senate.gov];
(kyle_chapman@boxer.senate.gov)[kyle_chapman@boxer.senate.gov]; Maurice Lyles
(maurice_lyles@boxer.senate.gov)[maurice_lyles@boxer.senate.gov]; Nicolas Rodriquez
(Nicolas_Rodriquez@boxer.senate.gov)[Nicolas_Rodriquez@boxer.senate.gov]; Nicole Kaneko
(nicole_kaneko@boxer.senate.gov)[nicole_kaneko@boxer.senate.gov];
sean_moore@boxer.senate.gov[sean_moore@boxer.senate.gov];
stacey_smith@boxer.senate.gov[stacey_smith@boxer.senate.gov];
tom_bohigian@boxer.senate.gov[tom_bohigian@boxer.senate.gov];
yvette_martinez@boxer.senate.gov[yvette_martinez@boxer.senate.gov]; Zachary Coile
(zachary_coile@boxer.senate.gov)[zachary_coile@boxer.senate.gov]; Alexis Segal
(alexis_segal@feinstein.senate.gov)[alexis_segal@feinstein.senate.gov];
(bill_kratz@feinstein.senate.gov)[bill_kratz@feinstein.senate.gov]; Caitlin Meyer
(caitlin_meyer@feinstein.senate.gov)[caitlin_meyer@feinstein.senate.gov]; Callan Bruzzone
(callan_bruzzone@feinstein.senate.gov)[callan_bruzzone@feinstein.senate.gov]; Cameron Onumah
(cameron_onumah@feinstein.senate.gov)[cameron_onumah@feinstein.senate.gov];
john_murray@feinstein.senate.gov[john_murray@feinstein.senate.gov];
john_watts@feinstein.senate.gov[john_watts@feinstein.senate.gov];
katie_gross@feinstein.senate.gov[katie_gross@feinstein.senate.gov]; Kenneth Rooney
(Kenneth_Rooney@feinstein.senate.gov)[Kenneth_Rooney@feinstein.senate.gov]; Kevin Chang
(kevin_chang@feinstein.senate.gov)[kevin_chang@feinstein.senate.gov]; Sabiha Khan
(sabiha_khan@feinstein.senate.gov)[sabiha_khan@feinstein.senate.gov];
'sean_elsbernd@feinstein.senate.gov'[sean_elsbernd@feinstein.senate.gov];
shelly_abajian@feinstein.senate.gov[shelly_abajian@feinstein.senate.gov];
trevor_daley@feinstein.senate.gov[trevor_daley@feinstein.senate.gov]; Brandon Eden
(brandon.eden@mail.house.gov)[brandon.eden@mail.house.gov]; Daniel Outlaw
(daniel.outlaw@mail.house.gov)[daniel.outlaw@mail.house.gov]; David Orosco
(david.orosco@mail.house.gov)[david.orosco@mail.house.gov]; Lisa Moulton
(lisa.moulton@mail.house.gov)[lisa.moulton@mail.house.gov]; Armenta,
Carina[Carina.Armenta@mail.house.gov]; Cheri Orgel
(cheri.orgel@mail.house.gov)[cheri.orgel@mail.house.gov]; Fundakowski,
Jean[Jean.Fundakowski@mail.house.gov];
sharon.wagener@mail.house.gov[sharon.wagener@mail.house.gov]; Becky Cheng
(becky.cheng@mail.house.gov)[becky.cheng@mail.house.gov]; Joleen Rivera
(joleen.rivera@mail.house.gov)[joleen.rivera@mail.house.gov];
ann.peifer@mail.house.gov[ann.peifer@mail.house.gov]; Courtney Fogwell
(courtney.fogwell@mail.house.gov)[courtney.fogwell@mail.house.gov]; Brian Gavidia
(brian.gavidia@mail.house.gov)[brian.gavidia@mail.house.gov]; Gabriela Marquez
(gabriela.marquez@mail.house.gov)[gabriela.marquez@mail.house.gov];
miguel.franco@mail.house.gov[miguel.franco@mail.house.gov]; John Alford
(john.alford@mail.house.gov)[john.alford@mail.house.gov]; Lauren Wolman
(lauren.wolman@mail.house.gov)[lauren.wolman@mail.house.gov]; Scott Abrams
(scott.abrams@mail.house.gov)[scott.abrams@mail.house.gov];
(becky.cornell@mail.house.gov)[becky.cornell@mail.house.gov]; Enrique Armenta
(enrique.armenta@mail.house.gov)[enrique.armenta@mail.house.gov]; Sarah Weinstein
(sarah.weinstein@mail.house.gov)[sarah.weinstein@mail.house.gov]; Sarah Wright
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daniel.chao@mail.house.gov[daniel.chao@mail.house.gov]; Hector Elizalde
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joe.sheehy@mail.house.gov[joe.sheehy@mail.house.gov]; Joseph Ciccone
(joseph.ciccone@mail.house.gov)[joseph.ciccone@mail.house.gov]; Mary Ann Lutz
(maryann.lutz@mail.house.gov)[maryann.lutz@mail.house.gov];
perla.hernandez@mail.house.gov[perla.hernandez@mail.house.gov]; Andrew Lachman
(andrew.lachman@mail.house.gov)[andrew.lachman@mail.house.gov]; Joey Apodaca
(joey.apodaca@mail.house.gov)[joey.apodaca@mail.house.gov]; Lisa Pinto
(lisa.pinto@mail.house.gov)[lisa.pinto@mail.house.gov]; Megan Price
(megan.price@mail.house.gov)[megan.price@mail.house.gov]; Irvin DeLaO

(Irvin.DeLaO@mail.house.gov)[Irvin.DeLaO@mail.house.gov];
johanna.montiel@mail.house.gov[johanna.montiel@mail.house.gov]; Kwabena Nsiah
(kwabena.nsiah@mail.house.gov)[kwabena.nsiah@mail.house.gov];
liz.saldivar@mail.house.gov[liz.saldivar@mail.house.gov]; Anna Gonzalez
(anna.gonzalez@mail.house.gov)[anna.gonzalez@mail.house.gov]; Grant Kerr
(grant.kerr@mail.house.gov)[grant.kerr@mail.house.gov]; Veronica Zendejas
(veronica.zendejas@mail.house.gov)[veronica.zendejas@mail.house.gov]; Carrie Kohns
(Carrie.Kohns@mail.house.gov)[Carrie.Kohns@mail.house.gov]; Maral Karaccusian
(maral.karaccusian@mail.house.gov)[maral.karaccusian@mail.house.gov]; Andrew Noh
(andrew.noh@mail.house.gov)[andrew.noh@mail.house.gov]; Angelina Mancillas
(angelina.mancillas@mail.house.gov)[angelina.mancillas@mail.house.gov]; Yvette Shahinian
(yvette.shahinian@mail.house.gov)[yvette.shahinian@mail.house.gov]; Alison Martin
(alison.martin@mail.house.gov)[alison.martin@mail.house.gov];
peter.freeman@mail.house.gov[peter.freeman@mail.house.gov];
sc@mail.house.gov[sc@mail.house.gov]; ana.figueroa@mail.house.gov[ana.figueroa@mail.house.gov];
debbie.jessup@mail.house.gov[debbie.jessup@mail.house.gov];
kimberlee.tachiki@mail.house.gov[kimberlee.tachiki@mail.house.gov]; Talia Leon
(talia.leon@mail.house.gov)[talia.leon@mail.house.gov]; Ian Foley
(ian.foley@mail.house.gov)[ian.foley@mail.house.gov];
jackie.lansing@mail.house.gov[jackie.lansing@mail.house.gov]; Jason Gagnon
(jason.gagnon@mail.house.gov)[jason.gagnon@mail.house.gov];
jolyn.murphy@mail.house.gov[jolyn.murphy@mail.house.gov]; Rebecca Keightley
(rebecca.keightley@mail.house.gov)[rebecca.keightley@mail.house.gov];
blanca.jimenez@mail.house.gov[blanca.jimenez@mail.house.gov]; Hamilton Cloud
(hamilton.cloud@mail.house.gov)[hamilton.cloud@mail.house.gov];
kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov[kathleen.sengstock@mail.house.gov];
ericf.boyd@mail.house.gov[ericf.boyd@mail.house.gov]; Justin Vogt
(justin.vogt@mail.house.gov)[justin.vogt@mail.house.gov]; Lara Larramendi
(lara.larramendi@mail.house.gov)[lara.larramendi@mail.house.gov]; Sam Oh
(sam.oh@mail.house.gov)[sam.oh@mail.house.gov]; Yvette Wissmann
(yvette.wissmann@mail.house.gov)[yvette.wissmann@mail.house.gov]; Carlos Urquiza
(carlos.urquiza@mail.house.gov)[carlos.urquiza@mail.house.gov]; Lorenzo Rubalcava
(Lorenzo.rubalcava@mail.house.gov)[Lorenzo.rubalcava@mail.house.gov];
devin.helfrich@mail.house.gov[devin.helfrich@mail.house.gov]; Mark Pulido
(mark.pulido@mail.house.gov)[mark.pulido@mail.house.gov]; Rachel Gentile
(rachel.gentile@mail.house.gov)[rachel.gentile@mail.house.gov];
jeff.vanderslice@mail.house.gov[jeff.vanderslice@mail.house.gov];
kathleen.staunton@mail.house.gov[kathleen.staunton@mail.house.gov]; Bill Christiansen
(bill.christiansen@mail.house.gov)[bill.christiansen@mail.house.gov]; Ellen Schrantz
(tyler.grimm@mail.house.gov)[tyler.grimm@mail.house.gov]; Veronica Wong
(veronica.wong@mail.house.gov)[veronica.wong@mail.house.gov];
michael.harrison@mail.house.gov[michael.harrison@mail.house.gov]; Reed Linsk
(reed.linsk@mail.house.gov)[reed.linsk@mail.house.gov];
rick.terrazas@mail.house.gov[rick.terrazas@mail.house.gov];
(aaron.allen@mail.house.gov)[aaron.allen@mail.house.gov];
eddie.meyer@mail.house.gov[eddie.meyer@mail.house.gov];
janine.pairis@mail.house.gov[janine.pairis@mail.house.gov]; Jenn Maldonado
(jenn.maldonado@mail.house.gov)[jenn.maldonado@mail.house.gov]; Hugo Carmona
(hugo.carmona@mail.house.gov)[hugo.carmona@mail.house.gov]; K.C. Jaski
(kc.jaski@mail.house.gov)[kc.jaski@mail.house.gov];
maryanne.pintar@mail.house.gov[maryanne.pintar@mail.house.gov];
jessica.poole@mail.house.gov[jessica.poole@mail.house.gov];
lee.steuer@mail.house.gov[lee.steuer@mail.house.gov]; Matt Weiner
(matt.weiner@mail.house.gov)[matt.weiner@mail.house.gov];
andrew_lingenfelter@heller.senate.gov[andrew_lingenfelter@heller.senate.gov]; Ashley Jonkey
(ashley_jonkey@heller.senate.gov)[ashley_jonkey@heller.senate.gov];

jack_finn@heller.senate.gov[jack_finn@heller.senate.gov];
(jeremy_harrell@heller.senate.gov)[jeremy_harrell@heller.senate.gov]; Sarah Paul
(sarah_paul@heller.senate.gov)[sarah_paul@heller.senate.gov]; Stephen Sifuentes
(Stephen_sifuentes@heller.senate.gov)[Stephen_sifuentes@heller.senate.gov];
alexander_mcdonough@reid.senate.gov[alexander_mcdonough@reid.senate.gov];
jason_unger@reid.senate.gov[jason_unger@reid.senate.gov];
kristen_orthman@reid.senate.gov[kristen_orthman@reid.senate.gov];
lucas_ingvoldstad@reid.senate.gov[lucas_ingvoldstad@reid.senate.gov];
mary_conelly@reid.senate.gov[mary_conelly@reid.senate.gov];
ryan_mulvenon@reid.senate.gov[ryan_mulvenon@reid.senate.gov];
sara_moffat@reid.senate.gov[sara_moffat@reid.senate.gov]; Shannon Raborn
(shannon_raborn@reid.senate.gov)[shannon_raborn@reid.senate.gov]; yolanda_garcia-
banuelos@reid.senate.gov[yolanda_garcia-banuelos@reid.senate.gov]; Ben Rosenbaum
(ben.rosenbaum@mail.house.gov)[ben.rosenbaum@mail.house.gov]; Elizabeth Decker
(elizabeth.decker@mail.house.gov)[elizabeth.decker@mail.house.gov];
mike.naft@mail.house.gov[mike.naft@mail.house.gov]; Arturo Garzon
(arturo.garzon@mail.house.gov)[arturo.garzon@mail.house.gov];
bruce.miller@mail.house.gov[bruce.miller@mail.house.gov];
jason.riederer@mail.house.gov[jason.riederer@mail.house.gov]; Martin Paris
(martin.paris@mail.house.gov)[martin.paris@mail.house.gov];
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keith.hughes@mail.house.gov[keith.hughes@mail.house.gov]; Scott Hughes
(scott.hughes@mail.house.gov)[scott.hughes@mail.house.gov]; Jacob Fullmer
(jacob.fullmer@mail.house.gov)[jacob.fullmer@mail.house.gov]; Kent Alexander
(Kent.Alexander@mail.house.gov)[Kent.Alexander@mail.house.gov]; Kyle Lykins
(kyle.lykins@mail.house.gov)[kyle.lykins@mail.house.gov]; Robert Yavor
(robert.yavor@mail.house.gov)[robert.yavor@mail.house.gov]; Sonia Joya
(sonia.joya@mail.house.gov)[sonia.joya@mail.house.gov]; Claire Viall
(Claire.Viall@mail.house.gov)[Claire.Viall@mail.house.gov];
rafael.elizalde@mail.house.gov[rafael.elizalde@mail.house.gov];
Octavio.Gonzalez@mail.house.gov[Octavio.Gonzalez@mail.house.gov]; Ross Arnett
(ross.arnett@mail.house.gov)[ross.arnett@mail.house.gov]; Adriane Casalotti
(adriane.casalotti@mail.house.gov)[adriane.casalotti@mail.house.gov]; Blanca Figueroa
(blanca.figueroa@mail.house.gov)[blanca.figueroa@mail.house.gov]; Eliot Crafton
(Eliot.Crafton@mail.house.gov)[Eliot.Crafton@mail.house.gov];
greg.haas@mail.house.gov[greg.haas@mail.house.gov]; Motta, Wendy[Wendy.Motta@mail.house.gov];
kyle.lombardi@mail.house.gov[kyle.lombardi@mail.house.gov];
vince.fong@mail.house.gov[vince.fong@mail.house.gov]; Brenda Haynes
(brenda.haynes@mail.house.gov)[brenda.haynes@mail.house.gov]; Jennifer Horne
(jennifer.horne@mail.house.gov)[jennifer.horne@mail.house.gov];
kevin.eastman@mail.house.gov[kevin.eastman@mail.house.gov];
lisa.buescher@mail.house.gov[lisa.buescher@mail.house.gov];
ben.miller@mail.house.gov[ben.miller@mail.house.gov]; Heather Gurewitz
(heather.gurewitz@mail.house.gov)[heather.gurewitz@mail.house.gov];
jenny.callaway@mail.house.gov[jenny.callaway@mail.house.gov]; Katie Westfall
(katie.westfall@mail.house.gov)[katie.westfall@mail.house.gov]; Kori Anderson
(Kori.anderson@mail.house.gov)[Kori.anderson@mail.house.gov]; Logan Feree
(Logan.Ferree@mail.house.gov)[Logan.Ferree@mail.house.gov]; Andrew Kim
(andrew.kim@mail.house.gov)[andrew.kim@mail.house.gov];
andrew.march@mail.house.gov[andrew.march@mail.house.gov];
donald.lathbury@mail.house.gov[donald.lathbury@mail.house.gov]; Emily Burns
(emily.burns@mail.house.gov)[emily.burns@mail.house.gov]; Garrett Durst
(garrett.durst@mail.house.gov)[garrett.durst@mail.house.gov];
(jeannie.klever@mail.house.gov)[jeannie.klever@mail.house.gov]; John Evalle
(john.evalle@mail.house.gov)[john.evalle@mail.house.gov]; Brittan Specht
(brittan.specht@mail.house.gov)[brittan.specht@mail.house.gov];

(chris.tudor@mail.house.gov)[chris.tudor@mail.house.gov];
rocky.deal@mail.house.gov[rocky.deal@mail.house.gov];
brad.onorato@mail.house.gov[brad.onorato@mail.house.gov]; Casey Badmington
(casey.badmington@mail.house.gov)[casey.badmington@mail.house.gov];
(mel.orpilla@mail.house.gov)[mel.orpilla@mail.house.gov];
melanie.rhinehart@mail.house.gov[melanie.rhinehart@mail.house.gov]; Sean Hamlin
(sean.hamlin@mail.house.gov)[sean.hamlin@mail.house.gov]; Anne Sanger
(Anne.Sanger@mail.house.gov)[Anne.Sanger@mail.house.gov]; Catherine Brinkley
(catherine.brinkley@mail.house.gov)[catherine.brinkley@mail.house.gov];
chris.flores@mail.house.gov[chris.flores@mail.house.gov]; Margaret McCarthy
(margaret.mccarthy@mail.house.gov)[margaret.mccarthy@mail.house.gov];
sam.stefanki@mail.house.gov[sam.stefanki@mail.house.gov]; Erin O'Quinn
(erin.oquinn@mail.house.gov)[erin.oquinn@mail.house.gov];
faith.whitmore@mail.house.gov[faith.whitmore@mail.house.gov]; Kelvin Lum
(kelvin.lum@mail.house.gov)[kelvin.lum@mail.house.gov]; Matthew Ceccato
(Matthew.Ceccato@mail.house.gov)[Matthew.Ceccato@mail.house.gov];
matt.knox@mail.house.gov[matt.knox@mail.house.gov];
michael.fresquez@mail.house.gov[michael.fresquez@mail.house.gov]; Tim Itnyre
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teresa.frison@mail.house.gov[teresa.frison@mail.house.gov];
bob.rucker@mail.house.gov[bob.rucker@mail.house.gov]; Bret Manley
(bret.manley@mail.house.gov)[bret.manley@mail.house.gov]; Tracey Chow
(tracey.chow@mail.house.gov)[tracey.chow@mail.house.gov]; Betsy Marr
(betsyarnoldmarr@mail.house.gov)[betsyarnoldmarr@mail.house.gov]; Christopher Whitmore
(christopher.whitmore@mail.house.gov)[christopher.whitmore@mail.house.gov]; Emlyn Struthers
(emlyn.struthers@mail.house.gov)[emlyn.struthers@mail.house.gov]; Mark Copeland
(mark.copeland@mail.house.gov)[mark.copeland@mail.house.gov]; Pat Joyce
(pat.joyce@mail.house.gov)[pat.joyce@mail.house.gov]; Shanelle Scales
(shanelle.scales@mail.house.gov)[shanelle.scales@mail.house.gov];
dan.bernal@mail.house.gov[dan.bernal@mail.house.gov]; Adrienne Ursino
(adrienne.ursino@mail.house.gov)[adrienne.ursino@mail.house.gov]; Mehrabi,
Emma[Emma.Mehrabi@mail.house.gov]; brian.perkins@mail.house.gov[brian.perkins@mail.house.gov];
Kathleen Wentworth (kathleen.wentworth@mail.house.gov)[kathleen.wentworth@mail.house.gov]; Miriam
Goldstein (miriam.goldstein@mail.house.gov)[miriam.goldstein@mail.house.gov];
andrew.ginsburg@mail.house.gov[andrew.ginsburg@mail.house.gov]; Cheri Clasen
(cheri.clasen@mail.house.gov)[cheri.clasen@mail.house.gov]; Tim Sbranti
(tim.sbranti@mail.house.gov)[tim.sbranti@mail.house.gov]; Daniel Martinez
(daniel.martinez@mail.house.gov)[daniel.martinez@mail.house.gov]; Dianna Zamora
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scott.peterson@mail.house.gov[scott.peterson@mail.house.gov]; Ahmad Rafah
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Cc: Huitric, Michele[Huitric.Michele@epa.gov]; Amato, Paul[Amato.Paul@epa.gov]; Ely, Charlotte[Ely.Charlotte@epa.gov]; Torres, Tomas[Torres.Tomas@epa.gov]; Keener, Bill[Keener.Bill@epa.gov]; Kaiser, Sven-Erik[Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov]; Higuchi, Dean[Higuchi.Dean@epa.gov]
From: Maier, Brent
Sent: Thur 3/24/2016 6:14:31 PM
Subject: U.S. EPA, Bureau of Reclamation Partner with Western Water Districts on Grant Program Seeking Water-Saving Devices of Tomorrow

Dear Colleagues:

The following press release is being issued today by the EPA Region IX press office. If you have questions or need any additional information, please give me a call.

Regards,

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison
Telephone: 415.947.4256

Contacts: Bob Muir, Metropolitan, (213) 217-6930; (213) 324-5213, mobile

Crystal Thompson, CAP, (623) 869-2138; (602) 321-9349, mobile

Scott Huntley, SNWA, (702) 258-7258; (702) 249-4453, mobile

Rose Davis, Reclamation, (702) 293-8421; (702) 591-0029, mobile

Michele Huitric, EPA, Huitric.Michele@epa.gov, (415) 972-3165

March 24, 2016

U.S. EPA, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION PARTNER WITH WESTERN WATER DISTRICTS

ON GRANT PROGRAM SEEKING WATER-SAVING DEVICES OF TOMORROW

Next round of Innovative Conservation Program grants

focuses on water/energy nexus projects

Three of the West's largest municipal water agencies have partnered with federal agencies to kick off the latest round of an expanded competitive grant program aimed at discovering the next generation of water-saving devices and technologies.

For the first time, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is participating with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as well as the Central Arizona Project, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Southern Nevada Water Authority in the Innovative Conservation Program. The program, which includes Southern California Gas Co., seeks to advance water-saving efforts by finding new and innovative methods for using supplies more efficiently.

"As Western states brace for another year of drought, many are regarding dry conditions as the new normal," said Tomás Torres, EPA's water division director for the Pacific Southwest. "By supporting the ICP, we're investing in innovative solutions to help communities meet the challenges of tomorrow—today."

This year's $500,000 ICP cycle focuses on water-saving devices, technologies and strategy proposals that address the water/energy nexus. Awards will be made in two funding categories: up to $30,000 and between $30,000 and $100,000. Proposals that address other aspects of water-use efficiency also will be considered. All proposals are due May 23.

Since Metropolitan and Reclamation began the ICP in 2001, the program has awarded 57 grants totaling $1.85 million during the first five two-year funding cycles. Overall, the ICP has yielded 262 proposals totaling $27 million in funding requests from public agencies, community-based organizations, private companies, entrepreneurs, research institutes and equipment manufacturers.

“These kinds of successful programs with our partners are an important tool in Reclamation's Colorado River water management responsibilities as we face the effects of years of drought and the influences of climate variability," said Reclamation’s Lower Colorado Regional Director Terry Fulp.

Inventive approaches funded in previous cycles include the development of a pressurized water broom that replaces the need to use a hose to clean patios, driveways and other large surface areas, saving up to 250,000 gallons of water over its lifetime, and an X-ray film-processing unit that recycles more than 90 percent of the 1 million gallons a typical machine uses in a year in a hospital or medical center.

The last ICP round supported the investigation of plant-sensor based irrigation in vineyards for both wine quality and yield, and several projects on soil amendments that maintain the health of the grass while significantly minimizing the amount of water applied.

“Ongoing efforts to reduce Colorado River water demands have yielded water savings throughout the Colorado River Basin, and this program provides another tool to further those efforts through water-related innovations and public-private partnerships,” said John Entsminger, Southern Nevada’s general manager.

Proposals will be evaluated through a competitive review process based on project innovations; a water/energy saving and research plan; market impact potential; cost effectiveness; ICP focus and project preparedness.

Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger said the ICP fosters fresh and innovative approaches and inspires creative ideas and strategies to reduce water use. “As the Southland adapts in response to California’s record drought, it is essential that we continue to seek out new projects and methods that help make water conservation sustainable."

Central Arizona Project's General Manager Ted Cooke called the Innovative Conservation Program “another example of collaborative, proactive measures taken by municipal Colorado River water agencies to address the impacts of the persistent drought throughout the Colorado River Basin.

“It’s an important tool to address long-term imbalances in the system as well as near-term risks of shortage,” Cooke said. “CAP strongly supports this conservation program, which ultimately benefits the health of the river system.”

More information on the Innovative Conservation Program, including proposal submission instructions and a list of past projects is available at http://bewaterwise.com/icp.html

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Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX

75 Hawthorne St. (OPA-3)

San Francisco, CA 94105

Ph: 415.947.4256